



FISU
WORLD
UNIVERSITY
CHAMPIONSHIP
ROWING



**University Sport South Africa – Rowing (USSA-R),
University Sport South Africa (USSA) &
Rowing South Africa (RowSA)**

Selection Policy

**FISU World University Rowing Championships, 4 to 6 July 2024,
Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

1. Vision and Objective:

- 1.1. The vision of the University Sport South Africa – 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, to feed more athletes to the national high-performance rowing team.
- 1.2. 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 FISU World University Rowing Championships, held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from 04-06 July 2024.

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) Students officially registered with a member club of USSA at a higher education institution recognised 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 regardless of registration status (i.e. full-time or part-time) 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) Students actively involved in pursuing his/her academic career, i.e. attending lectures, submitting assignments, writing tests and examinations to be promoted to the next level of study.
- (c) In the case of a international student, a certified copy of the study permit along with a proof of registration, passport and student cards must be produced. Refugees are only required to produce confirmation of their refugee status and meet the bona fide requirements in a), b), and c).

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

2.3. Students between 18 and 25 years of age on 1 January 2024, i.e. born between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2006.

- 2.4. The participation of former students in USSA events is not permitted.
- 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 Championships. Such persons studying abroad must participate at:
 - (a) their University's 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 RowSA International Commission Representative (appointed by the USSA-Rowing Executive Committee);
 - (b) a nominee of the USSA-Rowing Chairperson;
 - (c) Rowing South Africa High-Performance Technical Director;
 - (d) a representative from the USSA-Rowing Trustees; and
 - (e) the appointed Team Head Coach (who will form part of this committee following their appointment by the selection committee)
- 3.2. The Selection Committee will be chaired by the USSA-Rowing RowSA International Commission Representative.
- 3.3. The USSA-Rowing Team Manager will be an ex-officio member of the selection committee and will be responsible for documenting and communicating to relevant parties/stakeholders' decisions taken by the selection committee. However, they will not have any voting rights.

- 3.4. The Selection Committee shall not comprise more than 2 representatives from the same institution, alumni or otherwise. If there are more than 2 individuals from the same institution, another will be nominated for the role observed.

4. USSA-Rowing Team Manager:

- 4.1. The position of USSA-Rowing Team Manager will work with the Team Head Coach in managing the USSA-Rowing Squad and have the following roles and responsibilities:
 - (a) Assist with communication to athletes and coaches, the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee, the USSA-Rowing Executive, RowSA IC and the USSA NEC (in collaboration with the USSA-Rowing Executive);
 - (b) Collection of all trial information pertaining to trialling athletes;
 - (c) Administration of team prior to- and during (should a team manager be sent with the team) the competition; and
 - (d) Documenting and communicating to relevant parties/stakeholders' decisions taken by the selection committee.
- 4.2. Appointment of the USSA-Rowing Team Manager prior to the competition will be done by the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee and communicated to the members of USSA-Rowing. The selection committee delegated the application process and shortlisting process to the Executive Committee and approved the recommendation from the NEC. Preference will be given to university staff and registered students at a tertiary institution.
- 4.3. Nomination of a traveling USSA-Rowing Team Manager will be made by the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee to the RowSA IC for endorsement, with final approval at the discretion of the USSA National Executive Committee (NEC).

5. Team Coaches Selection Process

- 5.1. Appointment of the USSA-Rowing Head Coach, as well as crew specific coaches and assistant coaches, prior to the competition will be done by the USSA-Rowing Selection Committee with input provided by the RowSA International Commission.

5.2. The selection process that will be considered by the selectors in selecting coaches for the USSA Team include the following:

- (a) ability to operate in a coaching team in a broader high-performance environment;
- (b) 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;
- (c) athletes/crews which have been selected as part of the USSA-Rowing Squad;
- (d) compatibility with athletes;
- (e) adherence to the USSA, RowSA and USSA-Rowing policies;
- (f) completion of all documentation;
- (g) compatibility to crew combination, technical compatibility and team balance and harmony; and
- (h) potential development of the coach for subsequent National Teams.
- (i) affiliation to a university rowing club
- (j) valid safeguarding certificate

6. Athlete Selection Principles:

6.1. The number of rowers selected in the final team is at the discretion of USSA-Rowing, with final approval from the USSA NEC.

6.2. Participation at the following regattas is considered a pre-requisite for selection for South African-based athletes, with entries in either the scull (1x) or pair (2-) at these regattas required:

- (a) USSA-Rowing National Sprints Regatta (12-13 Apr 2024) – to be entered in the A division.
- (b) SA Senior National Championships (27-28 April 2024); and

(c) RowSA Final Selection Regatta (Date TBC) – attendance to this regatta is by invitation from the Selection Committee only).

c.i. Final Selection Regatta 1 – for South African-based athletes who attend university in South Africa (Date TBC).

c.ii. Final Selection Regatta 2 – for overseas-based South African athletes who wish to trial for the SA team (Date TBC).

6.3. Although not compulsory, participation at RowSA National Status Regattas, as well as provincial championships, for the 2023/2024 season are considered very advantageous for selection and results from these regattas should be communicated to the USSA-Rowing Team Manager. These include, but are not limited to:

(a) VLC National Sprints Regatta (27-28 Jan 2024) – entries into the A division will be considered.

(b) Buffalo Regatta (08-10 Feb 2024) – entries into either the U23 or A division to be considered.

(c) Gauteng Senior Championships (06 Apr 2024) – entries into the A division will be considered.

(d) Western Cape Championships (27-28 Jan 2024) – entries into the A division will be considered.

(e) Eastern Cape Championships (03 Feb 2024) – entries into the A division will be considered.

6.4. Entries into the following boat classes from the above events will be considered:

(a) 1x; and/or

(b) 2-; or

(c) Boat classes that the athletes will trial for (e.g. 4-; 4x-; 2x etc.)

6.5. Completion of the following ergometer assessments is a prerequisite for selection consideration:

- (a) 19-23 Feb 2024: 2000m at max
 - (b) 18-21 Mar 2024: 2000m at max & 5000m at max
 - (c) 15-17 Apr 2024: 2000m at max
- 6.6. 2000m and 5000m trials are to be pulled within 24 hours of each other.
- 6.7. Should for any reason the prescribed ergometer dates fall outside of the currently scheduled trial dates of either an athlete’s Club schedule, or that of the RowSA National Squad, this must be communicated to the USSA-Rowing Team Manager prior to the trials. The Selection Committee will review all trial date requests and decisions communicated back to the relevant athlete. Athletes should achieve the following standards for ergometer assessments:

Table 1 - Ergometer Assessment Standard Times

Category	Minimum Standard (Altitude)	Minimum Standard (Coastal)	Minimum Standard (International)
Openweight Men	6:22	6:14	6:10
Lightweight Men	6:37	6:29	6:25
Openweight Women	7:22	7:14	7:10
Lightweight Women	7:37	7:29	7:25

- 6.8. The ergometer assessment standards outlined in Table 1 are what is expected at the end of the selection period. As such, the following handicaps should be applied to the standards, based on the timing of the assessment:

Table 2- Ergometer test progression

Trial Dates	Handicap
19-23 Feb 2024	+15s

18-21 Mar 2024	+10s
15-17 Apr 2024	+5s

- 6.9. All trialling athletes interested in trialing are required to complete the Bio Data Form.
- 6.10. All assessments must be completed and submitted to the Team Manager no later than 24 hours after the last date for the assessment.
- 6.11. Completion of the February ergo assessment is compulsory to be considered for selection. Please still submit your data even if you are off the handicap.
- 6.12. Should the assessment information not be received by the Team Manager, as required in Article 6.5 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.
- 6.13. Depending on time and availability, ideally two selection camps will be held for the purpose of athlete training and identification as well as true and reflective trialling for the formation of crews for the Final National Selection Regatta and the World University Rowing Championships.
- (a) 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:

- a.i. Any athlete who meets the minimum standard of the ergo trials as indicated from Articles 6.5, 6.7 and 6.8. 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.
 - a.ii. Any athlete who is invited to trial for the squad does not satisfy the minimum standards shall only 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 8.
 - (b) The second selection Camp (Venue and Dates to TBC) will be utilised for the purpose of providing the crews with more water time.
 - b.i. 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 8.
 - b.ii. 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.
- 6.14. Should the regattas and assessments be impacted, resulting in them being cancelled for any reason, the selection committee will provide alternative criteria for selection based on the following principles:
- (a) Health and well-being of all involved in the trial process;
 - (b) Fairness to all athletes trialling; and
 - (c) Availability of equal trial opportunities for all athletes
- 6.15. Should the camps mentioned in Article 6.13 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.

6.16. 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.

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

7. Coxswain Selection Process

7.1. 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 for either male or female boats.

7.2. A cox must weigh a minimum of 55kgs which may include up to 10kg of "deadweight".

8. Appeal Procedure

8.1. The Chairperson of the USSA-Rowing Executive Committee will act as a Permanent Tribunal Chairperson. Should the Chairperson of the USSA-Rowing Executive not be available they may delegate a nominee, 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:

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(a) 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 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) Members of the USSA-Rowing Executive Committee; and
 - (c) A representative of the USSA-Rowing Trustees.
- 8.5. Should an athlete still not be satisfied with decisions of the Appeals Tribunal, he or she may submit a written request to the USSA National Executive Committee to review the selection process.
 - (a) Any request made must be made within 48 hours of the Appeal Tribunal'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 Appeal Tribunal does not satisfy the complaint.
- 8.6. Any decision by the USSA National Executive Committee will be binding and final to all parties, including the objecting Athlete, USSA-Rowing Selection Committee, and the Appeals Tribunal.