

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron
International Rowing Federation

S T A T U T E S

and related Bye-Laws

2001 Edition

2002 updates are on blue insert pages

2003 updates are on yellow insert pages

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February 2003

STATUTES

Prologue: Declaration of Principles

A. Rowing

Rowing is one of the oldest sports. Over the years certain values and characteristics have become connected with rowing which FISA intends to protect and reinforce. These characteristics and values which should inspire its activities and decisions are the following:

A1. The educational aspects of sport are of fundamental importance in rowing

FISA uses all efforts to ensure that rowers, through rowing, acquire a personal experience of will, determination, team spirit, faithfulness, honesty and fairness. FISA thus hopes that by applying these principles in all circumstances the rowers become independent and responsible individuals, prepared to face the realities of life and willing to share the values gained with others.

Bye-Law to Principle A1 - Rowing and the Environment

FISA recognises that the sport of rowing is closely associated with nature and that the enjoyment of the natural environment is an integral component of the sport. Therefore in order to contribute to the preservation of nature, FISA is committed to being environmentally responsible. The sport of rowing, as such, is environmentally friendly.

A2. Rowing is a means of encouraging international understanding and co-operation

FISA plans and organises its regattas, championships, pleasure rowing tours, congresses and meetings as a means of creating friendly contact between the participants therefore contributing to a better

understanding between people and nations, regardless of race, gender, frontiers or political systems. It considers its organisation as a world-wide "family", based on the ideals of peace, friendship, fairness, understanding and mutual assistance. FISA operates a sporting development programme among its members in order to foster further development of the sport of rowing.

A3. Rowing is an ideal lifetime sport for all

FISA favours the maintenance of physical fitness by rowing from youth into old age. It encourages its affiliated federations to promote competitive and recreational rowing for all, regardless of age, gender or ability.

B. FISA

FISA is the community of national rowing federations all over the world and the oldest international sports federation. It governs rowing by defending its values (expressed under 'A. Rowing' in the first section) and by acting in accordance with the following principles:

B1. FISA and rowing are an integral part of world-wide sport

FISA has been part of the Olympic movement from the beginning of the modern Olympic Games and is also a member of the community of international sports federations. It strives to be an active participant in the world of sport and to co-operate with the other international federations and the various world sports organisations. It encourages any steps which serve to propagate sport and contribute to develop it, as well as to promote the Olympic Games and the various other international championships. It seeks the inclusion of rowing in multi-sport international competitions and a presence on important international sports bodies.

B2. FISA will remain free and independent

FISA will keep rowing free from political and commercial restraints. Moreover, FISA undertakes, at all levels, to preserve the independence and autonomy of international sport.

B3. FISA regards sporting interests as the priority

FISA directs its work in the interest of rowers and rowing. It opposes any attempt to subordinate sport to any other interests.

B4. FISA is committed to equality of opportunity and fairness

FISA seeks to ensure that competition and competitors respect the principles of fairness and equality of opportunity among rowers. It fights, in particular, against doping and technical manipulation by enforcing strict rules. FISA carries out world-wide anti doping tests, in and out of competition, and supports all measures taken in that field at international level.

B5. FISA continuously develops rowing in all its forms

FISA aims to promote and develop the sport. It has established development programmes, organises training courses, and develops public relations and media opportunities. Thereby, FISA aims to attract new rowers and members, improve the level, quality and appeal of its competitions, and ensure a leading position for rowing in world sport, in multi-sport events and, particularly, in the Olympic Games.

Bye-Law to Principle B5 - FISA and the Environment

FISA recognises the value of environmental responsibility and encourages this in the rowing community. FISA is committed to promoting environmental responsibility in the planning and staging of events, the design and construction of new rowing facilities and by raising awareness on environmental issues throughout the rowing community.

PART I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 - Constitution, Name and Legal Status

With the object of encouraging the development of the sport of rowing and of strengthening the bonds of friendship that unite those who practice it, the Adriatic, Belgian, French, Italian and Swiss Federations founded the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron (FISA) on 25th June, 1892, in Turin.

FISA is a not-for-profit association governed by articles 60 and following of the Swiss civil code. It is endowed with legal personality. Its members, office bearers and employees are not responsible for its debts.

Article 2 - Objects

The objects of FISA shall be:

1. To maintain and promote the ethical principles of FISA as set out in the Prologue to the Statutes.
2. To promote and develop all forms of rowing, and in particular to encourage competitive rowing, recreational rowing, junior rowing, masters rowing and rowing for disabled people.
3. To encourage international understanding and co-operation.
4. To apply the eligibility rules as laid down in the FISA Rules of Racing for all competitions.
5. To encourage the development of rowing, the creation of new clubs and rowing courses and the formation of national federations in countries where rowing is not developed.
6. To establish international championships under the titles of FISA World Rowing Championships and Continental Championships and to take part in the organisation of Olympic regattas.
7. To encourage the organisation of international regattas open to all affiliated federations, and to ensure that international regattas are governed by the Rules of Racing adapted to the development of the sport of rowing.
8. To establish measures of development aid.

Article 3 - Non-Discrimination

FISA shall allow no political, religious, racial or gender discrimination.

Article 4 - Autonomy of national federations

FISA shall have no part in purely national questions.
It shall allow its affiliated federations complete autonomy internally.

Article 5 - Headquarters

The location of the FISA headquarters is decided by the Council.

Bye-Law to Article 5 - Headquarters

The headquarters are currently in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 6 - Emblem

The emblem of FISA is: the five oars, side by side, coloured blue, yellow, black, green and red with or without the letters F-I-S-A.
Only the Executive Committee may authorise the use of the FISA emblem.

Article 7 - Languages

The official languages of FISA are French and English. In case of divergence, the English text prevails.

The use of other languages may be authorised by the Executive Committee in Congress or by the chairman of the meeting on other occasions.

