

The Constitution of the
EUROPEAN ROWING CONFEDERATION
(“ERC”)

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1 FOUNDATION

The Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron (“FISA”) was formed in June 1892 with the primary mission to stage an annual European (Senior) Rowing Championships to start in 1893. FISA was the first International Sport Federation to be founded and rowing has been on the programme of every Olympic Games since the start of the modern Games in 1896. FISA continued to stage an open European Rowing Championships every year until 1973, when it was decided to stage the World Rowing Championships every year starting in 1975 except in the year of the Olympic Games. FISA staged the World Rowing Championships every four years during the period 1962 to 1974.

On 27 May 2006, at a meeting of the FISA European member federations held in Munich, many European member federations expressed the wish to re-start a European Rowing Championships to be staged annually as an additional means to promote the sport of rowing. It was agreed to re-start an annual European Rowing Championship regatta in September 2007 as a cooperative arrangement between FISA and the European member federations. FISA would take the responsibility and financial risk to ensure the bidding and preparation process, ensure a professional host broadcast and distribution of television and commercial aspects, and stage the event in full cooperation with the organising committee and representatives of the European member federations.

It was also agreed at this meeting that there should be an annual General Assembly of the European member federations to consider all matters relating to the development of rowing competitions among the European member federations of FISA.

The meeting further agreed to a joint co-operation with the FISA Council to create a European Rowing Management Board to be responsible for managing such rowing competitions. This Board was formed with four members elected by the European member federations and three Europeans appointed by the FISA Council.

Following the decision to officially recognise Continental Confederations (Art. 18 of the FISA Statutes) at the 2017 FISA Extraordinary Congress, the delegates of the European member federations then, at the 2017 Extraordinary General Assembly, agreed to cooperate with FISA to form a Continental Confederation for Europe. The constitution was approved at an Extraordinary General Assembly in Berlin, 22 November 2018. European Rowing Confederation was unanimously approved as the Continental Confederation recognised by FISA at the Ordinary Congress in Linz, 2019. At the 2020 Extraordinary Congress FISA adopted World Rowing as its designated name.

2 NAME AND STATUS

The name of the continental rowing confederation for Europe is the European Rowing Confederation (“ERC”). It is an association formed and operated according to Art. 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code. The term “European Rowing” shall be the external name of the ERC which is protected by trademark registration.

3 OBJECTIVES AND OBLIGATIONS

The objectives and obligations of the ERC are to:

- 3.1 Develop and promote rowing across the European continent and develop and promote rowing competition between national rowing federations of the European continent, in cooperation with World Rowing;
- 3.2 Determine the departures from the World Rowing Rules of Racing that are appropriate for European continental competitions and adopt new rules or make changes to existing rules for the European Rowing Events at the General Assembly of European Rowing.
- 3.3 Ensure that the rules of the European Rowing Events (European Rowing Events, if not otherwise specified, shall include the senior, under 23, junior, indoor, coastal and any other events launched in the future) are respected for fair and equal competition.
- 3.4 Attribute the annual European Rowing Events in conformance with the procedures for attribution of World Rowing events as determined by the World Rowing Council.
- 3.5 Decide about possible other ERC activities based on proposals from the European Rowing Board (ERB).
- 3.6 Foster communication between its members;
- 3.7 Advise its members on obtaining Olympic Solidarity and other funding;
- 3.8 Respect and comply in all aspects with the Olympic Charter and the World Rowing Statutes and Bye-Laws;
- 3.9 Liaise and cooperate with the European Olympic Committees and other European-wide bodies;
- 3.10 Engage in all such other actions and projects incidental to the attainment of these objectives, including cooperation with governmental, non-governmental and private organisations, and;
- 3.11 Carefully consult with World Rowing on the dates of competitions such that the International calendar of events for member federations is logical and reasonable.

4 AUTONOMY OF NATIONAL ROWING FEDERATIONS

- 4.1 ERC will have no part in national rowing matters;
- 4.2 ERC will respect and support the complete autonomy of its member federations.

5 HEADQUARTERS

The location of the ERC's headquarters will be the offices of World Rowing in Lausanne Switzerland.

6 LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATIONS

The official language shall be English. The use of other languages may be authorised by the ERB at General Assembly meetings or by the chair of the meeting on other occasions;

6.1 Written communications may be sent by post or electronic means.

7 MEMBERSHIP

7.1 All members of World Rowing in the European Continent (this includes Israel) plus the member federation of Gibraltar are members of the ERC unless that member has been subject to suspension or expulsion by World Rowing.

7.2 Only those members who have paid their World Rowing annual membership fee may vote at General Assemblies of the ERC. There is no specific fee for membership of the ERC.

II. GOVERNANCE

The highest authority of the ERC is the General Assembly. The General Assembly attributes European Rowing Events and elects the President of the ERC who will also serve as Chair of the European Rowing Board.

