

2005 FISA Extraordinary Congress

Summary of the Council's Proposed Changes to the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Championship Regattas.

1. General

You will find three columns in the Proposed Changes section of the Agenda Papers. The left column is the actual wording of the relevant Article or Rule, the middle column shows the deletions and the additions to the relevant wording, if any, and the right column shows the proposed new wording in the new order.

Please excuse the grammatical errors or omissions that you will find. This was completed very quickly in order for us to be on time in sending it to you.

2. Statutes

2.a. General comments on the Statutes

The Council has had a general check on grammar and sought more commonly used terminology through the document. There are many examples of wording improvements and more concise use.

Governance - The section related to the Council and Executive Committee in the Governance area has been changed to create separate sections; one for the Council and one for the Executive Committee. As well, all job descriptions for members of the Council are in the same area as all job descriptions for the Commissions are in the same area.

Ethics - We have added a section on Ethics (Chapter V) just to be sure we are not caught with a crisis and do not have a clearly stated mechanism to deal with it.

2.b. Specific comments on the Statutes

- **Declaration of Principles** - The "Prologue: Declaration of Principles" has been changed to just "Declaration of Principles". The individual principles have been cleaned up and we have added principles for the Environment and for Adaptive rowing.
- **Article 8** – This is intended to be a catch all article for communications.
- **General** - You will see that the terms "national" or "affiliated" federations have all been changed to "member" federations.
- **Article 18** - This is the first place where the Executive Committee is now a specific governance "organ" of FISA to reflect the working situation.

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- **Article 25** - The Congress Agenda has been cleaned up and all voting has been put at the end.
- **Article 28** - Starting here we have specified which governance organ is responsible for decisions such as, in Article 28, dealing with proposals from member federations or later on calling meetings of governance organs.
- **Article 31** - The title has been updated to reflect the existing content of the article.
- **Article 34** - There is no substantive change here just more concise wording.
- **Article 37** - Just improved wording about the Council
- **Article 40** – improved wording
- **Article 43** – This has been consolidated and we have brought in the new responsibilities of the Council which have been added since 1997, such as new paragraphs 6 and 7. In paragraph 4, you will see that there was a mistake because in Article 9 only the Executive Committee has the responsibility to interpret the Statutes, etc., not the Council. This confusion has been corrected here.
- **Article 46** – This is the start of the section on the Executive Committee which is simply an attempt to help make easier to understand the authority and responsibilities of each governance organ. It was not so clear before.
- **Article 49** - There are no substantive changes here; just an attempt to be more concise.
- **Articles 54 and 55** - No substantive changes to the Commitment section
- **Articles 56 to 59** - The new Ethics section is mentioned above.
- **Articles starting at 60** - The Judicial section has been cleaned up. Article 60 now includes the “Doping Hearing Panel” which was a part of the change due to the World Anti-Doping Code. In addition, we have added wording at the end of Article 60 to officially allow a common practice (due to the vast geographic division within some bodies), that is that a smaller group of people from the same judicial body may do work for the larger one.
- **Article 62** - Here you will find the first use of the word “Yellow Card”. This is our attempt to end the confusion in the rules between the two usages of the word “warning”. In one case, an umpire gives a warning to a crew so that the crew avoids interfering or hitting a foreign object. This is the sense we wish to continue to use. The other sense is the “penalty” sense, that is, when a crew has made a false start, it is assigned a “warning”. Some countries call this penalty a “false start” which is also confusing. After a long discussion, the least worst term we could agree on was “Yellow Card” as in soccer/football. We think the meaning is clear but we still would like to improve the understanding of its use and we will discuss this further at the Congress.

No other major changes to the Statutes.

Rules of Racing

3.a. General Comments on the Rules of Racing

The Rules of Racing have also been re-organised. The existing FISA Rules have been developed over generations essentially for the use of Umpires, not for Rowers and Coaches.

FISA's Rules 48 to 80 - For instance, there is no definition of "interference" other than the wording of Point 6 in the Bye-Law to Rule 72 – Duties of the Umpire. The reference to interference leading to exclusion appears in Point 7 in the Bye-Law to Rule 72 – Duties of the Umpire.

The FISA Executive decided to undertake a complete review of the Rules from 48 to 80 with the objective of improving the Rules so that they would be much more logical, clear and understandable for all concerned – and primarily for rowers and coaches. Except for the addition of a few definitions the vast majority of the words (both in the Rules and the Bye-Laws) remain the same – only the order and the emphasis have been changed.