Article 8 - Interpretation

In these Statutes, in the Rules of Racing, the Regulations for FISA Championships, the Bye-Laws, and in all FISA documents, unless the context otherwise requires, all references to the male gender will be taken as including the female gender. For example, the word "Chairman" includes reference also to a "Chairwoman".

The Executive Committee shall decide questions of interpretation of the FISA Statutes, Rules, Regulations or Bye-Laws.

PART II - MEMBERSHIP

Article 9 - Members

Only a national federation which includes the majority of rowing clubs in its country, which has been recognised as such by the overall governing body of sport or the National Olympic Committee of that country, and whose statutes are not inconsistent with those of FISA, may become a member of FISA.

To be accepted as a member of FISA, a national federation must cover the territory of a country which is recognised as such and as an independent and sovereign state by the international community. This requirement does not apply to members who were affiliated before 25 January 1993.

Article 10 - Admission to membership

A national federation wishing to become a member of FISA shall:

1. Make formal application to the Executive Committee at least one month before the date of the next Congress.
2. Submit with its application a copy of its statutes, rules of racing, written evidence that the requirements for affiliation have been complied with, and a detailed report on the activities of the clubs which it represents.
3. Provide details of the membership of its committee and the design and colours of its racing uniform and blades.
4. Give a formal undertaking to observe the Statutes, Rules of Racing, Regulations and Bye-Laws of FISA.
5. Undertake to accept as binding and final the decisions of the competent authorities within FISA and in this regard to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne as the only possible external judicial authority.
6. Undertake to impose the obligations in 4 and 5 upon its affiliated clubs and their members in all those areas in which FISA has authority.
7. Pay an entrance fee, the amount of which shall be fixed each year by Congress.
8. Be elected by a vote of Congress for which a clear majority of the votes of members represented shall be required.

Article 11 - Retaining membership status

In order to retain its membership status, an affiliated federation must, at all times, fulfil all the conditions necessary for its admission. Therefore, it must immediately notify the Executive Committee of FISA of any change made to its statutes, rules of racing, membership of its committee, its address, or the design or colours of its racing uniform and blades.

Article 12 - Resignation

An affiliated federation wishing to withdraw from membership of FISA at the end of the current year shall give notice of resignation by registered post to the Executive Committee not later than 30th September. The Executive Committee shall immediately inform the remaining affiliated federations of any resignations submitted to it.

Article 13 - Subscriptions

Members of FISA shall pay an annual subscription, the amount of which is determined each year in advance by the Congress. The members' only financial responsibility towards FISA shall be to pay this subscription no later than 31st March of each year.

Article 14 - Subscriptions in arrears

National federations whose subscriptions are in arrears may be suspended by the Executive Committee or expelled by Congress. In any event they shall lose their voting rights.

Article 15 - Expulsion

If a federation does not continue to fulfil the current conditions laid down to become a member of FISA and does not rectify the situation by a date fixed by the Executive Committee, or if there are other justifiable reasons, the Congress may expel that federation.

Article 16 - Recognition of Rowing Confederations

The Council may recognise rowing confederations which consist of a number of FISA members with a common geographical or other basis and may grant to these confederations permission to be represented at Congresses by observers.

PART III - GOVERNANCE

Article 17 - Governance

FISA shall be governed by:

1. The Congress (Art.18 and following)
2. The Council (Art. 36 and following)

Article 18 - Congress

The Congress shall be the supreme authority of FISA whose activities shall be subject to its control.

Article 19 - Composition and Presidency

The Congress shall consist of delegates of national federations which are currently members of FISA.

The President of FISA shall preside or, failing him, the vice-president. The Council shall also participate in the Congress.

Article 20 - Delegates

Each federation shall have the right to have a maximum of three delegates accredited.

Federations may at any time change their delegates but they may not be represented by a delegate who already represents another federation or by a member of the Council.

Each delegate must satisfy the Executive Committee that he is a citizen or *bona fide* resident of the country or territory of the federation he represents. He must be able to provide immediate proof of his authority to represent the federation.

In an exceptional case, the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Article 21 - Observers

Observers may attend part or all of the Congress, Executive Committee, Council and Commission meetings, and possibly speak, only by invitation from the Chairman of the meeting.

Article 22 - Ordinary Congress

Delegates shall meet annually as an Ordinary Congress, preferably at a time and place at which a FISA World Rowing Championship regatta is to be held.

Article 23 - Extraordinary Congress

Delegates shall meet as an Extraordinary Congress when the annual Ordinary Congress or the Executive Committee shall so decide or when at least one-third of the affiliated federations submit a demand in writing to the Executive Committee giving reasons therefor.

Article 24 - Convening notice and Agenda

The Executive Committee shall send out a convening notice at least four months before the date of the Congress. The convening notice shall call for Federations to submit by letter or by fax any specific proposals for inclusion in the agenda, which letter or fax must be received by the Executive Committee no later than three months before the date of the Congress.

The Executive Committee shall send out the agenda for the Congress no later than two months before the date of the Congress. Where possible, the various reports, any observations on the agenda items, the accounts, the financial report, and the proposed budget shall be sent out with the agenda. Subsequent written material may be circulated by the Executive Committee.

Article 25 - Agenda for Ordinary Congress

The agenda for an Ordinary Congress shall include:

1. Opening of the session
2. Identification of the delegates and confirmation of their authority
3. Appointment of scrutineers for the period of Congress
4. Approval of the minutes of the last Congress
5. President's report and reports from the Executive Committee Members
6. Reports of the Chairmen of the specialist Commissions
7. Reports of the Continental Representatives
8. Accounts, financial report and auditors' report
9. Approval of accounts
10. Determination of entrance fee and annual subscription
11. Budget for the following year
12. FISA World Championship and Olympic regattas

13. Place and date of the next Congress
14. Appointment of the federation, if any, to be responsible for inspecting the accounts for the following year
15. Reports on applications for affiliation and voting consequent thereon
16. Reconsideration of decisions taken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 44 (g) or by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 45 (f)
17. Proposals from National Federations
18. Any other business.

