



European Rowing Confederation (ERC) Annual Report 2022

European Rowing is the confederation of national rowing federations of Europe affiliated to World Rowing. It comprises 46 member federations, including Israel and Gibraltar and also has the capacity to add Member Groupings. European Rowing is managed by the European Rowing Board (ERB) comprising seven elected members, three of whom are nominated by World Rowing.

European Rowing's stated mission is to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and supporting delivery of World Rowing's strategic objectives; to make rowing a successful and sustainable sport, by supporting its member federations to work together for the sustainable future of our sport.

At the annual General Assembly in Munich (GER) a proposal to include the PR3 Mix2x into future European Rowing Championships (ERCH) was adopted unanimously. Neville Tanzer (SUI) was elected to the ERB to replace Nebojsa Jevremovic in 2023. Jevremovic had served on the European Rowing Management Board, later the ERB, since the reinstatement of the European Rowing Championships in 2007 and has been a key contributor to the evolution of the European Rowing events and to the foundation of the ERC in 2018. His long-term commitment to European rowing over the last 16 years was praised and recognised.

An Extraordinary General Assembly was convened in September at the World Rowing Championships in Račice (CZE), to attribute future European Rowing Events after the World Rowing SEAP process was completed and to update the ERC Constitution and Rules to better align with changes to the World Rowing Statutes and Rules and reflect current work of the ERB.

Alongside the impact of the war in Ukraine on its team, the suspension of athletes from Russia and Belarus and the withdrawal of events from these countries in line with IOC guidance, necessitated a re-attribution process be put in place for ERU23CH 2023 and ERU19CH 2024. In addition, 2022 continued to be affected by the pandemic, in particular uncertainty related to travel restrictions. As a result, both the European Rowing Indoor Championships and the annual President's Meeting were cancelled. However, European Rowing and its members successfully delivered four well-attended on-water Championship events, including the first European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships and the second edition of the multi-sport European Championships. Sincere thanks go to the local organising committees, World Rowing staff, the European Championships Management and all the volunteers who helped deliver our events and, in particular, our Member Federations for their support and engagement throughout a challenging period.

The European Rowing Championships (ERCH) were again included into the quadrennial European Championships, this time hosted by the City of Munich (GER) to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the 1972 Olympic Games. Alongside rowing the 11-day event comprised 8 other sports: athletics, cycling, sport-climbing, gymnastics, triathlon, canoeing, table tennis and beach volleyball and included an extensive cultural and music festival. The ERCH took place at the iconic Oberschleissheim Regatta

Course, 6 kilometres from the city centre, whilst the Nations Dinner after the General Assembly was held in the 1972 athletics stadium in Olympic Park.

23 medal events were included in the ERCH programme including, for the third time, four para-rowing disciplines, represented by 11 member federations. Overall, 33 member federations participated with 193 crews and a total of 508 athletes. As with the 2018 edition in Glasgow the bundling of multiple sport rights, whilst not without its logistical challenges, provides an extremely positive and attractive event to be involved in. The Munich edition attracted a high level of media interest and over 30 international media outlets were present at the regatta venue on semi-finals and finals days. Ticket sales were disappointing early in the week for the heats but the grandstand seating sold out at the weekend, with over 10,000 tickets sold in total.

The European U23 Championships were hosted in Hazewinkel (BEL) in September. Water conditions were excellent for racing. Thirty member federations competed in 22 medal events and, with 153 crews and 395 athletes, participation was almost back to pre-pandemic levels. A food festival alongside the course added interest for participants and helped boost casual spectator numbers.

The European U19 Championships were hosted in Varese (ITA) and our many thanks go to the Organising Committee who were able to step in, following the withdrawal of Sabaudia, only 60 days before the event opened. The 13 medal events attracted entries from 27 member federations. With 118 crews (386 athletes) participating this was the lowest entry, since the event started in 2011 and no entries were received for the women's coxed four. As the first event to take place in early May entries were impacted by ongoing restrictions on travel, competition and training in some parts of Europe.

The inaugural European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships, San Sebastián (ESP). San Sebastián provided a superb city centre venue on the Donostia coast and attracted good entries from across 25 nations. The event was livestreamed across three competition days. Ten medal events were held in Endurance disciplines, with 50 crews representing 17 member federations. 134 European club crews raced from 18 nations. In the six Beach Sprint medal events 69 crews represented 19 member federations at senior and U19 level. The ERB were delighted to facilitate a site visit by an ANOC representative considering the inclusion Beach Sprints at the Beach Games in Bali in 2023. The host nation Spain topped the medal table in both Endurance and Beach Sprint events.

The ERCBSCH built on the two earlier editions of the European Rowing Coastal Challenge in 2020 and 2021 which had been excellent test events, hosted by Donoratico (ITA) with extensive support from Filippi. The ERB are considering the continental calendar and the timing of any future ERCC events.

In terms of gender representation in classic rowing ERCH 2022 saw the most balanced athlete numbers and crews to date. 44.5% crews entered were female as were a record 47% of athletes, bringing the ERCH closer to parity than ever before. In the age categories the ERU19CH has seen the ratio of female to male athletes worsen during the pandemic to hover around 37:63 at the last three editions. In contrast the 2022 ERU23CH event saw the best ever balance of entries with female crews making up a record 42% of entries, albeit in smaller boats, with female athlete representation at 38.5%. The inaugural European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships events delivered the most gender equal events yet, with 48% of Beach sprint athletes being female and 52% male; in the member federation endurance events the ratio was exactly 50/50 and in the club endurance events 55% were male and 46% female.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all my colleagues on the European Rowing Board for their time, commitment and boundless enthusiasm for managing the challenges and embracing opportunities throughout the year.

Annamarie Phelps (GBR) President

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