

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron
International Rowing Federation

F I S A RULES OF RACING
and related Bye-Laws

2001 Edition

2002 updates are on blue insert pages

2003 updates are on yellow insert pages

2004 updates are on green insert pages

Table of Contents

	Page
Part I Scope	41
- Definitions - Rowing - Boats - Regattas - Rowers	41
- World Rowing Championships	42
- Rowing World Cup	43
- International Regattas	43
and Internationals Matches	44
Part II Rowers and Coxswains	48
Section 1 - General	48
Section 2 - Juniors (men and women)	50
Section 3 - Seniors A and B (men and women)	50
Section 4 - Lightweights (men and women)	50
Section 5 - Masters (men and women and mixed)	51
Part III Classes of Boat	53
Part IV Boats and Construction	54
Part V Courses	57
Part VI Organisation of Regattas	67
Section 1 - General	67
Section 2 - Advertising Rules	70
Section 3 - Entries, Withdrawals and Crew Changes	79
Section 4 - Safety and Fairness	83
Section 5 - Qualification System	85
Section 6 - The Jury	104
Section 7 - The Start	108
Section 8 - During the Race	114
Section 9 - The Finish	119
Section 10 - Control Commission	121
Section 11 - Objections, Protests, Outcome of Protests, Appeals	123
Part VII Anti Doping Rules	125
Part VIII Concluding Provisions	148

Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron International Rowing Federation

PART I - SCOPE

Rule 1- Rowing, Boats, Regattas, Rowers

Rowing is the propulsion of a displacement boat, with or without coxswain, by the muscular force of one or more rowers, using oars as simple levers of the second order and sitting with their backs to the direction of movement of the boat. Rowing on a machine or in a tank which simulates the action of rowing in a boat is also considered as rowing.

In a rowing boat, all load bearing parts including the axes of moving parts, must be firmly fixed to the body of the boat, but the rower's seat may move along the axis of the boat.

A rowing regatta is a sporting competition consisting of one or more events divided, if necessary, into a number of races, in one or more classes of boats for rowers divided, as a general rule, into different categories of sex, age or weight.

Rule 2 - Application

These Rules and the relevant Bye-Laws shall apply to:

1. FISA World Rowing Championships
2. Olympic Regattas within the limits of the authority of FISA
3. Regattas held as part of regional or other Games within the limits of the authority of FISA
4. Continental Championships
5. International Regattas including the FISA's Rowing World Cup regattas,
6. where appropriate, international machine-rowing and tank-rowing competitions.

FISA World Rowing Championships and Olympic Regattas are also governed by the Regulations for FISA Championships and FISA Championships Bye-Laws.

Any national federation, club or individual who participates in any capacity in a rowing competition governed by these Rules is deemed to accept without exception or reservation the application of these Rules, the related Bye-Laws, and where appropriate, of the Regulations for FISA Championships, particularly those relating to the authority and jurisdiction of FISA and of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Rule 3 - Exceptions

At International Regattas the host national federation or the Organising Committee, acting in agreement with the national federation may, in exceptional cases, depart from these provisions and apply its own national rules.

In any such case, the Executive Committee shall be notified immediately after the regatta and the reasons for such change shall be given.

Rule 4 - FISA World Rowing Championships

The following shall be deemed to be FISA World Rowing Championships:

a) FISA World Rowing Championships (men, women, lightweight men and lightweight women)

b) FISA World Junior Rowing Championships (men and women)

These titles shall be used only for FISA World Rowing Championships organised by FISA and allotted according to Regulation 4.

c) Olympic Regattas shall have the same status as FISA World Rowing Championships. Within the limits of the authority of FISA the same Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws shall apply.

Rule 5 - Right to Participate

FISA World Rowing Championships are open to all affiliated federations.

FISA World Rowing Championships for Juniors and Lightweights as well as lightweight events included in the Olympic Games are open only to rowers complying with the requirements of the relevant category. The other events at the FISA World Rowing Championships and Olympic Regattas are open to all rowers without restriction of age or weight.

Olympic Regattas are open only to those rowers whose federations have qualified in the appropriate boat classes in accordance with the Olympic Qualification System prescribed in the Bye-Laws.

Rule 6 – Rowing World Cup – Definition

The Rowing World Cup is a series of designated international regattas, staged at intervals throughout the international regatta calendar. FISA has the sole right to designate regattas as Rowing World Cup regattas and to use the Rowing World Cup name and logo. The Council may prescribe Regulations and Bye-Laws governing the Rowing World Cup.

Rule 7 - International Regattas - Definition

An International Regatta is a rowing competition, over any distance whether started abreast or against the clock, which is open to competitors from all federations affiliated to FISA. Each national federation is responsible for informing FISA of any competition to be held in its country which conforms with this definition. FISA will decide whether such competition is to be defined as an International Regatta and, if so, that Regatta will be included in the FISA International Regatta Calendar under Rule 14.

Rule 8 - International Regattas - Control by FISA

In principle, International Regattas, including the World Under 23 Regatta, shall be conducted according to the FISA Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws, but FISA's Executive Committee may approve the departure from these Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws.

International Regattas shall take place under the authority of FISA, which may give directions to the Organising Committee and may nominate two Technical Delegates to supervise and verify the application of the FISA Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws or any variation of them approved by FISA's Executive Committee.

Details of any departures from the FISA Rules of Racing or Bye-Laws must be provided to competing federations and clubs at the time of their invitation to take part in the Regatta.

Each national federation is responsible for ensuring that the organisation of any competition within its country defined by FISA as an International Regatta complies with the requirements of this Rule.