If necessary, the following, or any other items which the Executive Committee may wish to bring up for discussion, may be added to the agenda:

- Alterations to the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Championship Regattas.
- Elections

Article 26 - Reports

Congress may appoint individuals to report on matters brought before it. It may also require the Executive Committee to submit to it its views on questions to which it may wish to give further consideration.

Article 27 - Specific Proposals from Federations

An affiliated federation may submit in writing to the Executive Committee specific proposals to be included in the Agenda of a Congress, together with the reasoning behind the proposal. A member federation may also submit any specific proposal it proposes should be discussed under an existing agenda item. If these are received at the FISA headquarters at least ten weeks before the date of the next congress they will be included in the Agenda for that Congress. Proposals received after that date will be included in the Agenda for the following Congress.

Article 28 - Proposals from the Council or Executive Committee

The Council or the Executive Committee may, subject to Art. 24, include on the agenda any proposal which they consider to be appropriate. Also, they may submit a proposal to the Congress at any time provided it relates to an item on the Agenda.

Article 29 - Alterations to the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations

The Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Championship Regattas may only be altered every four years in the year following the holding of the Olympic Games (cases of *Force Majeure* reserved).

Article 30 - Reconsideration of decisions of Council or the Executive Committee

Requests for the reconsideration of decisions taken by the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 44 (g) and by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 45 (f) shall be submitted to the headquarters of FISA by registered post and received at least 15 days before the date of Congress.

Each decision may be submitted only once to the Congress for reconsideration.

The Council and/or the Executive Committee may seek confirmation by the next Congress of any of their decisions made within their own competence. This confirmation is with a simple majority. If confirmed, this decision may not be submitted to the Congress for reconsideration.

In any case, the obligation possibly imposed on the Council/Executive Committee to reconsider a decision will have no retroactive effect.

Article 31 - Auditing of accounts

FISA's accounts shall be audited each year by a professional auditor appointed by the Executive Committee, and subsequently may be inspected by a representative of a National Federation if so desired by the Congress.

Article 32 - Quorum

Subject to the provisions of Article 56 the decisions of Congress shall be valid, irrespective of the number of federations represented.

Article 33 - Voting

Unless a secret ballot is demanded by a delegate, voting shall be by a show of hands.

Irrespective of the number of delegates representing it, when voting, each member shall be entitled to one vote.

For each four year Olympic period, a federation shall be entitled to three votes if:

- a. it has been a member of FISA for at least three years, and
- b. it has competed at any one or more of the following regattas:
 - (i) FISA World Rowing Championships;
 - (ii) FISA World Junior Rowing Championships;
 - (iii) Olympic Regatta or the Olympic qualifying regattas
 - (iv) Continental Games regattawith a total of at least 12 boats during the previous four year Olympic period.

Article 34 - Majorities

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article and of Article 56, decisions of Congress shall be taken on the basis of a majority of valid votes cast in each ballot. An abstention is not considered to be a vote. In the case of elections, if additional ballots are necessary, the candidate obtaining the smallest number of valid votes in each ballot shall be eliminated until one candidate obtains a majority of the valid votes cast.

In similar situations, for example the designation of a federation for organising a FISA World Championship Regatta, this method of voting shall also apply.

In the case of a tie, a new vote shall be taken. If the candidates are still tied, the Council shall make the decision.

Alterations to the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Championship Regattas shall be carried only if they obtain two-thirds of the valid votes cast in each ballot.

Article 35 - Date of Taking Effect

Elections and decisions of a Congress shall take effect from the 1st of January following that Congress unless Congress determines otherwise.

Article 36 - The Council

FISA shall be managed by the Council, consisting of:

1. The President
2. The Vice President
3. The Treasurer
4. The Executive Director

5. The Chairmen of the specialist Commissions.
6. The Continental Representatives

FISA is bound only by the signature of its President, or the Vice President in the case of his incapacity, in conjunction with the signature of another member of the Executive Committee.

Article 37 - Election of Members of the Council

The members of the Council, with the exception of the Executive Director and the Continental Representatives, shall be elected for four years by the Congress.

They are eligible for re-election.

Members of the Council can no longer hold office after the 31st of December following their 65th birthday.

With the exception of the Executive Director, the members of Council are not remunerated by FISA but may receive reimbursement of expenses.

Bye-Law to Article 37 - Election of Members of the Council

1. *The Executive Committee is elected at the Ordinary Congress in the year following each Olympic Games. The Chairmen of the Events, Umpiring, Competitive, Women's, Masters, Media, Marketing and Promotions, and Adaptive Commissions are elected in the second year after each Olympic Games. The Chairmen of the Materials, Youth, Sports Medicine, Rowing for All and Athletes Commissions are elected in the third year after each Olympic Games.*
2. *FISA shall give notice of those positions on the Council which are due for election at the time of sending out the Convening Notice for the Congress; that is, at least four months before the Congress*
3. *The notice will call for nominations for the positions to be elected by the Congress. The nomination must be made by the affiliated federation of the person nominated and must be received at FISA headquarters no later than three months before the date of the Congress.*
4. *No later than one month after the closing date for nominations FISA shall send to all affiliated federations a list of all nominations received by the closing date*

Article 38 - Executive Committee

Within the Council, there is an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, three Commission Chairmen and the non-voting Executive Director.

The three Commission Chairmen shall be elected to the Executive Committee by the Congress based on a proposal from the Council. If a proposed Commission Chairman does not receive a clear majority of valid votes cast, there will be an additional round(s) of voting where all Commission Chairmen shall be eligible for election until three have received a majority of valid votes cast.

