



INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

**XXXXXXXXXX**

COMPETITION RULES

**~~2022~~2023**

Taking effect from 1 January 202~~3~~<sup>21</sup>



# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide the rules that govern:

- a) XXXXXXXX
- b) The organisation of XXXXXX competitions

## LANGUAGE

~~In case of doubt,~~ British English ~~written language~~ is the recognised language for all communication relating to these competition rules and the conduct of all canoeing international competitions.

Any word which may imply the masculine gender also includes the feminine.

## COPYRIGHT

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## RULES STRUCTURE

<b>ICF Sport Governance Rules</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Common Rules applicable to all disciplines</li><li>• Exactly the same wording contained in the first chapter of each rule book</li></ul>	[CR]
<b>ICF Principle Rules</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The principle is applicable to all disciplines</li><li>• Rules tailor made for each discipline</li><li>• The principle affects all NFs to a high extent</li></ul>	[PR]
<b>ICF Sport Rules</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Competition and Field of Play rules</li><li>• All technical aspects specific to the disciplines</li></ul>	[SR]

# RULES DECISION PROCESS

## ICF Sport Governance Rules [CR]

	Congress	Board of Directors	Technical Committee	National Federations
Proposal		X	X	X
Drafting Wording		X		
Discussion	X			
Vote	X			

## ICF Principle Rules [PR]

	Congress	Board of Directors	Technical Committee	National Federations
Proposal		X	X	X
Drafting Wording		X		
Discussion	X			
Vote	X Overall policy and direction	X Final wording after congress		

## ICF Sport Rules [SR]

	Congress	Board of Directors	Technical Committee	National Federations
Proposal			X	X
Drafting Wording			X	
Discussion		X		
Vote		X		

# PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF ICF RULES

The year prior to the Congress	<b>May to November</b>	Consultation with all stakeholders (e.g., athletes, coaches, officials) about rule changes needed.
	<b>December to <u>First (1<sup>st</sup>-) of March</u></b>	Rule proposals by National Federations and ICF Technical Committees.
The year of the Congress	<b>March</b>	Analysis of all proposals by ICF Technical Committees.
	<b>4<sup>th</sup>-<u>First (1<sup>st</sup>)</u> ICF Board of Directors meeting <u>in End of March / April</u></b>	Vote of the sport rules [SR].  Assessment of sport governance rules [CR] and principle rules [PR].
	<b>At least three (3) months prior to the Congress</b>	Publication of the approved sport rules [SR] by the ICF Board of Directors.  Publication of the assessed sport governance rules [CR] and principle rules [PR].
	<b>ICF Congress <i>November / December</i></b>	Vote of the sport governance rules [CR].  Vote of the main policies and directions concerning the principle rules [PR].
	<b>Board of Directors meeting after the Congress  <i>November / December</i></b>	Vote of the principle rules [PR].
	<b><u>First (1<sup>st</sup>-) of January</u> After the Congress</b>	Publication and application of the approved rule changes.

# GLOSSARY

<b>Sport</b>	The sport is canoeing, kayaking and all paddling activities.
<b>National Federation</b>	Member National Federation of the International Canoe Federation.
<b>Discipline</b>	A discipline is a branch of a sport comprising one (1) or several events (e.g., Canoe Sprint, Canoe Slalom...).
<b>Competition</b>	The competition runs from the start of the first event to the completion of the last event of a discipline, excluding the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
<b>Athlete or player</b>	Male or female athlete. In Canoe Polo refer to <u>a</u> player.
<b>Gender</b>	Men or Women
<b>Boat/<u>board</u></b>	A boat/ <u>board</u> is the watercraft used to practice canoeing (e.g., canoe, kayak, SUP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single boat/<u>board</u>: a boat/<u>board</u> with only one (1) place for an athlete (e.g. kayak single);</li> <li>• A crew boat/<u>board</u>: a boat/<u>board</u> with more than one (1) place for an athlete (e.g. canoe four).</li> </ul>
<b>Age group</b>	e.g., <u>J</u> Junior, under 21, under 23, masters depending on each discipline
<b>Category</b>	A category is defined by a boat/ <u>board</u> and a gender (e.g., Men Kayak, Mixed Canoe).
<b>Class</b>	A class is defined by a category and the number of places in a boat/ <u>board</u> (e.g., men kayak double; women canoe four).

