

## **2007 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 Classifier upon receipt of the appropriately designated FISA Classification Application and presentation of the rower to the Classifier(s) 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 each 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.

### **Classification Protest Panel**

The Classification of any rower may be confirmed or modified by FISA upon a ruling by a Classification Protest Panel convened by FISA for this purpose. The Panel shall be appointed by the Executive Committee in accordance with these Regulations. Membership of the Panel shall consist of at least 3 FISA Classifiers, none of whom shall have been involved in the classification of the rower concerned. Exceptionally, in 2006 and 2007 only, the Panel may comprise 2 FISA Classifiers.

## **Regulation Rule 29: World Championship 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.

## **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.

## **PART IV – BOATS AND CONSTRUCTION**

### **Regulation, Rule 31 – Boats and Equipment**

#### **1. General Aspects**

- (a) The use of FISA Standard Adaptive boats is mandatory for all adaptive 1x and 2x events.
- (b) All boats used in the 4+ event shall be stern-coxed.
- (c) 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+ used at the Paralympic Games regatta is a stern-coxed boat. The design and specifications shall be stipulated by FISA.

#### **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 design and specifications shall be stipulated by FISA.

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

The TA2x boat shall have a seat to which the athlete is strapped at the hips to fix the pelvis so that the rower is not able to use the foot stretcher for leverage. The method of strapping shall be of a design which allows immediate release with single hand movement in case of emergency.

#### **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 design and specifications shall be stipulated by

FISA. The seat itself and the rigger designs are not restricted.

The seat design and its manner of use must meet the following requirements:  
The design of the seat of the A1x is unrestricted except that it 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 A1x boat shall have a high seat back to which the athlete is strapped so that only the arms and shoulders can move during rowing. The strap should be at the level of the diaphragm, directly below the nipples or breasts, and be tight enough to restrict any trunk movement without causing breathing problems. The method of strapping shall be of a design which allows immediate release with single hand movement in case of emergency.

Further:

1. All Adaptive TA2x and A1x boats must have a quick single-action foot-release system located within easy reach of the fixed seat to assist rowers to release their feet in case of capsize or accident.
2. For the A1x, any hand strapping must be able to be released immediately by quick mouth action and abdomen strapping by single quick hand action.

### **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+, TA 2x 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 abdomen 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 who's 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.

#### **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 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 some rowers with sight 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**

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**

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 of 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 Any protest concerning a rower's own classification from a rower wishing to compete at a FISA event must be submitted in writing to FISA within 14 days of the rower receiving notification of the classification.

2.2 In principle, no rower may protest a rower's own classification at an event. However, where there are circumstances which require a rower to be classified at an event the rower may protest the classification. The protest must be submitted in writing to FISA within 2 hours of the rower receiving notification of the classification.

2.3 The protest shall be made on the official FISA Classification Protest Form.

2.4. FISA shall refer any protest against the classification of a rower to a

Classification Protest Panel appointed for this purpose by the Executive Committee under Regulation, Rule 27 of these Regulations. The Classification Protest Panel shall examine the classification documentation of the rower concerned and, in case of any doubt, shall undertake an examination of the rower.

2.5. The final decision shall be made by the Classification Protest Panel and the decision recorded on the Classification Protest Form. The original of the Form shall be held by FISA and a copy shall be provided to the rower who is the subject of the Protest. A decision shall be made and issued prior to the commencement of racing in the event in which the subject rower is to compete.

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

Notwithstanding clause 2 to Regulation, Rule 76, FISA may at any time request a review of the Classification of a rower holding a R or C status classification, as provided in the Guidelines, 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.

### **Bye-Law, Rule 78: Appeal of a Classification Protest**

There shall be no further appeal from the decision of the Classification Protest Panel on a protest concerning classification except for an appeal for an error of procedure. An appeal of a decision for an error of procedure must be made to the Executive Committee of FISA within 48 hours of receipt of the decision of the Protest Panel. The Appeal shall be heard by at least two members of the Executive Committee. The members must not 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 A1x.

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.