Bye-Law to Article 38 – Duties of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer

a. Duties of the President

- 1. The President leads, directs and represents FISA.*
- 2. In co-operation with the Council and the Congress, he defines the policies to be followed by FISA.*
- 3. To promote its goals, the president suggests initiatives, and motivates the creativity of the Executive Committee, the Council, and the Commissions. He delegates tasks in addition to those outlined in the Statutes and Bye-Laws, to members of the Executive Committee, the Council and the Commissions and he supervises and controls their activities. He encourages the affiliated federations to be active contributors and solicits their contributions to the advancement of rowing.*
- 4. He represents FISA with third parties, in particular, other national and international sport organisations, notably sporting organisations such as the IOC, other international federations, ASOIF, GAISF, the NOCs, national rowing federations, etc.*
- 5. He chairs the Congresses, Council and Executive Committee meetings, Joint Commissions Meetings, and other appropriate meetings which he attends and which are organised within FISA or by FISA.*
- 6. He decides such matters which are within his competence, and when urgent decisions are needed and there is no possibility to consult the relevant people.*

b. Duties of the Vice President

1. *The Vice President shall carry out such duties as delegated to him or her by the President.*
2. *The Vice President is responsible for representing FISA when the President is unable to do so, or when requested by the Executive Committee to do so.*
3. *The Vice President shall work on special assignments, working groups etc. when requested to do so by the Executive Committee or the Council. These assignments or working groups may concern the internal affairs of FISA or FISA's relations with other bodies.*
4. *The Vice President is Chairman of the Development Cross-Commission.*

c. Duties of the Treasurer

1. *The Treasurer is responsible for the financial management of FISA and in this respect supervises the activities of the Executive Director.*
2. *The Treasurer agrees on and approves book-keeping procedures for the FISA headquarters.*
3. *He oversees the preparation of the annual budget and the annual accounts, and he presents them to Congress.*
4. *He liaises with the Executive Director in order to monitor the progress of income and expenditure during the year, and approves significant deviations from budget.*
5. *He consults with the Executive Director and the President in order to agree upon the investment of FISA funds and to manage foreign exchange and other risks.*
6. *He approves the financial aspects of major contracts.*
7. *He is responsible for keeping the Executive Committee and Council informed of FISA's financial situation by means of management accounts.*
8. *He prepares FISA's long-term financial plan having regard to the four year Olympic cycle.*
9. *He oversees the adequacy of FISA's insurance.*
10. *He is responsible for making recommendations to the Executive Committee in respect of staff remuneration and terms of employment.*

Article 39 - Appointment of Executive Director

The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. He shall be supported by administrative staff. He performs that function of Secretary General as well.

Bye-Law to Article 39 - Duty Statement of the Executive Director

- 1. The Executive Director will be responsible for the effective management of FISA, within the policies and objectives approved from time to time by the FISA Council.*
- 2. He will operate within the limits of authority and budget approved by the Executive Committee and the Council.*
- 3. He will be accountable to the Council, and report to the Council through the President.*
- 4. He will select and employ the staff of FISA, within the manpower plan and budget approved by the Council.*
- 5. He will be responsible for the effective relationship with the President, the Chairmen of the Commissions and the National Federations.*
- 6. He will, in consultation with the President, the Treasurer and the Chairmen of the Commissions, prepare the annual Business Plan as well as the Olympic Cycle (four year) Business Plan for approval by the Council.*

Article 40 - Continental Representatives

The Council, after consultation with the federations concerned, shall appoint a Continental Representative for each of the following continents or sub-continents: Africa, Asia, Oceania, South America and North America (including Central America and the Caribbean). They are appointed for four years in the Olympic year and may be re-appointed.

Continental Representatives shall be members or ex-officio members of the Executive Committee of the rowing Confederation of their continent, if there is one.

They can no longer hold office after the 31st of December following their 65th Birthday.

Continental Representatives shall serve as liaisons between the Council and the federations in their respective continents.

The Executive Committee may entrust Continental Representatives with specific duties.

Continental Representatives shall be ex-officio members of the Development Commission.

The duties of the Continental Representatives shall be described in the Bye-Laws.

***Bye-Law to Article 40 -
Duty Statement of the Continental Representatives***

- 1. Continental Representatives should travel widely within their continents to promote rowing and FISA within their continents.*
- 2. They shall ensure the proper organisation of international regattas held within their continent.*
- 3. Where a continental Championship or regional Championship is being held in the region of the Continental Representative, the Representative should, where possible, be one of FISA's technical delegates to that Championship.*
- 4. They shall take any necessary action in cases of non-observance of the Statutes, Rules of Racing or the Regulations of FISA and, in all such cases, they shall submit a report to the Executive Committee.*
- 5. Continental Representatives should attend at least two Council Meetings each year.*
- 6. Whenever the FISA President or his appointee is travelling within the continent of a Continental Representative, the Continental Representative should accompany him, where possible.*
- 7. Continental Representatives should maintain close and regular contact with the affiliated federations and regatta organisers in their continents and should regularly report on such contacts to the Executive Committee. Copies of correspondence between the Continental Representative and affiliated federations or commissions should be forwarded to FISA and copies of relevant correspondence between the President, Executive Director or a Commission and affiliated federations within a continent should be forwarded to the Continental Representative*
- 8. The Continental Representatives shall submit a report on their activities and on the general situation in the sport of rowing within their continent to the Council once in each year. For this purpose they may request the national federations within their continent to submit to them reports on their activities.*
- 9. FISA will allow an amount in its annual budget for the activities of the Continental Representatives.*

Article 41 - Casual Vacancies

In case of a casual vacancy, the Executive Committee shall replace the member concerned until the next Congress.

Article 42 - Honorary Members

Congress may grant the honorary title of their office to former members of the Council who have rendered distinguished service to the cause of international rowing.

They shall act in an honorary capacity.

Article 43 - Decisions

Decisions of the Council, the Executive Committee and the specialist Commissions shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast. In the case of a tie, the President or Chairman shall have a casting vote.

The Executive Director does not participate in the voting.

