

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

ORDINARY CONGRESS

MINUTES OF THE
XXXVI ICF ORDINARY CONGRESS
HELD IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN
25 & 26 NOVEMBER 2016





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1. Opening of the Congress

The ICF President announced the approval of the new Governance as per the Extraordinary Congress. He welcomed the Minister of Sport of Azerbaijan. In turn the Minister of Sport welcomed everybody to Baku.

2. Roll-call of delegates and establishing of the Quorum

There were 98 federations present including proxy votes.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2014 ICF Congress

Vote on 2014 Minutes	
Ballot	Votes
YES	87
NO	4
ABSTAIN	2
MOTION CARRIED	

The minutes of the 2014 ICF Congress in Warsaw were approved.

4. Appointment of scrutinisers for the period of the Congress

The following delegates were approved by the Congress as scrutinisers for the voting:

- Leyla Alyeva (AZE)
- Jens Kahl (GER)
- Charles Luckman (USA)

5. President's Report

The Rio Olympic Games had been successful for Canoeing. The ICF was very proud to be at the Paralympic Games for the first time with Paracanoe. John Edwards was congratulated for his work.

For the Youth Olympic Games 2018 it was announced that the YOG Qualification would be contested in Barcelona in April 2018.

The ICF was reviewing the programme for the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups to ensure the popularity of events and ultimately the sport.

NFs were thanked for organising training camps for women's canoe and it was mentioned that Hungary had made a contribution of one million Euros to the ICF development programme over the next four years.

The ICF Headquarter staff had worked very hard over the previous years. Similar IFs were investing in their HQs with more professional activities. The ICF needed to do the same.

The ICF had been to the Court of Arbitration (CAS) 6 times in the last year which required money, time and energy of the Headquarters. This was not envisaged in the ICF's working plan.

The new Executive Committee of IDBF was willing to solve the long standing problem with Dragonboat. The objective was to sign an agreement with IDBF to organize joint World Championships.

The International Surf Association (ISA) had made a proposal to be in the next YOG in Argentina with SUP. The ICF would make a proposal to include SUP on flatwater and leave open water to ISA. The ICF Executive Committee had approved to include the SUP category in all canoeing disciplines. The ICF Congress would discuss this point later.

There were some issues regarding the venue location for Tokyo 2020. Canoe Sprint however, would finally stay in Tokyo.

It was requested that the ICF solve the SUP issue as soon as possible so that it could be included under NF activities.

Secretary General Report

The ICF had the smallest number of staff of all Olympic Federations but also had a large



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number of annual sporting events to organise. With only 6 full time staff, workload far exceeded the human resources of the ICF.

Overall ICF Television had been a major success. However Eurosport would not show Canoeing in the future. This was a big blow for Canoeing exposure. In 2016 we lost over 20 million viewers due to the Eurosport decision.

The EBU contract for World Championships was currently being renegotiated but the loss of Eurosport was a major hurdle. It could impact how ICF deals with the World Championships TV project for 2017-2020.

A new agreement with the Olympic Channel was a positive move for more exposure of Canoeing. In addition, for 2016, the ICF had made 9 new agreements with broadcast partners which added an additional 136 countries showcasing Canoeing.

The TV figures for Rio 2016 Olympic Games would be published by the IOC in January 2017. Overall it had been a successful Games with fantastic TV pictures for Canoeing

Paracanoe was introduced to the Paralympics with fantastic success. The ICF had come a long way in a short period of time and we all should be proud of that fact.

The ICF had signed a two year marketing contract with Tridem marketing company which had contacted over 150 companies in the 2 year period. Unfortunately no international sponsor has been found so far.

The Court of Arbitration cases were very expensive and time consuming in terms of human resources. The legal cases were:

- Olympic Qualification System dispute ICF vs ITA/GBR
- Russian Doping offenses mentioned in McLaren Report, in Rio 2016
- Belarus Doping offenses at French training camp
- Moldova case

6. Reports by the

a) 1st vice President

He referred to the report.

