

2008 FISA ADAPTIVE ROWING REGULATIONS

Rules applying to international regattas and FISA Championship Regattas shall apply to adaptive rowing events at those regattas except as provided in these Regulations.

PART I - SCOPE

Regulation, Rule 2 - Application

The FISA Rules, Bye-Laws and Regulations shall also apply to Paralympic Regattas within the limits of the authority of FISA and to Paralympic Qualification Regattas

Regulation, Rule 6: Right to Participate

Paralympic Regattas are open only to those rowers whose federations have qualified in the appropriate boat classes in accordance with the Paralympic Qualification System.

PART II – ROWERS AND COXSWAINS

Regulation, Rule 16: Eligibility and Insurance

No rower may enter an adaptive event under these Rules unless they have submitted an Adaptive Rower Classification Application Form to FISA through their national federation and have been classified as set out in the FISA Classification Guidelines for Adaptive Rowers (“Guidelines”). The Guidelines shall be part of these Regulations.

Regulation, Rule 20: Coxswains

For adaptive events there is no restriction on coxswains in respect of adaptive eligibility, sex or age. The minimum weights of coxswains shall apply to adaptive events.

Regulation, Rule 26: Mixed Masters Events

Masters adaptive events may also be held for mixed crews without restriction on the ratio of men and women, as long as at least one rower of each sex is included in the crew.

Regulation, Rule 27: Adaptive Categories FISA recognises the following adaptive categories:

- LTA (legs, trunk and arms)
- TA (trunk and arms)
- A (arms only)

Rowers' Adaptive Classification

A rower's adaptive classification and sport class status shall be determined by a FISA Classification Panel upon receipt of the appropriately designated FISA Classification Application and completion of the classification process as set out in the Guidelines. A list of the classifications and sport class status of all classified adaptive rowers shall be maintained by FISA and shall be made available for inspection upon request. A copy of the current list may be posted on the FISA website. The list of classifications shall indicate the name, federation and official classification and status of each rower but shall not identify any individual's disability.

Qualifying Disabilities

For adaptive classification, adaptive rowers shall have a minimum disability as defined in the Guidelines.

FISA Classifier

The status of FISA Classifier may be granted to any person who meets FISA's requirements for this purpose and who is duly appointed by the Executive Committee.

Regulation Rule 29: World Championships Adaptive Boat Classes

World Rowing Championships include the following adaptive events:

- Legs, trunk and arms, Mixed (LTAMix) - 4+ (LTAMix4+)
- Trunk and arms, Mixed (TAMix) - 2x (TAMix2x)
- Arms only, Men (AM) - 1x (AM1x)
- Arms only, Women (AW) - 1x (AW1x)

In these Mixed adaptive events half of the rowers in a crew shall be men and half shall be women. In the 4+, the coxswain may be of either sex.

Where an LTA4+ crew includes rowers who are classified as visually impaired, a maximum of two such rowers is permitted, only one of whom may be B3 class in accordance with the FISA Classification Guidelines.

Regulation, Rule 30: Paralympic Games Boat classes

The programme at the Paralympic Regatta includes the following events:

- Legs, trunk and arms, Mixed (LTAMix) - 4+ (LTAMix4+)
- Trunk and arms, Mixed (TAMix) - 2x (TAMix2x)
- Arms only, Men (AM) - 1x (AM1x)
- Arms only, Women (AW) - 1x (AW1x)

In these Mixed adaptive events half of the rowers in a crew shall be men and half shall be women. In the 4+, the coxswain may be of either sex.

Where an LTA4+ crew includes rowers who are classified as visually impaired, a maximum of two such rowers is permitted, only one of whom may be B3 class in accordance with the FISA Classification Guidelines.

PART IV – BOATS AND CONSTRUCTION

Regulation, Rule 31 – Boats and Equipment

1. General Aspects

The use of FISA Standard Adaptive boats is mandatory for all adaptive 1x and 2x events.

At the Paralympic Games regatta, the use of FISA Standard Adaptive boats provided by FISA is mandatory for all events.