<b>Event</b>	An event is a contest in one (1) discipline resulting in the award of medals. An event is defined by at least a class and depending on the competition and the discipline with the additional optional information: a distance and / or an age group (e.g. junior men's kayak double 500m, under 23 women's kayak single, men's canoe double classic).
<b>Type of event</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Individual events:</b> A boat/<u>board</u> comprised of one (1) or more athletes competing against other boats/<u>boards</u>.</li> <li>• <b>Team events:</b> two (2) or more boats/<u>boards</u> competing together against other teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Event Phase</b>	A stage of competition (e.g. preliminaries, heats, semi-final, final).
<b>Run or race or match</b>	The basic unit of an event phase (e.g. heats 1 <sup>st</sup> run, semi-final, final).
<b>Competition programme</b>	The list of events included in a competition.
<b>Competition schedule</b>	The complete list of events and their different phases with the time at which they will be held.
<b>International Technical Official</b>	Oversee the operation of the competition.
<b>Host Organising Committee</b>	The host organising committee can be a National Federation or a subsidiary or a third party organisation specialising in competition management.
<b>Definition of meaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• may: optional</li> <li>• should: recommendation</li> <li>• must: mandatory / compulsory</li> </ul>
<b>Sport Class (only paracanoe book)</b>	A Sport Class is a category defined by ICF Paracanoe in the Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an eligible impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.





# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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# CHAPTER 1 - SPORT GOVERNANCE

## 1.1 - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

[CR]

1.1.1 - All competitions announced as international must be governed by the rules of the ICF.

1.1.2 - Competitions organised by a National Federation<sub>2</sub> or its affiliated associations are regarded as international if foreign athletes / teams are invited.

1.1.3 - Canoeing competitions in regional, continental<sub>2</sub> and multi-sport Games must be organised under the ICF rules for World Championships for that discipline.

1.1.4 - The Olympic events should be used as a base for the competition programme in continental games.

1.1.5 - The organisation and programme of canoeing in multi-sport games on a world level must be approved by the ICF and for continental level by the relevant continental association.

## 1.2 - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CALENDAR [CR]

1.2.1 - The international competition calendar of each discipline is organised in four (4) levels:

	Type of competition	Competition
Level 1	ICF competition	ICF World Championships
Level 2		ICF World Cups
Level 3		ICF World Ranking competitions
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• International competitions</li><li>• Masters or open competitions</li><li>• Invitational competitions</li></ul>	

1.2.2 - Only a National Federation, associate member<sub>2</sub>, their clubs, or a continental association of the ICF may apply for a competition level 4 to be entered into the ICF calendar.

1.2.3 - A calendar application for an international competition level 1 and level 2 is outlined in the ICF statutes.

1.2.4 - A calendar application for an international competition level 3 (if applicable) and level 4 can be made by the following process:

1.2.4.a - A calendar application is made directly into the ICF database;

1.2.4.b - The deadline for calendar applications for international competition level 3 is First (1<sup>st</sup>-) of September the year before the competition;

1.2.4.c - The deadline for calendar applications for international competition level 4 is three (3) months before the competition.

### 1.2.5 - Calendar publication

1.2.5.a - The calendar of ICF competitions level 1 and level 2 will be published by 1<sup>st</sup> January the year before the competitions;

1.2.5.b - The calendar of ICF competitions level 3 will be published by First (1<sup>st</sup>-) of October the year before the competitions.

1.2.5.c - The calendar of international competitions (level 4) will be published immediately after approval by the ICF.

## 1.3 - ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY FOR ICF COMPETITION (LEVEL 1 TO 3) [CR]

1.3.1 - Only athletes who are members of clubs or associations affiliated with a National Federation have the right to participate in an ICF competition.

1.3.2 - An athlete having satisfied 1.3.1. and ~~also~~ having first obtained the (written) consent of the athlete's National Federation, is permitted to compete individually in an ICF competition.

1.3.3 - Each National Federation must ensure that their athletes are in a good state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with the level of the particular ICF competition.

1.3.4 - Each National Federation must ensure that their athletes, team officials, as well as the National Federation itself, carry appropriate health, accident and personal belongings insurance.

## 1.4 - AGE GROUP

[CR]

1.4.1 - The first year an athlete can compete in an ICF competition (level 1 to 3) or an international competition (level 4) is the year of their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

1.4.2 - An athlete starting from the year of their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday can compete in an international competition (level 4) in a specific age group event with a suitably adapted competition format / rules defined by the HOC.