He explained his work with the ICF was focused on flatwater. The main task was to support the ICF development programme which represented the 3rd highest amount on the ICF budget.

Development of Canoe in the continents was very important and NFs needed to work with the respective continent to develop Canoeing in their region. In Rio 2016 Olympic Games the ICF had returned the best ever performance results of the TIP programme.

b) 2nd Vice President

He referred to the report.

He had represented the ICF and Canoeing the best way he could during last two years all over the world.

c) 3rd Vice President

He referred to the report.

He highlighted his involvement with the ICF as ExCo member and Jury member.

It was important to interact and build bridge with the Olympic Family and as an IOC member going around the world he promoted Canoeing to the Olympic Movement.

He wanted to continue to work with the athletes to make sure the next generation of athletes remained connected to the ICF work. This included engagement with the ICF Athlete Committee.

d) Canoe Sprint

He thanked the Canoe Sprint Committee for the great job they had done during the last two years.

Rio 2016 Olympic Games summed up in a few words: Great weather, large crowds, iconic site.

For Tokyo 2020 the Olympic Programme would be 6 Men and 6 Women events with



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equal participation numbers.

In March 2014 the ICF President appointed the Olympic Programme Commission led by Thomas Konietzko which included the Canoe Sprint Chair to look at future events. The IOC approval of the programme would be in 2017.

e) Canoe Slalom

World Cup participation was positive in 2016 with an average of 41 NFs participating (35 in 2015). There were 67 NF's named on the 2016 ranking lists.

30 NOC's qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. The 12 medals were spread between 9 NOC's from 3 continents.

The plan was to introduce new exciting events like Canoe Slalom Cross (CSLX) to the Slalom Programme.

Streaming statistics for Canoe Slalom:

	2014	2015	2016
Minutes viewed	5 million <i>2 world champs</i>	16 million <i>2 world champs</i>	15 million <i>1 world champs</i>

Social Media statistics

	20 million	59 million
	<i>2 world champs</i>	<i>1 world champs</i>
Global Audience reach		

Future initiatives were to have a slalom gate system where penalties could be easily identified by non-experts and spectators.

f) Canoe Polo

The 2016 World Championships, Siracus (ITA) was a historic event as it was played in the city centre. The Continental Championships had been successful over the last few years

regarding the number of participants.

CONTI sponsorship continued and it had been a healthy partnership so far.

There currently was no bidder for the World Championships 2020.

Particular attention for the future was to develop Canoe Polo in new countries that had no international participation.

7. ICF Membership Report & Affiliation of new National Federations to the ICF

Two National Federations had applied for ICF membership.

Belize

Jamaica (pending the original copies)

Vote on Belize membership	
Ballot	Votes
YES	92
NO	5
ABSTAIN	2
MOTION CARRIED	

Vote Jamaica membership	
Ballot	Votes
YES	98
NO	1
ABSTAIN	1
MOTION CARRIED	

There were now 165 National Federation members of ICF.

There were now 102 eligible countries and proxies at the Congress.

8. Election of the ICF President

Candidate:

Jose Perurena Lopez



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Vote ICF President	
Ballot	Votes
YES	82
ABSTAIN	19

Election of the Vice President Candidates:

Thomas Konietzko (GER)
 Tony Estanguet (FRA)
 Joao Manuel de Costa Alegre Afonso (STP)
 Helen Brownlee (AUS)
 Cecilia Farias (ARG)
 Elena Iskakova (RUS)

Vote ICF Vice Presidents	
Ballot	Votes
Thomas Konietzko (GER)	56
Tony Estanguet (FRA)	69
Joao Manuel de Costa Alegre Afonso (STP)	-
Helen Brownlee (AUS)	-
Cecilia Farias (ARG)	70
Elena Iskakova (RUS)	-

Election of the Treasurer Candidates:

Luciano Buonfiglio (ITA)
 Danielle Woodward (AUS)
 Christian Jacobsen (DEN)

