

MINUTES OF THE ICF ONLINE BOARD MEETING – APRIL 1 and 2

APOLOGIES: Danielle, Ola

After a welcome from ICF President Thomas Konietzko, it was agreed a motion from canoe polo regarding the Athletes Commission would be discussed at the next in-person Board meeting, scheduled for Poznan in May.

The position of Secretary General received almost 100 applicants. First round of interviews will be on April 11/12 by Zoom, second round will be in-person in early May.

New roles for ICF staff were outlined, with Catherine Wieser taking over finance; Hoichan Kwon looking after the requirements of Exco, the Board and the President; Adam Collins taking over branding and marketing; and Ross Solly and Adam Collins taking over TV broadcasting and distribution.

The President said the office is working well and is very motivated.

President's report

The President said he had met Kit McConnell from the IOC, and was told the ICF can open discussions with LA28 over possible slalom venues. The question of whether the ICF will sign up to the International Testing Agency was discussed. Signing up will cost the ICF three times more than it currently spends on testing, but not signing will put the Federation out of step with the IOC. The matter will need to be raised at congress.

An update on the situation with athletes from Ukraine was provided, and the board voted unanimously to support the decision taken by the EXCO to suspend athletes and officials from Belarus and Russia. The President said he had explained the situation with the Russian Federation.

Discussion followed on the situation regarding a Belarus sponsor who had distanced itself from the position taken by the Belarus Government. The board agreed it would not be possible to make an exception for this company.

An update was provided on the use of ICF funds to help stranded Ukrainian athletes. It had been agreed EU 200,000 would be set aside, and so far around EU 33,000 has been used. The GoFund Me campaign has so far raised about EU 24,000. There was a hope the IOC might also contribute some funds, which would lessen the necessity to dip into ICF reserves.

A question was raised about how the ICF would deal with young Ukrainian athletes who may approach NF's about participation. The President said he had raised this issue with IOC member Sergey Bubka, and also with the IOC's Kit McConnell.

The Ukrainian sports minister has asked for all rankings to be frozen. The President proposed this request be passed on to the sports commission and be discussed at the May board meeting.

Some Ukrainians had asked if they can compete as refugees, but President Konietzko said they don't meet the ICF refugee requirements.

RULE CHANGES

The USA proposed several rule changes, including changes to visit requirements for venues hosting their first world cup or world championships to allow for virtual viewings, and also to award competitions up to nine years in advance. Both of these motions were not supported.

Acting secretary-general Narelle Henderson told the meeting our lawyers have recommended a change to our ICF statutes to give the Board the power to suspend a National Federation. It was suggested the board already has the power, however permission was sought to allow the President to put wording together detailing the changes.

Ocean racing proposed adding a mixed doubles category, and also requested it be allowed to change the name of its discipline from canoe ocean racing to ocean paddling. It was agreed to wait until the Fit For Future report to decide if the change was appropriate.

Canoe slalom proposed changing the penalty for late entry and late withdrawal from events from EU 50 to EU 100.

RULE CHANGE SUMMARY

Are you in favor of the ICF Statutes Changes? (USA Proposal) not passed

Yes 5, no 19

Do you agree to draft a Rule to give ICF possibility to suspend a National Federation? passed

26 yes

Do you approve the Canoe Marathon Rule Changes? passed

Yes 26, abs 1

Do you approve the Canoe Polo Rule Changes?

Passed 24 yes

Do you approve the Canoe Freestyle Rule Changes? passed

Yes 26

Do you approve the Ocean Racing Rule Changes from Spain? not passed

Yes 5, no 18, abs 2

Do you approve the Ocean Racing Rule Changes? (excluding the discipline name proposal)

passed

Yes 24, abs 1

Do you support the NF proposals for which the committee doesn't agree? yes 5, no 19, 1 abs

Do you approve the Canoe Slalom Rule Changes?

Passed 24 yes, 1 abs

Do you approve the Canoe Sprint Rule Changes? passed

Yes 23, abs 1

Do you approve the Dragon Boat Rule Changes?

Passed 25 yes, 1 abs

Do you approve the SUP Rule Changes? passed

Yes 23

Do you approve the Wildwater Canoeing Rule Changes? not passed

Yes 7, no 16 abs 1

CR 1.2.2 Do you wish to allow clubs to enter level 4 competitions into the ICF
Calendar? passed

Yes 17 no 5 abs 1

CR1.5.2 Do you wish to delete this rule? not passed

YES 10 No 12 abs 2

Do you approve the CR rules proposed by the Sport Commission? passed

YES 22

Jury members for this year's world championships were announced;

FREESTYLE – Ahmed, Greg, Lluís.

