

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
SPORT FOR ALL COMMITTEE
IN THE PERIOD 2007 -2008**



**Report from Jose Perurena
Sport for All Committee Chairman
For the XXXII. ICF Congress in Rome, 2008**

Sport for All is a movement promoting the Olympic ideal that sport is a human right for all individuals regardless of race, social class and sex. The movement encourages sports activities that can be exercised by people of all ages, both sexes and different social and economic conditions.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) set up a Sport for All Working Group in 1983 prompted by the booming health and fitness trend. The group was to establish how the Olympic Movement could help and promote such activities.

The continued development of the health and fitness/sport for all trend, which boomed in the 1980s, prompted the IOC President to set up an official IOC Sport for All Commission. The most important aim of the Commission is to encourage the practice of Sport for All, particularly in the developing world, via International Sports Federations (IFs), National Olympic Committees (NOCs), and national sports organisations.

The International Canoe Federation set up an official ICF Sport for All Committee in 2006

Role and Mission

Many years ago, there was a touring committee with the sole objective of organising an international tour for canoe tourists and awarding diplomas. The ICF committee was dissolved and the activities were conferred on the continental associations.

Canoeing has a strong future as it can be practiced competitively as well as recreationally. In addition, canoeing is a good offer for disabled paddlers. Sport in general but also canoeing have developed further, especially in the range of canoe tourism. This area will gain more and more importance in the future and thus the question came up what would be the ICF's answers to these challenges.

Developing countries have shown, however, that they are challenged to launch new programs. In addition, children's recreational activities and the leisure time behaviour of adults as well have changed considerably over the last years. The connection between sport and economy is important but not well understood. The National Federations will have to be open minded to e.g. working with the canoe industry. This can be a good avenue for development for Asia, south and Central America and Africa. In Nepal, for example, the country was primarily mountaineering as regards tourism, which was later linked to wildwater and then connected to rafting. Today everybody benefits from this partnership, particularly the competitive sport.

There is a continued struggle for new members between sports around the world and we must continue to think about our future and work on the design. For this reason, the ICF created this committee to take a broader view of the sport. It is important to the development of our sport in the future. New non-Olympic Sports are also included in the work and the responsibility of this committee. Today, we see development of recreational racing which is important to our future vision.

This Committee is considered very important by the IOC. So, we must work hard to make this committee productive and successful. When the committee has good solutions to the challenges, then it will contribute to our future success. If the members of the committee have come to good conclusions and solutions, then we can weave it into real projects, check the feasibility and make this available to the national and continental federations for their work on the spot.

The overarching mission and goal of this committee is to increase access to canoeing for all, no matter their competitive level, age, physical ability or gender in accordance with the ICF Statutes and in keeping with the need to maintain environmental awareness. In doing so, the committee has come to many conclusions as to how to bring about change. In summary, the committee feels that creating events to bring people of all levels, age, physical ability and gender will help to demonstrate our commitment to the inclusion and participation of all people in canoeing. More importantly, however, we feel that a strong system of education and dissemination of information, particularly via the internet, will help to address the awareness around these issues and create momentum to change the status quo within the International Canoe Federation.

The Committee Members ICF Sport for All Committee

Jose Perurena, Spain
Thomas Konietzko, Germany
Avinash C. Kholi, India
Gina Sanchez, USA
Francesco Conforti, Italy
Yoshio Tsukio, Japan

What is our mission

The practice of canoe is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practicing canoe in accordance with his or her needs.

This Committee should be named "**Canoeing for All.**"

What are the issues that face this committee?

Our committee aims to address the issues that arise from the following problems:

1. Discrimination based on socio-economic status
2. Discrimination based on gender
3. Discrimination based on age
4. Discrimination based on physical or mental ability
5. Lack of access based on environmental degradation

Our committee was not given the opportunity to opine on the issue of gender because a separate commission already exists; however, given the importance of the issue, we feel strongly that we should have input into this important issue in the same way that the Committee on Disabled Paddling now is a part of this committee.

Our Committee proposes the following solutions to the above issues:

1. Links to sports tourism and recreational racing as a transfer of wealth from rich countries to poor countries and a link from recreation to competitive canoeing.
2. More discussion on the issue of gender equity.
3. Establishment of a master's paddling program to ensure that paddlers of all ages may participate in canoing.
4. Establishment of a disabled paddling program to ensure that paddlers of all physical and mental abilities may participate in canoeing.
5. Establishment of a program for environmental awareness to ensure that all paddlers around the world continue to have water access for canoeing.

Links to Tourism

Why establish these links?

- Tourism can be a way to create equality between developing and developed nations through the creation of jobs and the development of infrastructure for the establishment of the sport of canoeing.
- Sports tourism creates environmental awareness.
- Sports tourism exposes many people to canoeing and links recreational canoeing with competitive canoeing.
- Sports tourism brings together many age groups.

What are the challenges to establishing these links?

- We must collaborate with international organizations (i.e. International Rafting Association, International Va'a Association) as well major industry participants (i.e. tour operators, manufacturers).
- The scale of the sports tourism industry is very large and requires a lot of resources.

What actions do we intend to take?

- Publish a safety standard so that tour operators can rate themselves for the information and safety of participants.
- Brand the safety system as a way to gain exposure for the International Canoe Association.
- Integrate with recreational events to establish our presence as the leader for competitive canoeing (i.e. Eco Challenge, etc.)
- Consolidate resources for these activities (manufacturers of equipment, etc.)
- Create a calendar of World events that include canoeing.
- Create a web portal to consolidate resources for tourism.
- Create an educational system that can be used with tourism and recreation.

