



Report

27-28 April 2023

Name of the BoD Member: PRONO, Jean Michel

Function on BoD: Chair of the Canoe Slalom Technical Committee

Committee Members: Sue Natoli (AUS), Meritxell Rodriguez (ESP), Alena Maskova (CZE), Arpornpan Buapat (THA)

Committee Advisors: Eric Lokken (USA), Colin Woodgate (GBR), Daniele Molmenti (ITA), Eric Jackson, (USA), Hans-Peter Weiss (GER)

reached, and opportunities or challenges encountered.

Canoe slalom Rules 2023 finalisation and publication

Following the Pattaya Congress and Board of Directors when the Canoe slalom rules were approved, the Technical manager and Committee had to finalize the text of a limited number of articles and 2023 Rules Appendices still pending of results management and development confirmation from ORIS and Omega, this only for the Olympic Kayak cross Qualification competition format. This has been process in due time under the overview of Secretary General and Lluís Rabaneda and all Rules book and related Appendices were made available on the ICF dedicated web page by the 21st of December.

The Paris 2024 OQS has been finalized and validated with IOC Sport department. Dedicated FAQ document being elaborated and made available for NOC's and NF's

Preparation /coordination of the main CSL events for 2023 season

Continental activity

In cooperation with COPAC, follow up of the preparation of Continental Games Santiago 2023.

In cooperation with CAC, follow up of the 2024 African Canoe slalom Continental qualifier bid with Khénifra (MAR) site visit and production of the feasibility report. Forecasted date for the event, April 2024 (TBC)

2023 CSL competition eligibility season for African NF'; since no continental championships will take place in 2023, a designated competition has been agreed with CAC; the World cup N°4 in Seo de Urgell (ESP) to be coordinated with training camp possibility leading to London World champs and Global Olympic qualifier

ICF Competitions

World championships 2023 and World cups series (7 competitions)

- Preparation of the 2023 CSL World cups and World championships competition schedules in coordination with ICF head quarter and services providers (Timing scoring and TV production)

As previous seasons, two actions have been with each HOC's (6 from 7)

- Regular conference call meetings with HOC's for competition preparation
- Overseeing documentation for all HOC's & stakeholders to guide their work and standardize the procedures and delivery of the competitions.

Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Canoe slalom competition preparation:

Various meetings (all conference calls) have been held with dedicated agenda to following areas.

- Olympic Broadcasting Service, Kayak Cross programme, event presentation
- CSLX format for qualification phase (CSLX session 1)
- Look of the Games, Principles and presentation for Canoeing
- Pre-Games training periods calendar and conditions

Equipment

ICF Kayak Cross boats list established for 2023 and 2024 seasons.

In order to fulfil the CSL Rules 16.1.2, Boat registration for Olympic Games, all Kayak Cross boat manufacturers have been contacted to make sure they will register their new model in due time (31st December 2022). They were committed to send one sample of the boat registered no later than 31st of March. All the procedure has been completed with no difficulty. All boats samples collected will be used for the Kayak Cross competition support for TIP athletes.

Boats list available at: https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2023-2024_icf_kayak_cross_registered_boat_list_official_310323.pdf

Kayak Cross start mechanism

Developed from December 2021 in cooperation with CSL Technical Committee, Technical Manager and ICF advisor engineer Jean Pierre Bourhis, with a Germany based company, Settele*, the Kayak Cross start mechanism was successfully used for Kayak Cross 2022 World championships held in Augsburg.

However the front flap of the system was not solid enough and requests further development. The system is now efficient solid and adds to the ejecting platform, a fair way to align all boats and release them at the same instant. The 4 mechanism units are transportable in shipment boxes.

*Settele is the company who has developed the start mechanism for Ski Cross and Snowboard Cross and provide the service to O.G and World championships for both disciplines.

For the forthcoming season, we are looking for a possible service, including mechanism transport, setting and maintenance during competition provided by Settele, to be hired by the HOC's at a reasonable price. The purchase of the start mechanism will be also an option for HOC's or National Federations for their domestic competitions.

Kayak Cross Helmet development

From the introduction of the Kayak Cross format, concerns have been raised in regard to the protection of the athletes' head and face. The ICF Technical manager and committee have engaged with an Australian helmet manufacturer, Gath, producing Surf helmets also certificated CE norm EN 1385, white water helmet. Gath is the only manufacturer who has shown interest in developing a Kayak Cross helmet. Prototypes have been developed and tested with the Australian Canoe Slalom team who gave all necessary feedback for evolving the prototype. For the 2023 season, we must be presenting the prototype evolution 2 to the slalom community for testing before final production of an approved model. The next step for ICF is to decide by the end of this season if the face guard helmet will be mandatory for ICF Competitions and Olympic Games.

Technical Committee meetings

2023 season ITO's nomination meetings, 1st and 2nd November

First "in presence" 2023 Technical committee meeting, London 11/14 January

- Minutes attached annex 1

2027 CSL World Championships bids assessment meeting, 14 March

2025 CSL World cups bids assessment meeting, 21 March

Outline any recommendations the committee has for the organisation and describe any actions the committee has taken or plans to take to implement these recommendations. This could include but not limited to competition formats, promotional activities and opportunities for organisers.

New ICF Head Quarter staffing and organisation

For many years, the CSL Technical committee has been playing a key role both in the Events delivery for ICF competitions and for the coordination with the Organizing federations and their respective HOC's.

With the new distribution of the responsibilities within the Head Quarter team, we have to find the right way to share the duties and to keep all stakeholders with the right and same level of information to achieve a proper coordination.

The Technical manager is definitely one key player to ensure this coordination with Technical Committee and the Head Quarter team.

We understand this is a challenge for all Technical committees who have been working with high grade of autonomy especially for the non-Olympic disciplines but this is crucial for our organisation to maintain the capacity to deal with the high number of disciplines and events.

Kayak Cross for Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

When introducing the new format in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, ICF has been innovative and created a lot of expectation from our key stakeholders.

In seven seasons we have evolved a format to now present it at the highest level of sport competition, this supposes that we work with flexibility, initiative and imagination.

Because of the "performance obligation" to establish the CSLX format in the Olympic programme, ICF, the Technical Committee, Technical Manager, Paris 2024 and Olympic Broadcasting Service are still tuning elements for better showcasing the competition at all phases.

For 2023 season, we also propose to define the Kayak Cross course ahead of the competition to allow training on the course by the teams, secure a good gates setting from part of the HOC and also prepare the Officials on the course observation for training and education at the course specificity.

This is why we may have to propose light, but necessary rules additions, mostly in relation with equipment and athlete identification aiming to a better presentation and promotion of the competitions.

Rules:

Document any proposed rule changes and provide clear justification for the proposal

Subject to ICF President and Sec Gen approval and support

Budget and resource needs:

Summarise the budget and resource needs for the committee's projects and initiatives and provide updated information on the committee's expected budget for the 2023.

For the forthcoming season, three projects are forecasted:

- Purchase an I Pad for ICF competitions course design purposes (standard sketch on original venue course map)
- Design and manufacturing of a new ICF CSL gauge for official equipment control for both CSL and CSLX equipment.
- More important in term of impact for the ICF athlete's safety and budget wise is the support to CSLX helmet development partner Gath (AUS)

The two first expenses will sum 2000 euros and could be paid from the ICF Technical committee budget 2023/2024

The Helmet development support fund is forecasted 4000 to 5000 euros and could be supported with IOC technology development budget (TBC)

1° 2025 CSL Rules evolution

"*Sport for Climate action framework*" must be our guideline when searching to give new orientations for the next two Olympic cycles.

- Timeline for the stakeholder consultation and elaboration of the rules changes proposal to be presented at the ICF Board by March/April 2024*
- Definition of a new ICF competitions calendar skeleton
- Implement a special plan with actions to reboot the international CSL calendar with a supportive approach to a continental (regional) competition organisation.
- Prepare a new Olympic Games Qualification system for 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games
 - See annex 2 proposed process and timeline illustration

2° CSL and White water disciplines "Development /Sustainability Programme"

With the new organisation of this area within the ICF head quarter, Technical Manager, Technical Committee and Continental Associations must find a more consistent working plan to spread activity among the Continents. To be mentioned that IOC and Olympic Solidarity are partners we must engage more often with our projects.

For the Elite sport area, there is a role for a Continental Talent Developer to be identified and promoted, allowing a closer and permanent contact with identified developing NF's and talented athletes. Forster programme with our most advanced NOC's / National Federations has to be enhanced to increase our impact on this important area.

3° Olympic qualification competitions

- Paris 2024 preparation with a special attention to Kayak Cross first appearance being a success
- Continental Qualifications competitions preparation and overview (2023 /2024)
- Continental Games (Asia 2023, Pan Am and European 2023) preparation with respective Continental associations and securing the programme with CSL for 2027
- Los Angeles 2028 Canoeing programme being secured in May 2023, CSL venue to be confirmed, ICF is currently working on a satellite venue option, Oklahoma.

4° 2026 Youth Games programme once confirmed by IOC.

Assist with development of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games canoeing programme, working out the CSL format and especially finalize the field of play selection for CSL at Saly beach.

Propose a Canoeing continental qualification system for 2026 Youth Games

5° CSL Committee evolution 2024 and beyond, Technical committee members change over

Since several key members of the Committee will not follow with their duty further Paris 2024 Games, it is crucial to organise the recruitment or at least motivate new "vocation" to be candidate for the forthcoming Olympic cycle.

Conclusion:

Summarise the top three points of the report and note any next steps or follow-up actions.

1° Deliver great and fair Olympic Games qualifier competitions (Global in London then Continentals in 2023 /2024)

2° Finalise the Paris 2024 O.G. Canoe slalom competitions preparation

3° Monitoring with all stake holders the CSL rules evolution beyond Paris 2024

JM PRONO, April 2023