Article 44 - Duties of the Council

The duties of the Council shall be:

- a) To take such steps as may be necessary to achieve the objects laid down in Article 2 of the Statutes.
- b) To ensure the execution of decisions taken by Congress.
- c) To ensure the maintenance of proper standards in the organisation of FISA World Rowing Championships, FISA's Rowing World Cup regattas, International Regattas, Olympic Regattas and, in general, all events and competitions conducted under the authority of FISA.
- d) To ensure the observance of the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations of FISA and whenever necessary to interpret these Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations.
- e) To appoint Continental Representatives in accordance with Article 40.
- f) To appoint the members of the various Commissions in accordance with the proposals of the Chairmen of the Commissions concerned and with the approval of the federation of the person concerned.
- g) To draw up and adapt where necessary Bye-laws made under the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Championship Regattas. Member federations may request that decisions taken hereunder be reconsidered on the occasion of a Congress following such decisions.

- h) To establish the duties of the individual members of the Council and of the Commissions.

The Council shall meet at least once a year.

Article 45 - Duties of the Executive Committee

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be (inter alia):

- a) To ensure the representation of FISA by its President or by one of its members.
- b) To keep member federations informed of the affairs of FISA.
- c) To prepare and issue convening notices for Congress.
- d) To be responsible for the administrative and financial management of FISA. To this end, the Executive Committee may establish administrative offices with remunerated personnel.
- e) To be responsible for the directional guidance of FISA's programmes with the relevant Continental Representatives, Commission Chairmen and Commission Members.
- f) To take any decisions appropriate to the circumstances in the interests of the sport of rowing. Affiliated federations may request that decisions taken hereunder be reconsidered on the occasion of a Congress following such decisions.
- g) To impose penalties, at any time, as set out in Article 53, on national federations, clubs, or individuals who breach the Statutes, Rules, Regulations or Bye-Laws or who refuse to conform to instructions given, or behave in an improper manner.
- h) To interpret and give rulings on appeals by national federations on disputes regarding the provisions of the Statutes, Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Championship Regattas.

Article 46 - Council and Executive Committee Meetings

The Council will normally meet at least three times per year, once in the early part of the year and at the Junior and Senior FISA World Rowing Championships. It may also meet when so required by the President.

The Executive Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year. Both the Council and the Executive Committee may make decisions by correspondence. The Agendas for all meetings are circulated in

advance by the Chairman of the meeting. Minutes of Council meetings are circulated to all National Federations and Council and Commission members within four weeks of the meeting. Minutes of Executive Committee meetings are circulated to all Council members within four weeks of the meeting.

Article 47 - Commissions

The Council may establish Commissions having special duties and, in particular, in the following fields:

- A. Events
- B. Umpiring
- C. Materials
- D. Competitive Rowing
- E. Women's Rowing
- F. Youth Rowing
- G. Masters Rowing
- H. Rowing for All
- I. Sports Medicine
- J. Media, Marketing and Promotion
- K. Athletes
- L. Development
- M. Adaptive Rowing

The Development and Women's Rowing Commissions are Cross Commissions whose members are drawn from amongst the Council and other Commission members. The Development Commission is chaired by the Vice President. The Women's Rowing Commission is chaired by an elected Chairman who is a member of Council and is not necessarily a member of another Commission.

These Commissions shall consist, in principle, of a minimum of two and a maximum of six members appointed by the Council for a period of four years which may be renewed, in addition to the Chairman who shall be a member of the Council. The Council shall determine from time to time the size of each Commission within these limits. The Council shall seek to achieve a gender balance for Commission membership consistent with that in the sport of rowing. The Commissions shall meet as required when so requisitioned by their chairmen.

The Council is also permitted to create Working Groups for specific tasks and to entrust occasional assignments to non-members of the Council.

Commission members may no longer serve after 31st December following their 65th birthday.

Bye-Law to Article 47 - Commissions

For all commissions, except Cross Commissions, FISA will call for nominations for Commission membership in the year of election of the Commission Chairman. Candidates must be nominated in writing by their National Federations no later than the end of the Congress of that year.

Appointments of Commission members are made by the Council on the recommendation of the newly elected Commission Chairmen.

National Federations nominating candidates are expected to commit themselves to provide financial support for the travel and work of the Commission members, if they are appointed.

Recognised Working Groups:

1. Working Group on Rowing and the Environment.

Article 48 - Duties of the Commissions

The Bye-Laws shall define the duties, authority and field of activity of each Commission.

Bye-Law to Article 48 - Duties of the Commissions

1. Terms of Reference

- 1.1 *Each commission will meet at least twice a year; one of the meetings will be at the major event for that commission for that year e.g. FISA World Championships, FISA Masters Regatta; and another one at the Annual Joint Commissions Meeting.*
- 1.2 *Each commission will liaise with the President, the Council and the FISA secretariat through its Chairman.*
- 1.3 *Each commission will liaise with other commissions generally and at joint commissions meetings.*

- 1.4 *Each commission will provide an annual report to the Council and any other reports as required.*
- 1.5 *The Secretary to the Commission shall be responsible for producing and circulating minutes of Commission meetings.*

2. Working Groups

- 2.1 *Working Groups appointed by the Council will be given specific tasks.*
- 2.2 *The Working Group will present a written report to the Council about its work within a time allotted by the Council.*

3. Duties of the Commission Chairmen

1. *The Commission Chairmen shall advise, direct and represent the Council in their technical areas.*
2. *They shall allocate duties to their commission members.*
3. *They shall call and chair meetings of their Commissions.*
4. *They shall negotiate their annual budgets with the Treasurer and the Executive Director.*
5. *They shall propose appointments for their commissions to the Council for approval.*
6. *They shall communicate with the President, the Council and the Headquarters on behalf of their commissions*

4. Specific Duties of the Commissions

A. Events Commission

1. General Area of Responsibility
To set and monitor the standards of international regattas and of all FISA events with regard to the venue, the technical installations and the organisation of the events.
2. Objectives and Activities
 - 2.1 *To advise and assist Organising Committees to improve the standard of facilities and regatta courses for all major competitive events.*
 - 2.2 *To maintain and improve the standard of regatta organisation at all major competitive events in co-operation with the Umpiring Commission.*