Rule 9 - Competition in International Regattas

No competitor shall enter for International Regattas, nor, in general, make any direct approach to FISA (e.g. on a question of appeal) except in the name of and through his club and national federation.

A national federation may participate in events at all International Regattas as the national team without club designation. If rowers compete in an International Regatta under the name of their national team, they shall be citizens of the country of that national federation. In this last regard, the Executive Committee may make exceptions in exceptional cases.

The Council may authorise competitions between members and non-members of FISA.

Rule 10 - International Matches - Definition

An International Match is a rowing competition, over any distance whether started abreast or against the clock, which is restricted only to competitors from certain national federations affiliated to FISA.

Each national federation is responsible for informing FISA of any competition to be held in its country which conforms with this definition. FISA will decide whether such competition is to be defined as an International Match and, if so, that match will be included in the FISA International Regatta Calendar under Rule 14.

Rule 11 - International Matches - Control by FISA

In principle, International Matches shall be rowed according to the FISA Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws, but FISA may approve the departure from these Rules and Bye-Laws.

International Matches shall take place under the authority of FISA, which may give directions to the Organising Committee and may nominate two Technical Delegates to supervise and verify the application of the FISA Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws or any variation of

them approved by FISA. Details of any departures from the FISA Rules of Racing or Bye-Laws must be provided to competing federations at the time of their invitation to take part in the International Match.

Each national federation is responsible for ensuring that the organisation of any competition within its country defined by FISA as an International Match complies with the requirements of this Rule.

Bye-Law to Rules 8 to 11 - Technical Delegates

- 1. In general, the duties of the Technical Delegates are to ensure that the FISA Rules of Racing and Racing Bye-Laws are complied with, and that the regatta is satisfactorily run both from the safety and competitive points of view.*
- 2. The Technical Delegates shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and their appointment shall be notified by the Executive Director to the Organising Committee of the Regatta. The Organising Committee shall notify the President of the Jury, the Safety Officer and the Medical Officer of the appointment of the Technical Delegates.*
- 3. The Organising Committee shall be requested to arrange free accommodation, meals and local transport for the Technical Delegates during the period of the visit.*
- 4. The Technical Delegates should arrive at the regatta site at least one day before the Managers' Meeting at which the draw shall be carried out, and should stay for the whole time of the regatta. They should make themselves known to the Chairman of the Organising Committee, the President of the Jury, the Safety Officer and the Medical Officer.*

5. *On arrival the Technical Delegates should inspect the regatta course with a representative of the Organising Committee taking particular note of safety aspects, including warm-up and cool-down areas, traffic rules in racing and training, and areas where crews will be marshalled. They will also inspect the boating area, to ensure that the arrangements for boating and disembarking are satisfactory and that the traffic rules are adequately displayed. They will also ensure that the minimum requirements for an international regatta required by the Rules of Racing and Bye-Laws are in place (e.g. distance markers, photo finish, weighing arrangements, medical facilities, rescue services, etc.)*
6. *The Technical Delegates shall attend the Managers' Meeting and observe the draw. In a regatta where FISA has decided that seeding is necessary, they will ensure that the Competitive Rowing Commission's advice as regards seeding is put into effect, and that the competitors are made aware that seeding is being practised.*
7. *The Technical Delegates shall attend at least the first meeting of the Jury. They should notify the Jury of any problems which they foresee, either from a safety or competitive point of view. However, the Technical Delegates should leave the jury to carry out its role as set out in Rules 56-60 of the Rules of Racing.*
8. *During the regatta, the Organising Committee and/or the Jury shall consult the Technical Delegates on any matter where there is any uncertainty concerning the application of FISA rules. The Technical Delegates shall advise the Organising Committee and the President of the Jury of any failure to comply with FISA rules.*
9. *The legal responsibility for matters of safety rests with the Organising Committee and nothing in the Rules of Racing or Racing Bye-Laws shall be taken as imposing legal liability on the Technical Delegates.*
10. *Within seven days of the end of the regatta, the Technical Delegates shall send a report to the Executive Committee of FISA, which shall then forward it to the Organising Committee of the Regatta. The report should set out comments, proposals, criticisms in a prescribed format.*

Rule 12 - National Regattas

A National Regatta is a rowing competition, over any distance whether started abreast or against the clock, which is intended in general for competitors from one federation only.

The fact that competitors from other national federations may enter such regattas does not necessarily render them International Regattas.

National Regattas shall be governed by the rules of racing of the national federation of the organising body.

Rule 13 - Approval of International Regattas

All national federations shall, not later than 30th September in each year, send to the headquarters of FISA a list of all competitions proposed to be held in their countries during the following year, which conform with the definitions of an International Regatta in Rule 7 or of an International Match in Rule 10.

They shall submit to the Council for approval:

1. The dates on which these Regattas and Matches are to be held
2. Details of the courses (stretches of water and technical installations) proposed
3. The type of Regatta proposed
4. The categories of competitors and classes of boats proposed
5. Any envisaged departure from the FISA Rules of Racing and By-Laws.

Rule 14 - FISA International Regatta Calendar

All International Regattas and International Matches approved by FISA under Rule 8 or 11 shall be entered in the FISA International Regatta Calendar. However, FISA may, at its discretion, also include the dates of other competitions in the Calendar for the convenience of the national federations but the fact that such competitions are not held under the authority of FISA shall be identified in the Calendar.

FISA shall forward to all affiliated federations not later than 31st October in each year, the list of all International Regattas and International Matches approved to be held in the following year.