8 GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

The organisation will hold an annual General Assembly at a time and location to be determined by the members based upon a proposal by the ERB but, in principle, at the time of the European (Senior) Rowing Championships and an Extraordinary General Assembly in the year following the Olympic Games at a time and location determined by the ERC or as requested by the member federations;

8.1 The annual General Assembly will, among other things:

8.1.1 attribute (Senior) European Rowing Championships;

8.1.2 consider recommendations for future action or direction; and

8.1.3 take such action to give effect to the objectives of the organisation;

8.1.4 consider reports from the ERB;

8.1.5 elect the President of the ERC who will also serve as the Chair of the ERB

8.1.6 elect the ERB members in accordance with Art. 13;

8.1.7 Reconsideration or confirmation of decisions taken by ERB in accordance with the provisions of Art. 11.10;

8.2 The Extraordinary General Assembly will, among other things:

8.2.1 consider any proposals for amendment of the ERC Constitution;

- 8.2.2 any proposal to amend the constitution must clearly identify the clause to be deleted, modified or added;
- 8.2.3 proposals must be submitted to the ERB two months prior to the date set for the Extraordinary General Assembly called for that purpose;
- 8.2.4 each member shall receive a copy of any proposed amendment to the Constitution no later than one month before an Extraordinary General Assembly.
- 8.2.5 the Constitution may only be amended by a two-thirds majority of valid votes upon a vote of members present at an Extraordinary General Assembly called;
- 8.3 A General Assembly of the organisation shall be convened by the ERB providing notice in writing to members three (3) months in advance of the date, time and place of any meeting.
- 8.4 The convening notice must state the purpose of the meeting, a provisional agenda and include a call for any specific proposals for inclusion in the Agenda.
- 8.5 Specific proposals from members must be received by the ERB two (2) months before the date of the General Assembly.
- 8.6 Requests to reconsider decisions of the ERB in accordance with Art. 11.2 or Art. 11.10, shall be submitted to the ERB, and unless there are exceptional circumstances, received at least two months before the date of the General Assembly. Each decision may be submitted only once to the General Assembly and must be submitted within one year of the date of taking effect. Any alteration of a decision by the ERB following a vote at the General Assembly will not have retroactive effect unless the ERB so decides. The ERB may, of its own initiative, seek confirmation by the General Assembly of any of their decisions made within their own competence. If confirmed the decision may not be submitted again to the General Assembly for reconsideration.
- 8.7 The ERB shall send out the agenda for the General Assembly at least one (1) month before the date of the General Assembly. Where possible the various reports, any observations on agenda items shall be sent out with the agenda. Subsequent written material may be circulated by the ERB or produced for the meeting.
- 8.8 Participation in General Assemblies will be at the expense of the member.
- 8.9 The members may call a General Assembly of the organisation if 75% of the members from the preceding calendar year request such a meeting. The petition, stating the purpose of the meeting, shall be submitted to the ERB who shall proceed to call a General Assembly in the manner prescribed above.

9 VOTING

Each member federation will be entitled to one vote at any Annual General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly.

- 9.1 Decisions of the annual General Assembly shall be taken as described in World Rowing Articles 36 and 37.
- 9.2 In the event of a tie, a new vote shall be taken. If the candidates are still tied after the second such vote, the ERB shall hold an internal vote which will be the deciding vote.

10 EUROPEAN ROWING BOARD

The European Rowing Board (ERB) is the executive body which manages the matters of the ERC as defined in Art 11.

The ERB shall consist of seven individuals, only one per member federation: four elected by the European member federations at the annual General Assemblies and three Europeans nominated by the World Rowing Council and ratified by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall elect the seven members of the ERB for four-year terms as explained below;

- 10.1 The members of the ERB shall each serve for a period of four years, which can be renewed, subject to re-appointment or re-election as appropriate, up to a maximum of 12 years in the same position.
- 10.2 The ERB will meet no less than four times in a calendar year, either in person or electronically and between annual General Assemblies to carry out its activities which are consistent with the objectives of the organisation.

11 DUTIES OF THE ERB:

The duties of the ERB are the following:

- 11.1 to ensure that European Rowing Events are successfully staged every year – inviting applications from bidding European member federations; analysing the bids; making recommendations to the annual General Assembly of the European member federations regarding the European Championships for decision at the General Assembly; managing the process and attribution for the other European Rowing Events and then assisting the successful organising committee in the preparation and operation of each event;
- 11.2 to establish Bye-Laws to the Constitution and Rules of Racing including determining the format, programme and timing of European Rowing Events each year in consultation with World Rowing as well as the European member federations;
- 11.3 to make recommendations to the annual General Assembly of the European member federations on any departures from the World Rowing Rules of Racing that they believe should be applied to the European Rowing Championships;

