



ROWING

TECHNICAL HANDBOOK

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS



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INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY
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1. HISTORY

After two successful editions of the International University Rowing Championships held by CUSI and the city of Milan in 1980 and 1982, FISU expanded the sport to a global scale. Italy was the first to propose hosting the inaugural World University Championship Rowing in 1984, which took place in Milan. This inaugural event was a remarkable success, attracting 177 male and female rowers from 14 countries. Italy, Poland, and the Netherlands led the competition, with the Polish rowers, renowned for their prowess in this discipline, distinguishing themselves on numerous occasions. In 1992, they hosted the Championship on home soil in Poznań, which once again proved to be a magnificent success in terms of spectator turnout. Rowing is frequently included in the University Games Summer (previously known as Universiade) programme. Indeed, it was featured as an optional sport during the Summer Games in Zagreb, Duisburg, Buffalo, Belgrade, and Kazan in 1987, 1989, 1993, 2009, and 2013, respectively.

Rowing is the quintessential university sport. The iconic Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race on the River Thames is well-known, but it is important to remember that nearly 50 percent of rowers participating in recreational events are university students or affiliated with a university.

In 1989, Zagreb hosted the Championship at Jarun, an attractive venue that had previously been the site of the 1987 Summer Games. A total of 217 male and 74 female rowers from 23 countries took part in the championship, demonstrating the growing popularity of the sport within FISU. In 2000, a rowing regatta was organised in Poznań, Poland, with 294 participants, nearly doubling the number of athletes in the new millennium. In 2006, in Trakai, Lithuania, 259 male and 99 female rowers achieved their best results.

The 2014 edition in Gravelines, France, set a record with participation from 33 countries. The 14th Championship took place for the third time in Poznań, Poland, in 2016. The 15th Championship was held in Shanghai, China, in 2018, and the 2024 Championship took place in Rotterdam, Netherlands. This edition witnessed an impressive record number of competitors, featuring 190 men and 181 women. In total, the event attracted 371 athletes, showcasing not only remarkable participation but also a commendable gender balance among competitors.

2. STATISTICS

EDITION	YEAR	COUNTRY	CITY	COUNTRIES	ATHLETES			OFFs	TOTAL
					M	W	TOT		
1	1984	ITA	Milan	14	145	32	177	39	216
2	1986	NED	Amsterdam	13	136	42	178	67	245
3	1992	POL	Poznań	11	132	23	155	49	204
4	1994	NED	Groningen	17	147	33	180	70	250
5	1998	CRO	Zagreb	23	217	74	291	86	377
6	2000	POL	Poznań	16	162	67	229	65	294
7	2002	GBR	Nottingham	22	213	80	293	87	380
8	2004	FRA	Brive-la-Gaillarde	30	262	92	354	109	463
9	2006	LTU	Trakai	26	259	99	358	115	473
10	2008	SRB	Belgrade	27	220	108	328	124	452
11	2010	HUN	Szeged	28	251	99	350	98	448
12	2012	RUS	Kazan	26	189	84	273	88	361
13	2014	FRA	Gravelines	33	239	97	336	106	442
14	2016	POL	Poznań	26	229	109	338	93	431
15	2018	CHN	Shanghai	23	186	133	319	72	391
16	2024	NED	Rotterdam	25	190	181	371	77	448

3. GENERAL SCHEDULE

DAY -3	DAY -2	DAY -1	DAY 1-2	DAY 3	DAY 4
A	A	GTM / OC	C	C / CC	D

Legend: A – Arrivals / CC – Closing Ceremony / C – Competition / D – Departures / GTM – General Technical Meeting / OC – Opening Ceremony

For Rowing, the competitions shall last 3 days

4. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

4.1. GENERAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -6 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

The General Entry is the first stage of the registration process, where delegations are invited to register, through the NUSFs, for the Championship indicating a general interest in participating in the event.

Teams and athletes are not required to submit any documentation or undergo a selection processes.

