



**Qualification for the
2021 World Rowing
Virtual Indoor Championships**

**HONG KONG
LOCAL EVENT BULLETIN**

- (1) Asian Continental Qualifier**
- (2) Worldwide Open Qualification**

2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships

WORLD ROWING is the international governing body for the sport of rowing, and stages annually the World Rowing Indoor Championships (“**WRICH**”).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2021 WRICH will be hosted for the first time ever as a virtual event open to all, worldwide. Competitors can race from anywhere in the world, but must have access to a Concept2 Indoor Rowing machine (equipped with Performance Monitor 3, 4 or 5).

Because of the technical and management constraints on the planned virtual race software, the finals races will be capped to a limited number of athletes, racing virtually in real time. These athletes will have had to qualify for each respective final.

For certain race categories there will be a mix of qualification via two pathways. One pathway will be an Open Qualification pathway, being an individual virtual qualification for the finals based on fastest verifiable times by event. The other pathway will be a Continental Qualification pathway, through which top finishers from a live, virtual Continental Qualifier can qualify for the WRICH finals.

The **2021 World Rowing Indoor Championships Finals** will be held on 23-27 February 2021.

QUALIFICATION PATHWAYS

PATHWAY 1. - Asian Continental Qualifier

The Asian Qualifier is hosted by the Hong Kong, China Rowing Association in conjunction with World Rowing and is sanctioned by World Rowing for this purpose. Eligibility and arrangements for the Asian Continental Qualifier are set out in the Asian Qualifier Bulletin [here](#)

Eligibility: It should be noted that only rowers who are nationals of an Asian country or region holding a valid passport or official nationality document shall be eligible to enter for the Asian Qualifier. Eligible rowers do not have to be in their home country or region at the time of the Qualifier, so that Asians of other nationalities living or staying in Hong Kong are eligible to compete in Hong Kong, but for their own country or region.

Dates: The Asian Continental Qualifier will be held in real time on SUNDAY 24th JANUARY 2021, Hong Kong Time. Entries will close at midnight on **14th January 2021**, Hong Kong Time.

Other details: For all other details of the Asian Qualifier, including race times and Event categories, please refer to the Asian Qualifier Bulletin at <http://www.rowing.org.hk/competition/2021acq/>

PATHWAY 2. - Open Qualification Pathway

The Open Qualification pathway is open to rowers of all nationalities, wherever they are living. Full details of the Open Qualification pathway requirements are contained in the 2021 WRICH Competitor Information Guide at [Competitor Overview, Terms & Conditions document](#).

Eligibility: The Open Qualification Pathway is open to any person who has access to a Concept2 static ergometer (PM3 or later) and internet-linked computer and the means to appropriately confirm eligibility and verify their score. Competitors need to register for the WRICH through the WRICH entry portal in order to be able to enter the open qualification pathway. Competitors can register at <https://worldrowing.entries.regatta-systems.com/>.

Dates: Unlike the Continental Qualifiers, which will be held on one fixed day in real time, the WRICH Open Qualification pathway opened at midnight Central European Time (CET) on 27 November 2020 and will close at midnight CET on 7 February 2021. Rowers in all categories may submit their qualification attempts at any time within this period subject to meeting the full requirements for entry.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Equipment Requirements and set-up

Competitors will need to provide all equipment needed to compete in this event. This must include:

- Concept 2 static rowing ergometer with PM3, PM4 or PM5 monitor with updated firmware. To update firmware refer to www.concept2.com/service/software/concept2-utility;
- USB A-to-B cable, Compatible Windows or MacOS Laptop/ Computer with “Google Chrome version 78 or higher”, or “Microsoft Edge version 79 or higher” installed.
- A stable internet connection.

Note 1: A maximum of 2 Rowing machines may be connected to one computer.

Note 2: Full instructions on equipment set-up will be provided to competitors after close of entries.

