

BoD March 2021
Typed by HQ: March 2021
Approved by Pdt: March 2021
Distributed by HQ: March 2021

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD BY TELECONFERENCE
12 AND 19 MARCH 2021



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MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 12 and 19 March 2021 – Online Meeting

Participants:

José Perurena	Spain	President (Executive Committee Member)
Cecilia Farias	Argentina	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Tony Estanguet	France	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Thomas Konietzko	Germany	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Luciano Buonfiglio	Italy	Treasurer (Executive Committee Member)
Simon Toulson	Great Britain	Secretary General (Executive Committee Member)
Joao Manuel Da Costa Alegre (absent)	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)
Dwight Corbin	Canada	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	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
Jovana Stanojevic	Serbia	Continental Representative Europe
Ola Oluode	Nigeria	Continental Representative Africa
Danielle Woodward	Australia	Continental Representative Oceania
John Edwards	Canada	Chair Paracanoe Committee
Ruud Heijselaar	Netherlands	Chair Canoe Marathon
Tomislav Crnkovic	Croatia	Chair Wildwater Canoeing
Mario Santos	Portugal	Chair Ocean Racing Committee
Greg Smale	Great Britain	Chair Canoe Polo
Lluis Rabaneda i Caselles	Spain	Chair Canoe Freestyle
Donald McKenzie	Canada	Chair Medical and Anti-Doping

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1. Introduction

This ICF Board of Directors meeting was held online due to the world pandemic "Coronavirus COVID-19" enabling the ICF to manage the exceptional situation.

The meeting began with a one-minute silence to mark the passing of board member and colleague, Joao Tomasini of Brazil.

2. Future ICF Events

Presentations were given for potential future event hosts. After voting, the following decisions were taken;

- 2025 ICF canoe slalom and extreme slalom world championships – **Penrith**, Australia.
- 2025 ICF junior and U23 canoe slalom and extreme slalom world championships – **Foix**, France.
- 2025 ICF canoe sprint and paracanoe world championships – **Milan**, Italy.
- 2025 ICF junior and U23 canoe sprint world championships – **Montemor-o-Velho**, Portugal.
- 2025 ICF canoe marathon world championships – **Gyor**, Hungary.
- 2025 ICF dragon boat world championships – **Ruse**, Bulgaria.
- 2024 ICF canoe ocean racing world championships – **Madeira**, Portugal.

Decisions were also taken on venues to host canoe sprint and slalom world cups in 2023.

- 2023 ICF canoe sprint and paracanoe world cups – **Szeged**, Hungary, and **Poznan**, Poland.
- 2023 ICF canoe slalom world cups – **Prague**, Czech Republic; **Paris**, France; **Augsburg**, Germany; **La Seu**, Spain; and **Tacen**, Slovenia (subject to board approval following late application).

3. Covid Protocols

The BoD was presented and agreed with the latest ICF covid protocol, updated to reflect changes in the pandemic and to better protect the health and safety of all event participants. Regular testing and a close alignment with local authorities is a key to a successful programme.

The BoD also agreed the ICF would cover the cost of antigen tests at venues.

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4. Athlete Feedback

ICF athlete representative presented the BoD with the findings of a survey carried out among athletes regarding the current international health situation and future events. The survey found that 91 per cent of athletes feel safe, and that 11.2 per cent of athletes did not feel safe competing this year.

62 per cent of athletes said they can travel outside of their countries for events, while 65 per cent said they supported events happening in 2021, even if not all countries are able to attend.

About 14 per cent of respondents indicated they felt anxious and worried about their long-term future as an athlete.

The BoD also discussed how it would be determined if an event could be called a world championships, even if not all countries could attend because of travel restrictions.

Concern was raised about the upcoming COPAC canoe slalom Olympic qualifiers, scheduled for Rio in April. The BoD voted to give organisers one week to come up with a proposal that would safeguard athletes and officials who would be attending the event if not the event could be cancelled.

BOARD MEETING ADJOURNED UNTIL MARCH 19

5. ICF BoD Meeting Continued – 19 March 2021

The BoD heard there were still considerable concerns ahead of the scheduled COPAC canoe slalom Olympic qualifiers in Rio, with COVID numbers in Brazil continuing to grow. Several board members gave their opinion, including the head of the ICF's medical commission, the chairman of the ICF canoe slalom committee and COPAC interim president.