1.1 The Council shall determine the design and specifications of FISA Standard Adaptive boats and any changes thereto. The design and specifications shall be a part of these Regulations. Those parts of the Standard Adaptive Boats which are not specified in these Regulations may be modified subject to these Regulations and subject to Rule 58.

1.2 No changes in the standard design and specifications of FISA Standard Adaptive Boats shall be made except in the year following the Paralympic Games.

1.3 The minimum weight of FISA Standard Adaptive boats shall be as specified in these Regulations (Regulation, Rule 32: Boat Weights).

2. Standard Adaptive 4+

The FISA Standard Adaptive 4+ is a stern-coxed boat.

3. Standard Adaptive 2x

The FISA Standard Adaptive 2x has a fixed seat and may have stabilising pontoons. The hull, the pontoons where fitted, and the seat fixing are part of the Standard specifications.

The seat itself and the rigger design of the Standard 2x are not restricted.

The TA2x rowers shall be secured with a strap to prevent flexion and extension of the knee(s) during rowing. The strap must be secured under the seat or rails and over the thighs, as close to the knees as possible.

4. Standard Adaptive 1x

The FISA Standard Adaptive 1x has a fixed seat and must have stabilising pontoons. The pontoons must be fixed in position so that when the rower is seated in the balanced boat both pontoons shall be horizontal and shall, at a minimum, touch the water. The hull, the pontoons and the seat fixing are part of the Standard specifications.

The seat itself and the rigger design of the standard 1x are not restricted, except that the design of the seat must be compatible with the Standard seat fixing.

In order to ensure that the arms only aspect of the A1x boat class are fully met, the seat of the Standard 1x boat shall have a high back to which the athlete is strapped so that only the arms and shoulders can move during rowing. The strap must be secured to the seat back, and around the torso just below the nipple line or under the breasts. It should be parallel to the water, and be tight enough to restrict trunk movement whilst not restricting breathing.

Additionally, the A1x rower shall be secured with a strap to prevent flexion and extension of the knee(s) during rowing. The strap must be secured under the seat or rails and over the thighs, as close to the knees as possible.

5. Strapping

- a. All required straps must be a minimum width of 50 mm, be of non-elastic material, be without mechanical buckles and must be able to be released immediately by the rower with a single quick hand action of pulling on the free end of the strap.
- b. To avoid accidents arising from capsizing, all boats shall be equipped with stretchers or shoes that allow the rowers to get clear of the boat without using their hands and with the least possible delay.
- c. Any hand strapping must be able to be released immediately by quick mouth action.
- d. All straps for each rower must be released in the same manner and direction.
- e. An additional pelvic strap may be used by any rowers but must be in compliance with all other strap requirements.

6. Eyewear for Visually Impaired Rowers

All visually impaired rowers must wear FISA or IBSA approved eyewear at all times when on the water, from the day of opening of the course until

leaving the water after their final race of the competition. Such eyewear shall completely block all light.

Regulation, Rule 32: Boat Weights

In addition to the requirements of Rule 32, the minimum weights for Adaptive boats shall include pontoons where used. The minimum weights of Adaptive boats are:

- 4+ 51kg
- 2x 36kg
- 1x 22kg

PART V - COURSES

Regulation Rule 34: Length of the Course

For LTA4+, TA2x and A1x events the length of the standard course shall be 1,000 metres straight. The Executive Committee may decide to waive the use of starting pontoons for adaptive events.

PART VI – ORGANISATION OF REGATTAS

Regulation, Rule 42: Rowers' Clothing and Blade Colours

One or both rowers in the TA2x event may extend their racing uniform to cover their legs. Where both rowers cover their legs in this manner, such covers shall be identical in colour and design.

Where A1x rowers are using chest strapping and this strapping obscures the Identifications permitted to be worn on the racing shirt or equivalent, those Identifications which are so obscured may be repeated on the strapping material but shall not be visible on both the racing shirt and the strapping at the same time.

Regulation Rule 45: Entries

No entry shall be accepted for an Adaptive event unless the rower concerned has submitted an Adaptive Rower Classification Application Form by the deadline stipulated by FISA and has been given a classification by FISA. A rower without a FISA Classification or whose Classification has been withdrawn may not compete.