*After close of entries, every competitor will receive their individual confidential race link for their event. Each link will be unique to the competitor and to the event they are competing in, e.g. separate links for 2000m and 500m events if entered in both. These links will give access to the “race lobby” for each event. Competitors must arrive in the race lobby **40 minutes** prior to their race start time.*

2. Access to Equipment in Hong Kong

2.1 Asian Qualifier

If you have access to a suitable Concept 2 ergometer, you may compete from any location. For those who do not have access to a suitable Concept2 ergometer, arrangements will be made at Sha Tin Rowing Centre and Jockey Club Shek Mun Rowing Centre to use a limited number of machines on the day of competition, Sunday 24th January 2021. If you wish to use a machine in the Rowing Centres, you will be required to bring your own laptop computer and cable and you are required to book a machine at the latest **by midnight on Thursday 14th January 2021**. If there are not sufficient machines available, they will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Reservation can be made by email to <2021acq@rowing.org.hk>. *SPECIAL NOTE: Arrangements for access to the Rowing Centres will be subject to the COVID-19 restrictions at that time. Alternative arrangements, if needed, will be communicated to all competitors who have reserved machines at the Centres.*

If your school, university, gym, club or other organisation has suitable Concept 2 machines, all you need is a laptop computer with the required cables and a stable internet connection. If you have access to a private machine, that can also be used.

2.2 Open Qualification Pathway

As the Open qualification is spread over a period of more than one month, you should make arrangements to have access to a machine and computer at a time to suit you. HKCRA ergometers can also be made available on a booking basis but you should bring your own computer.

3. Age Categories

Competitors age is based on their age at the date of the Final for the event/events (i.e. 23 - 27 February 2021, Central European Time) for which they are entered. These dates can be found in the 2021 WRICH Competitor Information Guide at [Competitor Overview, Terms & Conditions document](#).

4. Lightweight Events - Weigh-in Requirements:

The maximum weights for lightweight competitors are 75kg for Men and 61.5kg for Women. Please refer to the [Asian Qualifier Bulletin](#) and the 2021 WRICH Competitor Information Guide at [Competitor Overview, Terms & Conditions document](#) for the respective requirements.

5. Para Classifications.

ONLY FISA Registered and current listed PARA Classified athletes will be eligible for the Asian Qualifier. For further information on para rowing classifications, or other Para information, please contact classification@worldrowing.com;

6. Health and Safety.

Health and safety advice and conditions are included in the relevant Bulletins referred to above.

7. Entry Fee

Entry fees will be payable for each event. They must be paid at the time of entry and are not refundable. The individual entry fees are set out in the Asian Qualifier Bulletin and the 2021 WRICH Competitor Information Guide at respectively.

8. Competitor Commitment Form and Undertaking – Liability and Waiver

All competitors in the 2021 WRICH are required to sign and accept the *Competitor Commitment, Liability and Waiver* agreement which can be found at [Competitor Overview, Terms & Conditions document](#). As part of the entry process competitors must follow the instructions in the entry process to confirm their acceptance of the contents of this agreement.

9. Anti-Doping

Doping is strictly prohibited. For information about prohibited substances and methods, please consult WADA's Prohibited List which will come into effect on 1st January 2021:

https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2021list_en.pdf

For additional information, please refer to World Rowing's anti-doping information page at <https://worldrowing.com/technical/anti-doping/>

10. Enquiries

All enquiries for the Asian Qualifier to the 2021 WRICH should be addressed to 2021acq@rowing.org.hk

All enquiries for the Open Qualification pathway should follow the instructions in the 2021 WRICH Competitor Information Guide.

11. Further References

Full details can be found at the HKCRA website. Bulletins are here:

- [2021 Asian Qualifier Bulletin](#) (for Asian Qualifier)
- 2021 WRICH Competitor Information Guide (for Open Qualification pathway and WRICH Finals) [Competitor Overview, Terms & Conditions document](#)