



Report

ICF Ordinary Congress Rome, Italy 4-6 November 2021

Name of the BoD Member: Tony Estanguet

Function on BoD: ICF Vice President

1. Major events since last ICF Congress

2019 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships (Sort, Spain)

2019 ICF Canoe Slalom and Wildwater Canoeing World Championships (La Seu d'Urgell, Spain)

2020 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup, (Pau, France)

2021 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup final (Pau, France)

ICF Board of Directors and ICF Executive Committee meetings:

- 15 March 2019 – ICF Board of Directors meeting (Beijing)
- 5 March 2020 – ICF Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting (Barcelona)
- 6 May 2020 – ICF Board of Directors meeting (videoconference)
- 27 June 2020 – ICF Board of Directors meeting (videoconference)
- 2 September 2020 – ICF Executive Committee meeting (videoconference)
- 24 November 2020 – ICF Board of Directors meeting (videoconference)
- 3 & 19 December 2020 – ICF Board of Directors meeting (videoconference)
- 8 January 2021 – ICF Executive Committee meeting (videoconference)
- 12 & 19 March 2021 – ICF Board of Directors meeting (videoconference)

2. Tasks undertaken since the last ICF Congress

- **Olympic Movement relationship**

As an IOC member until August 2021, I have been supporting our President Jose PERURENA to promote canoeing around the world and within the Olympic Movement (e.g. IOC, OBS, NOCs).

3. Issues and Main Points for the function since last ICF Congress

- **COVID 19 crisis**

The COVID crisis has had a huge impact in every field of society, including canoeing. Firstly, our friend Joao TOMASINI lost his battle against COVID 19 in early 2021 and I want to pay tribute to the memory of Joao who devoted his life to canoeing.

This crisis has also impacted most of our athletes in their daily life and training. The road to TOKYO 2020 was long for them and sometimes chaotic with the lock downs, the quarantines, etc.

I would like to thank all parties involved (competition organisers, NFs, ICF medical committee) who have done an incredible work to restart the ICF competitions at the end of 2020, with a strong support of the ICF Board of Directors. It was a strong signal sent to our athletes' community.

I do not forget the young generation that will need to wait four more years to enjoy the first Youth Games in Africa (Dakar 2026, Senegal). I am sure that this delay will be used by the Senegalese federation, the Confederation of African Canoeing, as well as the continental NFs, to structure a strong legacy programme across the continent.

- **Slalom activities**

I would like to thank and congratulate the ICF Slalom Committee for their excellent work during the past 2 years:

They managed to adapt to the COVID 19 crisis and to organise successful competitions, including in Tokyo 2020 which has been successful with a record

number of National Olympic Committees qualified for Canoe Slalom (35) and a consistent judging system allowing fair and emotional finals.

Thanks to the great cooperation between the ICF, Tokyo 2020 and the Japanese Canoe Federation, all involved NOCs have been able to access a training period prior to the Olympic Games, providing all qualified athletes with a fair access to the venue.

The ICF Slalom Committee has also worked on tangible improvements for our sport such as a new result-management system, allowing a faster and more accurate sport presentation as well as a TV graphic display.

Some innovative projects are ongoing like canoe slalom lighting poles and extreme canoe slalom automatic starting machine.

The canoe slalom development programme was successful until 2019; development camps were organised around the world and enabled us to reach 63 National Federations at the 2019 Canoe Slalom World Championships.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, we need to relaunch all our programmes in 2022 and certainly invest more with dedicated human resources and funding to support National federations in their canoe slalom and whitewater development. It is important that each National Federation develops all disciplines and particularly Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. The diversity of practice will make all of us stronger.

- **Athletes' Committee members**

Since my 1st ICF term, I have been supportive to reinforce the position of our athletes within the ICF governance.

I want to thank all of them and have a special thought for Jessica FOX and Alexandre SLAFKOVSKY, whose commitment within the Canoe Slalom community was very fruitful during the last four years. Welcome and good luck to Jiri PRSKAVEC and Eilidh GIBSON for this new Olympic cycle.

- **2024 Olympic Programme**

In line with the Agenda 2020, the ICF's proposal to add Extreme Canoe Slalom to the Olympic programme was accepted by the IOC.

Extreme Canoe Slalom will broaden the diversity of the Canoe Olympic programme, bringing a spectacular event, less technical and more accessible. It is an opportunity for us to strengthen the universality of our sport, as testify the world Championships results with more countries winning a medal (e.g. since 2016, 23% of the women's extreme canoe slalom medals have been won by the Pan American continent).

Besides, Extreme Canoe Slalom can also help us reach other audiences and therefore consolidate our canoeing future within the Olympic Movement.

As President of the Paris 2024 organising committee, I have not taken part in the vote made by the ICF Board of Directors concerning the inclusion of Extreme Canoe Slalom.

4. Future Initiatives and recommendations to be considered

As you know, I will not seek another term as ICF Vice President due to my role as Paris 2024 President. I am fully committed to organise spectacular and responsible Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2024 and this challenge will request 100% of my time and energy in the next 3 years.

It has been an honour to serve the Canoeing family during the past seven years. Be sure that I will continue to do my best for our sport, starting by working hard to propose to our family wonderful canoe competitions in Paris 2024.