PART II - ROWERS AND COXSWAINS

SECTION 1 - General

Rule 15 - Eligibility and Insurance

FISA World Rowing Championships, Rowing World Cup regattas, Continental Championships and International regattas shall be open to all competitors who are authorised to compete by their affiliated National Federation and who are eligible under these rules.

Each National Federation shall ensure that their competitors shall have a state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with the competition level of the particular event and ensure each competitor, team official and the Federation carries appropriate health, accident and property insurance covering their persons, equipment and property.

Entries for FISA Championship regattas and Rowing World Cup regattas will be accepted only if they are accompanied by a signed commitment form, according to Article 54, from each competitor, team official and the national federation or, if such a commitment is already accepted and acknowledged by FISA as registered at FISA Headquarters. This form must be received by the FISA headquarters no later than one hour before the commencement of the draw for the regatta.

Rule 16 - Categories

The following categories of rowers are recognised by FISA:

1. Juniors (men and women)
2. Seniors B (men and women)
3. Seniors A (men and women)
4. Masters (men and women and mixed)

In addition to these age categories, a lightweight category for men and women (see Rule 23) is recognised by FISA.

Rule 17 - Additional Categories

A national federation may, in the case of regattas held under its jurisdiction, establish additional categories based on ability.

Rule 18 - Licences

The Council may decide on the introduction of licences for all categories of rowers.

Where applicable, the jury shall appoint a person to check the licences of all competitors at the beginning of every regatta not later than two hours before the first race of the rowers concerned.

Rule 19 - Coxswains

Coxswains shall be deemed to be members of the crew. A women's crew may not therefore be steered by a man nor may a men's crew be steered by a woman except in races for masters or if, in special circumstances, the Executive Committee permits otherwise.

There shall be no age limit for coxswains in events for senior crews.

Nevertheless, the coxswain of a junior crew shall also be a junior.

The minimum weight for a coxswain (wearing racing shirt and shorts or equivalent) is 55kg. for men and junior men's crews, and 50 kg. for women, junior women and mixed crews.

To make up this weight, a coxswain may carry a maximum of 10 kg. deadweight which shall be placed in the boat as close as possible to his person. No article of racing equipment shall be considered as part of this deadweight. At any time, before or until immediately after the race, the Control Commission may require the deadweight to be re-weighed.

These provisions shall also apply to coxswains in lightweight races.

Note: "Racing shirt and shorts or equivalent" is interpreted to mean the racing uniform.

Rule 20 - Weighing of Coxswains

Coxswains shall be weighed wearing racing shirt and shorts or equivalent on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race in each event in which they are competing on each day of the competition.

The Control Commission may require on the occasion of the first weighing or subsequently the deposit of an official identity card with photograph.

SECTION 2 - Juniors (men and women)

Rule 21 - Juniors

A rower or coxswain aged not more than 18 shall be classified as a Junior.

A rower or coxswain ceases to be a Junior on 31st December of the year in which he reaches the age of 18.

SECTION 3 - Seniors A and B (men and women)

Rule 22 - Seniors A and B

A rower who is no longer a Junior shall be classified as Senior B until 31st December of the year in which he reaches the age of 22. After that date he shall be classified as Senior A.

SECTION 4 - Lightweight (men and women)

Rule 23 - Lightweight

Lightweights shall be classified as follows:

The average weight of a men's crew (excluding coxswain) shall not exceed 70 kg. No individual oarsman shall weigh more than 72.5 kg.

A single sculler (male) shall not weigh more than 72.5 kg.

For women the average weight of a crew (excluding coxswain) shall not exceed 57 kg. No individual oarswoman shall weigh more than 59 kg.

A single sculler (female) shall not weigh more than 59 kg.

Lightweight rowers shall be weighed wearing at least their racing shirts and shorts or equivalent on tested scales not less than one hour and not more than two hours before their first race of each event in which they are competing, each day of the competition. They shall present themselves at the weighing centre already wearing their racing shirts and shorts or equivalent. The weighing scales should indicate the weight of the rower to 0.1 kg.

If the first race is subsequently postponed or cancelled, the lightweight rower is not required to be weighed later on the same day for that event.

The Control Commission may require on the occasion of the first weighing or subsequently the deposit of an official identity card with photograph.

The provisions of Rules 19 and 20 shall apply to coxswains.

Note: "Racing shirt and shorts or equivalent" is interpreted to mean the racing uniform.

Bye-Law to Rule 23:

Any athlete who has been re-hydrated intravenously between the weigh-in and the respective race shall not be allowed to start.

**SECTION 5 - Masters
(men and women and mixed)**

Rule 24 - Masters

A rower may compete as a Master from the beginning of the year during which he attains the age of 27.

***Bye-Law to Rule 24 -
Masters (Men, Women and Mixed)***

A Masters rower shall be placed in the age category corresponding to the age which he or she attains during the current year.

Age Categories:

- A Minimum age: 27 years or more*
- B Average age: 36 years or more*
- C Average age: 43 years or more*
- D Average age: 50 years or more*
- E Average age: 55 years or more*
- F Average age: 60 years or more*
- G Average age: 65 years or more*
- H Average age: 70 years or more*

Age categories do not apply to coxswains.

Each competitor shall be responsible for his own health and fitness. Every Masters rower must be in a position to prove his age by production of an official document (passport or identity card).

Rule 25 - Mixed Masters Events

Mixed crew events may be held for masters crews in which half of the crew excluding the coxswain, shall be women and half shall be men. The coxswain may be of either gender.

