

My motivation for FISA Athletes Commission

I believe I would be the perfect fit for the FISA athlete commission because I went through all the steps world rowing offers. In 2012 I started of my international rowing career at the Coupe de la jeunesse in Spain. After that I went to every international regatta imaginable; from the 2014 Junior world championships to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games to Fourshead in the heart of London,

All these steps learned me to love the sport in its purity. I met some of my closest friends through international rowing and I definitely believe that my wide, international network of friends is my greatest strength. And I believe that this deep connection to the rowing community will help me fulfill a meaningful role in the athletes commission.

Most people will know the story of Tim Brys and myself missing out on the Rio 2016 Olympics because of FISA rules. I like to believe that having had to endure this disappointment and the 'ugly side' of the sport will also enable me to be more calculated and empathic in difficult situations.

During my higher education I also had the pleasure to work at our national rowing federation for 4 months. This internship really gave me a deep appreciation of the rowing community in all its layers. From the Junior 12s to the Masters. I like to think that this type of professional experience can only aid me as an athlete representative.

Last of all being Belgian I'm fluent in 3 different languages with a strong knowledge of the German language as well. I believe being available to the rowers is a key role of an athlete representative and speaking 4 languages can only make the gap from federation to rower smaller.

Best regards,

Niels Van Zandweghe
Olympic Rower