

Athens 2004 - Contingency Programmes

Change of Start Date

FISA has agreed with the IOC and ATHOC that the Olympic Regatta will start racing one day earlier than originally announced - on Saturday 14th August 2004. There will be a spare day on Friday 20th August. The Finals will take place on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd August 2004 unless the weather forecast suggests otherwise.

Friday 13 th August	Olympic Opening Ceremony
Saturday 14 th August	Heats – Group A
Sunday 15 th August	Heats – Group B
Monday 16 th August	Repêchages – Group A
Tuesday 17 th August	Repêchages – Group B
Wednesday 18 th August	Semi-finals – Group A
Thursday 19 th August	Semi-finals – Group B
Friday 20 th August	Spare Day
Saturday 21 st August	Finals – Group A
Sunday 22 nd August	Finals – Group B

Alternative Programmes in case of Adverse Weather Conditions

After the experiences during the World Junior Championships in Athens in 2003 – when very strong winds created unrowable conditions - FISA has agreed with the IOC and ATHOC that the following Options will be available to FISA in order to ensure that the Olympic Regatta can be completed on Sunday 22nd August.

All crews and coaches should be aware of the importance of achieving the best possible placing in every race – in some of the alternative programmes this will be critical!

Option 1 – Change the start times of the races and / or the intervals between races.

Example 1.1 - Start all races at 07.00 hrs. Racing at 10-minute intervals for heats, repêchages and semi-finals. Finals at 20- minute intervals from 07:00 hrs.

Example 1.2 - Start all races at 07:00 hrs. Racing at 5-minute intervals for heats, repêchages and semi-finals. Finals at 20- minute intervals from 07:00 hrs.

Example 1.3 - as Options 1.1 and 1.2 but with the Finals @ 10 minute intervals – all Victory Ceremonies being held later, after the racing.

Example 1.4 - Start all races at 16.30 hrs. Racing at 10-minute intervals for heats, repêchages and semi-finals. Finals at 20- minute intervals from 17:30 hrs. Last race no later than 19:30 hrs.

Example 1.5 - Start all races at 17.00 hrs. Racing at 5- minute intervals for heats, repêchages and semi-finals. Finals at 20- minute intervals from 17:30 hrs. Last race no later than 19:30 hrs.

Example 1.6 - Start all races at 17.30 hrs. Racing at 5- minute intervals for heats, repêchages and semi-finals. Finals at 10- minute intervals from 18:00 hrs. Last race no later than 19:30 hrs.

Option 2 - Combine Group A and Group B if days are cancelled because of the wind.

For example: If Day 1 is cancelled then FISA will try to race all Group A and Group B heats on Day 2 i.e. 42 races.

If Day 3 is cancelled then FISA will try to race all Group A and Group B repêchages on Day 4 i.e. 30 races.

NB 1 – this option will mean that crews doubling up must be prepared to race twice on any day, possibly with less than three hours between races.

NB 2 – this option will mean that all crews must be prepared to race on consecutive days.

Option 2A – Combine two Rounds in the same day.

If a Round of an event is not raced because of wind conditions FISA may decide to run two Rounds of that event on the same day.

Option 2B – Combine all Finals on one day.

Under certain wind conditions it may be necessary to run all 14 Finals on the same day (Friday 20th, Saturday 21st or Sunday 22nd). In the worst case of this scenario the races would start at 07.00 hrs and take place at 8 minute intervals.

Option 3 - Use of an alternative Qualification System

In January 2004 the FISA Council adopted a new Bye-law to allow for an alternative Qualification system to be used in World Championships and Olympic Games. This alternative system would only be used where the event has been affected by long periods of unrowable conditions and the time left to complete the event does not allow for all the remaining rounds (e.g. repêchages, semi-finals) to be held.

Such an alternative system would involve the omitting of a round or rounds of racing (e.g. repêchages, semi-finals) and may involve racing over 7 or 8 lanes. The composition of the remaining rounds will be based on the placings in the previous rounds. In some cases the alternative system might add two additional crews into a Final A (to make an 8 boat Final) on the basis of their times in the previous round. Except in extreme circumstances all crews will be given an opportunity to reach Final A. The system selected may vary for different events, based on the number of boats entered.

Option 4 - Time Trials

If it is not possible (big waves) to row in lanes 1 to 6 and if one side of the course is calm enough to row against the bank then the Fairness Committee may decide to row a Time Trial (see FISA Rule Book) for one (or more) rounds of an event.

Option 5 – Reducing the length of the course to 1,000m.

In the worst possible case:-

- if the course is unrowable from the 1,000 metres to the Finish,
- if it is not possible to use Options 1, 2, 3 or 4,
- if the first 1'000 metres of the course is “rowable”,

then the races will be held over 1,000 metres – from the Start to 1,000 metres.

FISA will not reduce the Olympic regatta to less than 1,000 metres.