PART III - CLASSES OF BOAT

Rule 26 - Classes of Boat

The following classes of boat are recognised by FISA:

Single Sculls	(1x)
Double Sculls	(2x)
Pair	(2-)
Coxed Pair	(2+)
Quadruple Sculls	(4x)
Four	(4-)
Coxed Four	(4+)
Eight	(8+)

PART IV - BOATS AND CONSTRUCTION

Rule 27 - Free Construction

The construction, design and dimensions of boats and oars shall, in principle, be unrestricted subject to the limits laid down in Rule 1, paragraphs 1 and 2.

Nevertheless the Council of FISA may, in the Racing Bye-Laws, impose appropriate requirements.

Bye-Law to Rule 27 - Boats and Equipment

1. Innovations in Boats and Equipment

1.1 Significant innovations in boats and equipment must meet the following requirements before they are allowed for use in FISA International Regattas; including World Championships and Olympic Games:

- a. They must be available to all competitors (no exclusive patents);*
- b. The costs involved must be reasonable;*
- c. There must be equal chances for all competitors;*
- d. They must be safe and environmentally sound.*

1.2 The innovation must be submitted to the FISA Executive Committee for evaluation. If it is judged to meet the above conditions and is approved for use, it must be readily available for all competitors by January 1st in order to be authorised for use in International regattas that year. Crews using innovations in boats and equipment that have not followed this process or have not received approval for use, risk disqualification in competition.

The Executive Committee has the sole authority to decide all matters under this Bye-Law including whether an innovation is significant, whether it is readily available, whether the costs are reasonable and whether it is safe and environmentally sound.

2. Requirements for racing boats:

2.1 The bows of all boats shall be fitted with a white ball, minimum diameter 4 cm, in rubber or similar material fitted in a safe manner unless the bow of the boat is so constructed as to afford equivalent protection and visibility.

2.2 All boats and oars shall comply with the requirements set out in the Bye-Laws to Rule 37, below (name, symbol, etc.).

2.3 During racing, no wireless transmission equipment shall be used, whether for sending or receiving.

2.4 *No substances or structures like riblets capable of modifying the natural properties of water or of the surface layer of the water shall be applied to the hull.*

2.5. *Weight of racing boats*

2.5.1 *Minimum Boat Weights*

All boats used at Olympic regattas or qualification regattas, FISA World Championships, Rowing World Cup regattas, Regional Games and Continental Championships and all international regattas shall be of the following minimum weights:

<i>Type of boat</i>	<i>1x</i>	<i>2x</i>	<i>2-</i>	<i>2+</i>	<i>4x</i>	<i>4-</i>	<i>4+</i>	<i>8+</i>
<i>Weight in kg</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>96</i>

The minimum weight of the boat shall include only the fittings essential to their use; in particular - riggers, stretchers, shoes, slides and seats. The minimum weight shall not include the oars or sculls, the bow number, any sound amplification equipment and loudspeakers or any other kind of electronic equipment.

Boats constructed or delivered after 1.1.98 must have a production plaque or equivalent visible and permanently affixed inside the boat up to 50 sq cm in area, on which is written the name and address of the boat builder, its mark or logo, the year the boat was constructed, the average weight of the crew for which the boat is designed and the weight of the boat on construction or upon delivery.

2.5.2 *Weighing Scales*

The weighing scales shall be provided by a FISA approved manufacturer and shall indicate the weight of the boat to 0.1 kg. The scales shall be connected to a printer so that a printed record of the boat weight is immediately available.

At the beginning of each official training day and of each racing day the scales shall be tested, using calibrated (gauged) weights, by a member of the FISA Materials Commission and/or the member of the Control Commission responsible for boat weighing.

2.5.3 Test weighing of boats

The weighing scale(s) shall be available to the crews at least 48 hrs before the first race of the regatta for the test weighing of their boats. The scales shall be located on a horizontal floor, inside a building or a tent to provide protection from the wind. The weighing area shall be easily accessible from the incoming pontoons and shall be exclusively reserved for the weighing of boats during the regatta.

2.5.4 Responsibility for the weight of a boat

It is solely the responsibility of the crew that their boat has the required minimum weight.

2.5.5 Official Boat Weighing Procedure

The person authorised by the President of the Jury shall make a random draw before the start of each racing session. He shall also have the right to include additional boats to this list if there is a suspicion that certain boats are underweight. He shall deliver copies of this draw to the responsible person at the Control Commission.

Members of the Control Commission shall inform the nominated crews as they leave the water after cooling-down and they, or people appointed for that purpose, shall accompany the crews to the weighing scales. Once the crew has been nominated no extra weight of any description can be added to the boat until the boat has been weighed.

Normally certain items of equipment shall be allowed to remain fixed in the boat. In this case the following standard weight allowances shall be subtracted from the measured boat weight:

<i>one loudspeaker:</i>	<i>0.15 kg</i>
<i>one cable:</i>	<i>0.10 kg/seat</i>
<i>one bottle holder:</i>	<i>0.10 kg</i>
<i>one wire and magnet for stroke coach:</i>	<i>0.10 kg</i>

The crew shall have the option of removing all such equipment at any time during the weighing procedure. The member of the Control Commission and the representative of the crew shall identify and agree the number and type of equipment items and record this information in writing.

If the member of the Control Commission has concerns that the equipment in a particular boat is much heavier than the standard weight allowances (above) then the crew shall be asked to take this equipment out of the boat before it is officially weighed.

At the official weighing of the boat the normal wetted surface of the boat is accepted. However, any standing water must be removed before the weighing, in particular any water between the shoulders and under the canvas. All other items (tools, clothes, sponges, bottles, etc.) must be taken out of the boat before the weighing.

