



**University Sport South Africa – Rowing (USSA-R);**

**University Sport South Africa (USSA) &**

**Rowing South Africa (RowSA)**

### **Selection Policy**

**FISU World University Games, 28 July to 8 August 2023 Chengdu, China**

#### **1. Vision and Objective:**

The vision of the University Sport South African – Rowing (USSA-R) programme is to have a successful international university rowing team, to further develop student athletes throughout South Africa and to provide these students with exposure to international competition, in order to feed more athletes to the national high-performance rowing team.

The objective of this document is to outline the process by which USSA, with the expertise of USSA-R and the Rowing South African International Commission (RowSA IC), will select its rowing team to compete at the Summer FISU World University Games, held in Chengdu, China, from 28 July to 8 August 2023.

## 2. Student Eligibility

2.1 Bona fide students registered with a member club of University Sport South Africa (USSA) (i.e. a club affiliated with USSA) may be considered for selection. A student participating for an outside club or another tertiary institution without the permission of his/her institution, will not be considered for USSA National Teams. A bona fide higher education student as stipulated by Article 3.4.1 of the USSA Regulations is defined as a person who is:

*(a) Officially registered at a higher education institution recognized by the appropriate national academic authority in the country (i.e. Department of Higher Education and Training) for a programme of at least 120 SAQA credits on NQF Level 5, and approved by that institution's senate. This includes bridging courses, although only one (1) attempt at completing any bridging course will be allowed at any institution. Students enrolled for bridging courses must have a matriculation endorsement or a certificate of exemption issued by the Matriculation Board. This excludes students who are enrolled for short courses or are registered for courses or modules or units of study that are less than 120 SAQA credits;*

*(b) actively involved in pursuing his/her academic career, i.e. attending lectures, submitting assignments, writing tests and examinations in order to be promoted to the next level of study.*

*(c) In the case of a postgraduate student, a letter from the Registrar (or appointed representative of the Registrar) of the participating institution in question is required for all honors, masters and doctoral students indicating that the student is making satisfactory progress towards the completion of his/her postgraduate degree.*

2.2 South African citizens in possession of a South African passport (Citizens with foreign passports will not be accepted).

2.3 Students between 18 and 27 years of age on 1 January 2023, i.e. born between 1 January 1997 and 31 December 2005.

2.4 The participation of former students in USSA events are not permitted. Exceptions shall be considered for former students who successfully completed their studies in the year preceding an international event are in contention to be selection for this event. These students may then be allowed to attend further trials which are held to select the final team to compete in international championship events.

2.5 Athletes must be attending a tertiary institution that is affiliated to/with USSA (RSA based institution), or an International Institution affiliated to a member of FISU (i.e. NCAA of the USA). A limited number of merit student sportspersons who are South African citizens studying abroad may be considered for selection in national teams for participation at the FISU World University Rowing Games. Such persons studying abroad must participate at:

- (a). their Universities National University Championship; and
- (b). the RowSA Final Selection Regatta or;
- (c). An alternative selection regatta that will be formed to accommodate international championship regattas dates.

### **3. The Selection Committee:**

3.1 The USSA-Rowing selection committee will comprise of the following:

- (a) USSA-Rowing Coaches Representative;
- (b) USSA-Rowing RowSA International Commission Representative;
- (c) Chairperson of USSA-Rowing (or his/her nominee); and
- (d) a representative from the USSA-Rowing Trustees.

### **4. Team Manager**

4.1 The position of USSA-Rowing Team Manager will work with the Coaches Representative, in managing the USSA-Rowing Squad and have the following roles and responsibilities:

- 4.1.1 Assist in communication to athletes and coaches, the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee, the USSA-Rowing Executive and the USSA NEC;
- 4.1.2 Collection of all trial information pertaining to trailing athletes; and
- 4.1.3 Administration of team prior to- and during (should a team manager be sent with the team) the competition.

4.2 Appointment of the USSA Team Manager prior to the competition will be done by the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee and communicated no later than the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.

4.3 Nomination of a traveling USSA Team Manager will be made by the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee to the RowSA IC for endorsement and final approval will be at the

discretion of the USSA National Executive Committee (NEC).

## 5. Athlete Selection Principles:

5.1 The number of rowers selected in the final team is at the discretion of USSA-Rowing and the USSA NEC.

5.2 Subject to the ongoing impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on regatta cancellations, participation at the following regattas is considered a pre-requisite for selection for the South African based Athletes. Athletes' entries are to be made in the u23 division for Buffalo and A division for USSA-sprints and SA senior championships. Athletes are to compete in either the scull 1x or pair 2- at these regattas:

- (a) VLC regatta (28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January 2023)\*\*
- (b) Buffalo Regatta (9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023)
- (c) USSA-Rowing Sprints regatta (31<sup>st</sup> March -1<sup>st</sup> April 2023)
- (d) SA Senior National Championships (29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023) ; and
- (e) RowSA Final Selection Regatta (dates TBC) – *attendance is by invitation only*).

\*\* Due to the financial, time and travel constraints, participation in a regional regatta in place of the VLC Regatta will be accepted for athletes outside of the Gauteng region. For example, athletes in the Western Cape would be able to attend WC Championships as a replacement.

5.3 Completion of the following assessments is a prerequisite for selection consideration:

(a) 22-23 November 2023	2000m ergo	At max rate
	5000m ergo	At max rate
(b) 10-16 January 2023	2000m ergo	At max rate
	5000m ergo	At max rate
(c) 21-27 February 2023	2000m ergo**	At max rate
	5000m ergo	At max rate
(d) 6 -13 March 2023	2000m ergo**	At max rate
(e) April trial Date(TBC)	2000m ergo	At max rate

\*\*trial information for Blues & Grudge can be submitted from any trial date of (c) and (d) above.

5.3.1 Candidates should achieve the following minimum standard times:

5.3.1.1 The standard altitude of all assessments is sea level, and all assessments will be adjusted accordingly using the altitude adjustment formula.

*Table 1 - Minimum Ergometer Assessment Standard Times*

Category	Minimum Standard (Altitude)	Minimum Standard (Coastal)	Minimum Standard (International)
Openweight Men	6:20	6:15	6:10
Lightweight Men	6:35	6:30	6:25
Openweight Women	7:20	7:15	7:10
Lightweight Women	7:35	7:30	7:25

5.3.1.2 Athletes will have leeway given as the trialling progresses. The following blanket time allowances will be added to all respective trial times. This is in order to allow for progression and selection for training camps.

*Table 2- Ergometer test progression*

Dates	Handicap
22-23 November	+20s
10-16 January	+15s
21-27 February	+10s
6-13 March	+5s
April Trial	Target Time

5.3.2 All assessments must be completed and submitted to the Team Manager no later than 24 hours after the closing date for the assessment.

5.3.3 Should the assessment information not be received by the Team Manager, as required in Clause 5.3.2, the assessment shall be classified as incomplete except in the following circumstances:

- (a) A signed medical certificate is received within 48 hours of the closing date for the assessment. Athletes must then complete the required assessment as soon as the doctor who signed the medical certificate confirms in writing that the athlete may take the ergometer test.

(b) Notification of an athlete's inability to complete the assessment reaches the Team Manager prior to the beginning of the assessment period and a new assessment period is agreed upon in writing by the Team Manager.

5.4 Should time and availability, ideally two selection camps will be held for the purpose of athlete training and identification as well true and reflective trialling for the formation of crews for the Final National Selection Regatta and the World University Games.

5.4.1 The first selection camp (Dates and Venue TBC) will be utilised for athlete identification and the selection of potential crews for the Final National Selection Regatta. Participation at the first selection camp is by invitation only, subject to the following:

5.4.1.1 Any athlete who meets the minimum standard of the ergo trials as indicated from Clause 5.2 (a-b). However, if the results of the trial are slower than the minimum standard, athletes that are not within 5% of the fastest time will not be invited.

5.4.1.2 Any athlete who does not satisfy Clause 5.4.1.1 shall be invited at the sole discretion of the Selection Committee, provided that an appeal by any athlete affected may be made in accordance with Section 5.

5.4.2 The second selection Camp (Venue and Dates to TBC) will be utilised for the purpose of providing the crews with more water time.

5.4.2.1 Participation at the second selection camp is by invitation from the Selection Committee, provided that an appeal by any athlete affected may be made in accordance with Section 5.

5.4.2.2 Participation in this camp is subject to whether the crew places 3% of the U23 crew in the selected boat class. In the case the u23 crew does not qualify athletes will have to place 5% of the top National crew.

5.4.3 Subject to the COVID-19 pandemic, these camps will be potentially held in individual provinces where the selected crews are. A coach will be assigned to a crew in that province for the appropriate training and coaching.

5.5 Should the regattas and assessments be impacted by COVID-19 resulting in them being cancelled the selection committee will provide alternative criteria for selection based on the following principles:

5.5.1 Health and well-being of all involved in the trial process

5.5.2 Fairness to all athletes trialling

5.5.3 Availability of equal trial opportunities for all athletes

5.5.4 Should the camps mentioned in clause 5.4 not take place, for any reason, the Selection Committee will base their decisions on the objective performance information available, they will also use their own experience and judgement when forming crews, assessing crew compatibility and making selections.

5.6 The USSA-R Selection Committee will work with the RowSA IC to ensure as close alignment between the USSA Team selections and those for the Senior and U23 National Squads.

5.7 Participation at the Final National Selection Regatta is by invitation only, as a member of an USSA-Rowing formed crew, as described above.

## **6. Coxswain Selection Process**

6.1 Should a coxed crew be selected; the selection of the cox will be based on their skills in steering and on the contribution the Selection Committee and crew coach believe they can make to the crew's performance. The cox may be male or female.

6.2 A cox must weigh a minimum of 55kgs which may include up to 15kg of "deadweight".

## **7. Coaches Selection Process**

The selection process that will be taken into account by the selectors in selecting coaches for the USSA Team include the following:

7.1 Ability to operate in a coaching team in a broader high-performance environment;

7.2 Current and past record as a Coach, including performance of domestic and international crews coached in past, including performance of crews at selection events, management of those crews and a proven capacity to relate appropriately with athletes, coaches, officials and USSA Executive;

7.3 Athletes which have been selected as part of the USSA-Rowing Squad;



7.4 Compatibility with athletes;

7.5 Adherence to the USSA-R policies;

7.6 Completion of all documentation;

7.7 Compatibility to crew combination, technical compatibility and team balance and harmony.; and

7.8 Potential development of the coach for subsequent National Teams.

## **8. Appeal Procedure**

8.1 The Chairperson of the USSA-Rowing Trustees will act as a Permanent Tribunal Chairperson. Should the Chairperson of the USSA-Rowing Trustees not be available they may appoint a replacement, with approval from the USSA-Rowing Executive.

8.2 An athlete who has participated fully in this selection process may lodge an objection with the Team Manager of the Selection Committee:

8.2.1 Any objection must be made, in writing, to the Team Manager within 48 hours of notification of a selection decision. The correspondence must be detailed and must contain specific reasons for any grievance or objection.

8.2.2 The Team Manager must provide a written response within 96 hours of receiving the request, excluding holidays and weekends.

8.3 Should an athlete still not be satisfied with the response of the Team Manager, he or she may submit a written request to the Permanent Tribunal Chairperson to review the selection process.

8.3.1 Any request made must be made within 48 hours of the Team Manager's response and must set out, in as much detail as possible, the grievance or objection, as well as specific detailed reasons why the written response of the Team Manager does not satisfy the complaint.

8.4 Upon receipt of any request the Permanent Tribunal Chairperson shall request a written representation from the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee, outlining any and all reasons for the selection decision, and will convene an urgent Appeals Tribunal. Any Appeals Tribunal will consist of the following (none of whom may have been members of the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee):

(a) The Permanent Tribunal Chairperson;

(b) A representative of the USSA-Rowing Executive (other than the USSA-Rowing Chairperson); and

(c) A representative of the USSA-Rowing Trustees.

**5.5.** Any decision by the Appeals Tribunal will be binding and final, to both the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee and the objecting Athlete.

**9. Events for the FISU World University Rowing Games 2023 in Chengdu**

The following events are to be held for men and women:

<b>LM1X</b>	<b>LM2X</b>	<b>M2-</b>	<b>LM4-</b>	<b>M8+</b>
<b>M1X</b>	<b>M2X</b>	<b>W2-</b>	<b>M4-</b>	<b>W8+</b>
<b>LW1X</b>	<b>LW2X</b>		<b>LW4-</b>	
<b>W1X</b>	<b>W2X</b>		<b>W4-</b>	