



MEMO CONCERNING - PARA PONTOON DESIGN

Dear Para Rowing Community and interested parties,

This is an official memo from World Rowing (WR) concerning the stabilizing pontoons required for the PR1 1x and optional on the PR2 1x boats.

The Rules of Racing state that “The pontoons shall comply with the World Rowing Standard Design specifications” (Appendix R14 7.e.ii). The Rules also provide for the WR “Council shall determine the design of Standard Para Rowing Boats (the World Rowing Standard Design and any changes thereto)” (Appendix R14 7.a.ii). “Changes in the World Rowing Standard Design shall be made only in the year following the Summer Paralympic Games” (Appendix R14 7.a.v.).

During one of the first events of this season, WR has found some pontoons with a different length. But there is only one that is correct and according to the WR standard designs.

Since these rules were put in place, WR is not aware of any issues with the design of the pontoons. The pontoons of the different suppliers all followed the WR standard design.

It appears that there is at least one new model that has changes to the material / manufacturing process, both of which are not specified, but also changed the design.

WR is informing all Member Federations that until there is a change in the “World Rowing Standard Design”, only pontoons that follow the WR Standard Design will be allowed to compete.

This information is being sent before the next races to provide time to A) check your equipment and B) if needed organize a compliant replacement from your supplier.

We understand this situation may be bothersome for those who have received equipment, relied in good faith on the manufacturer and have been supplied with a piece of equipment that does not comply with the WR rules. As we have not had any issues with pontoons in the past, this was not something that we could have foreseen.

The total length of the standard design pontoons is 93 cm.

Again, this memo is to inform you before the next races - that boats with pontoons that do not meet the WR Standard Design will not be allowed to compete.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us. The WR Standard design Para Rowing Boats information can be found on the WR Website on the *Para Rowing Classification* webpage.

Yours sincerely

Mathias Binder

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