1.4.3 - The last year an athlete can compete in the U16 age group is the year of their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

~~1.4.3~~-1.4.4 - The last year an athlete can compete in the junior age group is the year of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

~~1.4.4~~-1.4.5 - The last year an athlete can compete in the under 21 age group is the year of their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

~~1.4.5~~-1.4.6 - The last year an athlete can compete in the under 23 age group is the year of their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

~~1.4.6~~-1.4.7 - An athlete can compete in a masters' event in the year that they reach the lower limit of the age group. The masters' age groups are defined by each discipline with a minimum age of 35 years.

~~1.4.7~~-1.4.8 - To enter in an event with a specified age group an athlete or the National Federation must produce documentary proof such as passport, identity card or similar document with a photograph, confirming the age of the athlete.

## 1.5 - ATHLETE SPORTING NATIONALITY CHANGE [CR]

1.5.1 - An athlete who has competed internationally at any level in the last three (3) years requires authorisation from the ICF with the approval of the two (2) National Federations involved ~~in order~~ to change sporting nationality.

1.5.2 - For an athlete to be eligible for a change of sporting nationality he/she must have lived in that country for the last ~~two one~~ (21) years or hold the nationality of the new country.

1.5.3 - An athlete who is aged 18 or under can change sporting nationality with the approval of the two (2) National Federations involved. He/she is not required to fulfil the two (2) year residency rule.

1.5.4 - The request for the change of sporting nationality must be made to the ICF by the new National Federation no later than 30<sup>th</sup> of November the year before the athlete wants to compete.

1.5.5 - For the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Olympic and Paralympic Charter rules will be applied for nationality issues.

1.5.6 - For an athlete to gain an Olympic or Paralympic quota place in canoeing they must hold citizenship/nationality of the National Federation they represent.

1.5.7 - An athlete cannot compete for more than one (1) National Federation in any calendar year in canoeing.

1.5.8 - UN Refugee athlete

1.5.8.a - An athlete that has no recognised country of sporting nationality and has official UN Refugee status can compete in ICF competitions. The request to compete in ICF Competitions must be sent to the ICF Headquarters who will decide if the entry can be accepted in conjunction with the Technical Chair of the discipline.

1.5.8.b - The Refugee athlete will hold the same status as a national team member from other countries in the ICF competition and abide by ICF Statutes and Competition Rules.

1.5.8.c - The Refugee athlete must be allowed to compete in the National Championships in the country where he/she obtained UN Refugee status.

1.5.8.d - Changes to the athletes UN Refugee status or that the athlete obtains a sporting nationality will activate the ICF rules for sporting nationality.

## 1.6 - ENTRIES PROCESS

[CR]

1.6.1 - ICF competitions (level 1 to level 3).

1.6.1.a - Nominal entries for ICF competitions will only be accepted from National Federations which are current members of the ICF.

### 1.6.1.b - An entry must contain:

- Name of the National Federation to which the athlete(s) belongs;
- First and last name for the athlete(s);
- The country of birth of the athlete(s);
- The gender of the athlete(s);
- Date of birth of the athlete(s);
- The ICF number of the athlete(s) (if known);
- The events in which the athlete(s) or team(s) wish to take part;
- The first, last name(s) and the e-mail address of the Team Leader.

1.6.1.c - Nominal entries must be made on the ICF online entry system;

1.6.1.d - A receipt for the nominal entry will be available via the ICF online entry system;

1.6.1.e - The deadline for nominal entries is 10 days before the first day of competition or classification for paracanoe;

1.6.1.f - In extraordinary circumstances, an application can be made to the Technical Chair for the acceptance of late nominal entries from National Federations. It is the Technical Chair's discretion to accept or decline a late entry. Late entries and late withdrawals to the competition will incur a fee of 20 50 euros per athlete in addition to the participation fee (late entries and withdrawals from events are described in chapter 13);

1.6.1.g - In crew boats the names of the athletes must be in the order that they compete in the boat. The first name must be the athlete at the front of the boat.

### 1.6.2 - International competition (level 4).

1.6.2.a - Nominal entries for international competitions (level 4) will be accepted from individuals or National Federations;

1.6.2.b - Entries must be in writing or online in accordance with the regulations given by the HOC;

1.6.2.c - An entry must contain:

- The sporting nationality of the athlete;
- First and last name(s) for the athlete;
- The gender of the athlete;
- Date of birth of the athlete;
- The events in which the athlete(s) or teams wish to take part;

1.6.2.d - The HOC must acknowledge in writing or electronically the receipt of each entry within two (2) days.