Regulations for FISA Championships - Along the same lines, It has proven awkward when referencing rules and bye-laws related to the World Championships. The Rules of Racing have numerous specific statements about the World Championships but still we have a separate document called "Regulations for FISA Championships" where other "rules" are found. Given the rise of all our other new "FISA Events" such as the Rowing World Cup, the World Rowing Under 23 Regatta, the World Rowing Masters Regatta, etc., we have decided to bring the most important regulations for the World Championships into the rules and will create a standard presentation of the more administrative aspects of the Regulations for FISA Championships in a new document that will be entitled "Regulations for FISA Events". We will spend the next few years bringing the exceptions from the Rules as well as bidding procedures and administrative guidelines into a standard presentation. This document will be governed by the Council.

Lightweights – The Council based on the recommendation of the Sport Medicine Commission continues to hold the belief that change needs to take place in the lightweight weighing process to reduce the number of unhealthy practices seen at regattas during the mornings of the weigh-ins. The Council strongly believes that the averaging of lightweight crews needs to be eliminated and be replaced with a global maximum weight (70 kgs for men and 57 kgs for women) so that each rower knows exactly the weight he or she needs to be. This will greatly reduce the number of rowers running around in watertight jackets trying to lose an additional x grammes because one rower was "over" causing all to have to compensate for him or her. The Council proposes that this take effect in 2007 in order to allow current lightweights to participate in the coming World Championships as well as time for rowers and coaches to adjust.

3.b. Specific Comments on the Rules of Racing

- **Rule 2** – We have expanded the regattas under this rule to include the Under 23 and Masters regattas. This may be further expanded. The last paragraph is taken from Regulation 1 as a start to incorporate our major event into the rules.
- **Rule 2** – This is the start of many corrections from “affiliated” or “national” to “member” federations.
- **Rule 4** – Here is the proposal from the GER, BLR and UKR federations to consider the World Rowing Under 23 Regatta to be a World Championship. You will also find wording from former Regulation 2 referring to when the events will be held. Finally, a proposal from the GER federation to stage the Under 23 events together with the Junior Championships.
- **Rule 5 (NEW)** – The wording here is taken from Regulations 3 and 4 (paragraph 6) which is important to the attribution of the Championships.
- **Rule 9** – This is the first of several changes from the use of the word “departures” to “exceptions” in English. You will find this later in the document as well.
- **Rule 17** –
 - a. We add the word “Age” to the title “Categories”.
 - b. We also propose to change from using the term “Senior B” and replace it with the more commonly used term “Under23”.
- **Rule 18** – Here we talk about “Additional Categories” other than “Age” and we specify lightweight for specific age groups and adaptive.
- **Rule 20** – We attempt to clearly state that coxswains are subject to the same age restrictions as the rowers except for Masters events.
- **Rule 24** – Please see the explanation about the proposed lightweight change above. At the bottom, the former Bye-Law about re-hydration is proposed as part of the rule.
- **Rule 25** – Here we include a statement in the rules recognizing the Masters regatta under the supervision of the Masters Commission. In addition, at the recommendation of the Masters Commission, an additional age category is now introduced in the Bye-Law to **Rule 27** – We officially introduce “Adaptive” to the Rules and fully recognize that they are part of FISA.
- **Rule 29 (from Reg. 7)** –
 - a. This comes from former Regulation 7 where the events of the World Championships are defined.
 - b. The first proposed change is the GER federation proposal related to the Under 23 regatta, if it becomes a Championship, to add an Under 23 women’s eight to the regatta and eliminate the Under 23 Lightweight Mens 4x.
 - c. The Council proposes that the rule about the minimum number of starters should not apply to Adaptive events as they are critical to our Paralympic application.
 - d. The AUS proposal to add back in the lightweight 8 is here
 - e. Another AUS proposal to protect the eights is placed here.
 - f. Finally the last AUS proposal to make a lanes race obligatory is here.