Regulation, Rule 50: Crew Changes before the First Heat

A rower whose Classification has been withdrawn or changed after the close of entries and before the first heat, may be replaced by another eligible rower from the same Federation.

The crew of a rower whose Classification is withdrawn or changed to make them ineligible for that event after the first heat shall not compete again in that event.

Regulation, Rule 53: Safety of Adaptive Rowers

TA2x and A1x rowers require special safety procedures which shall be agreed between FISA and the Organising Committee. In particular, the Organising Committee or the President of the Jury may require additional rescue boats to be present on the course for all adaptive events, but particularly for A1x events.

Particular care must be taken in weather conditions which may generate extreme uncontrolled body temperatures.

All rowers may wear a self-inflating or other flotation device for additional safety but adaptive rowers in particular should consider this precaution.

Safety requirements for strapping are set out at Regulation, Rule 31.5

Regulation Rule 54: Traffic Rules on the Course

In principle the traffic rules shall provide clear separation between adaptive crews and non-adaptive crews during training and racing for the safety of all crews.

Regulation Rule 57: Fairness – General Principles

All adaptive rowers must at all times when on the water, during training, warming up, cooling down, and competition, from the opening day of the course until leaving the water after the final race of their competition, row with the prescribed equipment which must be used according to the boat class as described at Regulation, Rule 31 and /or classification requirements as described in the FISA Classification Guidelines. Equipment in this context refers to eyewear, strapping, pontoons, prostheses, and orthoses.

Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to a penalty being imposed on the crew in accordance with these Rules, including (but not limited to), where such failure to comply is adjudged to have taken place during a race, relegation to last place in the particular race or exclusion of the crew. The appropriate penalty in all circumstances shall be at the discretion of the Jury who may consult with the Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier to ascertain the impact of the offence in relation to the classification status of the rower and crew concerned.

Regulation, Rule 60: FISA Progression System

The FISA Progression System shall apply to adaptive events.

Regulation, Rule 66: The Starting Procedure

1. Floating starts in the absence of Start pontoons (1000 metres)

Adaptive events raced over a 1,000m course may be started without start pontoons.

2. Starting Procedure for LTA4+

The LTA4+ event may include rowers with visual impairment. Therefore, at the start of each race in the LTA4+ event, the Starter shall give an additional verbal indication to crews as follows:

After completing the roll call and stating the word "Attention!", the Starter shall say the words "Red Flag!" at the same time as he raises the red flag (or in the case where traffic lights are used, "Red Light!" at the same instant that he presses the button to activate the red light). He shall then proceed with the start in the normal way.

Regulation, Rule 67: Yellow Card for LTA4+

When the Starter awards a Yellow Card to a crew in the LTA4+ event, the coxswain of that crew shall raise his arm to acknowledge that he understands that the penalty has been awarded to his crew.

Regulation, Rule 71 - Interference

A1x rowers wishing to lodge an objection with the Umpire during the race may do so verbally if their hands are strapped, by calling clearly to the Umpire "Objection!" so that the Umpire hears. It is the responsibility of the rower to ensure that the Umpire hears the call and is aware of the objection.

Regulation, Rule 73 – Finish of the Race for LTA4+

At the finish of the race in a LTA4+ event, when raising the white flag the Umpire shall clearly state the words "WHITE FLAG!" for all crews to hear. Should he raise the red flag, he shall similarly clearly state the words "RED FLAG!"

Regulation, Rule 74 - Objections

A1x rowers wishing to lodge an objection with the Umpire may do so verbally if their hands are strapped, by calling clearly to the Umpire "Objection!" so that the Umpire hears. It is the responsibility of the rower to ensure that the Umpire hears the call and is aware of the objection. No objection concerning eligibility or classification of adaptive rowers may be raised on the water.

Regulation, Rule 76: Protests (and Appeals against Classification)

1. Protest against the classification of another rower

No protest is permitted against the classification of another rower.

2. Protest against own classification

2.1 A protest against the classification of a rower may be made by the rower himself or by the national federation or National Paralympic Committee of that rower. Under this clause, any protest against a rower's classification must be submitted in writing to FISA not later than 14 days after the rower is notified of the classification.

