



# Report

*Always moving forward*

ICF Congress, Pattaya, Thailand  
3-5 November 2022  
ICF Canoe Polo Committee

NAME: Greg Smale

ICF Position: Chair ICF Canoe Polo Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Joao Botelho

Dion Chen

Eva Lindmark

Mario Perez Lopez

Advisor (1) Duncan Cochrane

Advisor (2) Pawel Teleman

## **1. Major Meetings since last Congress**

14/12/21 - ICF Board of Directors meeting – online.

19/1/22 - ICF Board of Directors meeting – online.

21/1/22 – 23/1/22 – ICF Canoe Polo Committee meeting – Toledo, Spain.

3/2/22 – ICF Carbon Footprint Data Collection meeting – online – Catherine Weiser ICF HQ.

2/4/22 - ICF Board of Directors meeting – online.

30/5/22 – 2/6/22 - ICF Board of Directors meeting – Poznan, Poland.

21/9/22 - ICF Board of Directors Meeting – online - part 1 of 2.

27/9/22 - ICF Board of Directors Meeting – online - part 2 of 2.



## **2. Tasks undertaken for this period**

- 30/11/21 – ICF CAP World Ranking meeting online – ICF HQ - Narelle Henderson.
- 17/1/22 – ICF “Fit For Future” meeting – phone call – Cecilia Farias.
- 26/1/22 – ICF Canoe Polo World Championships bid status 2024 and 2026 – phone call - Lluís Rabaneda.
- 2/3/22 – 7/3/22 – Coach and Referee Courses Egypt together with ICF CAP committee member Mario Perez Lopez and assisted by Steve Watts – ICF Grade A referee.
- 16/3/22 – Online meeting with ICF CAP member Eva Lindmark re World Games.
- 18/3/22 – ICF “Fit For Future” meeting – online - Safeguarding and Wellbeing Group.
- 17/5/22 – Meeting online with ICF Whitewater manager Thomas Rosset.
- 26/6/22 - 3/7/22 – 2022 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships – Nottingham, England – Jury Member.
- 8/7/22 - Online meeting with ICF CAP member Eva Lindmark re World Championships == groups/draw.
- 11/7/22 – 20/7/22 – IWGA World Games 2022 – Birmingham, Alabama, USA – Jury member.
- 13/8/22 – 22/8/22 – 2022 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships, Saint Omer, France.



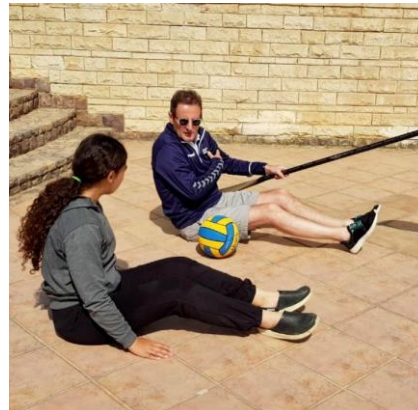
- 23/9/22 – Meeting online with ICF HQ – Richard Pettit and Thomas Rosset re faceguards in Canoe Polo.
- 26/9/22 - Meeting online with ICF HQ – Narelle Henderson re Canoe Polo World Ranking.
- 28/9/22 – 3/10/22 – 2022 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships - Ponte De Lima, Portugal – Jury Member.
- 5/10/22 – 10/10/22 – 2022 ICF Ocean Racing World Championships - Viana Do Castelo, Portugal – Jury Member.
- Regular liaison with Yupin Sports – sponsor of ICF Canoe Polo - regarding equipment supply, competition balls and official’s clothing.

### 3. Issues and Main Points of Report

#### Egypt – Coaching and Referee Course in Cairo

Please see following link to ICF news article relating to this highly successful course which took place following the supply of equipment by the ICF/Yupin Sports:

[Future looks bright for canoe polo in Egypt | ICF - Planet Canoe \(canoeicf.com\)](https://www.canoeicf.com/future-looks-bright-for-canoe-polo-in-egypt/)



#### 2022 IWGA World Games - Birmingham, Alabama, USA

The competition was held over 4 days, indoors, at the Birmingham Crossplex venue with the seats sold out and the German men's and women's teams hoping to win third consecutive titles.

Eight men's teams and eight women's teams all accepted their invites to compete at this prestigious competition, the fifth time canoe polo was part of The World Games programme. Teams included:

- Men: Germany, Spain, France, Italy, The Netherlands (Europe), New Zealand (Oceania), Chinese Taipei (Asia) and USA (host nation).
- Women: France, Great Britain, Italy, The Netherlands (Europe), New Zealand (Oceania), Singapore (Asia) and USA (host nation).