The submission of a General Entry Form is non-binding, indicating only initial interest by the NUSF but not final commitment

4.2. QUANTITATIVE ENTRY (DEADLINE: -3 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

During the Quantitative Entry the NUSF delegation commits to participate and confirms the delegation composition in terms of numbers and although it does not yet provide individual details, it requires the NUSFs to submit an accurate count of delegation members.

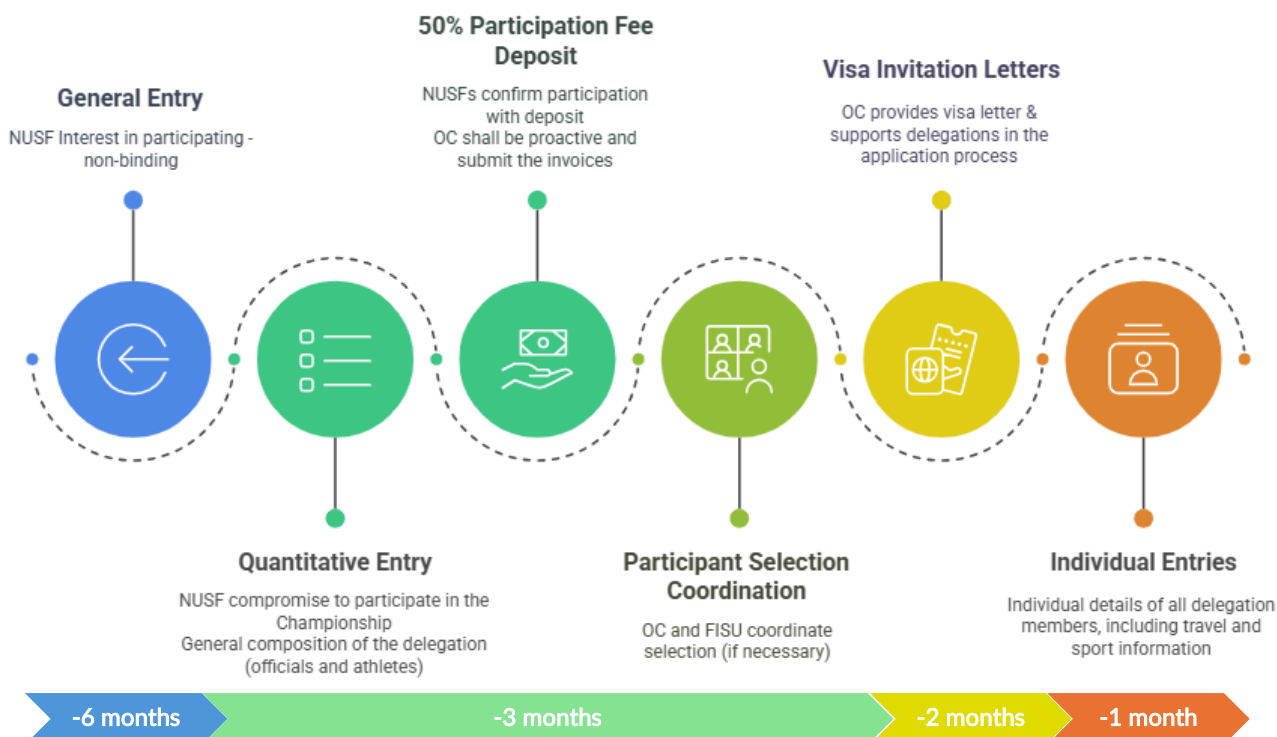
At this stage, a 50% payment of the participation fees is due and must be settled by the Quantitative Entry deadline. By proceeding with the payment, the delegation confirms its participation in the Championship.

This deposit serves as a participation guarantee, and is non-refundable in case of withdrawal, with refunds subject to FISU General Regulations and any OC-specific cancellation policies

4.3. INDIVIDUAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -1 MONTH TO THE EVENT)

The Individual Entry is the final step in FISU event registration. The NUSF must provide all relevant data and documentation for each delegation member.