It was decided to give organisers until Monday, March 22, to answer concerns raised by the BoD. If the concerns could not be met the BoD voted to cancel the event.

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6. Upcoming event date changes

The Board was told that Hungary wanted to change the dates for this year's stand up paddling world championships, and that Portugal wanted to push back the dates for the junior and U21 canoe sprint world championships.

The BoD also heard this year's first wildwater world cup would be postponed until September, and it was announced that British Canoeing would be postponing this year's world championships, but would hold the same event in 2022. The board voted unanimously to approve the postponements.

For this year's Ocean Racing world championships in Lanzarote in Spain are progressing well, but they would be working on a back-up plan in case the current situation changes.

The ICF BoD agreed to hosting a Canoe Marathon World Cup in Vaires-Sur Marne, France in June 2021.

7. ICF Rules

The BoD heard that the ICF had forwarded its submission to CAS in the dispute with Hungary and Russia over changes to the Olympic programme for Paris 2024.

A submission from Great Britain to post minutes of ICF board meeting online within two months was carried 22-2.

Approval was also given to alter the text regarding Olympic programme to also include Paralympic programme.

"The Olympic programme is prepared by the ICF Board of Directors and approved by the International Olympic Committee in line with their policy and timeline. The Final approval is made by the International Olympic Committee Executive Board."

"The Paralympic programme is prepared by the ICF Board of Directors and approved by the International Paralympic Committee in line with their policy and timeline. The Final approval is made by the International Paralympic Committee Executive Board."

A discussion was held regarding whether canoe marathon paddlers would be able to add weed deflectors without sharp edges to their boats. The BoD also agreed to changes to the quota allocation for canoe marathon for the next year's World Games.

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8. Extreme Canoe Slalom

The BoD heard that there had been very positive feedback from the IOC and the Olympic Broadcasting Service to the inclusion of extreme canoe slalom to the Paris 2024 programme.

There has also been a good discussion with manufacturers on how to improve safety. Other changes were an online course for judges, the introduction of world rankings for extreme canoe slalom athletes, and clarifying and strengthening safety, scoring and competition results. These changes were approved unanimously.

9. Wildwater Canoeing

it was proposed to remove the required minimum width for boats, and to introduce mass starts where possible for wildwater classic races. Concerns were raised that it would be too expensive to bring in a minimum width for boats. The BoD agreed to keep the rule changes.

10. ICF Budget 2021

The BoD was told that although a substantial amount of money had been spent on legal advice and consultations, the ICF was in a good financial situation. Due to a lack of events in 2020 substantial savings had been made, including inside ICF headquarters.

ITO's

The BoD heard there are concerns over how ITO's were being decided for events, because often the lists included officials from countries where there are travel restrictions. It was agreed unanimously that the chairperson of each committee should review the lists and make changes where appropriate.

11. ICF Name

A survey of national federations has shown 60 per cent supported a change of name for the ICF. World Paddling was the most popular new name put forward. BoD agreed to further advance the work with a professional agency to have further discussion at the ICF Congress.

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12. 2021 ICF Congress

Concern was raised about the ability of Thailand to host this year's ICF congress in October, and the possibility attendees would need to quarantine upon arrival. Asian Canoe Confederation president said more than 20 countries have signed up for the canoe slalom continental qualifiers in Thailand, and that quarantine had been reduced from 14 days to 10. He believed the situation would be much better in October.

It was decided to wait until June before making a final decision on this year's congress. The board was told it would take two to three months to prepare for an online congress, and the best format would be hosting daily three-hour sessions.

13. New ICF member

Sierra Leone in Africa has submitted all the required documents and the BoD voted unanimously to welcome the African nation to the ICF as a provisional member, subject to ICF Congress approval. There are also ongoing discussions with Kosovo and Haiti.

14. Ocean Racing world ranking

It was proposed that making this year's world championships an open-entry system, rather than use world rankings, because of ongoing Covid concerns and likely travel restrictions. The BoD approved unanimously.

15. Other business

The ICF Vice president told the BoD it was important all national federations open their competitions to refugee and displaced people. He said guidelines need to be published and clarified.

MEETING CLOSED.