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- **Rule 30 (from Reg 7)** – The TUN federation proposal to add the two lightweight singles to the Olympic programme is here.
- **Rule 31** – An internal rule re-organisation is carried out here.
 - a. The Innovation Bye-Law is now proposed as Rule 58 and is extended beyond just boats and equipment.
 - b. Minimum Boat weight is now proposed as Rule 32 due to its importance.
 - c. At paragraph 1.11, we refer to the new Safety Guidelines and the guideline for minimum flotation. Boat builders are required, from 1.1.2007 to indicate whether or not their boats can meet the minimum flotation requirement.
- **Rule 32** – Here is the “rule” on boat weights with no significant changes proposed.
- **Former Rule 35** – This is proposed to be eliminated as a remainder from the “amateur” status days.
- **Rule 40** – Wording from Regulation 5 has been added here.
- **Rule 41** – Please refer to the separate document on the Advertising Bye-Laws in which you will find some changes.
- **Rule 42** – The Council attempts to more clearly define “racing uniform” and the fact that the uniforms need to be identical. The CAN proposal is here which proposes that the uniforms may vary among the team.
- **Rule 52** – We start here with a gathering of all rules (52 to 59) related to safety and fairness. In Rule 52 we add a sentence emphasizing the responsibility of all competitors and team officials to act in accordance with these principles.
- **Rule 53** – In this rule, we attempt to make it clear that we are all personally responsible for our actions and decisions in sport and at competitions but as long as one decides to compete at an event, one must follow the rules of the sport and the instructions of the officials.
- **Rule 54** – Here we attempt to emphasize the importance of the most fundamental traffic rules for safety when moving on the water.
- **Rule 57 (NEW)** – In this new rule, we present what we believe are the fundamental rules for fairness to all competitors.
- **Rule 58** – Rowing is a leader among the other sports for its strong position on innovation. Many other sports are trying to roll back innovation for the sake of a “level playing field” for athletes from all continents and to make sure that it is a competition of humans and not equipment or materials. Here the Council attempts to expand our innovation rule to encompass all “non-human” innovations to keep our sport a competition of humans.
- **Rule 60** – We have changed from the word “qualification” to “progression”. Also we propose to include the full progression system in an annex at the back of the rule book for easier reference to it by coaches and rowers.
- **Rule 61 (NEW)** – The importance of the draw is now considered to justify a rule. The words are drawn from the former bye-law.
- **Rule 62 (NEW)** – The aspect of withdrawals and disqualifications after the draw are very important to the successful operation of a regatta. A rule on this is considered appropriate.

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- **Rule 63 (NEW)** – Upgrading of a bye-law to a rule status for this potentially important method of keeping a regatta going in difficult conditions.
- **Rule 64 (NEW)** – As we learned in 2003, a clear contingency plan is critical to the ultimate success of an outdoor sport. It is now at the rule level.
- **Rule 65** – Starting from here, we describe the different parts of the race to the rowers and coaches (instead of to the umpires). This is the first mention of “Yellow Card” instead of the term “warning”.
- **Rule 67 (NEW)** – The false start can have a major impact on a rower at a regatta and has been upgraded to a rule.
- **Rule 68 (NEW)** – So that rowers are aware, we have added this rule to the section on the start.
- **Rule 69** – Here starts the various rules related to the race itself using wording from previous rules.
- **Rule 71 (NEW)** – Interference with another crew is a major fairness issue and thus necessitates a rule. In the first paragraph of the bye-law, you will find the correct use of the term “warning” that will continue to be used with these rules.
- **Rule 73** – Here starts the section on the finish in terms for the rowers and coaches.
- **Rule 74 (NEW)** – A bye-law on dead heats was upgraded to be a rule.
- **Rule 76** – This section (rules 76, 77 and 78) is not new just placed in the more appropriate chronological position for the rowers and coaches.
- **Rule 79** – The explanations of the duties and responsibilities of the jury are presented here from rule 79 to 92.
- **Rule 93** – Certain aspects relating to the whereabouts system of the Anti-Doping Bye-Laws were amended during 2004. No further changes are proposed. These bye-laws will also be included as an annex for easier access.

3. Regulations for FISA Championships

As you have seen above, the most important regulations have been moved into the rules with mainly administrative or procedural aspects left for a procedural document. Here we summarise where these regulations have gone or will go:

- **Regulation 1** – Text moved to Rule 2.
- **Regulation 2** – Text moved to Rule 4.
- **Regulation 3** – Text moved to Rule 5.
- **Regulation 4** – Text moved to Rule 5.
- **Regulation 5** – Text moved to Rule 40. The rest of the text is incorporated in the Advertising Bye-Laws and in the event agreements with the member federations and organising committees.
- **Regulation 6** – This text will be incorporated in the procedural document.
- **Regulation 7** – Text moved to Rules 29 and 30.
- **Regulation 8** – This text will be incorporated in the procedural document.
- **Regulation 9** – No longer needed. Covered under Rule 38.
- **Regulation 10** – No longer needed.