

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

# ORDINARY CONGRESS

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MINUTES OF THE  
XXXVIII ICF ORDINARY CONGRESS  
HELD IN ROME, ITALY  
4-6 NOVEMBER 2021





**Minutes**

**Opening of the Congress**

The 2021 ICF Congress had been postponed twice because of Covid, but the first ever ICF hybrid Congress officially got underway in Rome on Thursday 4 November. A total of 108 federations registered for the Congress, with 60 federations attending in person.

Italian Olympic Committee president Giovanni Malago opened the Congress, praising the work of outgoing ICF President Jose Perurena. He said Mr Perurena’s dedication to fight, defend and support canoeing had produced results which were “very clear before your eyes”.

**President’s Report**

The President praised the Italian Federation for agreeing to host the ICF Congress in very difficult circumstances.

“We need to face the future together”, Perurena said. “The IOC is in a great moment of change, and all the federations are working to offer the best of our sports. We cannot just leave our problems alone. We have to evolve. If we remain stuck, we will not have a future. We have to be ready if the IOC asks us to make changes. We have to protect our quotas.”

Mr Perurena said he was leaving because he always felt three terms would be enough, and it was time for new ideas and new generations.

Test of online voting system and explanation of how the hybrid Congress would work.

**One minute silence to remember those that have passed away since our previous Congress.**

A video message from IOC President Thomas Bach was played to the Congress. In his address, President Bach praised the leadership of Mr Perurena.

“The strong standing of canoeing is because of the work of all at the ICF, but especially the strong leadership of Jose Perurena,” Bach

said.

“The ICF is fit for the future, on and off the water. The ICF always leads the way with innovation, introducing exciting new disciplines that will inspire a younger generation.

“You have set a strong foundation for your successor to build on. On a personal note, thank you for your friendship which I have valued dearly for many years and will continue to do so in the future.”

**Roll-call of delegates and establishing of the Quorum**

Online roll-call and Quorum was accepted.

**Appointment of scrutineers for the period of the Congress**

Scrutineers were accepted.

**Approval of the minutes of the 2018 ICF Congress**

The minutes of the 2018 Congress in Budapest were approved.

<b>Vote on 2018 Congress Minutes</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	63
NO	3
ABSTAIN	6
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**New member federations**

Three new federations applied to join the ICF – the Sierra Leone Canoe Association, the Canoe Federation of Kosovo, and the Saudi Canoe and Kayak Federation. All were approved by the Congress.

<b>Vote on Sierra Leone</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	66
NO	3
ABSTAIN	6
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	



## Minutes

<b>Vote on Kosovo</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	67
NO	4
ABSTAIN	4
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Vote on Saudi Arabia</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	71
NO	4
ABSTAIN	2
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

### Secretary General Report

The past 18 months had been extremely difficult, but due to the tremendous work carried out by the staff with the support of the Board we have done well.

We had contingency plans from A to F, which were all used. Thank you to the ICF medical and anti-doping committee who went above and beyond to ensure we could conduct our events throughout the pandemic.

Also a large thank you to organisers and local authorities for working alongside us. We know it's not been cheap or easy to host events.

We had very high interest in the Olympics and our world championships in 2021, with the highest number ever of national broadcasters. The ICF is in a stronger and more robust position than it has ever been.

**QUESTIONS:** In response to two questions from British Canoeing, the ICF committed to consulting with the NF's over the Olympic qualification process, and to a process which it hoped to bring to an end the use of the Court of Arbitration For Sport.

### VICE PRESIDENTS AND STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to the hybrid nature of the Congress, all reports by vice presidents and standing committees were presented online.

<b>Vote on finance report</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	67
NO	2
ABSTAIN	4
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Vote on auditor's report</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	71
NO	1
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Vote on budget 2021</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	70
NO	1
ABSTAIN	4
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Vote on budget 2022</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	73
NO	2
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

### Video message - Tony Estanguet

Outgoing ICF vice-president Tony Estanguet confirmed he would not be remaining on the ICF Board because of his role as President of the Organising Committee for Paris 2024. "Some people may oppose new disciplines, but I am convinced our diversity is one of our real strengths," he said. "Canoe sprint, canoe slalom and paracanoe are our three leading disciplines, and the stronger they are, the more we can support all our disciplines."



