

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

ICF XXXIX CONGRESS

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2022 / TIME / LOCATION: PATTAYA, THAILAND

ATTENDEES

NAME	TITLE	ATTENDANCE
THOMAS KONIETZKO (GER)	PRESIDENT	Y
CECILIA FARIAS (ARG)	VICE PRESIDENT	Y
LIU AIJIE (CHN)	VICE PRESIDENT	N
LLUIS RABANEDA (ESP)	VICE PRESIDENT	Y
LUCIANO BUONFIGLIO (ITA)	TREASURER	Y
RICHARD PETTIT (GBR)	SECRETARY GENERAL	Y
MAREE BURNETT (NZL)	PRESIDENT OF OCA	Y
JOAO COSTA ALEGRE (STP)	PRESIDENT OF CAC	N
SHOKEN NARITA (JPN)	PRESIDENT OF ACC	Y
ALBERT WOODS (GBR)	PRESIDENT OF ECA	Y
VICTOR RUIZ (PUR)	PRESIDENT OF COPAC	N
TOSHI FURUYA (JPN)	CANOE SPRINT CHAIR	Y
JEAN-MICHEL PRONO (FRA)	CANOE SLALOM CHAIR	Y
JOHN EDWARDS (CAN)	PARACANOE CHAIR	Y
BRIDGITTE HARTLEY (RSA)	ATHLETE COMMITTEE CHAIR	Y

AGENDA

- 1. President's introductory speech**
- 2. Speech – Thai Federation President**
- 3. Video welcome – IOC President, Thomas Bach**

President Bach said the slalom world championships sent a very important message -sport is back. He offered congratulations on our innovation, on new initiatives in digital presentation, and on stepping up the fight against doping. He said the ICF is making positive steps.

The IOC is ready to shape post-pandemic world with our Olympic values. Focus on strengthening role for sustainable future. Faster, higher, stronger, together.

- 4. TK speech**

- The future of our sport clearly lies in streaming, however we don't want to neglect our TV partners.
- There will be no test events for Paris, but we will use World Cups in slalom and sprint on the Olympic venue next year.
- LA28 we are in discussions with hosts and will announce soon our venue for our six slalom events. Sprint will be held in the heart of LA.

Speech from Shoken Narita – Thank you all for your support. I have been involved with Asian Canoeing for almost 40 years. In 1983 we had six countries, now we have 39 countries. It was a great pleasure, but at the same time it was a fun time for me. Last year's Olympics was a very difficult Olympics to host, thank you Mr Jose Perurena and Helen Brownlee for your strong support. Helen's role in keeping slalom in the Olympics because of her fight to have gender equity.

(UKRAINE) – We express our respect and gratitude for the support of ICF during this difficult time and invasion of our territory by Russia and Belarus. UCF thanks all Federations who accepted our teams for free, giving us an opportunity to perform, to ensure Ukraine is not broken on the battlefield or in the sports arena. Special thanks to Canada for their support for helping our team at the Paracanoe and Canoe Sprint World Championships.

(INDIA) – Visa issues. We need help from ICF to help with visa issues, and also with transportation for boats.

5. Congress rules (RP)

6. Roll Call

7. Approval of minutes

8. Approval of two new members

Request from Canoe Federation of Solomon Islands and Comoros, which would take to 171 total members. Both approved.

9. Secretary General (RP)

We had 34 amazing events this year. Fantastic organising committees. Been a difficult but progressive season. We have huge opportunity in this room to look at how we can connect with every paddler on the planet. I want to share best practice among the community, so we can build a stronger future for the sport.

Simplify, unify, amplify.

We continually need to think how we can unite and extend support to the athletes. We need to remain relevant and consider how we can amplify our message. A recent example is Portugal – the marathon world championships – which showed an incredible connection with the local community. It's exciting to hear the views of the athletes.

TK has continued to push forward the sporting agenda beyond the sporting community, important to establish relationships beyond our canoeing community.

10. Finance

Approval of the 2021 auditor report.

11. Treasurer's report

In past three years no-one could imagine what has happened. In March we witnessed bad events, the war in Europe, which produced a real economic crisis. Energy prices skyrocket. All of these events produced great damage. German Government bonds were the best, and were considered a secure investment. But they sustained a 5.75 per cent drop. European bonds dropped 7.8 percent. Globally the downsize is extraordinary. The negative is everywhere.

We condense the losses to about 6.5 per cent, in a market which lost between 12 and 15 per cent, because we choose conservative investments. Our activity can go very well to the Olympic Games in Paris.