## 1.7 - VALIDITY OF A COMPETITION

[CR]

1.7.1 - World Championships (ICF competition level 1).

1.7.1.a - In the Olympic and Paralympic events, a valid World Championship is held only if at least six (6) National Federations from at least three (3) continents start in the event. If during the competition some National Federations drop out or do not finish, the validity of the Championships is not affected.

1.7.1.b - For the non-Olympic and non-Paralympic events, a valid World Championship is held only if at least six (6) National Federations in each event and at least three (3) continents start OVERALL in the competition. If during the competition some National Federations drop out or do not finish, the validity of the Championships is not affected.

1.7.2 - World Cup (ICF competition level 2) and ICF competition level 3:

1.7.2.a - A valid World Cup is held only when there is a minimum of five (5) National Federations from at least two (2) continents start in the competition.

1.7.2.b - To be recognised as a valid event at least three (3) boats/boards or three (3) teams from two (2) different National Federations start in that event.

1.7.2.c - For the validity of the event it is not necessary for all three (3) boats/boards or all three (3) teams finish.



1.7.3 - To be recognised as an international competition (level 4) at least an invitation must be distributed to National Federations or to foreign athletes.

## 1.8 - ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LEVEL 1) [CR]

1.8.1 - World Championships are only organised upon the authority of the ICF Board of Directors and only in the events given in the competition programme.

1.8.2 - Changes to the organisation of the World Championships may only be made by the process documented in the contract between the ICF and the HOC.

1.8.3 - The ~~competition programme is decided by the~~ ICF Board of Directors will determine the competition programme, based on the recommendation of the concerned Technical Committee.

1.8.4 - The competition schedule is the responsibility of the ICF. The ICF will consider the broadcasting needs and / or other external factors affecting the schedule.

1.8.5 - Jury.

1.8.5.a - During the World Championships, the supreme authority rests with the Jury.

1.8.5.b - The Jury consists of three (3) persons.

1.8.5.c - The ICF Board of Directors appoints the members of the Jury.

1.8.5.d - One (1) of these members is named Chair of the Jury.

1.8.6 - Awards.

1.8.6.a - The awards are given according to the ICF protocol guidelines.

1.8.6.b - The medals are awarded as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: a gold medal
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: a silver medal
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: a bronze medal

1.8.6.c - In the crew boat/board events or team events, each athlete will receive the appropriate medal.

1.8.6.d - To maintain the formality of the ceremony the athletes receiving medals must wear their national team uniforms.

### 1.8.7 - Nations Cup.

1.8.7.a - The Nations Cup will be awarded to the National Federation at the World Championships with the best overall performance.

1.8.7.b - The ranking list will be produced according to the system defined for each discipline.

## 1.9 - MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LEVEL 4) [CR]

1.9.1 - Masters World Championships can be organised in each discipline.

1.9.2 - The ICF Board of Directors will determine the events based on the recommendations of the concerned Technical Committee.

1.9.3 - Individual and National Federations entries will be accepted.

## 1.10 - ANTI-DOPING [CR]

1.10.1 - Doping as defined in the World Anti-Doping Code and the ICF anti-doping rules is strictly forbidden.

1.10.2 - The anti-doping programme must be conducted in accordance with the ICF anti-doping control regulations under the supervision of the ICF medical and anti-doping committee.

1.10.3 - Athletes and support personnel, entered in any ICF competition or continental championships must complete the ICF's anti-doping education programme or equivalent before competing or risk being denied entry to the competition.

## 1.11 - APPEAL TO THE ICF BOARD OF DIRECTORS [CR]

1.11.1 - A participating National Federation can appeal to the ICF Board of Directors if, after the end of the competition, new facts become known that would substantially affect a decision made at the competition.

1.11.2 - Matters of fact during the competition cannot be contested in an appeal.

1.11.3 - An appeal to the ICF Board of Directors must be submitted within 30 days following the end of the competition accompanied by a fee of 75 Euros. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

1.11.4 - The ICF Board of Directors makes its decision and addresses it in writing to the National Federation.

## 1.12 - DISQUALIFICATION FOR SERIOUS UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOUR

[CR]

1.12.1 - "Disqualified for Serious Unsportsmanlike Behaviour (DQB)" indicates a disqualification due to a serious breach of the applicable rules or regulations issued by the ICF or the governing body responsible for the competition, or a violation of the World Anti-Doping Code.