Vote ICF Treasurer 2 rounds	
Ballot	Votes
Luciano Buonfiglio (ITA)	55
Danielle Woodward (AUS)	-
Christian Jacobsen (DEN)	-

Canoe Sprint Chairman

Candidates

Miroslav Haviar (SVK)
 Istvan Vaskuti (HUN)
 Nikolay Mordvin (RUS)
 Frank Garner (CAN)

Vote Canoe Sprint Chair 3 Rounds	
Ballot	Votes
Miroslav Haviar (SVK)	-
Istvan Vaskuti (HUN)	-
Nikolay Mordvin (RUS)	-
Frank Garner (CAN)	56
ABSTAIN	

Canoe Slalom Chairman Candidates

Jean-Michel Prono

Vote Canoe Slalom Chair	
Ballot	Votes
Jean-Michel Prono	85
ABSTAIN	

Canoe Marathon Chairman Candidates

Jorn Cronberg

Vote Canoe Marathon Chair	
Ballot	Votes
Jorn Cronberg	94
ABSTAIN	

Canoe Polo Chairman Candidates

Andrea Donzelli (ITA)
 Greg Smale (GBR)

Vote Canoe Polo Chair	
Ballot	Votes
Andrea Donzelli (ITA)	-
Greg Smale (GBR)	76
ABSTAIN	



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Wildwater Canoeing Chairman Candidates:

Tomislav Crnkovic (CRO)

Vote	
Ballot	Votes
Tomislav Crnkovic (CRO)	93
ABSTAIN	

Canoe Freestyle Chairman Candidate:

Lluís Rabaneda I Caselles (ESP)

Vote	
Ballot	Votes
Lluís Rabaneda I Caselles (ESP)	81
ABSTAIN	

Canoe Ocean Racing Chairman Candidates:

Mario Santos (POR)

Vote	
Ballot	Votes
Mario Santos (POR)	85
ABSTAIN	

Paracanoe Chairman Candidates:

John Edwards (CAN)

Vote	
Ballot	Votes
John Edwards (CAN)	96
ABSTAIN	5

Medical and Anti-doping Chairman Candidates:

Dr Don McKenzie (CAN)

Vote	
Ballot	Votes
Dr Don McKenzie (CAN)	94
ABSTAIN	

9. Discussions and Resolutions on the proposals submitted by NFs, ExCo and BoD
a) ICF Statutes
Article 1 C proposal by Kenya NF

Vote on Art. 1	
Ballot	Votes
YES	66
NO	48
ABSTAIN	7
MOTION NOT CARRIED	

Article 5

Reason for change: Remove the outdated ICF flag description.

Vote on Art. 5	
Ballot	Votes
YES	100
NO	17
ABSTAIN	4
MOTION CARRIED	

Article 26.2 Proposal by Kenya NF

Reason for change: To increase the number of African representatives on ICF Board of Directors.

Issue raised by Congress: Due to the size of existing ICF BoD no further increase was desired.



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Vote on Art 26.2	
Ballot	Votes
YES	60
NO	61
ABSTAIN	0
MOTION NOT CARRIED	

Article 29c and 32.12 Proposal by Kenya NF

Reason: A clear process of selecting the Secretary General and ICF Staff. The ICF already had existing documents with clear instructions regarding staff recruitment.

Kenya withdrew its proposal.

New General Rule for all disciplines

Reason: Remove the marriage requirements for change of sport nationality (article 3).