Master's Program

Why establish this program?

- Master's paddling ensures that paddlers of all ages have the opportunity to pursue competitive canoeing, no matter their age.
- Master's paddling encourages life-long health.
- Master's paddling helps to retain paddling alumni.
- Master's paddlers are a source of officials and club support.
- Master's paddling is a way to transfer discipline and sports culture from one generation to another.

What are the challenges to establishing this program?

- We must integrate with the well established Master's World Games.

- We must address the technical rules to allow for Master's paddling and the specific needs of this program.
- We must determine the best way and timing to integrate the program with our current program of international competition.
- We must consider the issues of cost and potentially recommend the introduction of a mono-type boat for Master's competition.

What actions do we intend to take?

- Create a program of international master's competition.
- Establish protocols and standards for these competitions.
- Work with the World Master's Games to establish the next program of events.
- Meet with the Chairs of the technical committees to consider what changes to the technical rules must be made.
- Explore other organizations that can help us create master's events such as World Military Games, etc.

Disabled Paddling Program

Note: The Disabled Paddling Committee was separate and run by Francesco Conforti for 2 years prior to the formation of today's Committee.

Why establish this program?

- Disabled Paddling creates an opportunity for disabled paddlers to participate in canoeing.

What are the challenges to establishing this program?

- We must collaborate with International and National Paralympic organizations where they are separate from the National Federations.
- We must broaden the lobby for disabled paddlers within the National Federations.
- We must consider the technical, safety and venue handicapped access issues inherent in conducting a disabled paddling program.
- We must consider the cost of mounting a disabled paddling program and possibly consider a monotype boat.

What actions do we intend to take?

- We intend to send a second round of questionnaires to determine the current state of disabled paddling programs for canoe around the world primarily by distributing these questionnaires at the Sprint and Slalom World Championships and Continental events.
- We aim to establish at least one international disabled paddling event by 2008.
- We aim to create a symposium for disabled paddling in conjunction with the 2008 international paddling event.

We aim to participate in the London 2012 Paralympics in at least Flatwater Canoeing and with at least 18 countries and 3 continents.

During the Flatwater and Slalom World Championships the questionnaires were delivered to all the present countries, 20 countries have sent the questionnaire.

Countries	Is your NF responsible for disabled ?	Does your Federation already have the activity for disabled?
AUSTRIA	NO	NO
BRASIL	YES	YES
CANADA	YES	YES
CROACIA	NO	NO
CZECH REPUBLIC	NO	NO
DENMARK	NO	NO
FRANCE	YES	YES
GREAT BRITAIN	YES	YES
INDIA	YES	NO
ITALY	NO	YES
JAPAN	YES	YES
NORWAY	YES	YES
PUERTO RICO	YES	NO
SLOVENIA	NO	NO
SOUTH AFRICA	NO	NO
SPAIN	NO	NO
SWEDEN	NO	NO
USA	YES	YES
VENEZUELA	YES	YES

Environmental Awareness Program

Why establish this program?

- Environmental quality is paramount to the future existence of our sport.

What are the challenges to establishing this program?

- Environmental degradation has created sensitivity around issues of water access, so we must be sensitive when we create this program.

What actions to we intend to take?

- Publish an “Agenda 21” for Canoeing in accordance with the IOC’s Agenda 21 for the Environment.
- Publish a guide to create environmental awareness.
- Publish a manual for use by ICF participants and international events.
- Distribute the information via web and hard-copy.
- Brand an ICF environmental awareness logo.
- Link events to environmental awareness.
- Establish a worldwide “Water Clean Up Day.”

Jose Perurena
Chairman Sport for All Commission

Appendix A

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

Jose Perurena Chairman of the Sport For All Commission

QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONNAIRE SPORT FOR ALL (PADDLEABILITY) AND SEND IT TO THE ICF HEADQUARTERS IN LAUSANNE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BEFORE 31ST OF DECEMBER 2007

NATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

1) Is your Federation responsible for Disabled Canoeing in your country?

YES NO (*Please tick appropriate box*)

(If the answer is YES then continue to question 2)

(If the answer is NO then please complete the next part of question 1)

Could you please tell us the name of the Organisation in your country that is responsible for disabled sport?

Organisation

Contact Name

Address

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-Mail _____

2) Does your Federation already have the activity of disabled canoeing?

YES NO (*Please tick appropriate box*)

If the Answer is YES could you please answer the following:

a) How many people participate :

-

b) What level of competition do you have (National/Regional Championships/events etc.):

-

c) Do you have competition rules :

d) With what types of boats :

e) In which categories Men/Women, K1/K2 etc, Flatwater Racing and/or Slalom Racing:

3) Is your Federation interested in canoeing for disabled?

YES NO (Please tick appropriate box)

If the ICF held International and World Championships for Disabled Canoeing, would your Federation be interested in participating?

World Championships SLALOM YES NO (Please tick appropriate box)

World Championships FLATWATER YES NO (Please tick appropriate box)

If you want to send us more information about this theme, kindly write them down here!

ICF SPORT FOR ALL COMMISSION (DISABLED) is very interested in knowing your own opinions: _____

SIGNATURE

FEDERATION PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY GENERAL

DATE: _____