The remaining 50% of the participation fees is paid in full to the Organising Committee by this deadline. Failure to do so may result in non-participation in the Championship, unless specifically approved by the Organising Committee



5. SPORT REGULATIONS

The Rowing competitions shall be organised in accordance with the most recent technical regulations of the World Rowing. In case of dispute in the interpretation of the rules, the English text shall be regarded as authoritative.

The competitions shall last 3 days as indicated in the General Schedule (Section 3) and the competition programme shall be proposed by the Organising Committee Competition Manager and confirmed by the FISU TCC, including the following events, following the Avis de Régates:

5.1. COMPETITION EVENTS

EVENTS	MEN's	WOMEN's
1x	Single Sculls	Single Sculls
2x	Double Sculls	Double Sculls
2-	Pair	Pair
4-	Four	Four
8+	Eight	Eight
Mix4x	Mixed Quad	

Most of the rowers participating in the Mixed Quad event are expected to also compete in another category. This event is designed primarily to offer an additional medal opportunity for those already competing, rather than serving as the main event for athletes

Draw

The draw for the first round of heats will take place, in principle, on the day prior to the first heat, during the General Technical Meeting. This draw will be conducted randomly.

- If an event receives less than or equal to the number of entries required for a final by the time of the draw, a preliminary race will be held to determine the lanes for the final.
- The draw will be carried out using the software provided by the official timing partner of the event.
 - The draw must be supervised by the President of the Jury
- If a crew withdraws after the draw but up to one hour before the commencement of the first heat in their event and if the number of crews remaining in the event implies another variant of the progression system, or if the withdrawal results in an avoidable imbalance between the number of crews in each heat, the FISU Technical Committee Chairs (TCC) shall supervise a new draw and, if necessary, postpone the race times to allow the redraw to be implemented.
- For all other matters not covered above, reference should be made to the World Rowing Rules of Racing.

Intervals Between Rounds

If the number of crews participating in an event exceeds the number of lanes available for racing, a progression system shall be implemented to determine the finalists. Each round of an event shall conclude at least two hours prior to the start of the subsequent round of the same event.

Teams wishing to double up athletes across two events of the same type (i.e., between two sculling or two sweep events) will be granted some flexibility in programme scheduling, with a target of at least one hour between races of the same gender and category. The option to compete in both sculling and sweep categories will not be factored into the scheduling considerations.

The progression system utilised for the World University Championships Rowing will follow the World Rowing Progression System as outlined in the Bye-Laws to Rule 58 and Appendix R7 of the World Rowing Rules of Racing.

When planning the daily programme, including the starting times and breaks for the various races, it is important to consider a distribution that allows for sufficient time to conduct the medal ceremonies on the final day of competition. The typical order would be two medal finals, the medal ceremony for the first final, then alternating between a medal final and a medal ceremony for the prior final until racing concludes, followed by the last two medal ceremonies. Alternate medal ceremony concepts can be implemented with approval

5.2. TIE-BREAKER CRITERIA

When the finishing order between two or more crews is so close that no discernible difference can be determined, the result shall be declared a dead heat among the crews involved. In a heat, if a dead heat occurs and not all crews progress to the same subsequent round, a re-row must be held at least two hours after the original race and on the same day. The International Federation Technical Delegates may reduce the two-hour interval if deemed necessary.

If the dead heat occurs in a semifinal and not all crews advance to the same level in the final, the results from the heat shall be used to determine the higher placement. The crew with the higher ranking in the heat shall be considered to have the higher position in the dead heat semifinal. If the crews had an identical result, a re-row will be required to establish which crew advances to the higher-level final.

In the event of a dead heat in a final, the crews shall be given equal positions in the final classification, and the subsequent placings shall be left vacant. If the tied position involves a medal place, the organising committee shall provide additional medals accordingly.

5.3. TEAM CLASSIFICATION

Points will be allocated to teams based on the final ranking in every event. The delegation with the most points will be the winner. In the event of more than one delegation having equal points, the delegation receiving the higher number of 1st place finishes shall be the winner. If the tie is not resolved, the higher number of 2nd place finishes shall be the winner. If the tie is not resolved, continue through the placings until a winner can be determined.

FINAL RANKING	POINTS
1 st	8
2 nd	6
3 rd	5
4 th	4
5 th	3
6 th	2
7 th	1

5.4. DELEGATIONS COMPOSITION

A. Athletes

EVENTS	MEN's	WOMEN's
All events	Max. 1 crew per event	Max. 1 crew per event
Max. 40 athletes (20 men & 20 women) per delegation		

Three hours before the General Technical Meeting, the Head of Delegation or his/her representative shall confirm and sign the official list of competitors accredited by the CIC

B. Officials

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATHLETES	TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICIALS
1 to 9 athletes	Max. 2 officials
10 to 20 athletes	Max. 4 officials
Over 20 athletes	Max. 5 officials

6. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

6.1. INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

For the FISU Championship, the ITOs are appointed by World Rowing, with the endorsement of FISU. This appointment process considers several critical factors, including the number of participants, the level and availability of NTOs, and the goal to minimise expenses when possible. To achieve cost-efficiency, World Rowing will aim to nominate ITOs from neighbouring countries whenever feasible. This approach not only fosters regional cooperation but also optimises resources.

A. Number & Roles of ITOs

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	
NUMBER	FUNCTION
1	Jury President
18	Jury Members
2	World Rowing Youth Commission Members
A total of 21 ITOs are required	

The Jury President shall be an umpire nominated by the host country, and, along with the Jury Members, all shall possess an International Umpire's licence

B. ITOs Costs

According to the Collaboration Convention signed between FISU and World Rowing, the costs of the ITOs are the following:

- Organising Committee shall cover:
 - IF Technical Delegate's flights
 - IF Technical Delegate's accommodation in single room
 - IF Technical Delegate's meals
 - IF Technical Delegate's internal transportation
- Organising Committee shall manage:
 - ITOs' flights
 - ITOs' accommodation
 - ITOs' meals
 - ITOs' per-diem
 - ITOs' internal transportation

All ITOs costs should be shared among the participants (according to the Individual Entry numbers). The Organising Committee will collect all expenses related to the ITOs and submit them to FISU for approval. Once approved, the Organising Committee will communicate the total cost information to the delegations (according to the number of athletes registered) and provide them with the invoices for payment

6.2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Concerning the NTOs, these individuals are appointed by the Rowing National Federation or the appropriate governing bodies within a country, under the supervision of the Organising Committee.

A. Number & Roles of NTOs

NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	
NUMBER	FUNCTION
7	Control Commission (Pontoons)
4	Athlete Weigh-In
4	Boat Weigh-In
1	Aligner
3	Start Area
3	Finish Tower
8	On-Water Marshal (On-Water and/or Land)
A total of 30 NTOs are required	

The number of NTOs may vary depending on the layout of the venue and the field of play. Additional skilled volunteers will be needed as boat drivers and as assistants to the timing, scoring, and results provider, but do not need to be licensed officials.

B. Agreement with the NF

Concerning the NTOs participation, it falls outside the scope of FISU or World Rowing. It is therefore advisable for the Organising Committee to reach an agreement directly with the National Federation. This collaboration will help ensure clarity and alignment on the financial aspects associated with it, including the following:

- NTOs Nomination – Ensure all NTOs possess the necessary qualifications to work in an international event
- Management and distribution of the technical official's clothing/uniforms
- Arrangement of suitable accommodation for the required period, if needed

It is strongly recommended to initiate communication with the National Federation promptly regarding the appointment of these officials. This proactive approach will help avert any potential personnel shortages that may arise from conflicting event dates, thereby expanding the available options and ensuring a more successful engagement

7. SPORT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The Organising Committee shall present the layout of the competition and training venues during the Coordination Visit. The layout should include all competition and training areas as well as the different areas, accesses, and services allocated for each client group taking part in the competition or involved in its delivery.