Vote on General rule (art.3)	
Ballot	Votes
YES	81
NO	38
ABSTAIN	5
MOTION CARRIED	

Canoe Sprint General Rules

Art 3.3.2 Sporting Nationality Rule change
Proposed by ICF Board/HQ (Would apply to All Disciplines)

Vote on Art 3.3.2	
Ballot	Votes
YES	79
NO	6
ABSTAIN	3
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 34.1.1 Change to World Championships programme for the Olympic events

Vote on Art 34.1.1	
Ballot	Votes
YES	76
NO	15
ABSTAIN	3
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 34.1.2 Change to World Championships programme for the non-Olympic events

Vote on Art 34.1.2	
Ballot	Votes
YES	53
NO	27
ABSTAIN	8
MOTION CARRIED	

Art. 44 World Cup Trophies

Vote on Art 44	
Ballot	Votes
YES	76
NO	12
ABSTAIN	0
MOTION CARRIED	

Canoe Slalom General Rules

Art. 6.1 Add Extreme Canoe Slalom and mixed C2

Vote on Art 6.1	
Ballot	Votes
YES	67
NO	21
ABSTAIN	4
MOTION CARRIED	



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Canoe Marathon**ART. 3.4** Typing correction

Vote on Art 3.4	
Ballot	Votes
YES	84
NO	2
ABSTAIN	2
MOTION CARRIED	

Canoe Freestyle**Art 2.4** AUS Proposal for ITO Travel expenses

Vote on Art 2.4	
Ballot	Votes
YES	77
NO	12
ABSTAIN	2
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 2.7 AUS proposal Registration fee

Vote on Art 2.7	
Ballot	Votes
YES	69
NO	13
ABSTAIN	3
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 20.1 AUS Proposal

Vote on Art 20.1	
Ballot	Votes
YES	77
NO	4
ABSTAIN	8
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 21.1,21.2,21.5 Proposal to change to Technical Rule from General Rule

Vote on Art 21.1,21.2,21.5	
Ballot	Votes
YES	78
NO	2
ABSTAIN	1
MOTION CARRIED	

WILDWATER**Art 11.1.1** to add email or fax to entry submissions

Vote on Art 11.1.1	
Ballot	Votes
YES	75
NO	4
ABSTAIN	3
MOTION CARRIED	

36.3 WWC proposals to change DSQ-C to DQB

Vote on Art 36.3	
Ballot	Votes
YES	75
NO	4
ABSTAIN	6
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 39.9.1 WWC proposal to increase cups from 5 to 8

Vote on Art 39.9.1	
Ballot	Votes
YES	78
NO	6
ABSTAIN	4
MOTION CARRIED	



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OCEAN RACING**Art 1**, Proposal to add open water

Vote on Art 1	
Ballot	Votes
YES	86
NO	4
ABSTAIN	0
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 5, Proposal to change deadline to 1st July of each year for calendar

Vote on Art 5	
Ballot	Votes
YES	83
NO	3
ABSTAIN	1
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 10, Proposal to add safety officer to list of officials

Vote on Art 10	
Ballot	Votes
YES	84
NO	1
ABSTAIN	0
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 13, Proposal to add last date of entries 5 days before competition

Vote on Art 13	
Ballot	Votes
YES	76
NO	4
ABSTAIN	1
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 38, Proposal to change name of some of the boat classes

Vote on Art 38	
Ballot	Votes
YES	71
NO	6
ABSTAIN	7
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 32, Proposal to add race committee to text

Vote on Art 32	
Ballot	Votes
YES	77
NO	3
ABSTAIN	5
MOTION CARRIED	

Art 48, Proposal to add Chairman to result distribution

Vote on Art 48	
Ballot	Votes
YES	78
NO	0
ABSTAIN	1
MOTION CARRIED	

Dragonboat**Art 3.7** Proposal to change masters category ages

Vote on Art 3.7	
Ballot	Votes
YES	74
NO	6
ABSTAIN	2
MOTION CARRIED	

The proposal to tidy up the General and Technical rules by the ICF Board of Directors in all disciplines was also approved by the Congress.



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10. Treasurer’s report and approval of financial accounts 2014-2016

Congress was referred to the printed documents and ICF accounts were explained.

ICF investments for the two year period had resulted in returns of 300,000 Euros.

It was noted that no explanation in the document was given to why money was given to UK and ITA for World Championships TV coverage. No reply was recorded.

Cash flow between NFs and ICF should be shown in the budget documents and the difference between the budget and expenditure would help clarity of the document.