~~1.12.1 - An athlete who attempts to win a competition by irregular means, wilfully breaks the rules, or who contests their validity, as deemed by the officials, may be disqualified for the competition (DQB).~~

For DQB, the ICF has complete discretion regarding whether an Athlete/Team will be disqualified from one, several or all of the events entered at the competition, regardless of whether they are scheduled, in progress or already completed.

1.12.2 - For disqualification after competition caused by doping or ineligibility the following must be completed:

- Deletion of all achieved results and rankings of boat(s) /board(s) (DQB);
- Re-calculation of all results accordingly; **and**
- Production of the revised version of all affected outputs (results, summaries, medals).

## 1.13 - RESULTS

[CR]

1.13.1 - For ICF competitions (level 1 to 3) an electronic copy of the detailed official results must be provided to the ICF in a specified format within seven (7) days of the end of the competition. Electronic results must be kept online for historical purposes.

1.13.2 - For international competitions (level 4) an electronic copy of the detailed entries and official results should be sent to the ICF in pdf format for publication on the ICF website within seven (7) days of the end of the competition.

## 1.14 - TRADEMARKS AND ADVERTISING

[CR]

1.14.1 - The advertising of tobacco smoking and strong spirit drinks is not permitted.

1.14.2 - Boats/boards, accessories and clothing may carry trademarks, advertising symbols and written text.

1.14.3 - Images, symbols, slogans and written text unrelated to sport funding or any political messages are not permitted.

1.14.4 - All advertising materials used should be placed in such a way that they do not interfere with athletes' identification and do not affect the outcome of the race.

## 1.15 - INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIAL (ITO) - EXAMINATION [CR]

### 1.15.1 - Examination calendar.

1.15.1.a - Each year the calendar of official examinations is published for each discipline following proposal from each Technical Chair.

1.15.1.b - Continental associations or National Federations are entitled to apply to hold an examination to the concerned Technical Chair. In this case, this organising entity has to cover the examination organisation costs including the full board and travelling expenses of the examiners.

### 1.15.2 - Candidates' application.

1.15.2.a - Only National Federations are entitled to nominate candidates for examination at least 30 days before the examination.

1.15.2.b - The applications must be sent to the ICF headquarters on the form designed by the ICF and published on the ICF website.

1.15.2.c - The ICF headquarters will forward the list of candidates to the concerned Technical Chair.

1.15.2.d - For every candidate applying for the examination, the National Federation will be charged 20 euros.

1.15.2.e - The final invoice will be sent to the National Federation in the period between 30<sup>th</sup> of October and 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

1.15.2.f - National Federations are financially responsible for their Officials.

### 1.15.3 - Conduct of the examination.

1.15.3.a - A sub-committee, appointed by the concerned Technical Chair, will administer the examination.

1.15.3.b - The examination will be carried out in English for officials who wish to be considered as officials for ICF competitions and will be based on their knowledge of the ICF statutes and the ICF rules. Each discipline may add a practical assessment or minimum experience requirement;:-

1.15.3.c - If candidates take the examination in any other official language, they may not be considered for officiating at ICF competitions.

#### 1.15.4 - Officials' card

1.15.4.a - After completion of the examination the concerned Technical Chair completes the ICF official examination report and sends it to the ICF headquarters, where the officials' cards for those who passed the exam are issued and sent to the National Federations;:-

1.15.4.b - The officials' cards expire after four (4) years;:-

1.15.4.c - If an official's card is expired, lost, or destroyed a 20 euro fee for renewal will be charged;:-

1.15.4.d - A renewed official's card will be issued starting from the previous expiry date.

1.15.4.e - If an official's card has been expired for more than two years, the ITO must complete the examination again.

### 1.16 - ITO - NOMINATION FOR ICF COMPETITIONS

[CR]

1.16.1 - Only National Federations are entitled to nominate ITOs for ICF competitions level 1 and level 2.

1.16.2 - The deadline for submitting ITO proposals for each discipline is the 31<sup>st</sup> of December the year prior to the competition.

1.16.3 - The nominations are submitted to the respective Technical Chair (with a copy to the ICF headquarters).

1.16.4 - The Technical Chair will present a list of Officials to the ICF Board of Directors for their approval at the latest by 1<sup>st</sup> of March.