- 2.3 *To provide advice and guidance at every stage from initial concept to final commissioning in the development of new courses and new regattas.*
- 2.4 *To monitor and co-ordinate changes to the structure of the FISA international regatta calendar in co-operation with the Competitive Rowing Commission.*
- 2.5 *To prepare and regularly update documents and manuals which specify the FISA requirements for all aspects of:*
 - a) *the upgrading of existing courses;*
 - b) *the development of new courses;*
 - c) *the organisation of championships and major regattas.*
- 2.6 *To visit and inspect regatta courses and regattas.*
- 2.7 *To provide members for the technical group responsible for inspecting candidates for future championships and Olympic Games.*
- 2.8 *To advise and assist Organising Committees in the organisation of international events for sprint rowing, adaptive rowing, ergometer rowing and coastal rowing.*

B. Umpiring Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To promote umpiring throughout the world.*
- 1.2 *To standardise umpiring and to maintain and improve the quality of umpiring in general, in particular at FISA World Championships, and at international events (regattas, sprints, adaptive, ergometer, coastal, etc) throughout the world.*
- 1.3 *To monitor the qualifications and quality of international umpires.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To maintain and develop selection criteria for juries at FISA World Championships.*
- 2.2 *To supervise the work of the juries at FISA World Championships.*
- 2.3 *To give advice to members of the juries at FISA World Championships and at other times when requested.*
- 2.4 *To be represented at all FISA World Championships and FISA events.*
- 2.5 *To conduct umpires' seminars using the most modern educational techniques and methods.*
- 2.6 *To conduct examinations for international umpires licences.*
- 2.7 *To be represented at as many international regattas as possible.*
- 2.8 *To take part in jury meetings at international regattas.*

C. Materials Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To define and ensure compliance with rules concerning boats and equipment for all types of FISA events, including Olympic, adaptive, ergometer, coastal etc.*
- 1.2 *To support development in the field of rowing equipment.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To check rowing equipment from the point of view of safety of the rowers.*
- 2.2 *To co-operate in the Development Programme of FISA.*
- 2.3 *To encourage the production of inexpensive rowing equipment complying with specified standards.*
- 2.4 *To work in co-operation with the Control Commission at FISA World Championships.*
- 2.5 *To organise and conduct courses on boat building and repairs.*
- 2.6 *To meet with manufacturers of rowing equipment.*
- 2.7 *To produce theoretical material and drawings for rowing material including maintenance manuals.*

D. Competitive Rowing Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To increase participation in all types of competitive rowing, including Olympic, sprint, adaptive, ergometer, coastal etc.*
- 1.2 *To raise standards in competitive rowing.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *COACHING; To undertake the following activities in the coaching field:*
 - 2.1.1 *Coach identification and recruitment*
 - 2.1.2 *Liaison with coaches*
 - 2.1.3 *Coach education*
 - 2.1.4 *Implementation of Coaching Development Programme*
 - 2.1.5 *Annual FISA Coaches Conference*
 - 2.1.6 *Specific coaching courses and seminars*
 - 2.1.7 *Production of coach education material*
 - 2.1.8 *Implementation of coach communication network*
- 2.2 *COMPETITION; To undertake the following activities in relation to competition:*

- 2.2.1 *Regulation of international rowing competition in terms of*
 - (i) composition (events, boat-classes, categories)*
 - (ii) conditions*
 - (iii) environment*
 - (iv) international regatta programme*
- 2.2.2 *Promotion and development of competitions.*
- 2.2.3 *Analysis and review of competition from the point of view of changes e.g. in competitive standards, social and financial environment, global mobility, participation levels.*
- 2.2.4 *Development of alternative and of complementary types of competition.*

E. Women's Rowing Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To promote participation in women's events.*
- 1.2 *To oversee all areas of women's activity in rowing.*
- 1.3 *To identify and promote women in administration, coaching, umpiring and research.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To establish better communication with national federations and to meet with teams.*
- 2.2 *To assist FISA in promotion and public relations.*
- 2.3 *To co-operate with other international sport federations.*
- 2.4 *To co-operate in the FISA Development Programme.*
- 2.5 *To investigate and evaluate regatta results, numbers of participants, weight limits etc.*
- 2.6 *To establish and maintain contacts with people responsible for women's rowing in each national federation.*
- 2.7 *To organise seminars.*
- 2.8 *To report each year to the FISA Congress.*
- 2.9 *To collect material for publicity and promotion of women's rowing.*

F. Youth Rowing Commission (Men and Women)

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To oversee all areas of youth rowing.*
- 1.2 *To increase participation in youth rowing at all levels of performance.*
- 1.3 *To monitor trends in youth rowing at national and international levels.*
- 1.4 *To provide advice on youth rowing as required by FISA.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To support the FISA Development Programme.*
- 2.2 *To broaden youth participation especially amongst developing rowing nations.*
- 2.3 *To represent the interests of junior rowing when decisions about the competition system are to be made.*
- 2.4 *To provide themes for the FISA Junior Coaches Conference.*
- 2.5 *To maintain and improve contact with coaches and athletes at the Junior World Championships, e.g. by holding meetings.*
- 2.6 *To assist and advise during the preparation of the organisation of the World Junior Championships.*
- 2.7 *To analyse the organisation, entries and results of the Junior World Championships and to publish the results.*
- 2.8 *To assist the Control Commission at the World Junior Championships.*

G. Masters Rowing Commission

1. General Area of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To promote Masters rowing in all its forms on a national and international basis.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To organise a world-wide FISA World Masters Regatta annually.*
- 2.2 *To prepare the annual Masters Regatta Calendar.*
- 2.3 *To publish written information in consultation with the Media, Marketing and Promotions Commission.*

H. Rowing for All Commission

1. General Area of Responsibility

1.1 *To promote on a national and international basis all the following forms of rowing:*

- touring*
- fitness and recreational*
- traditional and fixed seat*
- machine rowing*

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1 *Touring: To establish annually one or several FISA Tours for different age groups and to advise the national federations organising them.*