The full results book can be found at

[2022 world games birmingham alabama usa - canoe polo full results book.pdf \(canoeicf.com\)](https://www.canoeicf.com/2022-world-games-birmingham-alabama-usa-canoe-polo-full-results-book.pdf)

Germany won both gold medals at the 2017 and 2013 Games and while they once again retained their Men's title in 2022 France Women played exceptionally well to defeat Germany in the Women's final 3-0.



[THE WORLD GAMES 2022 - CANOE POLO | ICF - Planet Canoe \(canoeicf.com\)](https://www.canoeicf.com/the-world-games-2022-canoe-polo/)



## **2022 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Saint Omer, France**

The 14<sup>th</sup> ICF Canoe Polo World Championships (held every two years) finally took place after the frustrations of Covid19 and the sad cancellation of the 2020 world championships due to have taken place in Italy.

Entries were good (63 teams from all 5 continents) but in some parts of the world Covid19 restrictions still had an impact. No Covid19 positives were reported during the championships which was great and the weather and very high number of spectators made for an exceptional event. The crowds of spectators resulted in the town council spending an additional 28,000 Euro on big screens around the venue to enable all to see. Getting a seat amongst the 8000 people that watched the finals live was difficult – yes 8000 around one pitch 35m x 23m in size – it was amazing!

The live-streaming and associated commentary was a great success with the “**clicks and viewing times**” being separately reported in congress papers save to say the **while sprint was the highest Canoe Polo and Marathon were second and third in both these areas of measurement.**



Full results from 2022 and historically can be found at:

[2022 icf canoe polo world championships - full results low res.pdf \(canoeicf.com\)](#)

[canoe polo world championships results summary - all.pdf \(canoeicf.com\)](#)

The world ranking can also be found at:

[CAP WORLD-RANKING - 2022.xlsx \(canoeicf.com\)](#)

The qualification for 2024 can be found at:

[2024 cap -worlds-qs.pdf \(canoeicf.com\)](#)

The ICF Doping Education training was required - thank you Laetitia Cavan from ICF HQ for all the data input.

The Carbon Footprint Data Collection was strongly promoted to team leaders, athletes and officials.

For the first-time fitness testing took place for all the ICF Referees via the multi-stage fitness test (MSFT), also known as the beep test. It is a test to ensure base fitness and 26 of 28 passed with one having only just recovered from Covid19 and the other determined to pass next time.

There were a few issues – the design of the goals meant the ball on occasion rebounded back out very quickly which caused several unintentional referee errors and one large instance of rule misinterpretation by a team which has been addressed in the new rules.

The only other significant issue were the gold medals which have been an issue at numerous championships this season. We try and promote and value athletes yet we try and present a gold medal that looks like a bronze medal. This is being addressed and replacements issued but it does leave some negative feelings towards the ICF. I personally witnessed an athlete at the Ocean Racing World Championships come off the podium have won the gold medal saying he had been given the wrong medal – it looked so bronze. This should not happen in any other season.

### **2023 Canoe Polo Continental Championships**

- Africa – Namibia have expressed an interest but they were directed towards their continental association for decision.
- Americas – no information received yet.
- Asia – being decided at the ACC congress immediately before the ICF Congress 2022.
- Europe – 6-10<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Brandenburg an der Havel, Germany
- Oceania – New Zealand – dates to be confirmed.

### **2024 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships - Huzhou City, Deqing County, China**

A meeting is being held during congress regarding 2024.

### **2026 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships**

One bid has been received and another notified to the ICF and anticipated imminently/before congress.









### **3. Future Initiatives and Tasks**

- Now most of the world is beginning to live with Covid19 the supply of equipment promised to Argentina is a priority.
- As with Egypt, once this has been supplied the ICF CAP will provide coaching and referee training support.
- It is hoped that a member of the ICF CAP will attend all the next years continental championships – please make contact if coaching and/or referee training/assessment is required.
- ICF CAP member Mario is working on a Canoe Polo ICF Coaching course.
- ICF CAP Advisor is working on an updated referee training course.
- Possible ICF referee online discussion forums are being considered.
- In the summer of 2023, it is hoped to have a seminar for people to attend in person (and perhaps online) to discuss how the future of Canoe Polo is best approached bearing in mind dramatically increasing travel costs, equipment shipping costs and future carbon measurement... and other issues. As with the rules seminar held pre-pandemic which has produced rules that are widely accepted by athletes it is anticipated this seminar could be key to the future sustained growth of Canoe Polo.



**2022 ICF Canoe Polo World Champions - New Zealand U21 Women**



**And a great post-worlds TV interview**