12. Vice-President report (CF)

We are very satisfied with the success of our women who have been attending seminars to promote their leadership learnings. Very generous of British Canoeing to help prepare the governance issues with our International Partnership Program.

Time for the ICF to work on a transgender program. We can not be left behind. We will consult all athletes during this process.

Tribute to Helen Brownlee for her work promoting the role of women in the ICF.

We have enough women ITO's, but we need more appointments from the Federations. Important to increase the number of women coaches.

This pathway is not easy, there are many challenges. But it is important in laying the way for our future generations.

(MH) – At the last Paralympics we had more female ITO's than male ITO's. This was a great success in your efforts.

13. Vice-president's report (LR)

Thank you to Chinese Federation for donation of money that enabled us to run a training camp in Barcelona. Need to improve communication between ICF and organisers, provide new IT tools to organisers, better broadcasting distribution, harmonisation of timing and scoring.

Multi-sport Games – we will keep pushing with Commonwealth Games, and also Mediterranean Games and hoping to be back in 2026.

Brisbane 2032 – Thank you very much Paddle Australia for being so active in promoting us. MOU with Redlands on sustainability is close to being signed, building a venue that is sustainable and will create a legacy. Talking with constructors and investors on how to build a venue that it sustainable for the future.

END OF DAY ONE

DAY TWO

14. Paris 2024 video

Tony Estanguet message of support. Our sport team is working daily to ensure we display canoe sprint, paracanoe and canoe slalom in the best possible light. We will continue to strengthen our collaboration. Our sport has all the strengths to grow. Kayak cross has been well received by Olympic movement. In future we need to have strong balance between the traditional and the new.

15. Athletes Commission report (BH)

Goal is to create an atmosphere so athletes can raise their voice when required. We would like to attract more athletes to represent their sport under the ICF umbrella. Create a balance between current and retired athletes.

Adopt and endorse athlete declaration for athlete rights and responsibilities. Unanimous support.

(SGP) Need support from ICF to help our athletes transition back to sport after pandemic.

(BH) Athlete365 has already developed some materials to help with this.

16. Fit for Future

(CF) Eight pillars integral for the future of our sport. We cannot succeed without the support from everyone across our sport. This is a full team process. We have compiled this with a 360 degree view of all elements of our sport. Look to build relationships outside the canoeing community.

Fit For Future is a starting point. A strategic set of principals for our future direction.

(TK) This is not a final document, it is our responsibility to update it in the future when necessary.

(SGP) To develop globally we are affected by politics. How courageous are we going to be? Are we going to take a stand that politics and sport should not mix. It's not just Ukraine. Also China and Taiwan, North Korea. I hope ICF can use FFF strategy and work on something that may push sports forward towards humanity.

(CF) We can not predict the future, but through sport we need to push to make the world better.

(TK) Sport has a very special mission, and we have to be very careful not to mix sport and politics. Of course sport is affected by Government decisions. Sport can help to unite the world.

(SGP) Celebrate emotions – I hope not focus on negative reactions, need to focus on positives.

(RP) There are successes and failures in sport. If we only celebrate success, we don't present a realistic vision of what sport is. Often negative emotions can drive you on for better in the future. We should celebrate all areas of our sport.

(JA) IOC President left clear message for Olympic movement that sport has power to change the world. In our future plan we need to concentrate on the power of the sport. What can we do as a sport to help athletes when they finish their sport?

(BH) Athlete365 program offers so many exciting possibilities for athletes when they finish competing.

ENDORSED UNANIMOUSLY

(TK) This decision sends a strong message that our sport can help create a better world.

17. Budget

(LB) We can look with certainty at our activities in the next two years. Thanks to IOC, but also our conservative management of our investments. We have significant reserves EU \$16m to guarantee our activities for the next two years. We must continue to work together.

Next budget will be indicative budget, because we must be able to change if we receive any negative situations.

(RP) Video from International Testing Agency

Benjamin Cohen – By partnering with ITA the ICF will show its determination towards sports integrity. We will work tirelessly to protect the ICF and your athletes.

How optimise and reallocate the budget based around our strategic priorities.

25 per cent reduction in travel and expenses of President and ExCo.

Decrease cost of Congress by 40k

Saving 45k in HQ costs, and lower cost around financial advice, and lower cost of legal representation. Believe we have strengthened areas where we have been challenged legally in the past.

Savings by internalising tv distributions. Savings in IT fees/website.