## Minutes

<b>Vote on ICF covering costs for travel and accommodation of one delegate from federations not usually attending Congress</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	31
NO	44
ABSTAIN	5
<b>MOTION LOST</b>	

<b>Vote on allowing an NF to be represented at Congress by another member association</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	25
NO	53
ABSTAIN	5
<b>MOTION LOST</b>	

<b>Vote on board able to change date/location of meetings because of Covid</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	76
NO	8
ABSTAIN	2
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Paracanoe chair to join the executive committee</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	78
NO	6
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Vote on Africa adding a third member to the ICF board</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	71
NO	23
ABSTAIN	5
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

This motion was voted on three times. On the first occasion the vote was ruled invalid because of an internet outage, not everyone was able to vote. The Congress agreed to

hold the vote again, which was lost. After a protest from ICF Board member Joao Da Costa and several other countries, the vote was carried out for a third time on the third morning of the Congress, and the motion was carried.

<b>Federations must have paid fees by 90 days prior to Congress to be able to vote</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	66
NO	16
ABSTAIN	4

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Officially increase the number of para athletes on the ICF Athlete Committee to two**

<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	79
NO	5
ABSTAIN	3

**MOTION CARRIED**

**An athlete starting from the year of their 13th birthday can compete in an international competition (level 4)**

<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	71
NO	9
ABSTAIN	7

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Allow UN refugees to compete in ICF competitions**

<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	78
NO	6
ABSTAIN	4

**MOTION CARRIED****Changes to glossary**

<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	77
NO	2
ABSTAIN	7

**MOTION CARRIED**



## Minutes

<b>Financial penalty for late withdrawals in competition</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	63
NO	18
ABSTAIN	6
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Athletes and all support personnel (eg. Coaches, medical etc) all required to complete ICF anti-doping programme.</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	74
NO	7
ABSTAIN	7
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

Hungary asked for the definition of support personnel. It covers everyone associated with a team.

<b>Motion to allow more space for sponsors on athlete equipment</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	20
NO	50
ABSTAIN	16
<b>MOTION LOST</b>	

<b>Renewal of ITO card</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	65
NO	16
ABSTAIN	8
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Motion to allow the sharing of costs associated with ITO's</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	76
NO	2
ABSTAIN	8
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**CANOE SPRINT**

<b>Motion on boat construction</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	75
NO	3
ABSTAIN	9
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Events list should be in accordance for the world championships and U23 world championships in the same calendar year.</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	81
NO	2
ABSTAIN	2
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Changes to disqualification and protest procedures in canoe sprint</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	80
NO	2
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Allowing canoe sprint and paracanoe world championships to be run over six consecutive days. Same uniforms for team members.</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	74
NO	7
ABSTAIN	4
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Rule changes relating to officials</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	86
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	



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<b>Paracanoe results to be included in Nations Cup</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	73
NO	5
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Changes to jury appeal system</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	82
NO	1
ABSTAIN	1
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Changes to Masters rules</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	76
NO	4
ABSTAIN	4
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Allow junior and U23 world championships to run for six days</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	68
NO	10
ABSTAIN	9
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Changes relating to canoe sprint world cups</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	78
NO	4
ABSTAIN	1
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**PARACANOE**

<b>Changes relating to competition and officials</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	73
NO	4
ABSTAIN	5
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Changes regarding athlete disqualification</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	77
NO	4
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>World championship and competition committee</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	82
NO	2
ABSTAIN	1
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**CANOE SLALOM**

<b>Add speed canoe programme and mixed 4 relay team</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	60
NO	13
ABSTAIN	10
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>Late entry procedures</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	71
NO	5
ABSTAIN	6
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	



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<b>Remove XC2 and XC2 team event from world championship programme</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	63
NO	13
ABSTAIN	9
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>To enter an athlete at world championships an NF must have entered at least one athlete in the same event at previous continental or designated competition.</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	63
NO	18
ABSTAIN	7
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

It was argued this rule change unfairly penalised African nations as canoe slalom is not fully developed there. The Slalom chair replied the ICF must strive to have one continental championship a year.