7.1. COMPETITION VENUES

- Number of competition venues – 1
- Type of venues – Outdoor
 - Rowing course
 - Flat water
 - Length – 2.250m
 - Width – 105m

- Warm-up area – 500m
 - Separate from the racing course

7.2. TRAINING VENUES

- Number of training venues – 1
- Type of venue – Outdoor
 - Same venue as competition

7.3. FACILITIES

- Boat and oar storage area
- Boat weighing area
- Boat washing area
- Athletes weighing room

7.4. EQUIPMENT

A. Venue Equipment

- 2.000m Albano buoyed course with survey marks – min. 6 lanes with sight markers and distance markers
- Start bridge – min. 6 adjustable fingers
- Start tower
- Aligner's Hut with sighting wire
- Intermediate timing positions with sighting wire and sight markers
- Finish tower with sighting wire and hooter
- Photo finish camera
- Pontoons – min. 2, preferably 4; capable of launching and landing 6-8 person boats
- Bow numbers – min. 6; 8 sets of numbers 1-7
- Red and yellow markers – 6 sets (for start bridge)
- Red and white flags – 9 sets
- Start flag
- Megaphones – min. 15
- Small bells – min. 8
- Athlete weighing scales – 2 with gauged calibration weights
- Boat weighing scales – 1 set with gauged calibration weights
- Ergometers – 24
- Safety / Rescue boats – min. 6 for the field of play, plus at least 2 total for the warm-up and cooldown areas, typically rigid inflatable with low side walls
- Umpire catamarans – min. 4, wakeless, typically with 30hp engine
- Large clock – 3 (Start Tower, Control Commission, Athlete Weighing)

B. Uniforms & Sport Equipment

- Boat stickers – 3-letter acronym for each delegation, 2 per boat, size conforming to the World Rowing Rules
- Traffic pattern maps – large, posted at Control Commission
- Safety equipment as required by local regulations for motorboats
- Sand, plastic bags, and tape for coxswain deadweight
- Small radios with earpieces for silent alignment



- Radios – approximately 45
- Boat trestles – min. 20 sets

Please refer to the **Minimum Requirements document and the World Rowing Continental Events Manual for more detailed information and complete list of equipment**

8. TRAININGS

The Organising Committee is responsible for coordinating and communicating the training schedule to each delegation, ensuring appropriate access to facilities based on the sport and competition schedule. Some of the factors to be considered are:

- Create a training schedule based on the indications of the FISU TCC
- Consider the usage of the main competition venue, if needed and appropriate
- Provide hydration and basic medical assistance for training sessions
- Ensure the presence of safety and water rescue team for trainings and competition
- Share a detailed training plan with each delegation at least 48 hours before their arrival
- Ensure training venue availability throughout the Championship

Please refer to the **Section 5.2.3 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Trainings**

9. MEDICAL SERVICES

A. FISU Requirements

- First aid and Emergency Medical care
- Medical transportation
- OC on-call first aid medical services shall be available on a 24-hour basis
- A minimum of two ambulances per venue should be available and on duty from the start of warm-up until at least 45 minutes after the final competition of the day

B. Participants Medical Insurance

All participants must have valid travel medical insurance, covering:

- 24/7 Emergency Assistance
- Emergency Medical Expenses
- Medical Evacuation/Repatriation
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption
- Accidental Death or Injury

The OC is solely responsible for providing first aid, emergency medical care, and transportation to the designated hospital. All other medical costs shall be borne by the participant's insurance

Refer to **Section 3.4.1 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Medical Services**

10. DOPING CONTROL

A. FISU Requirements

- The requirements regarding the number and type of doping tests, as well as the total number of tests to be conducted, can be found in the *FISU Doping Test Requirements* document. This information is available exclusively to the Organising Committee.
- The OC Doctor or Head of the Medical area shall coordinate the doping testing and contact the FISU CMI to clarify the moment or disciplines in which the tests will be carried out.
- All doping test costs (including collection, transportation, laboratory analyses) shall be borne by the Organising Committee.

