

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN ANTALYA, TURKEY

09 November 2024

Overview

This was the sixth meeting of the ICF Board of Directors in 2024 and first meeting of the new elected Board, held on 9 November in Antalya, Turkey. Quorum was formed in line with the ICF Statutes, with 28 board members present.

All documents were provided via the online portal with login details to each Board Member.

Agenda

1. Introduction and Welcome to the new elected Board of Directors Members
2. Housekeeping
3. Nomination of Commission Chairs
 - 3.1. Dragon Boat Commission
 - 3.2. Finance Commission
4. Nomination of Committee & Commission Members
 - 4.1. Medical and Antidoping
 - 4.2. Canoe Sprint
 - 4.3. Canoe Slalom
 - 4.4. Paracanoe
 - 4.5. Wildwater Canoeing
 - 4.6. Canoe Marathon
 - 4.7. Canoe Polo
 - 4.8. Canoe Freestyle
 - 4.9. Canoe Ocean Racing
 - 4.10. Stand Up Paddling
 - 4.11. Dragon Boat
5. Organisational Review
6. Competition Rules Appendices Approval
 - 6.1. Canoe Slalom
 - 6.2. Canoe Freestyle
7. ICF events allocation : 2025 Wildwater Canoeing World Cups
 - 7.1. Skopje (MKD) - Bid questionnaire / Proposed Budget
 - 7.2. Banja Luka (BIH) - Bid Questionnaire / Proposed Budget
8. Paddle Sports Summit (concept, dates and location)
9. ICF office and registration
10. Debt of our Members
11. Other Business
12. Next Board meeting - China, dates
13. Closing remarks

Participants:

Thomas Konietzko	TK	President	GER
Cecilia Farias	CF	Vice President	ARG
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	LRC	Vice President	ESP
Luciano Buonfiglio	LB	Vice President	ITA
Richard Pettit	RP	Secretary General	GBR
Xin Li	XL	Treasurer	CHN
Maree Burnett	MB	Oceania Canoe Association President	NZL
Chainarong Charoenruk	CC	Asian Canoe Confederation President	THA
Jean Zoungrana	JZ	European Canoe Association President	FRA
Joao Manual Da Costa Alegre Afonso	JDC	Confederation of African Canoeing President	STP
Toshi Furuya	TF	Canoe Sprint Committee Chair	JPN
Richard Fox	RF	Canoe Slalom Committee Chair	AUS
John Edwards	JE	Paracanoe Committee Chair	CAN
Bridgitte Hartley	BH	Athlete Committee Chair	RSA
Branko Lovric	BL	Continental Representative - EUR	CRO
Andrej Jelenc	AJ	Continental Representative - EUR	SLO
Jovana Stanojevic	JS	Continental Representative - EUR	SRB
Martha Hernandez Sanches	MHS	Continental Representative - PAM	MEX
Budiman Setiawan	BS	Continental Representative - ASI	INA
Danielle Woodward	DW	Continental Representative - OCE	AUS
Olubunmi Ola Oluode	OO	Continental Representative - AFR	NGR
Ruud Heijsselaar	RH	Canoe Marathon Committee Chair	NED
Manuela Gawehn	MG	Wildwater Canoeing Committee Chair	GER
Noémi Horváth	NH	SUP Committee Chair	HUN
Greg Smale	GS	Canoe Polo Committee Chair	GBR
Marian Sarbu	MS	Ocean Racing Committee Chair	BEL
Terry Best	TBE	Canoe Freestyle Committee Chair	GBR
Jane Gibson	JG	Medical and Anti-Doping Committee Chair	GBR
Wai-hung Luk	WL	Dragon Boat Commission Chair	HKG

Excused:

Sebastian Gomez	SG	Pan American Canoe Federation President	URG
Victor G. Ruiz	VR	Continental Representative - PAM	PUR
Shao Yaping	SY	Continental Representative - ASI	CHN
Ahmed Mahamoud Abdoukader	AMA	Continental Representative - AFR	DJI