2.2 *Fitness and Recreational: To establish regattas for fitness and recreational boat classes and to promote this movement in affiliated countries.*

2.3 *Traditional and Fixed Seat: To link organisers of traditional and fixed seat events and to promote traditional and fixed seat rowing organisations on an international basis.*

2.4 *Machine Rowing: To promote and facilitate the international development of the machine rowing movement.*

I. Sports Medicine Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

1.1 *To oversee and advise on all medical aspects related to rowing.*

1.2 *To monitor medical services at regattas.*

1.3 *To investigate and promote the prevention of sports injuries.*

1.4 *To study, monitor and publicise biological aspects of training.*

1.5 *To assist in the basic medical education of coaches.*

1.6 *To regulate and undertake doping control.*

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1 *To provide advice and recommendations on request to the Council, Coaches Conference and national federations.*

- 2.2 *To formulate and publish guidelines for medical services.*
- 2.3 *To document literature related to exercise physiology, sports medicine and biomechanics.*
- 2.4 *To formulate and publish anti-doping rules and to assist in putting them into effect.*
- 2.5 *To participate in the FISA Coaches Conference.*
- 2.6 *To provide information by way of published material.*

J. Media, Marketing and Promotion Commission

1. Areas of responsibility

- 1.1 *To advise on the policy and strategic planning of FISA's marketing, media, communications, promotion and television activities;*
- 1.2 *To monitor progress in these areas and to provide input to and receive feedback from those responsible for the detailed execution;*
- 1.3 *To provide, where needed, technical support;*
- 1.4 *To be a resource with ideas for the promotion of:*
 - existing events;
 - new events;
 - development initiatives, and;
- 1.5 *To provide educational advice in these fields to national federations.*

K. Athletes Commission

1. General Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To provide a means of ensuring that the Council of FISA is aware of the opinions of current active rowers concerning major issues affecting the sport.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To establish a network of representative rowers throughout the world for a wide canvassing of opinion.*

- 2.2 *To assist the Executive Committee in convening and conducting competitors' meetings at FISA World Championships.*
- 2.3 *To be available to hear the views of rowers on FISA matters and to channel them to FISA Council.*
- 2.4 *To advise the Council on any matters referred to the Commission.*
- 2.5 *To analyse FISA World Championship and Olympic Organisation and to report its findings to the Council.*
- 2.6 *To make known to the Council the views of competitors on any matter in the field of competitive rowing, including Olympic, sprint, adaptive, ergometer, coastal etc, as it sees fit.*

3. Membership

- 3.1 *Members of this Commission can no longer serve on the commission after 31st December following the fourth anniversary of their last participation as a competitor at a FISA World Rowing Championships or Olympic Games.*
- 3.2 *The Chairman of the Commission must be eligible for membership of the Commission at the time of election to the chair, and may then serve a full four-year term as Chairman*

L. Development Commission

1. General Area of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To promote the universality of rowing in all its aspects.*
- 1.2 *To plan and co-ordinate the FISA Development Programme Activities, to be carried out by relevant commissions.*
- 1.3 *To manage the FISA Development Budget.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To increase the number of federations affiliated with FISA.*
- 2.2 *To help raise the standards of rowing amongst member federations, particularly in the developing rowing nations.*
- 2.3 *To produce a high quality of programme educational material.*

- 2.4 *To plan and co-ordinate educational courses and seminars world wide.*
- 2.5 *To plan and co-ordinate the FISA Boat Collection and Boat Building Programmes.*
- 2.6 *To stimulate a greater number of rowing federations to participate in FISA Championships and the Olympic Games.*

M. Adaptive Rowing Commission

1. Areas of Responsibility

- 1.1 *To oversee all areas of adaptive rowing.*
- 1.2 *To increase participation in adaptive rowing at all levels of performance.*
- 1.3 *To monitor trends in adaptive rowing at national and international levels.*
- 1.4 *To provide advice on adaptive rowing as required by FISA.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *To support the FISA Development Programme.*
- 2.2 *To broaden adaptive participation especially amongst developing rowing nations.*
- 2.3 *To represent the interests of adaptive rowing when decisions about the competition system are to be made.*

5. Duties of the Working Groups

A. Working Group on Rowing and the Environment

1. General Area of Responsibility

- 1.1 *Promote environmental responsibility in the planning and staging of events, design and construction of new rowing facilities;*
- 1.2 *Raise awareness on environmental issues throughout the rowing community;*
- 1.3 *Liase with external institutions such as public authorities, environmental organisations and other sporting bodies;*
- 1.4 *Monitor and evaluate the applications of FISA's environmental policies and guidelines.*

2. Objectives and Activities

- 2.1 *Create and revise policy and assist in its implementation.*
- 2.2 *Create environmental regulations for FISA operated events and monitor their application.*

- 2.3 Make recommendations for planning, siting, design, construction and operation of new facilities.
- 2.4 Suggest guidelines to national federations for environmentally responsible operations of rowing clubs.
- 2.5 Make recommendations for environmental codes of conduct for the rowing community.
- 2.6 Undertake projects and programs which fulfil FISA's environmental policies.

PART IV - JUDICIAL PROVISIONS

Article 49 - Judicial bodies of FISA

The following bodies of FISA have judicial powers in accordance with FISA Statutes, Bye-Laws and other regulations:

- The Congress
- The Council
- The Executive Committee
- The Board of the Jury

Article 50 - Procedural rules applicable to the judicial bodies of FISA

The judicial bodies of FISA shall provide fair procedures to all parties involved and shall respect their fundamental rights.

They recognise in particular:

- that a person who may have a conflict of interest shall not be a member of the decision-making body.
- the right of the person charged to know what he is charged with and to examine his file.
- the right to know the penalties which might be imposed.
- the right to be heard, to present a defence, to produce evidence and to be assisted by a counsel.

