



Re: Feedback on 2026 Beach Sprint Selection Procedures 2026

First of all we want to thank everybody who provided us with feedback regarding the 2026 Beach Sprint Selection Procedures. Your remarks help us to keep the procedures clear, transparent and fair.

This is a exciting time with the emergence of a new Olympic discipline. As such, it drives change as we strive for the most competitive team possible on our home soil in 2028. All comments, both those received by mail, as those received via the anonymous comment portal, were discussed with the High Performance Committee. It seems useful to share the main comments and the considerations for the final version of the selection procedures (see next page).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josy Verdonkschot'.

Josy Verdonkschot – Chief High Performance Officer

1. *The selection procedures are confusing regarding the status of the CMix4+. Is this a Trials event or is this a camp boat?*

The selection procedures were indeed confusing regarding this event. There was a subtle but important distinction between Olympic and International events. As an International event, CMix4+ is a Trials event. We will correct the procedures to clarify this.

2. *Why are visually impaired rowers excluded from Trials for the event INMix2x?*

Deliberately excluding visually impaired and blind athletes from any sport is discrimination.

World Rowing determines criteria and classes for their events. Since this is a selection procedure for a World Rowing event we can only apply the eligibility rules for the event.

3. *Why are all Olympic classes camp boats? This system goes against decades of Trials rowing.*

There are several reasons for this choice. We find ourselves in a particular situation for Beach Sprints in 2028 due primarily to the limited allotment of athletes for the sport at the Olympics:

- For LA, the maximum number of athletes per nation that can qualify is 2, one man and one woman. These athletes will row the single and then double up in the CMix2x. Which means that the different events cannot be evaluated individually. We have to consider the events together as part of a team event.
- In order to establish a fair process we begin with a system where there is an open pathway for everybody to qualify for final selection of the Olympic events via open Speed Orders. Then, final selection is done in a camp with a limited number of candidates to ensure a fair process for boat selection in the relatively variable sport of Beach Sprints.
- Lastly we have also considered the comments of our current top athletes and coaches. They encouraged this approach to ensure fairness.

4. *What is the value of a 6k and a 2k erg test for candidates for the Olympic Events Selection Camp, given the fact that race times are between 2 and 4 minutes?*

The erg tests give an indication of general fitness and help to determine an athlete's physiological profile. There is no benchmark or minimal score required. Furthermore, although the Olympic distance is short, endurance and recovery capacity is a factor because of the race format. Athletes have to race three times (quarter finals, semi-finals and finals) within one hour. In LA the preliminary rounds (two or three additional races) will also take place on the same day. The event will require a well-rounded power – distance profile despite the relatively short duration of a singular round.

5. *In what boat classes will the Speed Orders in June and in August be run? And if the winner of the June Speed Order also wins the August Speed Order, will the automatic invite for the Olympic Events Selection Camp roll down to the crew who placed second in August?*

Speed Orders will be run in CW1x and CM1x. There will be no roll down as we look for the top athletes for Olympic consideration.