2.2 Where there are circumstances which require a rower to be classified at an event, the rower concerned or his national federation or National Paralympic Committee, may lodge a protest against that classification not later than 2 hours after being notified of the classification.

2.3 The classification of a rower may only be protested once in accordance with this Regulation.

2.4 The classification of a rower holding a C status classification may not be protested except by FISA in accordance with clause 3 to this Regulation.

3. Action by FISA to review the Classification of a Rower

Notwithstanding clause 1 to Regulation, Rule 76, FISA may at any time request a review of the Classification of a rower holding a R status classification or, in the Exceptional Circumstances as defined in the International Paralympic Committee International Standards Section B, a rower holding C status classification, should it consider that there are justifiable grounds to do so. FISA may request such a review be carried out under the provisions of the Guidelines or under the protest procedure as set out in this Regulation.

4. Conduct of Protests against Classification

4.1 In order to be valid a protest shall be made on the official FISA Classification Protest Form and shall include all documentation pertinent to the case.

4.2 The protest shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

- 4.3 Upon receipt of the Protest, the FISA Chief Classifier or Head of Classification shall determine whether all necessary documentation is included. If the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary documentation, the Protest shall be dismissed and all relevant parties shall be notified accordingly by the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification. If the protest is accepted, all relevant parties will be notified of the time and date for any subsequent protest evaluation.
- 4.4 The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Classification Protest Panel to hear a Protest against the classification of a rower. The Panel shall comprise 2 FISA International Classifiers, one Medical and one Technical, neither of whom shall have previously been involved in the classification of the rower concerned.
- 4.5 The Classification Protest Panel shall examine all protest documentation and where necessary shall undertake an examination of the rower.
- 4.6 The final decision of the Classification Protest Panel shall be recorded on the Classification Protest Form. The original of the Form shall be held by FISA and a copy shall be provided to all parties to the protest, including the rower who is the subject of the Protest and his national federation or National Paralympic Committee.. A decision shall be made and issued prior to the commencement of racing in the event in which the rower is to compete. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision in accordance with the IPC International Standards for Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.7 The protest fee shall be waived for a protest lodged by a rower who has been classified as ineligible to row as an adaptive rower.
- 4.8 All protests shall be conducted in accordance with the FISA Rules of Racing and the International Standards of the International Paralympic Committee Classification Code.

Bye-Law, Rule 78: Appeals on Classification Protest

There shall be no further appeal from the decision of the Classification Protest Panel on a protest concerning classification except on the grounds of an error of procedure. An appeal on the grounds of an error of procedure must be made to the Executive Committee of FISA within 48 hours of notification of the decision of the Protest Panel. The Appeal shall be heard by at least two members of the Executive Committee, neither of whom shall have been previously involved in the classification procedure or Protest of the rower.

Regulation, Rule 90: Duties of the Umpire Duties on the way to the Start:

For adaptive events, the Umpire shall also monitor the weather conditions including wind, rain and temperature to ensure the safety of competitors.

Position of the Umpire's launch:

The President of the Jury may require that more than one umpire follow the race for adaptive events.

Regulation, Rule 92: Duties of the Control Commission

For adaptive rowers and boats the Control Commission should also check the following:

- 1) accessibility of the pontoon area for rowers, such as those using wheelchairs or assisted by guide dogs, or authorised caregivers;
- 2) compliance of all boats with FISA Standard Adaptive boats specifications;
- 3) safety measures in TA 2x and A1x boats including foot stretcher and hands and abdomen strapping;
- 4) correct fixing of pontoons on A1x boats in accordance with Regulation 31.4 above;
- 5) correct usage of eyewear by visually impaired rowers in the LTA4+; and,
- 6) correct body strapping in the TA 2X and A 1X;
- 7) that any TA 2X or A 1X rower classified to row with a prosthesis or orthosis is doing so.

The Control Commission should pay particular attention to the safety of visually impaired rowers or those with an intellectual disability when they are on the pontoon or near the water.

Control Commission members may be assisted in the above by members of the Adaptive Rowing Commission and/or authorized FISA International Classifiers.