The boat shall be officially weighed and the member of the Control Commission shall record on the printed result the name of the crew, the event and the number and type of equipment items included in the weighing. Both the crew representative and the member of the Control Commission shall sign the printed result.

2.5.6 Failure to make the minimum weight.

If a boat is below the minimum weight, the member of the Control Commission shall write the words "First Boat Weighing" on the printed result sheet. He shall then test the scales with the gauged weights, observed by the crew representative, and print out the result of this test. He shall record on the printed test result the name of the crew and the event and shall write the words "Test Weighing" on the printed result sheet. Both the crew representative and the member of the Control Commission shall sign the printed result of this test.

The boat concerned shall then be weighed for the second time. The member of the Control Commission shall record on the printed result the name of the crew, the event and the number and type of equipment items included in the weighing. He shall write the words "Second Boat Weighing" on the printed result sheet. Both the crew representative and the member of the Control Commission shall sign the printed result.

The member of the Control Commission shall deliver the three printed results (First Boat Weighing, Test Weighing of the scales and Second Boat Weighing) to the President of the Jury.

The penalty for having raced in an underweight boat shall be that the crew is relegated to last place in the particular race. If

the crew races again in an underweight boat in a later round of the same event then the penalty shall be the exclusion of the crew.

No other or later reweighing, except the one mentioned above, shall be considered as valid.

2.6 *To avoid accidents arising from capsizing, all boats must be equipped with stretchers or shoes which allow the competitors to get clear of the boat without using their hands and with least possible delay.*

2.7 *The edges of blades must have a minimum thickness throughout as follows:*

– oars 5 mm

– sculls 3 mm

This thickness shall be measured 3 mm from the outer edge of the blade for oars and 2 mm for sculls.

2.8 *The opening of the coxswain's seat must be at least 70 cm long and it must be as wide as the boat for at least 50 cm. The inner surface of the enclosed part must be smooth and no structure of any sort may restrict the inner width of the coxswains section.*

2.9 *All boats used in eights events at FISA World Rowing Championships, Olympic regattas or qualification regattas, Regional Games and Continental Championships and at all International regattas shall be in a minimum of two sections, with no section longer than 11.9 metres.*

2.10 *At FISA Championships, Olympic Regattas or Rowing World Cup regattas, the Council may require crews to carry on their boats such equipment as it considers desirable for the better promotion of the sport of rowing (e.g. mini cameras) provided that such equipment is identical for all boats in a race.*

2.11 *Boats constructed or delivered after 1.1.98 must have a production plaque or equivalent visible and permanently affixed inside the boat, up to 50 sq cm in area, on which is written the name and address of the boat builder, its mark or logo, the year the boat was constructed, the average weight of the crew for which the boat is designed, and the weight of the boat on construction or upon delivery.*

2.12 Length of Boats

2.12.1 Minimum length of racing boats

The minimum overall length of a racing boat shall be 7.20 metres. This will be measured from the front of the bow ball to the furthest aft extent of the boat, which may include an extension beyond the hull.

If an extension is used it will terminate in a 40 mm ball as described in Bye-Law to Rule 27:2.1.

If a boat cannot be correctly aligned because it is less than the minimum overall length, the starter may exclude the crew from the race.

PART V - COURSES

Rule 28 - Characteristics

The standard FISA course for International Regattas, for Continental and FISA World Rowing Championships and for Olympic Regattas shall provide fair and equal racing conditions for six crews racing in separate, parallel lanes over a distance of 2,000 metres.

For Olympic Regattas, FISA World Rowing Championships, and Rowing World Cup regattas the standard course must be provided with technical installations and equipment to Category A as defined in the Bye-Laws. In addition it must also comply with all the specifications and descriptions given in the latest edition of "The FISA Manual for Rowing Championships".

In order to be classified as a championship course, full details of the course concerned must be submitted in writing to FISA by the applicants, and the course must be inspected at the cost of the federation concerned and approved by two experts appointed by FISA.

The Council of FISA may lay down special requirements for FISA World Rowing Championships, Olympic Regattas, Regional Games, Continental Championships or Rowing World Cup regattas.

Rule 29 - Length of the Course

a) International Regattas - The standard FISA racing distances shall be 2,000 metres straight for Men and Women; in the categories Seniors A and B, Lightweights, and Juniors. For Masters (Men, Women and Mixed crews) the course shall be 1,000 metres straight.

b) FISA Championship Regattas - The length of the standard course for men and women and for juniors (men and women) shall be 2,000 metres straight.

The provisions of this Rule require the use of moveable starting installations in order that the bows of all boats of whatever class may be aligned on the same start line.

c) The length of the course and all intermediate distances shall be measured by an independent qualified surveyor and an accurate, certified plan shall be held by the Organising Committee. This plan shall be available for inspection by FISA at any time.

d) The Executive Committee may depart from this rule where necessary for regattas in multi-sport competitions, continental or other championships.

e) The non-standard course may be shorter (for example, sprints) or longer (for example, long distances, head of the river, etc.) than the standard course. It is not necessary that the course be straight.

Rule 30 - Number of Lanes

- a) International Regattas - On standard courses, races shall normally be held over six lanes.
- b) FISA Championship Regattas and Rowing World Cup regattas - Races shall be held on six lanes but, in principle, the course shall have at least eight lanes.

Bye-Law to Rules 28 to 30 - Regulations for International Regatta Courses

1.FISA Manual for Rowing Championships

In addition to conforming to the Rules of Racing and to the Racing Bye-laws a course and all its technical equipment must also comply with the specifications and descriptions given in the latest edition of "The FISA Manual for Rowing Championships".

