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# ANNUAL REVIEW 2025



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## The President's Overview



The year 2025 marked another outstanding chapter in the International Canoe Federation's journey, building on the momentum of the Paris 2024 Games and further strengthening the global presence and impact of paddle sport. Across the calendar, the ICF delivered 26 international competitions, each showcasing the diversity, excellence and growing appeal of our sport on the world stage. Several flagship events underlined the strength of paddle sport in all its disciplines. The World Games in China captured global attention with high-level competition across three disciplines, while the Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe World Championships in Italy demonstrated the sport's dynamism and inclusivity in a country preparing to host the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. Meanwhile, the Canoe Slalom World Championships in Australia set new benchmarks, not only in sporting performance but also in atmosphere and spectator engagement, standing among the finest events in our history.

Equally significant were important milestones in the globalisation of ICF events. 2025 saw the first ICF World Championships staged in the Middle East with the SUP World Championships in Abu Dhabi, as well as the first ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships held on African soil. These landmark events reflected the ICF's clear commitment to expanding the geographic footprint of paddle sport and bringing top-level competition to new regions. This progress will be further accelerated through the implementation of the new ICF event allocation strategy, designed to ensure a more balanced and truly global competition calendar.

Beyond competition delivery, 2025 was a year of strategic progress. Significant work continued on the implementation of the ICF's Fit for Future Evolution strategy, including the development of new Olympic qualification systems through an open and transparent process involving National Federations

worldwide. This approach demonstrated the ICF's commitment to fairness, inclusivity and global balance, while supporting the long-term objective of increasing the attractiveness and worldwide relevance of World Cups and major international events. This also leads to more attention for our events and upgraded the time between the Games

Governance and development also remained central priorities. A comprehensive governance review was launched, engaging experts and representatives from across the paddle sport community, while development activities expanded further, providing athletes, coaches and federations from all continents with increased access to education, expertise and targeted support. These efforts reaffirmed the ICF's responsibility to ensure that opportunity, knowledge and growth are shared as widely as possible across the global paddling family.

Underpinning all achievements in 2025 was the dedication of organisers, officials, volunteers, committee members and the ICF staff. With a strengthened organisational structure, an expanded workforce and the establishment of the new headquarters in Budapest alongside offices in Lausanne and Hangzhou, the ICF continued to enhance its capacity to serve its members and stakeholders worldwide.

Together, these sporting, strategic and organisational achievements made 2025 a defining year for the International Canoe Federation, one that reinforced confidence in our direction and laid a strong foundation for future growth.

**Thomas Konietzko**  
ICF President



# “ Canoe Slalom



## | Gestin best in C1

Is there anything that Nicolas Gestin cannot do? Probably not, going by his 2025 season. The French paddler could have rested on his laurels after winning a prestigious canoe single gold medal at a home Olympic Games last year, but instead he chose to go all out. The 25-year-old, instead of basking in his glory, went on to win his first overall ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup C1 crown. He then capped the season off by winning the C1 gold at the ICF Slalom World Championships in Sydney. Talk about dominance.

## | French and the furious

A new generation of superstars has hinted that France will remain a force in Canoe Slalom for many years to come. Following in Gestin's footsteps, Titouan Castryck did the double at the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup Series and the World Championships in the kayak single. His battle with good friend and compatriot Anatole Delassus was a joy to watch. Elsewhere, Camille Prigent added to the French delight as she captured the kayak cross individual World Cup Series crown. At the World Championships, it was another French Paris 2024 star, Angele Hug, who stood out in the kayak cross head-to-head, winning gold, as Prigent bagged silver. The action in Sydney also saw Frenchman Mathurin Madore claim silver in the men's kayak cross.





## Double delight for Woods and Zwolinska

Kimberley Woods of Great Britain and Klaudia Zwolinska of Poland enjoyed a great season among women paddlers. Woods, who had a tough start in the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup Series, finished with the K1 and C1 overall titles after stunning showings in Tacen and Augsburg. Zwolinska, on the other hand, surprised herself as she went on to win World Championships gold medals in the K1 and C1. In a post-Olympic year, when athletes tend to take time to reset and refresh, Woods and Zwolinska showed that a late push can still be rewarded with double the sweetness.