Alignment of tv production costs.

Increased investment in anti-doping.

Invest in digital assets management. Digital development and social media promotion.

Appointment of regional development managers.

Key focus areas – Diversity and inclusion, sustainability, campaigns , virtual events, CRM system. Want to be part of the Olympic virtual series.

(SGP) We need to look at inflation risk, costs and expenses will be shooting up. Do we have a safety net in place? Is there a plan to increase membership fees?

(TK) There is no discussion to raise membership fees. We are forced to invest in several areas that are important for us to secure our place in the future.

(IND) ICF should look towards Asian countries for the TIP. We need support in Asia and Africa with TIP. If some big events from Europe can come to our countries.

(TK) We have reached a level in Europe we can't increase any more. Our future focus is in Asia and Africa etc, we need to increase our support. Continental Managers will help us achieve these goals.

Awarding our events from recent years, we have gone to many new countries, including Canada and China. This year we organised several world cups in USA.

(MH) Can you give us a general comparison to the previous period?

(TK) We are spending EU \$1.5m more than previous two years, savings of 450,000, and we try to increase our revenues.

(SRI) Increase revenue – we should also focus on non-Olympic sports like dragon boat, ocean racing. Very big in our areas. We need to enhance the synergies between the dragon boat associations and the ICF. These are the windows of opportunities for the sports.

(IRE) Is there a risk to the changes of levels of money from the IOC.

(TK) After the Games we get in three periods money from the IOC. It's exactly the same amount after Tokyo that we got after Rio. Additionally we can apply for funds from IOC for special projects. We can't expect until 2024 additional funds from IOC. We should be very conservative with our budget proposals.

(IND) Beach Games and Asian Games ICF not involved in dragon boat, it has been given to another federation. ICF dragon boat is dying in India, Sri Lanka and China. We need help to promote.

(TK) I think we can discuss this tomorrow during open session.

BUDGET 61 yes, 2 no, 2 abstain.

18. Continental reports

Europe: (AW) Good to be part of a multi-sport environment. European Championships in Munich. European Games are growing exponentially. Canoe slalom will form part of the Olympic selection, which is good news. Don't have a 1000 metre course for canoe sprint. 550 canoeing athletes.

Oceania: (MB) Covid was particularly challenging for all of us. All our members had long border closures. Looking forward to kayaking being on the program for the Pacific Games for the first time.

Americas: (VR) We are working with the organising committee of Santiago 23, everything working well for slalom and sprint.

(TK) Congratulate Victor and COPAC team for all their hard work. Great progression and promotion of all our sports.

Asia.

Africa: (JA)

(TK) Great to sign this MOU between ANOC and ICF. We want to help local manufacturers to extend their production line to produce sprint boats good enough for beginners to reduce cost of transport.

19. Discipline Chair Reports

Dragon boat – Dr Liu. Thank you to Czech Union for hosting the 2022 World Championships at short notice. Due to the economic situation it is very difficult to travel to inspect all venues. We are trying to work on a closer relationship with IDBF.

(JP) If dragon boat is included in The World Games 2025, it will be through the ICF, because it is recognised by the IOC.

(SRI) Same problem as SUP. What is our approach to sort out governance issues?

Whitewater – Manuela. Objectives to grow the sport, increase international reach, be more adaptive to race rules and boats. Need closer association with continental federations to help grow our sports. Finding new organisers is still a challenge. In future combine more whitewater disciplines, including with freestyle, rafting and extreme rafting.

Canoe polo – (GS). Thank you to Egypt for starting canoe polo. Very successful projects there. Thanks to Patxi for everything you have done to promote our sport in the World Games. Amateur athletes spent a lot of time and a lot of money this year.

World Championships in St Omer. To get 26 nations there was a big effort. Zero Covid cases. Eight live stream commentators, did every game. 15,000 people at opening ceremony. 8000 spectators at Sunday's final. NZ won gold, highest scorer women – Singapore. Highest scorer men – Japan.

World Games were a great success. Sold out performances.

Sending 30 boats to South America – 20 Argentina, 10 Paraguay, thanks to support of Yupin Sports.

(SGP) Live streaming can generate revenue. Do you get it from Planet Canoe, or from local country. Can we get canoe polo in the Asian Games?

(GS) Revenue from live streaming – I hope we could generate revenue, but I don't want to deter the 300,000 people watching. Re Asian Games – the big thing is there needs to be a clarity of which sports for which games. I hope it can be in the Asian Games. Next step is to discuss which sports go to which multi-sport games.