2. Stretches of water

2.1 General

A standard international course shall be straight and shall not have less than 6 racing lanes. It shall provide fair and equal racing conditions for six crews. For a course constructed after February 2001, there must be a minimum of eight racing lanes.

In addition to the 6 racing lanes there must be sufficient water width available to allow crews to get to the start, to warm up and to cool down safely.

For a FISA World Championships or a Rowing World Cup regatta it is recommended to have a minimum of 8 racing lanes available, plus sufficient water width on both sides of the course to allow for both safe traffic patterns and for moving lanes in case of unequal conditions.

2.2 Length of Water

The minimum length of water necessary to contain the standard course is 2,150 m. For a course for Masters the minimum length is 1,150 m.

2.3 Width of Water

The standard international course shall be at least 108m wide i.e.

$$13.5 + (6 \times 13.5) + 13.5 = 108m.$$

The minimum recommended width of the course for FISA Championships and Rowing World Cup regattas shall be at least 135m i.e.

$$13.5 + (8 \times 13.5) + 13.5 = 135m.$$

This width is a minimum and is only acceptable if a low level TV road is provided alongside the full length of the course.

The ideal recommended width of the course for FISA Championships and Rowing World Cup regattas shall be at least 162 m i.e.

$$27 + (8 \times 13.5) + 27 = 162m.$$

This width allows for traffic movements beside the course and for TV coverage from the water

2.4 Depth of Water

For a standard international course the depth of water must be at least 3 metres throughout all racing lanes at the shallowest point if the depth over the course is unequal. However, it is recommended that a course should have a minimum depth of 3.5 metres.

A number of old, artificial courses were constructed with an even depth of 2 metres. As long as they remain with an equal depth at all points on the course then they can still be accepted as a standard course.

2.5 Local Conditions

The course must be sheltered from wind as far as possible. If not, there must be no natural or artificial obstacles (such as woods, buildings, structures) in the immediate neighbourhood of the course which might cause unequal conditions on the water.

On a standard course there should be no stream. Any stream existing should be so slight as not to give rise to unequal conditions on the different lanes. The running of the race must not be influenced by natural or artificial waves. The banks must be so designed as to absorb and not to reflect waves.

2.6 Plan

A plan showing the location of the course, the length and the number of lanes and the layout of the technical installations must be included in the advance programme.

3. Technical Installations - Category A (For FISA Championships)

3.1 Start zone

3.1.1 Start Pontoons

The bows of each boat shall be aligned on the start line. This requires the use of start pontoons which may be moved forwards or backwards in order to allow for boats of different lengths. They must be of a solid construction and able to be firmly fixed in position.

For FISA Championships and Rowing World Cup regattas the start pontoons must be connected by land or by a Start Bridge, minimum 2m wide, allowing easy access for officials and for representatives of the media.

3.1.2 Steering Aids

The centre of each lane shall be marked by pairs of steering markers placed behind the start line. These steering markers must be clearly visible over the first 200 metres of the course.

An alternative to the construction of large steering markers behind the start is to fix smaller steering aids onto the start installation itself, and, in addition, for the albano lanes to be buoyed at 5 metres intervals for the first 100 metres of the course. These buoys shall be of a different colour from those marking the majority of the course - see 3.2.2 Buoys.

3.1.3 Start Tower

The start tower shall be between 40 and 50 metres behind the start line in the centre of the course. The tower shall be equipped with a covered platform for the starter which shall be not less than 3 metres and not more than 6 metres above the water level, depending on the distance from the start line. The tower shall be built in such a way that the starter has a clear view over the entire start area, including the aligner's hut.

3.1.4 Starter's Equipment

The tower should be equipped with either one or two large clocks that are clearly visible from a minimum distance of 100m to the crews on the course and those crews waiting for the start, or with other equipment which will allow the starter to inform the crews of the time remaining before the start of their race. In case of delay or postponement, a revised starting time shall be displayed to competitors on a large board by the starter. The starter shall give his instructions and orders by means of a microphone connected to loudspeakers so arranged that they may be heard simultaneously by all competitors. In addition, the start tower must be provided with a red flag, a bell, a megaphone or a microphone and loudspeakers, a board and chalks or felt markers to enable the starter to inform crews of any postponement of races.

3.1.5 Radio or telephone communication

The starter shall be in direct communication by radio and/or telephone with the Judge at the Start, the Judge at the Finish, the Control Commission and the President of the Jury.

3.1.6 Aligner's Hut

This shall be a fixed structure placed exactly on the start line, ideally not less than 15 m from the first lane and no more than 30 m. The floor level of the hut should be between 1 m and 2 m above the water level. The hut should provide weather protection for up to 4 persons and there should be enough space so that the Judge at the Start and the aligner can both clearly observe the start line. The Judge at the Start shall sit closer to the first lane with the aligner behind him, at a higher level. There shall be radio links between the aligner and the start pontoon officials who shall be provided with earphones.

For FISA World Championships and Rowing World Cup Regattas the hut must also be provided with false start control equipment, producing a "freezing the picture" system. This requires a video camera, a computer, two monitors and a printer.

3.1.7 The Start Line

The start line shall be defined as the line running between a thin vertical wire in the aligner's hut and a vertical black line painted on to a

fixed marker on the far side of the course. The background colour for this marker shall be bright yellow. The aligner's hut must carry two thin wires (1 mm) fixed vertically and along the line of the start (40 to 50 cm apart) at the front of the hut and kept in tension

3.1.8 Other Facilities

There shall be facilities for effecting minor repairs in the neighbourhood of the start, (this will require a substantial pontoon). Adequate toilet facilities should be provided either as a permanent fixture or by using temporary units.

3.1.9 Start Zone

The start zone is the first 100m of the course, from the start line to the 100m line. The start zone shall be marked by Albano system buoys of a different colour (red) and also by two white flags outside the limits of the course at the 100 m mark.

3.1.10 Alignment Control Mechanism

All FISA World Rowing Championship Regattas, Olympic Games Regattas and International Regattas may use an alignment control mechanism in the centre of each lane which shall hold the bow of the boat in a fixed position on the start line until the starter makes the start.

Such a mechanism shall be designed to hold the bow safely, without any risk of damage to the boat. It shall release the bow of the boat immediately when an electrical signal is triggered by the starter. The mechanism shall also be designed to operate in a "fail safe" manner i.e. if there is any fault with the mechanism, then it shall immediately release the bow of the boat and move to a position such that no damage can be caused to any part of the boat.

3.1.11 Visible Signal and Audible Signal

At FISA World Rowing Championships, Rowing World Cup regattas and Olympic Games Regattas the start shall be given using a visible and an audible signal.

The traffic lights showing the visible signal and the loudspeaker emitting the audible signal shall be fixed adjacent to each start pontoon. The centre of the traffic lights shall be fixed at a height of between 0.7 metres and 1.1 metres above the water level. Each traffic light shall be

positioned 2.0 metres from the centre line of the start pontoon, on the side nearer the centre of the course. There shall be:

- a visible signal which operates in only three positions
 - (a) a neutral (black) position
 - (b) a red light signal
 - (c) a green light signal

The starter shall start the race by operating just one button. This button will control the green light signal and the sound signal; it will start the timing system, it will freeze the video picture for the Judge at the Start and it will release the alignment control mechanism (if provided). The control system shall be designed to allow the following order of events as far as the crews are concerned:

- a) neutral (black) – no lights - no sound signal
- (b) red light, no sound signal
- (c) (if necessary, return straight from red back to neutral)
- (d) green light and a sound signal.

The mechanism must not have more than three positions for the visible signal (neutral, red and green) and the control system must be capable of returning from red to neutral without passing through green.

The mechanism must ensure that the green light and the sound signal are given at exactly the same time.

Separate traffic light units shall be fixed so that they can be seen by the starter and by the Judge at the Start.

The electrical system shall be provided with a duplicate, back-up system. Both the red and the green signals shall be clearly visible to the bow person in an eight even in conditions of bright sunlight.

3.2 Between Start and Finish

3.2.1 Lanes

The lanes shall be buoyed according to the Albano system. These lanes must be straight and of the same width over their whole length. The width of each lane shall be 13.5m. (In special circumstances the width of each lane may be reduced to 12.5m).

For a standard course it is recommended that there should be eight buoyed lanes, (minimum is six).

For FISA World Championships and Rowing World Cup regattas there shall be a minimum of 8 buoyed lanes.

3.2.2 Lane numbering

- l In principle, lane No 1 should be on the left hand side of the starter in the Start Tower looking towards the Finish.

3.2.3 Buoys

The space between buoys along the axis of the course shall be not more than 12.5 metres but preferably 10 metres. The surface of these buoys (whose diameter shall not exceed 15 cm) shall be pliant (not hard) and their colour, luminous yellow-orange, shall be the same in all lanes. There shall be a line of buoys of a different colour every 250 metres, (red). It is recommended that all the buoys in the first 100 metres and in the last 250 metres shall also be of this different colour. There shall be no buoys on the start line nor on the finish line.

In particular venues it is acceptable to use white (or other colours) buoys instead of yellow buoys as long as these alternative colours are clearly visible to the rowers and to the officials.

3.2.4 Distance Markers

The distance marker at the finish shall be 2000. Every 250 metres beyond the start, the distance from the start shall be marked on both sides of the course, either by clearly visible boards of a minimum size of 2 m x 1 m on the banks or by cubes (1 m cube) on the water. They should read, at the first 250 metre mark - "250", then "500", and so on to the 1750 metre mark.

3.2.5 Intermediate Times

Equipment shall be provided every 500 metres for recording the intermediate times and placings of all competitors.

For FISA Championships and Rowing World Cup regattas video cameras are not accepted for the taking of intermediate times.

3.3 The Finish Area

3.3.1 Finish Line

The finish line shall be marked by a vertical wire tautly stretched immediately in front of the Judges at the Finish. On the other bank there shall be a corresponding and clearly visible mark (a black band on a board painted luminous-yellow). Alternatively two vertical wires may be used.

The finish line may be marked on the water by two red flags placed on white buoys at least 5 metres outside the course on each side. If necessary, the two red flags (or one of them) may be placed on the bank. It is essential that these flags be exactly on the finish line and that they do not impede the view of the judges at the finish nor the progress of crews going to the start.

3.3.2 Finish Tower

This must be a structure erected exactly on the finish line and placed approximately 30 metres from the outside of the racing lanes. It should have three levels. It should accommodate the timing, the Judges at the Finish and the photo-finish equipment together in the same room. In addition it can accommodate the commentary, the results board operator, TV cameras and a FISA regatta control room. There must be a loud hooter or horn to signal to each crew that it has crossed the finish line.

3.3.3 Area beyond the finish

There shall be sufficient clear water beyond the finish line to allow crews to stop. Ideally this should be 200m. If the boathouse area is located beyond the finish line this is essential. Under other arrangements a minimum distance of 100 m might be acceptable.

3.3.4 Timing and Results Systems

Times shall be shown to 1/100th of a second on the Results Sheets and on the Scoreboard.