1. Opening of the BoD meeting

- 1.1. ICF President Thomas Konietzko (TK) opened the meeting with a moment of mourning for Frank Garner, the long-serving ICF BoD and ExCo member who recently passed away. TK then welcomed newly elected BoD members, emphasizing a commitment to equality and open discussion. He encouraged all members to participate actively, contribute freely, and represent the ICF as a whole rather than individual national federations or disciplines. He also stressed that compromise after constructive debate is preferable to unresolved issues.
- 1.2. TK outlined the responsibilities of the Vice Presidents: Cecilia Farias (CF) will continue to focus on development, sustainable practices, and gender equity, while Lluís Rabanada (LRC) remains responsible for sports disciplines and related issues. Luciano Buonfiglio (LB) will handle cooperation with continental associations and manage international relations, including representing ICF at international conferences when the president is unavailable.

2. Housekeeping

- 2.1. ICF Secretary General Richard Pettit (RP) provided brief housekeeping updates. Key agenda items included forming committees and commissions, approving competition rules and event allocations, and finalizing administrative steps for registering the ICF HQ in Hungary. RP also invited input on the Paddle Sports Summit and mentioned planning for the next BoD meeting in Hangzhou.

3. Nomination of Commission Chairs

- 3.1. The Board conducted a vote by raised hands for the sole candidate for the Chair of the ICF Dragon Boat Commission, Wai-hung Luk (WL), who stepped out of the meeting for the secret ballot.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Wai-hung Luk as the Chair of the ICF Dragon Boat Commission.

- 3.2. The Board conducted a vote by raised hands for the sole candidate for the Chair of the ICF Finance Commission, Maree Burnett (MB), who stepped out of the meeting for the secret ballot.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Maree Burnett as the Chair of the ICF Finance Commission.

- 3.3. TK introduced the ICF Finance Commission as an advisory body to guide the organisation's financial direction and investment. As it was established in 2023 it was proposed to continue with the same members, who were presented by MB, and included Nick Donald (GBR), Suzanne Britt (USA), and Farhad Aliyev (AZE).

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved the continuation of Nick Donald, Suzanne Britt, and Farhad Aliyev as members of the ICF Finance Commission.

4. Nomination of Committee & Commission Members

- 4.1. The ICF Medical and Anti-Doping Committee Chair Jane Gibson (JG) proposed the committee's members and advisors to the Board, providing a brief overview of each candidate's background.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Michael Cassel (Doctor), Henny Tanton (Doctor), Chris Norbury (Immunologist), and Ahmed AA Elgamel (Pharmacist) as members of the ICF Medical and Anti-Doping Committee, with Enrique Peces Garcia (Doctor) and Miran Sebestien (Doctor) appointed as committee advisors.

- 4.2. The ICF Canoe Sprint Committee Chair Toshi Furuya (TF) expressed gratitude for the work of former committee and advisor members, while emphasizing his goal to introduce new perspectives. He presented the proposed candidates to the Board, indicating a willingness to add further members when suitable.

Decision: The ICF BoD approved Jens Kahl (GER), Alison Harris (NZL), Charles Luckman (USA), and Botond Storcz (HUN) as members of the ICF Canoe Sprint Committee, with Jolanta Rzepka (POL), Beatriz Gomes (POR), and Ekaitz Saies Sistiaga (ESP) appointed as committee advisors, with one abstention.

- 4.3. The ICF Canoe Slalom Committee Chair, Richard Fox (RF), outlined his approach to the committee's composition and advisor roles. He emphasized the importance of balancing continental representation and required additional time to finalize the team with more advisors.

Decision: The ICF BoD approved Meritxell Rodríguez (ESP), Alena Mašková (CZE), Daniele Molmenti (ITA), and Eunsuk (Jake) Kim (KOR) as members of the ICF Canoe Slalom Committee, with Sue Natoli (AUS) and Hans-Peter Weiss (GER) as committee advisors, with one abstention.