Approval of the Treasurer’s report, 2014-2016 financial accounts and Auditor’s report

Vote on Treasurer’s report	
Ballot	Votes
YES	67
NO	14
ABSTAIN	8
MOTION CARRIED	

11. Auditors report and approval
Auditors report was approved.

12. Presentation of the Continental Reports

Africa

There were 53 NOC in Africa of which 35 were ICF members. Potential to grow further existed.

African Games would be in Equatorial Guinea and it was stated that there would be Canoeing at the Games.

Partnership contracts for equipment with NELO and IMAS were signed.

Americas

Canoeing was in the Caribbean and Central American Games, Women C1 and C2 would be included.

On 26-28 May 2016 Copas das Americas took place. Seminar for Paracanoe qualifiers was organised in Mexico 21-22 October 2016.

In Buenos Aires YOG 2018 would occur. Canoeing was on the programme.

Asia

Continental development was very difficult to achieve. The inclusion of Dragonboat and Ocean Racing in the Asian Games was a big achievement.

The Canoe Sprint venue for Tokyo would stay in Tokyo which was a big positive for the sport. Toshihiko Furuya was introduced as sport management for Canoeing Tokyo 2020.

Europe

In 2019 for the European Games there was a big chance that Canoe Sprint would be included.

Oceania

For 2019 Pacific Games, Canoeing would not be in the programme as the host could not satisfy the requirements. But Canoeing would be in future editions of the Games.

Australian Open 2017 would happen one week before the Oceania Championships which would be in New Zealand.

Sprint Championships would be held in NZL and Oceania was looking to organising freestyle competitions.

Tahiti was thanked for an amazing Ocean Racing World Championships only after a few years after becoming a member of the ICF.



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13. Reports by Chairs of Standing Committees

a) Canoe Marathon

Referred to the report.

b) Paracanoe

May 2015 – June 2016 ICF reclassified 238 athletes.

Paralympic Games in Rio:

- 42 NF's competed at Qualification events
- 26 NF's qualified (all continents)
- 9 NF's won medals (from 3 continents)

Future initiatives would be for the finalisation of the VA'A Classification study and submission to the IPC.

The Committee would conduct an audit of Classification Rules to ensure IPC compliance. Classifier inter-reliability study was to be undertaken in the near future.

Paracanoe events would be at the World Championships in Racice (CZE), Szeged (HUN) World Cup (with training camp). A second World Cup & Continental Event could be supported.

There was a desire to develop a World Ranking system for Paracanoe.

c) Freestyle

Referred to the report.

The host for 2017 Freestyle World Championships had changed from Brazil to Argentina.

There had been development projects for freestyle in Africa in 2016 which had been successful.

d) Wildwater Canoeing

Referred to the report.

Wildwater focused on the sprint competition which was not expensive to organise, easy to

understand for public and attractive for media and TV.

The Committee was working closely with the Slalom Committee for the 2017 joint World championships.

Manufacturers had donated boats to countries to help development of the discipline.

e) Ocean Racing

The objectives of the Ocean Racing Committee were to increase participation with a sustainable competition programme and to have coaching schools worldwide for the discipline.

In 4 years, Ocean Racing had grown to host 2 World Championships, Continental Championships and many National Championships in the 5 Continents.

The Three World Championships would be held in three different Continents (2013 Europe, 2015 Oceania, 2017 Asia).

f) Dragonboat

Future Initiatives and tasks included:

- 2017 ICF Dragon Boat Club Crew World Championships: Venice, Italy.
- 2018 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships: Georgia, USA.

The Committee would try to get more nations especially from South America and Africa to participate.

There was also a plan to review the race schedule and number of events for World Championships.

g) Anti Doping and Medical

It was highlighted that the ICF's Anti Doping Programme was transparent as mandated by WADA.

The IOC sport medicine Canoe publication



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handbook would be available soon and would make a reasonable contribution to the scientific literature of the sport.

