

2016 FISA Seeding Criteria

1. The Purpose of Seeding:

The purpose of seeding is simply to avoid many of the faster boats in an event being drawn into the same heat. The seeding order shall only affect the placing of crews in the heats and is for no other purpose. It shall not be taken into account for any of the later rounds of competition.

Seeding is neither aimed at predicting the likely finalists, nor ensuring that they have a clear road to the finals.

To make sure there is reasonable separation of the faster boats, the Seeding Panel will make as accurate an assessment as possible of the past results of each crew, noting particularly which crews have raced each other and giving priority to the most recent and, therefore, the most current results of each crew. Since not all crews attend every regatta, the Seeding Panel must extrapolate based on which crews have raced against each other.

It should be accepted therefore, that there is an element of subjectivity in this exercise.

2. Events that may be Seeded:

A Seeding Panel may be appointed by the Executive Committee for the following events to seed crews in accordance with Bye-law to Rule 68:

- 1.1 Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games regattas and relevant qualification regattas;
- 1.2 World Rowing Championship regattas;
- 1.3 World Rowing Cup regattas.

3. The Number of Boats to be Seeded in an Event:

3.1 **Two** boats will be seeded for each heat.

Example: 6 x heats = 12 Seeded Boats.

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3.2 The number of boats to be seeded at a World Championship regatta relative to the number of entries will therefore be as follows:

No. of Entries	No. of Heats	No. of Seeded Crews
7-8	2	4
9-12	2	4
13-15	3	6
16-18	3	6
19-24	4	8
25-30	5	10
31-36	6	12
37-48	8	16
49 +	TT	18

For Events with 49 or more entries, the Bye-Law to Rule 67 requires one Time-Trial for all crews. In this case, 18 crews will be seeded.

4. The Ranking of Seeded Boats:

4.1 The Seeded Boats shall be ranked in **two groups**, a **higher** ranked group, (“A” Crews), and a **lower** ranked group, (“B” Crews).

4.2 Each heat shall include **one crew from the “A” Group**, and **one crew from the “B” Group**.

Example: Crews Seeded 1 - 6 will be “A” Crews;
Crews Seeded 7 - 12 will be “B” Crews.

5. Heat Allocation:

5.1 The highest and lowest seeded crews shall be placed in the same heat. Similarly the second highest and second lowest seeded crews shall be placed in the same heat, etc..

Example: The placing of crews in each heat should therefore be as follows:

	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat
Higher Group “A” Seeds	1	2	3	4	5	6
Lower Group “B” Seeds	12	11	10	9	8	7

In this example therefore, the crews seeded 6 and 7 will be in the same heat.

5.2 There shall be a random draw to place each pair of seeded crews in the heats (so that the highest seeded crew is not always in heat 1). The heats for all other crews shall be determined by a further random draw.

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6. Lane Allocation:

6.1 The lanes for each of the two seeded crews in each heat shall be determined by random draw.

6.2 The Lanes for all other Crews in each heat shall be determined by random draw.

6.3 In the case of heats raced in a Time-Trial format, the higher seeded crew will start first and the lower seeded crew will start second. For all other crews there shall be a random draw for the starting order.

6.4 In the case of one Time-Trial for all crews in the event, the seeded crews will start first in ranked order of seeding. There shall be a random draw for the start order for all the other crews.

7. The Criteria for the Seeding of Crews:

These shall be as follows:

- 7.1 The most recent Olympic or World Championship result in the event, and/or;
- 7.2 The most recent World Rowing Cup result in the event, and/or;
- 7.3 If neither 7.1 nor 7.2 above provide sufficient information, then other significant and most recent 2'000 metre events may be taken into consideration.
- 7.4 The Seeding Panel shall exercise its judgement in respect of circumstances which may override 7.1 to 7.3 above, and which may have influenced the most recent result of a particular crew, e.g. equipment breakage, changes to crew composition, or a prolonged absence from competition, etc.
- 7.5 The Seeding Panel shall also exercise its judgement, if it considers that adverse weather conditions have affected the results of previous events.

This document has been approved by the FISA Executive Committee and published on 27 March 2014 and reviewed in 2015 and 2016.