- 4.4. The ICF Paracanoe Committee Chair, John Edwards (JE), discussed the composition of the Committee, highlighting a couple of late applications, including one from France and a resubmission from Iran. He emphasized the importance of succession planning, as this is his final term.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Ismael Uali Rojo (ESP), Julie Gray (GBR), Botond Hajdu (HUN), and Diego Doga (ITA) as members of the ICF Paracanoe Committee, with Khaled Mohamed Samir (EGY) and Yann LeCarrer (FRA) as advisors.

4.5. The ICF Wildwater Canoeing Committee Chair, Manuela Gawehn (MG), shared her efforts to improve the structure of the committee, focusing on engaging new people. If approved, the new committee will have more women than men, achieving gender equity when including advisors.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Annlena Kuttenger (SUI), Alexandra Plachtová (CZE), German Jimenez Prats (ESP) and Giulia Formenton (ITA) as ICF Wildwater Canoeing Committee members, with Rafael Giroto (BRA), Tim Novak (SLO) and Peter Schofield (GBR) as advisors.

4.6. The ICF Canoe Marathon Committee Chair, Ruud Heijsselaar (RH), presented the proposed members and advisors to the Board, emphasizing the importance of maintaining continuity in the committee to achieve the objectives outlined in his report.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Delia Merayo Lopez (ESP), Brian Chapman (GBR), Andras Faludy (HUN) and Stien Verlinden (BEL) as ICF Canoe Marathon Committee members, with Stefan Gustafsson (SWE), Tim Cornish (RSA) and Jerry Dunn (AUS) as advisors.

4.7. The ICF Canoe Polo Committee Chair, Greg Smale (GS), presented his proposed committee composition to the Board, expressing his satisfaction with the current team and commending their hard work and accomplishments.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved João Botelho (POR), Eva Lindmark (SWE), Mario Perez Lopez (ESP) and Virginie Brackez (FRA) as ICF Canoe Polo Committee members, with Pawel Teleman (POL), Evan Kong (SGP), and Charlotte Bakkes (NED) as advisors.

4.8. The ICF Canoe Freestyle Committee Chair, Terry Best (TB), presented his committee composition, emphasizing a balanced mix of enthusiasm and experience. He stressed the importance of having the right people in the right roles, regardless of continental or national representation, to ensure effective discipline-focused work.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Anne Sommerauer (GER), Jez Jez (AUS), Alexandre Conte (FRA) and Mason Hargrove (USA) as ICF Canoe Freestyle Committee members, with Ned Poffenberger (USA) and Tanya Neilson (GBR) as advisors.

4.9. The ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Committee Chair, Marian Sarbu (MS), presented his proposed committee members and sought approval to add one more female member, noting ongoing discussions with potential candidates from America and Oceania. TK supported the effort to recruit more individuals, especially women, for the committee.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Mackenzie Hynard (AUS), Alejandro Agüera (ESP) and David Szlachta (FRA) as ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Committee members, with Raymond Ho-Yin Lo (HKG) as advisors.

4.10. The ICF Stand Up Paddling Committee Chair, Noemi Horvath (NH), presented the nominations to the Board, with four members and two advisors.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Aure Medina Amorrortu (ESP), Sam Rutt (GBR), Kristin Thomas (USA) and Emilie Fournel (CAN) as ICF Stand Up Paddling Committee members, with Sotirios Notas (GRE) and Rui Duarte Cristino Lacerda (POR) as advisors.

4.11. The ICF Dragon Boat Commission Chair, Wai-hung Luk (WL) presented the proposal, noting that most members were continuing in their roles, with the addition of a new member. TK reminded the Board of the ICF's policy suspending Russian and Belarusian officials, even if National Federations are not themselves suspended, and stated that any approved members from these countries would remain inactive until the policy changes.

Decision: The ICF BoD approved Ulrike Schreck (GER), Elena Iskhakova (RUS, currently suspended), Dr Howard Chen (USA) and Carole Cheviet (FRA) as ICF Dragon Boat Commission members, with three abstentions.

5. Organisational Review

- 5.1. TK outlined his vision for the ICF's organisational review, aiming to strengthen the federation's structure, procedures, and policies to enhance operational efficiency, governance, and global engagement. Proposed changes include eliminating proxy voting in favour of compensating National Federations for Congress participation, consolidating isolated committees, diversifying revenue sources, optimizing operations, and incorporating AI and digital events as growth opportunities.

Actions: A letter will be sent to stakeholders explaining the organisational review project and inviting proposals. Feedback will be organized into main themes, with working groups assigned for focused analysis. Open consideration for consulting firms with sports governance expertise to assist in the framework development and execution stages. Aim to have initial changes ready for the 2026 Technical Congress.

6. ICF events allocation : 2025 Wildwater Canoeing World Cups

- 6.1. MG indicated confidence in both proposed organizers, stating they are experienced, and saw no further need for discussion.
- 6.2. The Board discussed the ICF's new policy aimed at a proactive approach to finding potential event organizers. LRC proposed contacting each community to gather ideas on preferred locations, and TK noted the need for a flexible strategy that allows individual engagement with prospective organizers fitting within the ICF's goals.

Decision: The ICF BoD unanimously approved Skopje, North Macedonia, and Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as hosts for the 2025 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Cups.

7. Competition Rules Appendices Approval

- 7.1. Canoe Slalom: RF explained that the appendices, which should have accompanied the rules presented earlier in the year, were delayed but are now finalized. The key change is the removal of the global pancontinental qualification quota. This decision aligns with the rules passed in April. The change represents a significant shift in the World Cup format, moving away from the previous structure. The goal is to communicate these changes to the teams promptly and finalise the 2025 programme, with ample time for the new committee to reassess the proposal if necessary. There was also discussion on improving communication and consultation processes for rule changes and ensuring clarity for federations.

Decision: The ICF BoD approved Canoe Slalom competition rules appendices with two abstentions.

7.2. Canoe Freestyle: TB provided an update on the ongoing work of the rules working group, which meets regularly to clarify ambiguous rules. Most changes involve refining definitions, particularly for freestyle moves. A new move, the "three-point loop," was added to the scoring system.

Decision: The ICF BoD voted in favour of Canoe Freestyle competition rules appendices.

8. Paddle Summit

8.1. RP provided a detailed update on the upcoming meetings in Hangzhou with the provisional agenda. The key dates included: 27-28 February, Commission and committee meetings, allowing each committee to meet individually and discuss their topics. 1-2 March Paddle Summit, aimed at connecting various stakeholders for workshops and key discussions on driving the sport forward. March 3rd, Executive Committee meeting. March 4th-5th, Board of Directors meetings.

9. ICF office and registration

9.1. RP explained that the ICF is in the process of registering the office in Hungary as its headquarters and must follow a separate procedure to officially register the Lausanne, Switzerland office as a branch office of the future Hungarian Headquarters. The BoD voted in favour for both resolutions.

Decision 1: The ICF BoD unanimously agreed to have the ICF's Lausanne office registered as a branch office.

Decision 2: The ICF BoD unanimously agreed that the representatives of this branch office shall be the President and the Secretary General who will have individual representation rights.

10. Debt of the National Federation Members

10.1. RP updated the Board on membership fees, confirming that all members present the Congress have paid their 2024 fees. However, outstanding debts from previous years have been identified due to strengthened accounting processes. A proposal regarding the handling of these debts and member participation in future competitions will be discussed at the next board meeting.

11. Next BoD meeting

Decision: The ICF BoD approved the next meeting will take place in Hangzhou, China