- 11.4 to appoint a Vice President from amongst the ERB members who would be prepared to replace the President if he or she were to step down from his or her position.
- 11.5 to delegate authority to third persons or parties to carry out activities on its behalf, from time to time or when appropriate.
- 11.6 to investigate other forms of rowing competition and to develop proposals for consideration by the European member federations.
- 11.7 to investigate opportunities to develop or promote rowing in Europe through all means and with all governing authorities.
- 11.8 to create Commissions and Working Groups from time to time, as appropriate, and be responsible for appointing individuals to these bodies.
- 11.9 to represent ERC in any negotiations or cooperation with other organisations.
- 11.10 to make any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of European Rowing. Requests to reconsider such decisions shall be submitted to European Rowing in line with Art. 8.6.

12 ELECTIONS

Nominations for positions on the European Rowing Board must be submitted in writing two months before the annual General Assembly. Unless fulfilling a casual vacancy the mandate for each elected or ratified member will commence on 1 January in the year following that election. Where a newly elected member is filling a casual vacancy due to a member stepping down, they will commence their mandate with immediate effect.

- 12.1 The four ERB members nominated by the member federations will be elected as follows:
 - 12.1.1 at the annual General Assembly in the first year after an Olympic year, the European member federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.
 - 12.1.2 at the annual General Assembly in the second year after an Olympic year, the European member federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.
 - 12.1.3 at the annual General Assembly in the year before an Olympic year, the European member federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.
 - 12.1.4 at the annual General Assembly in an Olympic year, the European Federations shall elect a member to serve for a four-year period.

12.1.5 If an elected member of the ERB steps down for any reason, the position will remain open and ERB shall call for nominations, and an election will be held at the next General Assembly for candidates to complete the term.

12.2 The ERC President shall be elected as follows:

12.2.1 The President of the ERC will also chair the ERB for a four-year period and serve as long as he or she is a member of the ERB.

12.2.2 The President will be elected from among the four members nominated by the member federations.

12.2.3 The election shall take place following the member election at the annual General Assembly in the first year after an Olympic year;

12.2.4 If the President of the ERC steps down for any reason, then the Vice President shall serve as Interim-President until the next General Assembly when an election for President will take place per 12.2.2.

12.3 The three ERB members nominated by the World Rowing Council will be elected as follows:

12.3.1 The World Rowing Council shall nominate European persons to serve as members of the ERB for a period of four years in the first year after the Olympic year. The Council will nominate three persons, who shall be European nationals and may be members of the World Rowing Council, for ratification at the European Rowing General Assembly. The National Federations will vote yes or no for each of the three. Nominees receiving an absolute majority of valid votes cast shall be elected to the ERB for a four-year period. If one or more of the nominees does not receive an absolute majority of valid votes cast, the Council will then select another European to serve until the next General Assembly when a new vote will be held. If this nominee does not receive a majority of valid votes cast, then the Council will select another European to serve for the remainder of the mandate.

12.3.2 In the case that one of the World Rowing Council nominated members of the ERB shall step down for any reason, the position will remain open until the next General Assembly when the World Rowing Council shall nominate a different European for ratification to serve the remainder of the term.

12.3.3 The Continental Representative must be included in the agreed total membership of seven. The World Rowing Continental Representative will be either: one of the World Rowing nominated members or selected from the member federation elected members.

13 AUTHORITY

The ERB, in the case of urgent decisions and acting between the Annual General Assemblies, shall exercise such authority as needed to fulfil the objectives of the organisation except:-

- 13.1 the ERB will not have the authority to commit member federations or World Rowing to any financial obligation without prior consultation and approval;
- 13.2 the ERB may not commit the ERC or World Rowing to any financial commitment which it does not have the means to fulfil;

14 FINANCE

World Rowing will keep a record of all financial transactions related to the European Rowing Confederation in accordance with the ERC-World Rowing Co-operation Agreement. All monies received and spent will be in separate accounts of World Rowing at a reputable retail bank in Lausanne.

15 INTERPRETATION

The ERB will decide all questions of interpretation of this Constitution and for any matters not covered by the ERC Constitution, the World Rowing Statutes and Rules of Racing shall apply.

16 DISSOLUTION

A dissolution of ERC as described in this Constitution shall be valid only if carried out by four-fifths of the valid votes cast at an Extraordinary General Assembly specially convened for that purpose. Furthermore, a quorum of two-thirds of the member federations is necessary for a valid vote;

- 16.1 If after the settlement of all obligations and debts, there remain any financial or other assets belonging to the organisation, these shall be turned over to World Rowing or such other organisation or national rowing federation determined by World Rowing which operates in the European continent and has objectives similar to those of the organisation.

17 CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

This Constitution was approved effective immediately at the European Rowing Extraordinary General Assembly held on 31 May 2025. Plovdiv, Bulgaria.