Canoeing conducted 4547 doping tests in 2015 on canoeing athletes.

The ICF Anti Doping Rules talked about the spirit of sport, ethics, fair play, honesty. The integrity of Canoeing was at risk. The ICF must continue with a zero tolerance approach to doping. It was proposed to issue a press release to show zero tolerance of the ICF Congress to doping.

Pure paddling education programme was mandatory for all junior and U23 athletes.

For the future it was important to expand the ABP haematological programme and to meet the minimum levels of TDSSA analysis for in and out of competition statistics.

h) Equality and Diversity

The name of the commission was changed from Womens' Commission to Equality and Diversity.

The positive change in female representation at the ICF Congress was good to see and the general progression of gender balance was promising within the ICF.

It was also encouraging to see there were equal numbers of candidates from both genders for the ICF Vice President positions.

i) Athletes Committee

The President welcomed Henriette Engel Hansen the new chairman of the Athletes Committee.

Canoeing was seen as a clean sport and should continue its zero tolerance against doping. The ICF needed to concentrate on media coverage, sport presentation and overall visibility for the sport.

The Chair continued to work and collaborate

with Tony Estanguet, member of IOC athletes committee.

In 2017 there would be elections for the Athletes Committee which would be very important.

14.ICF Development Programme 2014-2016

Canoe Sprint

Referred to the report. Programme had been in operation for 28 years with NFs growing from 53 to 165.

14 athletes qualified in London and Rio Olympic Games from Canoe Sprint Development Programme.

The main targets in 2015-2016 were:

- Talent Identification Programme (TIP)
- Women Canoe Development
- Education Programme,
- Domestic boat production and paddle donations

NFs were asked to request Olympic Solidarity funds through their NOC to aid Canoeing Development.

The plan for 2017-2018 was to continue with similar objectives as the last two years.

CANOE SLALOM

The objectives were:

1. Slalom development camps
2. Races organisation and educational programmes
3. Technical expertise for venues
4. Expand Extend Women Canoeing (EEWC)
5. TIP Continental

Canoe Slalom development went from 13 to 32 countries in 4 years.

EEWC had been a big success with 10 camps organised, 26 nations participated with 160 athletes.



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Three athletes from the Canoe Slalom Development programme competed at the Olympic Games in 2012 and 6 athletes in 2016.

39 coaches from 19 countries had participated in the development programme also.

Future initiatives:

- To reinforce EEWC, YOG and the Educational programmes
- Continental Associations should take the main lead of the TIP Continental programmes
- To continue the TIP World & Excellence programmes

15. ICF Budget 2016 – 2018 Approval

The budget was explained by the Treasurer and the Secretary General in detail.

Vote on ICF Budget 2016-2018	
Ballot	Votes
YES	64
NO	16
ABSTAIN	4
MOTION CARRIED	

19. Awards

The Congress approved the ICF Order of Merit awards to:

Filz Jaegger (Former Canoe Polo chairman)

Francois Ryffel (Former Dragon Boat Chairman)

Greg Smale (Former and new Canoe Polo Chairman)

Wolfgang Over (Former Secretary General German Canoe Federation)

20. Establishment and approval of working program 2016/2018

Proposal to include in all discipline rule books SUP events

Vote on SUP events added to ICF Rule books	
Ballot	Votes
YES	74
NO	8
ABSTAIN	3
MOTION CARRIED	

21. Approval of the annual ICF Membership Fees 2017-2018

The proposal was made to increase the first category membership fee to 1500 Euros. The Increase would be used to pay for more doping tests by the ICF

Vote on annual Fee increases	
Ballot	Votes
YES	56
NO	27
ABSTAIN	3
MOTION CARRIED	

22. Time and place for next Congress

Budapest, Hungary was the only candidature.

Vote on Budapest for Congress	
Ballot	Votes
YES	81
NO	1
ABSTAIN	4
MOTION CARRIED	

The ICF President declared the XXXVI ICF Ordinary Congress in Baku, Azerbaijan officially closed.