

Andrii Kraiton

Discipline: Canoe Sprint / Stand Up Paddling (SUP) / Dragon Boat

Nationality: Ukrainian, Bulgarian resident

Languages: English, Russian, Ukrainian, basic Bulgarian, Polish



Andrii Kraiton is an Olympian (Rio 2016), a 2-time World and European Champion in Canoe Sprint, and a 4-time World Champion in Stand Up Paddling. With over two decades of experience at the highest level of paddle sports, he has competed, coached, and contributed to the development of sports structures across continents. He served as national coach for China, leading athletes to Olympic gold, and for Indonesia, where he continues to support elite talent and national development.

Now representing Bulgaria as SUP Athlete, providing with Sports Camps rental services and logistics solutions, co-founder of the Union Paddlers platform, which supports athletes with training, logistics, and global competition preparation. Known for his athlete-first mindset, cross-disciplinary knowledge, and ability to foster international collaboration, he is a respected voice in the global paddle sports community. Living between Europe and Asia, he continues to build bridges between cultures, athletes, and sport governance.

Motivation Statement

In a sport as dynamic and diverse as paddling, it's essential that athletes feel informed, included, and represented in the decisions that shape their journeys.

Andrii is applying to the ICF Athletes Committee to serve as a bridge between athletes and leadership, across all disciplines, with a special focus on the growing non-Olympic SUP and Dragon Boat communities. Having journeyed from Olympic lines to grassroots development, and coached athletes to success across the globe, he understands the realities athletes face on and off the water.

He believes that when athletes are meaningfully engaged, paddlesports become stronger, more united, and more sustainable. His goal is to bring practical insights, global perspective, and a collaborative spirit to the Committee, working alongside leadership to build a more connected and athletes - centred community.

For Andrii, this nomination is not just a role, but a responsibility, to listen, to represent, and to help shape a future where all paddlers have a voice.

Athletic Achievements

Olympic Participation:

- Rio 2016 Olympic Games (Canoe Sprint)

World & Continental Titles:

- 2× World Champion – Canoe Sprint
- 2× European Champion – Canoe Sprint
- 4× World Champion – Stand Up Paddling (ICF SUP Worlds)

International Career Highlights:

- Over 15 years competing at ICF World Cups, World Championships, and Continental events
 - Finalist and medallist across multiple ICF disciplines
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Coaching & Leadership Experience

National Team Coaching Roles:

- **Indonesia (2022–2025):** National Coach – SEA Games, Asian Games, ICF events
- **SUP Coaching (2021–2024):** Private coach via PaddelMoster.com – training European champions and World Championship medalists
- **Kazakhstan (2022):** Technical advisor for sprint development
- **China (2017–2021):** Head Coach – led athletes to Olympic gold (Tokyo 2020)
- **Colombia (2017):** Coaching support and performance consulting

Organizer & Co-Founder:

- **Union Paddlers:** International hub for collaboration, support, and athlete resources in SUP
 - Event management, logistics & equipment operations
 - Content creation, communication, and outreach
 - High-performance coaching & athlete development
- **Sports Camps:** Rental and logistics solutions for elite-level paddle training camps
 - Administration, coordination, logistics planning
 - Managed equipment services at ICF SUP World Championships (board rental, logistics, athlete support)

- Intercultural team building & remote collaboration

Mentorship & Development:

- Speaker and educator at youth paddling camps and sport development seminars
 - Creator of customized training plans for CanoeSprint and SUP athletes
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Education & Professional Background**Academic Degree:**

- **2014-2018** - Physical Education and Sport Science, Bachelor Degree (Volgograd State Academy of the physical education, Russia)

Key Competencies:

- International team management and high-performance coaching
- Strategic event logistics and operations
- Athlete-centered training development
- Cross-cultural leadership in global sport contexts
- Strategic planning and project execution
- Athlete representation and federation engagement
- Public speaking and multilingual communication

Volunteer and Development Work:

- Contributor to SUP and canoe programs in Southeast Europe and Asia
- Advocate for youth engagement, athlete transition, and sport accessibility