## Year of firsts

To be the first-ever to achieve something is an unbeatable feeling, and there was plenty of that in 2025. Among them was Nicholas Collier, who became the first New Zealander to win gold at the ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships in Foix, France. In the men's kayak cross U23 final, he outsmarted Olympic star Castryck, his French counterpart Gino Benini, and Italian Xabier Ferrazzi for a famous win. Used to winning in the C1, Slovakian Sona Stanovska got a memorable K1 gold in the first World Cup of the season. In Spain, we saw the birth of another Great Britain star. Having already dominated age groups, Lois Leaver won kayak cross bronze and went on to add plenty more as the season unwound. In Prague, another New Zealander marked his name in World Cup history. Finn Butcher, the Olympic kayak cross champion, battled his way to a first-ever gold in the competition. That's not all, as the action in Tacen saw Japan's Momoka Nagasu, world number 117, stunning the field to reach the final before claiming silver – Japan's first-ever medal in kayak cross.



## Class is permanent

Following the birth of his second child, Great Britain's Joseph Clarke, a two-time Olympic medallist, was not able to make a mark on the World Cup circuit, missing the opening two stops in la Seu d'Urgell and Pau. While he also failed to defend the K1 title at the World Championships in Sydney, Clarke put on a show in the kayak cross, powering to victory, his fourth on the trot. After an Olympic Games to forget, Germany's Ricarda Funk showed incredible resilience in the 2025 season. The Tokyo 2020 K1 champion secured the European title in Vaires-sur-Marne first before concluding the season by claiming the overall kayak cross World Cup crown and a K1 team silver in Sydney. Star paddlers, responding like champions!

## Results: 2025 ICF Slalom World Championships

K1 Men			K1 Women		
1	Titouan Castryck (FRA)	90.81	1	Klaudia Zwolinska (POL)	100.32
2	Jakub Krejci (CZE)	92.27	2	Kimberley Woods (GBR)	102.09
3	Jiri Prskavec (CZE)	92.34	3	Kate Eckhardt (AUS)	103.84

C1 Men			C1 Women		
1	Nicolas Gestin (FRA)	97.13	1	Klaudia Zwolinska (POL)	108.49
2	Ryan Westley (GBR)	98.03	2	Alsu Minazova (AIN)	112.88
3	Kaylen Bassett (AUS)	98.74	3	Ana Satila (BRA)	112.98

K1 Men Teams			K1 Women Teams		
1	France	95.30	1	Czechia	103.22
2	Japan	95.36	2	Germany	106.48
3	Great Britain	95.40	3	Slovenia	107.73

C1 Men Teams			C1 Women Teams		
1	France	99.97	1	Czechia	109.57
2	Great Britain	100.76	2	Germany	112.93
3	Slovenia	100.86	3	Great Britain	115.61

Kayak Cross Individual Men			Kayak Cross Individual Women		
1	David Llorente (ESP)	55.21	1	Alena Marx (SUI)	62.09
2	Joseph Clarke (GBR)	56.33	2	Ajda Novak (SLO)	63.07
3	Jakub Krejci (CZE)	56.89	3	Ana Satila (BRA)	63.23

Kayak Cross Men			Kayak Cross Women		
1	Joseph Clarke (GBR)		1	Angele Hug (FRA)	
2	Mathurin Madore (FRA)		2	Camille Prigent (FRA)	
3	Matyas Novak (CZE)		3	Klaudia Zwolinska (POL)	

In Sydney, Australia



# “ Canoe Sprint



## | Luzan is all-conquering in a canoe

Milan was the stage of the 2025 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships, and the location where Ukraine's Liudmyla Luzan swept all before her. There is no doubt that the Italian city will hold a special place in Luzan's heart after she clinched four world titles. Luzan formed an unstoppable canoe double with Iryna Fedoriv, winning golds over 200m and 500m and was just as sensational on her own in a boat. No one could catch Luzan as she won the women's canoe single 500m before coming out on top in a stacked field to win gold in the women's C1 200m to complete a remarkable week in Milan.



## | Pulawska rises to pole as Carrington takes breather

There was a big announcement in May when eight-time Olympic champion Lisa Carrington revealed that she would not compete internationally in 2025. With the New Zealander watching on from home, it created an opening for someone else to take the kayak crown. That paddler was Poland's Anna Pulawska. The Pole started the season in style, winning the women's kayak single titles in both 200m and 500m at the opening ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup in Szeged before starring on home waters. Competing in Poznan, the home favourite delivered gold again in the women's K1 500m. Carrington returned to action at the World Championships in Milan, coming in as a late replacement for the injured Olivia Brett in New Zealand's team. But with Carrington only competing in the women's kayak four 500m, Pulawska continued her dominance in the K1 500m, clinching the world title, and she also triumphed with **Martyna Klatt** in the women's kayak double 500m.