In the case of close finishes the order of finish must be determined by means of special equipment such as a photo-finish camera, capable of measuring time differences to at least 1/100th of a second.

For World Championships, a full back up of the timing/results/photo-finish systems shall be provided. The timing/results/photo-finish systems must comply with the specifications and descriptions given in the latest edition of "The FISA Manual for Rowing Championships".

3.3.5 Results/Video Board

A results and/or video board should be located in a position where it is visible from the main spectator areas and, if possible, by the competitors at the end of the race.

The operation of the results/video board must comply with the specifications and descriptions given in the latest edition of "The FISA Manual for Rowing Championships".

4. Technical installations - Category B

4.1 All other courses shall be classified as having Category B technical installations.

4.2 A number of Category B courses may well provide facilities and equipment which make them very close to or similar to Category A courses. In these cases it is quite possible to hold successful international regattas but it would not be possible for them to host FISA World Championships.

PART VI - ORGANISATION OF REGATTAS

SECTION 1 - General

Rule 31 - Authority of FISA

a) International Regattas - All international regattas and international machine-rowing and tank-rowing competitions are under the overriding authority of FISA and, subject thereto, of the national federation concerned. An Organising Committee shall be responsible for the organisation of regattas.

b) FISA Championship Regattas - FISA World Rowing Championships, Rowing World Cup Regattas, Olympic Regattas, Continental Championships and Regattas in connection with Multi-Sport Competitions shall be conducted according to these Rules of Racing, Racing Bye-Laws and the Regulations for FISA Championships. They shall take place under the authority of FISA which will give directions to the Organising Committee.

The Executive Committee will nominate two Technical Delegates to oversee the work of the Organising Committee on meeting the FISA requirements for the Championships while regularly informing the Executive Committee on the progress.

Rule 32 - Duties of the Organising Committee

An Organising Committee is responsible for the proper organisation of the regatta.

The Organising Committee shall, in particular:

1. Fix the date and the programme of the regatta in agreement with the national federation concerned and with the Council of FISA;
2. Draw up and distribute the advance programme including the date and time of the team managers meeting;
3. Make available a stretch of water and technical equipment conforming to the present Rules of Racing;
4. Appoint a jury (except in the case of FISA World Rowing Championships and Olympic Regattas);
5. Appoint a safety officer;
6. Appoint a medical officer;
7. Take all other steps which may be required to ensure the proper organisation of the regatta.

Bye-Law to Rule 32 - Duties of the Organising Committee

1. *Authority of FISA - All international rowing regattas are under the authority of FISA and of the national federation concerned.*
2. *Responsibility of the Organising Committee - An organising committee is responsible for the preparation and running of the regatta.*
3. *Date and Programme - In agreement with the relevant national federation, the organising committee fixes the date and programme of the regatta. For its part, the national federation shall submit the proposed date to FISA for approval not later than 30th September of the year preceding the event.*
4. *Course, Installations, Advance Programme, Jury - The organising committee is responsible for the course and all necessary installations and equipment, both on land and on the water. It is also responsible for the organisation of the regatta. It shall draw up an advance programme which shall also describe the type of course installations and send it to all those concerned. It shall appoint the jury.*
5. *Safety Officer - The Organising Committee shall appoint a person as the regatta safety officer with specific responsibilities for ensuring that all the appropriate safety measures, including traffic rules, have been considered and then implemented for the safe running of the regatta. Nevertheless, the legal responsibility for safety matters rests with the Organising Committee as a whole, and nothing in the Rules of Racing or Racing Bye-Laws shall be taken as imposing legal liability on the Safety Officer personally.*
6. *Medical Officer - The Organising Committee shall appoint a person as the regatta medical officer with specific responsibility for ensuring that appropriate medical support and facilities are readily accessible to the regatta. First aid facilities and a rescue service on the water must always be available.*
7. *Compliance with Rules of Racing - The Organising Committee is responsible for ensuring the proper running of the races and heats in accordance with the Rules of Racing. The Executive Committee of FISA may nominate Technical Delegates to any event held under the FISA Rules of Racing to report on the conduct of the event.*
8. *Radio and Telephone Communications - It is essential that there should be direct telephone and/or radio communication between the President of the Jury, the finish, the start and the Control Commission in order to enable the members of the Jury properly to carry out their duties. It is also essential that radio communication is provided between the rescue service on the water and the medical staff on duty at the course to deal with any emergency.*

Rule 33 - Disputes, Appeals and Cases not Covered

a) International Regattas - Disputes between clubs or national federations shall be referred to the Organising Committee.

Appeals against decisions of the Organising Committee may be submitted to the Executive Committee under Rule 80.

b) FISA Championship Regattas - The Executive Committee shall adjudicate on all cases not covered by the Rules of Racing, the Bye-Laws and the Regulations for FISA Championship Regattas, as well as on disputes which may arise during FISA World Rowing Championships and Olympic Regattas. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

Any decision made by the Executive Committee under this Rule shall immediately be communicated to the member federations of FISA in writing.

Rule 34 - Prizes and Sponsorship Contracts

Competitors may receive cash or other prizes for competition. They may also enter into sponsorship contracts provided these contracts are reviewed and approved by their National Federation in advance, and that these contracts are in compliance with FISA rules.

Rule 35 - Payments to Competitors

There shall be no restriction imposed by FISA on payments made to a competitor from any source.

Rule 36 - FISA Merchandising Rights

At all regattas under its authority FISA retains the right to sell merchandise, souvenirs and other articles. The Organising Committee shall provide sites for this activity at no cost to FISA.