WILDWATER – Andrej, Lluís.

SLALOM – Luciano, Andrej, Albert.

SPRINT – Maree, Luciano, Cecilia.

CANOE POLO – Terry, Ruud, Cecilia.

U23 SPRINT – Andrej, Luciano, Dr Liu.

SUP – Ruud.

DRAGON BOAT – Terry.

MARATHON – Jovana, Greg, Colin.

OCEAN RACING – Andrej, Greg.

U23 SLALOM – Andrej, Branko, Luciano.

COVID PROTOCOL

Medical committee chair Tim Brabhams said a lot of the rules that had been put in place to deal with the pandemic can now be relaxed. But he emphasized the virus is still highly transmissible and so some precautions should remain. He said about 10 per cent of people will get long covid, and we need to try and minimize the risk of getting covid.

The committee recommended using rapid antigen tests rather than expensive PCR tests, and then re-test after five days. The costs would fall to the National Federations.

He emphasized this was protocol, not policy, but which the committee believes is safe for the community. Rowing protocols are currently far stricter, but the committee believes the proposed new ICF guidelines are reasonable.

Chair Brabhams said it is a flexible policy which can change. "We're looking for everyone in our sport to be good people."

The covid protocol was supported unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A new freestyle committee member was endorsed (Anne Sommerauer)

The canoe freestyle ITO / judge development and evaluation seminar was approved, to be paid from the seminars budget 8014.3.

The congress venue will be Pattaya in Thailand from November 2-6. Mini-buses will be organised to transport attendees from the airport. A discussion was had on the difficulties of attracting a quorum.

A proposal to get uniforms for ICF staff and board was suggested.

LEGACY PROJECT

ICF vice-president Lluís Rabaneda told the board legacy is an area which the ICF needs to work harder. He suggested setting up a symposium to discuss legacy, which should lead to proposals that could be taken to the IOC. He said these messages will be the key for the future so it was important the ICF lead the symposium and control the measure.

The symposium will need to have conclusions that can show the IOC the ICF is a leader in this field. It would be a good idea to present the report in Augsburg at the canoe slalom world championships. Augsburg, as host of the 1972 Olympics, would be a good example of an ICF legacy success story.

SATURDAY APRIL 2

EVENT BIDS

Questions were asked about sustainability, streaming and broadcasting, development camps and paracanoe opportunities.

Successful bids

2026 ICF MASTERS CANOE SPRINT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Bydgoszcz, Poland

2026 ICF CANOE SPRINT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Poznan, Poland

2026 ICF JUNIOR AND U23 CANOE SPRINT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Sarasota, Florida, USA

2026 ICF CANOE SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Oklahoma, USA

2026 ICF JUNIOR AND U23 CANOE SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Krakow, Poland

2025 ICF MASTERS CANOE SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS– Krakow, Poland

2026 ICF CANOE MARATHON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Sarasota, Florida, USA

2026 ICF DRAGON BOAT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Wascana Lake, Canada

2025 ICF CANOE FREESTYLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Plattling, Bavaria, Germany

2026 ICF STAND UP PADDLING (SUP) WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Sarasota, Florida, USA

WORLD CUPS

2024 ICF CANOE SPRINT WORLD CUP AND PARACANOE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Szeged, Hungary

2024 ICF CANOE SPRINT WORLD CUP – Poznan, Poland

TBC – ICF CANOE SPRINT WORLD CUP – Sarasota, USA

GENERAL BUSINESS

Slalom chair Jean-Michel Prono said Chinese organisers had asked the 2023 junior and U23 world championships be moved to Nan'an. It was also suggested the same venue could host a 2022 Super Cup.

Wildwater informed the board it was struggling to find hosts for all its events.

Canoe polo said it was concerned it still did not have a host for the 2026 world championships.

SUP said only Sarasota in Florida was bidding to host the SUP world cup.

John Edwards and the Asian Confederation were congratulated for their role in the successful Asian Paracanoe Championships.

The board was told about the successful transfer of 13 paracanoe and 13 rowing athletes from Ukraine to Nancy in France.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Poznan, May 31-June 1.