

BoD November 2018
Typed by HQ: December 2018
Approved by Pdt: January 2018
Distributed by HQ:

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
22-25 NOVEMBER 2018



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**MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
22-25 March Budapest, Hungary**

Participants:

José Perurena	Spain	President (Executive Committee Member)
Cecilia Farias	Argentina	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Tony Estanguet (absent)	France	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Thomas Konietzko	Germany	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Luciano Buonfiglio	Italy	Treasurer (Executive Committee Member) not present
Simon Toulson	Great Britain	Secretary General (Executive Committee Member)
Joao Manuel Da Costa Alegre	Sao Tome and Principe	President of African Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Shoken Narita	Japan	President of Asian Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Albert Woods	Great Britain	President of European Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Joao Tomasini Schwertner	Brazil	President Pan American Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Maree Burnett	New Zealand	President of Oceanian Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Frank Garner	Canada	Chair Canoe Sprint (Executive Committee Member)
Jean-Michel Prono	France	Chair Canoe Slalom (Executive Committee Member)
Tim Lodge	Great Britain	Chair Athlete Committee
Martha Hernandez Sanches (absent)	Mexico	Continental Representative America
Victor G. Ruiz	Puerto Rico	Continental Representative America
Ahmad Donyamali	Iran	Continental Representative Asia
Branko Lovric	Croatia	Continental Representative Europe
Andrej Jelenc	Slovenia	Continental Representative Europe
Jonne Go	Philippines	Continental Representative Asia
Marta Felpeto Lamas (absent)	Spain	Continental Representative Europe
Ola Oluode	Nigeria	Continental Representative Africa
Danielle Woodward	Australia	Continental Representative - Oceania
John Edwards	Canada	Chair Paracanoe Committee
Jorn Cronberg (absent)	Denmark	Chair Canoe Marathon
Tomislav Crnkovic	Croatia	Chair Wildwater Canoeing
Mario Santos	Portugal	Chair Ocean Racing Committee
Greg Smale	Great Britain	Chair Canoe Polo
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	Spain	Chair Canoe Freestyle
Donald McKenzie	Canada	Chair Medical and Anti-Doping

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<p>Description</p> <p>1. Welcome by the ICF President</p> <p>The ICF President welcomed everyone to Budapest.</p> <p>2. President's report</p> <p>The President announced the ICF had been informed by the IOC that the ICF was unable to use the 2019 European Games as a qualifying pathway for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.</p> <p>A discussion was held on the quorum requirements for the Congress and also the standing of proxy votes. Four countries - Dominica Republic, Saint Martins, Lebanon and Chile - made applications after the deadline for proxy votes for the ICF Congress. The board voted to deny the proxies.</p> <p>3. Treasurer's report</p> <p>The Treasurer gave a breakdown of the current ICF finances. Generally the ICF was in a good financial situation. The Treasurer thanked the Secretary General for the work completed. The ICF had a good relationship with the bank and good investment advice.</p> <p>It was suggested that before the next Congress the ICF pay the flights for everyone attending. Further analysis of this proposal was needed.</p> <p>4. Secretary General's report</p> <p>Provided an update on staffing at the ICF Headquarters and outlined the increased workload which had been undertaken in recent months, including YOG, Super Cup, problems with the Canoe Slalom World Championships in Rio. The atmosphere in the ICF office was fantastic and team spirit very high.</p> <p>The Board was informed that US canoeing (ACA) had cancelled their visit to the Congress, which was a major concern. The US Olympic Committee had placed strict conditions on the American Canoeing Association if they wanted to represent canoeing in the lead-up to LA 2028. It was also revealed that ACA had removed/lost their high performance director.</p> <p>The Board agreed urgent meetings in the USA were required to rectify the situation. It was recommended the ICF should only recognise ACA as provisional member for next two years.</p>

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5. Update on changes from U23 to U21 competitions

A vote by the Board to delay any change until the next Congress so the ICF could produce a paper explaining the reasoning behind the proposal. The ICF should look at bringing the change in for 2021 if the evidence was acceptable.

6. Update on situation regarding Seif Patwa

The ongoing concerns about Confederation of African Canoeing Secretary General, Seif Patwa, who had continued to make derogatory posts on social media concerning the ICF despite being asked to desist were raised. It was seen as a very serious matter which needed to be dealt with.

The ICF ExCo had voted to continue his suspension indefinitely and that Patwa should not be involved in the handling of finances.

The CAC President supported the decision and that the ICF needed to end the problem because it was not good for Africa nor the sport.

The Board voted on the indefinite suspension of Seif Patwa.

7. New Television Deal

The Secretary General outlined the new television deal signed until 2020. The recent Canoe Slalom World Championships had the highest number of takers in Europe in recent years. The ICF was in discussions with Hungary about the schedule for the 2019 World Championships in relation to tv broadcast timings.