(TK) There are Beach Games, Continental Games where we can fight to have our non-Olympic sports added. It is first and foremost a task for the continental federations to lobby as part of continental games.

20. Awards

Honorary memberships – Frank Garner, Don McKenzie, Joao Tomasini, Shoken Narita.

END DAY TWO

DAY THREE

21. RULE CHANGES

VOTED SEPERATELY

Do you approve to amend rules in 1.5.2 concerning Athletes eligibility, with a 1-year period? **YES**

(TF) Sprint presentation

(DEN) Seeking clarification regarding portages 5000.

(TF) We are in a period of transition. We understand athlete opinion. But for TV it is most exciting. We want to try for one more year with the portages.

(FRA) Do you want to work closely with the marathon committee?

(TF) We are very happy to work with all the committees.

(JMP) Slalom presentation

(RF) Have precisions for slalom been communicated? We don't know what changes have been asked to the IOC?

(JMP) We receive written questions after Augsburg. Mostly there is no clarification, just modification. Your concerns have been listed and summarised.

(RF) Simplify and unify – we see doubling up in sprint and paracanoe, but not in slalom. There is a very big difference, there is no unity in approach.

(TK) Our philosophy is not to interfere with our experts. We want to simplify for 2028, the qualification process.

(JMP) We have less quotas, so it does not allow a bigger distribution. We know if we allow multiple entries, we block other countries to progress. We already have 86 per cent of medals going to European nations, and as soon as have double participation you reduce possibility of other nations going through.

(EG) European qualifiers – no athlete consultation regarding quota spot allocation.

(JMP) This change in calendar was proposed to European Association, then we evaluate it would lead us to CAS case. Then became requirement from European Games, the consultation was made within the board. We had no chance to consult with the team, it is more political.

(TK) Athletes will be involved in a working group established next year for 2028 qualification.

(MH) Sustainability. Our world championships are still growing, both slalom and sprint. Why do you still have C4 in the program? This was a long time ago, and we still have it. We should start to think seriously about this sustainability and bring us a little more to reality.

Judging – In slalom we have gate judges and video judges at European championships. The gate judges decision changed 95 times. In present technology we can create a system much faster. In sprint, we have course umpires. They are some times very far behind, sometimes 200 metres behind. Now we have GPS system it is no problem to follow the boats, we can reduce the number of judges.

(TK) You can take this to the ECA committee.

(TF) It's very important to save canoe discipline.

(JE) Paracanoe presentation. Goals – increasing women LA28 – 12 events and 120 athletes. 2032 Brisbane – Inclusion of upper limb impairments into athlete classification. Getting involved in Special Olympics. We have opportunity to bolster and improve in this category.

(RH) Marathon presentation. 2022 we had first paracanoe races, it was fantastic to watch. Suffering a little bit with numbers in canoe. Need to work to increase the numbers.

Future – Relay races. In 2026 have first marathon and SUP world championships combined in Sarasota, Florida.

(LR) Streaming numbers for marathon were some of the biggest for the season. It shows how progressive the sport is.

(CS) Ocean racing presentation. Providing adequate visual coverage for ocean racing presents many challenges. Our aim is to place far higher emphasis on safety, to seek better tracking device, and improve visual recognition.

(MH) Why do we call boats surf ski?

(CS) Discipline originated in South Africa and Australia. In those countries it is called surf ski. For reasons outside our control we can't call it surf ski.

SEPARATE OCEAN RACING VOTE

Do you approve to amend article 6.3.2 using the average age to determine the age group?

(not approved by ICF Board: The Board advises to vote NO)

VOTE SUPPORT BOARD YES 14 NO 36 ABSTAIN 3

(TB) Freestyle presentation

Future – tap into recreational paddlers, paracanoe community, new locations for development camps in Asia and Africa.

(NH) SUP Presentation.

SUP is a very fast-growing industry. We had third largest number of entries by country, because we have an open entry system.

(TK) Board will approve Thailand as host of next year's SUP World Championships

22. Next Congress

Antalya, Turkey bid to host 2024 ICF Congress Two dates proposed for November.

Yes 55 No 0 Abstain 1

NEXT MEETING DETAILS

(TK) Closing address – Antalya will be an election Congress. We intend to apply again for our positions because we feel we are not finished our job yet.

Thanks to ICF staff and board of directors. Most important message is we are staying united and we are able to face all challenges ahead of us. That will be noticed in the world of sport.

ICF APPROVED BY:

SIGNATURE: