



# Report

April 2024

**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)**

## **Coordination and delivery of the main CSL events for 2023 season**

### **Continental competition**

In cooperation with COPAC, follow up of the preparation of Continental Games Santiago 2023, attendance as Jury member. Competition delivered with good standard. Kayak Cross medal event included in the programme for the second time.

2023 CSL competition eligibility season for African NF's; since no continental championships took 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

Following the withdraw of Morocco to organize the Continental qualifier and in agreement with CAC, this competition has been held in Ste Suzanne (La Réunion) in conjunction with the ICF ranking competition organised by the Regional Committee and FFCK.

7 African federations participating however the only valid events were MC1 and MK1. (3 eligible NF's participating)

Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Pan America organized successfully their Continental qualifier and quota's allocation went without particular issue.

The European (Krakow) and Asian Games (Hangzhou) were also held during this period. The outcome was good for both competitions.

European Games 2027 will be organized in Turkey, we hope that Canoe slalom will be part of the programme as promised by the European Games leaderships in 2023.

Asian Games 2026 will be organized in Aichi province with CSL already confirmed in the programme and to be held on a natural river course.

## **ICF Competitions**

### 2023 World cups series (5 competitions)

- Successful delivery of the new 2023 CSL World cups competition schedule in coordination with HOC's, ICF head quarter and services providers (Timing scoring and TV production)

To be noticed, this new schedule allowed to shorten the heaviest day of competition. It's introduced a new live TV slot, Friday late afternoon. The outcome of this new TV offer is still to be evaluated by the ICF head quarter. The fully dedicated Kayak cross day (Sunday) has been appreciated from all stakeholders and teams.

### 2023 Senior World championships (London) and global qualifier

Competition was a great success, especially for the host nation GBR. Global qualifier allocated the quota's as per OQS rules. Only one quota allocated, men Canoe single, is subject to an appeal from the Swiss federation.

The ICF has been following the rules and is confident that this CAS case (to be confirmed) will be ruled in favour of the ICF decision.

### World cup Final and Paris 2024 CSL test event

All tested activities were successful, including the Kayak cross Olympic format. To be highlighted, the presence of a great number of spectators was even giving a Games time experience to the participants, officials and organisers.

All timing scoring pending items have been listed at the end of the Test event and solved by the forthcoming ORIS CSL homologation

Test held in Madrid (13 to 16 of February 2024)

Following the CSL ORIS Homologation test held in February 2024, few rule articles needs to be slightly amended and concern the description of the "ranking rule" for athletes with IRM (Invalid Result Mark)

These changes are included in the CSL Rules changes proposal Excel table provided for the ICF Board documentation.

Paris 2024 Olympic Games, Canoe slalom competition preparation:

Numerous meetings conference calls have been held regularly and 2 visits at the Vaires sur Marne venue were organized.

- Venue improvement (pumping station cooling system and course tuning for start and finish areas)
- Gate setting system improvement (new setting for lateral cables)
- Look of the Games, Principles and presentation for Canoeing slalom
- Pre-Games training periods calendar and conditions

## **Equipment**

### Kayak Cross Helmet development

The ICF Technical manager and the committee have continued the cooperation with the Australian helmet manufacturer, Gath, producing Surf helmets also CE norm certificated EN 1385, white water helmet.

Prototype N°2 has been developed and tested with the Australian Canoe Slalom team who gave all necessary feedback for evolving the prototype 1. The international community of slalom paddlers participating in the 2024 Australian CSL Open had the opportunity to also test this helmet and gave positive feedback.

For the 2024 season, the final product will be available on the market (early June) and the slalom community will be encouraged to use it. Because of the late introduction of this homologated face guard helmet, the technical committee is not willing to make it mandatory for ICF Competitions and Olympic Games.

## **Technical Committee meetings held during the period**

London 16/18 September, second "in presence" 2023 Technical committee meeting,

- Agenda
- working document attached annex 1

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, 2024 season ITO's nomination online meetings

Frankfort, 18/21 January, first "in presence" 2024 Technical committee,

- Minutes attached annex 2

Several Online Committee meeting, dedicated to 2025 CSL rules evolution finalisation (November to February)

### **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. Following Board of Directors held in Pattaya, when the Canoe slalom rules were approved, the technical manager and Committee have finalized the rules text for a limited number of articles and 2023 Rules Appendices.

These amendments to the Kayak cross rules have allowed the organizers, Technical Committee, Officials and participating athletes to present a high standard competition along the 2023 season.

One major improvement was for designing and setting the Kayak Cross course ahead of the competition to allow team's training on this course, prepare and secure a better gate setting from part of the HOC and also prepare the Officials on the course observation for training and education at the course specificity. This strategy has been very successful and the outcome of the Kayak cross competitions was outstanding.

On the other hand, Siwidata, ICF timing scoring supplier, has also proposed a new penalty input device configurate for the CSLX format and also develop a set of Kayak cross TV graphics which have improved widely the follow up of the competitions on the live TV feed.

Furthermore, enforcing all Kayak cross rules additions voted at 2023 Congress, mostly in relation with equipment and athlete identification has definitely improved the presentation of the 2 new Olympic events

#### **Rules:**

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

See dedicated presentation document in annex to Board documentation

**“Canoe Slalom Rules change proposals for 2025 and beyond”**

***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 2025/ 2026.***

For the forthcoming Olympic cycle (2025 2028), at least one project is forecasted:

- Renewal of the 2 video judging computers (2 Mac books) (4500 euros)

Further CSL projects needs to be prepared and especially in relation with boat length and monotype solution to address the increasing transport costs and complexity of traveling abroad. A working group must be established and will need financial resources for studying different scenarios and technical solutions.

**1° 2025 CSL Rules evolution (from previous April 2023 report)**

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

- 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 (task of the nominated ICF working group)

**2° CSL and Whitewater 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° CSL Committee evolution 2024 and beyond, Technical Committee members change over**

Since several key members of the Committee will not follow with their duty after Paris 2024 Games, it is important to forecast 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***

**1° Finalise the Paris 2024 O.G. Canoe slalom competitions preparation**

**2° Monitoring with all stake holders the CSL rules evolution beyond Paris 2024 and for LA 2028**

**3° Prepare a Technical committee team for the next Olympic cycle**

***JM PRONO, March 2024***