The years 2019 and 2020 were the years that the IOC would compare all sports regarding TV statistics. The ICF had signed an agreement with Eurosport for the next two years covering all World Cups. This was anticipated to increase dramatically viewership of canoeing. Live coverage for Sprint Super Cup had 1.6 million viewers and Eurosport were very happy.

8. Update on stand-up-paddling dispute

It had been decided the best vision was to go forward regarding the legal dispute with ISA. It had become an issue of pure law and had delayed the progress of the case. CAS accepted that any Federation could run a sport outside of Olympics. The ICF had a better chance of winning the argument from this point however it was still not certain that the outcome would be favourable.

The ICF's main intention was to control SUP. For Portugal ICF had 150 entries, and ISA did a lot to prevent participation in the event. Negotiations had started

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with several countries interested to host World Championships in 2019 and 2020.

The Board agreed to continue the support of SUP within the ICF.

9. Canoe Polo update

Canoe polo had changed rules regarding penalties. Regarding the next World Games in Alabama, there was no area for warm-up for teams and the pool was not big enough.

For Continental Championships there needed to be events otherwise Continents would lose their places at the next World Championships.

10. Canoe freestyle update

In freestyle a third junior women’s category had been added for the World Championships to obtain equality.

11. Dragon boat update

China was keen to fund a dragon boat World Series. Further discussions would follow.

12. Doping and drug education update

Nations that had four or more positive tests in a 12 months period needed to face a tougher sanction than the current rules. A proposal would be made to the ICF Congress. Doping control needed more funding to fight doping in Canoe.

13. ICF Development

It was recommended that Continents nominated a person to work directly with the development commission.

14. Proposal for new approach to recreational paddling

The ICF had been looking for potential revenue sources for canoeing. The ICF was assessing a community platform looking at recreational paddlers.

Analysis was that it could be a fruitful relationship giving a connection with the paddler that the ICF does not have and also producing a potential revenue source. Discussions with several NFs had already been completed.

The ICF was looking at launching a platform where people could go to get tourism information on paddling around the world. There was also a potential sponsor

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keen to work with the platform.

It would be a search engine for canoeing providing exclusive content offering a membership program – at first free access for everyone, but then paid access for other information.

Companies now had a duty of care for employees, and the ICF Athletes Committee was looking to do deals with companies to provide canoeing as part of mental health exercise programmes. It was seen as a tremendous opportunity to get canoeing into the corporate world.

The key issue was what could the ICF offer. It was highlighted the ICF did not have the expertise internally for the project and needed people working with the recreational community. It would also require considerable human resource requirements.

The Board agreed 50,000 euros to build up the concept over the next few months. From that point, a budget of 250,000 Euros a year over four or five years to roll out the project was estimated.

It was raised that the ICF needed proof of concept that the digital agency could develop the platform as they said they could. The ICF Board agreed the initial budget to achieve the next stage of development.

15. ICF's Centenary in 2024

It was noted that the ICF would reach its centenary in 2024 and should do something special for the occasion. Publishing a book on the last 50 years following the original book completed by the ICF was proposed. The Board agreed with the proposal.

16. Length of Congress

The concern was raised that the ICF Congress did not have enough time to complete the agenda. The proposal was to increase the duration of the ICF Congress.

It was pointed out that people had worked hard for the previous two years, and they wanted the opportunity to show what they had achieved. In addition, networking of delegates was an important aspect of the Congress and more time should be considered for this.

The ICF Headquarters would examine a 2.5 day programme for the next Congress and report back to the Board on the findings.

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17. Concerns about calendar clashes

It was highlighted that there were too many event clashes on the ICF calendar and too many dates not yet confirmed. Several disciplines were able to provide updates on their calendars, and some events were moved to avoid clashes during the Board meeting.

18. Proposal for a World Championships for the YOG format.

The YOG World Championships and the qualification event in Barcelona had been a tremendous success. But there was an age group miss out from the YOG format. ICF would investigate if the YOG event should be held every two years in Canoeing.

If the ICF wanted to have a World Championships, it needed to have the resources for the event. If ICF could do it on basic level it would be really interesting for organisers.

The ICF would ask the IOC if funding was available and to wait until March because the plan would be to hold the event in 2020. Use University accommodation and find central café for catering to keep costs down.

19. World Championships in non-Olympic events and Masters

The ICF had approved Masters World Championships. The goal was not to create more events but to attach them to existing event.

It was also mentioned that for non-Olympic World Championships for 2020 Hungary would like to do it for sprint. They wanted do hold it in the summer but it was felt it should be after the Olympics.

20. Dragonboat World Championships 2020

The Dragonboat committee would visit the proposed venue in India to ascertain the water quality. There was only one bid to host the 2020 World Championships, but China has indicated a willingness to step in if there were problems.

The next ICF Board meeting will be March 14-16 in Beijing, China