B. Athletes Selection

- Athletes are eligible for testing once accredited until departing from the official event accommodation.

Please refer to Section 3.4.2 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Doping Control

11. PROTOCOL, SPORT PRESENTATION & AWARDING

11.1. MEDALS TABLE

ROWING									
EVENTS	MEN			WOMEN			MIXED		
RACES	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B
1x	1	1	1	1	1	1			
2x	2	2	2	2	2	2			
2-	2	2	2	2	2	2			
4-	4	4	4	4	4	4			
8+	9	9	9	9	9	9			
Mix4x							4	4	4
TOTAL	18	18	18	18	18	18	4	4	4

A. FISU Requirements

The Organising Committee is responsible for providing the medals as shown in the table above. Medals must be awarded for all categories. The top 3 crews in each category are eligible for medals.

The table below provides a comprehensive overview of the total number of medals awarded across all competition disciplines. Please note that extra/reserve medal sets and the FISU set are not included in these figures.

ROWING MEDALS	
Gold	40
Silver	40
Bronze	40

The Organising Committee must provide FISU with a set of medals of the event

B. Recommendations & Considerations

It is crucial to have additional sets of medals on hand as a contingency. Some medals may be defective, or crews may achieve the same final time, necessitating duplicate medals of the same type.

A trophy should be awarded for the top ranked team in Team Classification

Medals are not mandatory for Officials in Rowing

11.2. SPORT PRESENTATION

Sports presentation is vital for elevating a Championship from a competition to an unforgettable experience. It encompasses everything from music and lighting to commentary and fan engagement, creating a unique atmosphere that engages the audience.

In case there is a big screen in the venue for the spectators, some educational video (provided by World Rowing / National Federation) regarding the rules of the sport can be displayed at the beginning of the competition day

A. FISU Requirements

- **Audio Elements**
 - Sound System: A high-quality sound system is essential for announcements, music, and commentary, ensuring clear communication and an engaging atmosphere.
 - Microphone: Essential for general announcements such as schedule, results, athletes introduction, general information, and others.
 - Thematic Music: Curate an energetic playlist to be played during introductions, warm-ups, and medal ceremonies to elevate the excitement.
- **Commentary and Announcing**
 - Live Announcements: Make timely announcements regarding event schedules, race results, and athlete backgrounds to keep the audience informed and engaged.
- **Athletes Introduction**
 - Ceremonial Introductions: Develop exciting and personalised introductions for the athletes, showcasing their achievements and backgrounds.

B. Recommendations & Considerations

- **Audio Elements**
 - DJ: Enhances the atmosphere and overall experience of a sports competition, by creating and maintaining energy, motivating the athletes and engaging the crowd. Music is allowed during pre-competition moments.
- **Commentary and Announcing**
 - Engaging Commentary: Hire knowledgeable commentators who can provide insights about the athletes, techniques, and race strategies. This adds depth to the viewing experience.

11.3. ROWING PRE-COMPETITION PROTOCOL

A. Athletes Introduction

Two minutes prior to the start of the race, the host will commence the athletes' introductions with:

"Now, let's introduce our contenders for the [men's/women's/teams] Championship! Please join me in welcoming our athletes with enthusiasm!"

- The next race is the [Semifinal / Final / ...] of the [Race].
 - In lane 1, we have [Country], represented by [Athlete's Name]. In lane 2, [Country], represented by [Athlete's Name],"
 - Country Flag Display (if any big screen available)

For larger boats (such as the 4-, Mix4x, or 8+), only the country names should be announced verbally, with individual athlete names displayed on a large screen, if available

A. Highlights

Highlights should be showcased during the race, interspersed with play-by-play commentary. Since each race lasts approximately 6 to 8 minutes, information about individual athletes often accompanies commentary on the position of their team's boat at that moment.