<b>Allow defending world champions to enter a world championships in addition to three other qualifiers.</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	30
NO	48
ABSTAIN	5
<b>MOTION LOST</b>	

<b>Extreme slalom boat changes</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	72
NO	3
ABSTAIN	9
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**CANOE MARATHON**

<b>Change to Marathon rules</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	79
NO	0
ABSTAIN	5
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**CANOE WILDWATER**

<b>Changes for Wildwater</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	66
NO	3
ABSTAIN	5
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**CANOE FREESTYLE**

<b>Changes for Canoe Freestyle</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	71
NO	0
ABSTAIN	2
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**CANOE OCEAN RACING**

<b>Changes for Canoe Ocean Racing</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	75
NO	1
ABSTAIN	2
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**DRAGONBOAT**

<b>Changes for Dragonboat</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	73
NO	2
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	



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**STAND UP PADDLING**

<b>Approve Stand Up Paddling Rule book</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
YES	74
NO	1
ABSTAIN	3
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

**DAY THREE – ELECTIONS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Konietzko	94
Arkhipov	6
ABSTAIN	0
<b>KONIETZKO ELECTED</b>	

Mr Konietzko spoke to the Congress after his successful election.

“My vision for the future of our federation is to achieve together the best for our sport, united in our vision. For this we need all our stakeholders, we need all of you.

“We don’t need a revolution to make our federation fit for the future, but we need evolution.”

He also highlighted an ICF “fit for the future” strategic discussion to be comprehensively assess all areas of the Federation and involving all stakeholders and National Federations. Recommendations for the future strategic direction of the ICF would be proposed by the ICF Congress in 2022.

<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Farias	96
ABSTAIN	4
<b>FARIAS ELECTED</b>	

<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Liu	61
Rabaneda	55
Santos	44
<b>LIU AND RABANEDA ELECTED</b>	

<b>TREASURER</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Woodward	12
Karai	15
Buonfiglio	73
<b>BUONFIGLIO ELECTED</b>	

<b>CANOE SPRINT</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Shablyka	14
Furuya	85
Abstain	1
<b>FURUYA ELECTED</b>	

<b>CANOE SLALOM</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Prono	89
Abstain	11
<b>PRONO ELECTED</b>	

<b>WILDWATER CANOE</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Gawehn	94
Abstain	5
<b>GAWEHN ELECTED</b>	

<b>CANOE MARATHON</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Costales	44
Heilselaar	53
Abstain	2
<b>HEIJSelaar ELECTED</b>	





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<b>CANOE POLO</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Smale	92
Abstain	7
<b>SMALE ELECTED</b>	

<b>MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Brabants	98
Abstain	2
<b>BRABANTS ELECTED</b>	

<b>CANOE FREESTYLE</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Best	95
Abstain	5
<b>BEST ELECTED</b>	

<b>OCEAN RACING</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Simpkins	48
Villierme	45
Abstain	6
<b>SIMPKINS ELECTED</b>	

<b>PARACANOE</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Edwards	96
Abstain	2
<b>EDWARDS ELECTED</b>	

**ICF CONGRESS 2022**

It was voted to host the next ICF Congress in Pattaya, Thailand, in 2022.

<b>2022 CONGRESS - PATTAYA</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Yes	85
No	10
Abstain	5
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

<b>HONORARY PRESIDENT</b>	
<b>Ballot</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Yes	81
No	1
Abstain	1
<b>MOTION CARRIED</b>	

A motion was put to appoint outgoing ICF President Jose Perurena as an honorary president of the ICF.

**ICF AWARDS**

Special awards recognising outstanding contributions to our sport were made to Juergen Konrad of Germany and Helen Brownlee of Australia; and posthumously to Jorn Cronberg of Denmark.

The Congress was officially closed.