In addition, the following rules apply:

1. A protest or appeal shall be submitted in writing to the relevant body and shall set out the facts, reasons and evidence on which it is based. It shall be accompanied by a deposit of CHF 100 or equivalent, which amount shall be refunded if the protest or appeal is allowed.
2. The protests, appeals and decisions may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. A decision is considered as delivered when received by the person concerned, his fax machine or his e-mail system. A protest or appeal is validly made if it is sent by one of the above-mentioned means before midnight FISA headquarters time, on the last day of the deadline.
3. The lodging of a protest or of an appeal shall not have the effect of suspending the decision at stake or any penalty imposed. However, the protester or appellant may submit a request for suspension of the decision or penalty and the body hearing the appeal or the protest shall rule on the request.

For all situations not covered by the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws, the judicial bodies of FISA shall apply Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure.

Article 51 - Penalties and financial compensation

The judicial bodies of FISA have the power to make decisions and impose penalties in their areas of duty set out in the Statutes, Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws.

They can impose the following penalties:

1. reprimand;
2. exclusion;
3. disqualification;
4. ban from competition;
5. fine.

If appropriate, the Executive Committee may suspend, in part or in whole, the ban from competition or the payment of the fine.

The Executive Committee may also order payment of money as financial compensation against those (in particular National Federations, clubs, rowers officials) who have behaved in a faulty or neglectful manner which has caused financial loss or damage to another party.

In addition, the Executive Committee of FISA shall rule on Doping cases, in accordance with the appropriate regulations of FISA.

Article 52 – Ordinary arbitration proceedings

Any person or entity, who or which alleges that a decision he has not supported violates legal or FISA statutory clause(s), or who has a dispute with FISA, may submit a claim only to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne and with the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body.

The claim shall set out the facts and reasons on which it is based. It must be sent to CAS within one month from the day he or it became aware of the decision or, in the case of dispute, from the day FISA formally refused to accept his views or request.

The CAS conducts the arbitration and rules over the dispute in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS are final and may not be appealed.

Article 53 – Appeal of arbitration proceedings

Any person or entity penalised by a judicial body of FISA may only appeal the decision to CAS in Lausanne with the exclusion of any court of law of any country or any other arbitration body.

The appeal brief shall set out the facts and reasons on which it is based. It must be sent to CAS within 14 days following delivery of the decision in question to himself or his national federation.

The CAS conducts the appeal and rules on it in accordance with its own regulations. In addition, the CAS applies Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure. The seat and place of the arbitration is in Lausanne. The decisions made by the CAS are final and may not be appealed.

Article 54 – Commitment

Any person or entity who deals with FISA or shares in its activities and who, for example,

- a) rows on an international level as a member of a club affiliated to a national federation which is also affiliated to FISA;
- b) acts as an official (trainer, coach, team manager, delegate, representative etc) of a team, a club or a national federation;
- c) officiates as an international umpire or in a similar role;
- d) organises or participates in a competition which is placed under FISA's authority, according to the Statutes and Rules of Racing;
- e) assumes any role within FISA, within its Council, its Executive Committee or another committee or work group; recognises and accepts the following:
 - i) FISA's authority on all matters concerning international rowing;
 - ii) The mandatory character of the Statutes, the Bye-laws and other rules regulating FISA, in their current version and as amended from time to time, and to agree to uphold and abide by them without reservation;
 - iii) FISA's jurisdiction to make any decision or impose any sanction within its field of competence and I will accept all such FISA decisions or sanctions with only the reservation of paragraph iv. below.
 - iv) The CAS in Lausanne, as the only competent judicial authority external to FISA, with the exclusion of any ordinary court of

law, any civil judicial authority of any country and any other arbitration body;

- a. to settle any dispute which directly involves FISA, one of its bodies, one of its executives, any person acting on its behalf (Council and Commission members, umpires, etc.), one of its members or an organising committee of a FISA event run under FISA's authority (Art. 52);
- b. to review any decision alleged to violate legal or FISA statutory clause (Art. 52)
- c. to rule on any appeals from disciplinary sanctions or penalties of any kind, made by FISA or one of its bodies (Art. 53);
- v) the final and without appeal status of the decisions made by the CAS to which they agree to submit themselves without attempting to hinder their application;
- vi) The application of Swiss law and the rules of Swiss federal procedure as supplemental to FISA and CAS rules and regulations with Lausanne as the only place and seat of the arbitration.

Article 55 – Individual and written confirmation of this commitment

Although the commitment mentioned above is mandatory and automatic, FISA may, in addition, request individual and written confirmation of any commitment from the following individuals or entities, in accordance with the appropriate forms appended to these statutes from:

- a) any national federation affiliated to FISA or from any federation which wishes to become a member;
- b) any athlete, club, official, or international umpire likely to participate in a competition that is placed under FISA's authority;
- c) any organising committee for a senior, junior or masters competition placed under FISA's authority including but not limited to: World Championships, Olympic Regattas, Olympic Qualification Regattas, International Regattas, Rowing World Cup Regattas, Continental Championships etc.;

These confirmations are valid unless and until they have been formally revoked in writing and this written revocation has reached the FISA headquarters.

PART V - DISSOLUTION

Article 56 - Dissolution

The dissolution of FISA shall only be valid only if carried by four-fifths of the valid votes cast at an Extraordinary Congress specially convened for the purpose.

Furthermore, a quorum of two-thirds of the affiliated federations is necessary.

Article 57 - Assets

If the motion for dissolution is carried, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to realise the assets of FISA which shall be divided equally between the national federations constituting FISA at the time the vote is taken.

Article 58 - Exceptions

In no other circumstances shall any affiliated federation have any claim to any share whatsoever in the assets and any federation ceasing to be affiliated shall forfeit its claim to any assets of FISA.

PART VI - CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 59 - Concluding Provisions

These Statutes were approved or confirmed effective immediately by the FISA Extraordinary Congress held from 1st to 3rd February 2001 in Porto. They are complemented by the Rules of Racing and Regulations for FISA Championship regattas and all other regulations made by the Council or the Executive Committee.

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Avion:

President
Denis OSWALD

Executive Director
Matt SMITH