- "[He/She] recently finished [insert notable performance], and holds a personal best of [insert time, if available]."
 - "Notably, [he/she] has also won [mention any major titles or accolades, such as national championships]."

12. SERVICES

The Organising Committee should provide a variety of services for the event, including:

- Boat & Oars Rental
- Bag Storage
- Ice
- Laundry
- Wi-Fi

12.1. BOAT & OARS RENTAL

The Organising Committee is responsible for coordinating boat rental services for any teams coming from a different continent, or that are unable to bring their own vessels, ensuring that all participating teams have access to the necessary equipment.

- The Organising Committee should liaise with reputable local boat rental companies to secure a range of options. Boats do not need to be brand new, but should be relatively recent (1–3 years old) and in good working condition.
- The Organising Committee should take into consideration the specific requirements of each team.

It would be beneficial to provide teams with information regarding rental availability, pricing, and any necessary arrangements well in advance of the event to facilitate a smooth and efficient experience

12.2. BAG STORAGE

A reliable bag storage system for athletes should be provided, as it secures and convenient space for participants to store their clothing and personal belongings while training or competing on the water.

- In addition to allowing athletes easy access to their essentials, it contributes for a safer environment and help them minimize stress and distractions.

Overall, secure and accessible bag storage is a relevant component for a smooth-running event

12.3. ICE

The supply of ice is one of the most common requests from participating delegations, particularly for injury treatment and recovery purposes.

- The Organising Committee must supply ice for treating injuries during both practice and competition, as part of the medical coverage for the event. It does not cover large quantities of ice needed for recovery treatments, such as cryotherapy.

The Organising Committee secure a reliable ice provider on standby, anticipating the request from teams and establishing clear procedures for ice procurement, including pricing and how to access this service

12.4. LAUNDRY

Laundry services are essential for many sports, particularly in long-duration competitions and team sports, where athletes may require frequent changes of clothing.

- Laundry services must be provided in all Team Sports Championships and in all sports with more than four competition days.
- Self-Service or Full-Service Laundry can be considered (hotel/accommodation and external services included in the latter)

Self-Service is the preferred option, giving more flexibility and control to the teams. If not, it is important to negotiate reduced pricing and adjust the timing for collection/delivery of uniforms with the provider

12.5. WI-FI

Wi-Fi is an essential service for university students, as it serves as a critical infrastructure that fosters communication and supports their academic responsibilities.

- Participants can easily access real-time information about event schedules, results, and updates. This allows them to plan their day effectively, ensuring they don't miss out on key events and activities.
- Participants can engage with live broadcasts, social media updates, and other digital content related to the event.
- For many students, academic responsibilities continue even during events. Wi-Fi connection ensures they can access study materials and educational resources, maintain communication with professors, and keep up with online courses.

Wi-Fi should be provided free of charge for all participants at the event, both at the accommodation sites and at the competition venues

Please refer to the Section 3.11 of the General Handbook for more detailed information on all services

13. GENERAL TIMELINE

TIMELINE	ACTIONS
Event -12 months	• Coordination Visit ◦ Venues visit and Equipment approval (FISU TCC) • Competition programme approval (FISU TCC) • Venue medical plan approval (FISU TCC)
Event -6 months	• General Entries (NUSFs)
Event -3 months	• Quantitative Entries (NUSFs) • 50% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • ITOs & NTOs list (FISU / World Rowing)
Event -1 months	• Individual Entries (NUSFs) • 100% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • Final Bulletin (OC / FISU / FISU TCC)
Event -1 day	• Accreditation and participants list confirmation (NUSFs) • Technical Officials Meeting (ITOs / NTOs / TCC / OC) • General Technical Meeting (NUSFs / OC / FISU)
EVENT	
Event +1 week	• Send all documents and media to FISU (OC)
Event +1 month	• Final Report to FISU (OC)

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