## | Flying Fuksa is winning machine

A self-proclaimed medal collector, Czechia's Martin Fuksa boosted his cabinet with more silverware following a sensational Canoe Sprint season. After making his dreams come true with gold at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Fuksa could have been forgiven for taking his foot off the gas in 2025, but he continued to assert his authority in a canoe. The 32-year-old hit the ground running with gold in the men's C1 1000m at the first World Cup in Szeged before doing the double in Poznan. Oozing with confidence, Fuksa pulled clear of the field to win over 500m and 1000m on Polish waters. He was also crowned European champion in the men's C1 500m. Although he missed out on gold in the men's C1 1000m, losing to Romania's Catalin Chirila in Racice, Fuksa ensured he was top dog again in Milan, sealing the world title with a fantastic display.



## | K4 battles intensify as Portugal and Spain reach summit



When a new Olympic cycle begins, it is an opportunity for nations to change their team boats as they look to freshen things up. In the men's K4, Germany and Hungary occupied the top two spots in the World Cups, winning a title apiece, and they looked set to battle it out again at the World Championships. But Portugal, made up of Gustavo Goncalves, Joao Ribeiro, Messias Baptista and Pedro Casinha, had other ideas. After stunning the field to win gold at the European Championships, the Portuguese quartet emerged victorious again at the World Championships. In the women's K4, Spain gave a glimpse of their potential with gold at the first World Cup in Szeged before edging China by 0.10 to clinch the world crown in Milan. The Spanish partnership of Sara Ouzande, Lucia Val, Estefania Fernandez and Barbara Pardo look like they will prove hard to stop on the road to LA28.

## | Yarchevska and Drobot show future is bright

Aged just 20 years old, Spain's Viktoriia Yarchevska announced her name on the big stage with an awesome performance to seal women's C1 200m gold at the World Cup in Szeged. She then backed that up by joining forces with Angels Moreno to claim European titles in the women's C2 200m and women's C2 500m. Another 20-year-old in Natalia Drobot of Australia also starred in 2025, winning the women's K2 500m title with Kailey Harlen at the World Cup in Poznan and securing women's K1 500m silver at the World Championships in Milan. Hungary continues to demonstrate their wealth of talent as Zsolia Csorba, 22, and Zsoka Csikos, 24, won major titles and Agnes Kiss, 20, impressed alongside Bianka Kiss, 25, in the C2 in the World Cups. China's Nan Wang, 25, is another paddler born in the 2000s making waves, clinching the world crown in the women's K1 200m and securing two Asian titles. Great strides are also being made in Africa, with South Africa's Hamish Lovemore storming to a stunning men's K1 1000m silver in Szeged, and other paddlers who had benefitted from ICF Development Camps won medals at the 2025 African Championships.





## Results: 2025 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships

K1 Men 200m			C1 Men 200m		
1	Kolos Csizmadia (HUN)	00:34.29	1	Artur Guliev (UZB)	Artur Guliev (UZB)
2	Andrea Di Liberto (ITA)	00:34.54	2	Pable Grana (ESP)	Pable Grana (ESP)
3	Badri Kazelashvili (GEO)	00:34.64	3	Sergey Svinarev (AIN)	Sergey Svinarev (AIN)
K1 Women 200m			C1 Women 200m		
1	Nan Wang (CHN)	00:41.46	1	Liudmyla Luzan (UKR)	00:46.09
2	Anja Osterman (SLO)	00:41.61	2	Yarisleidis Dubois Cirilo (CUB)	00:46.27
3	Emily Lewis (GBR)	00:41.66	3	Ekaterina Shliapnikova (AIN)	00:46.59
K1 Men 500m			C1 Men 500m		
1	Josef Dostal (CZE)	01:38.43	1	Zakhar Petrov (AIN)	01:46.27
2	Adam Varga (HUN)	01:38.52	2	Martin Fuksa (CZE)	01:46.71
3	Alex Graneri (ESP)	01:39.05	3	Serghei Tarnovschi (MDA)	01:47.38
K1 Women 500m			C1 Women 500m		
1	Anna Pulawska (POL)	01:49.30	1	Liudmyla Luzan (UKR)	02:01.47
2	Natalia Drobot (AUS)	01:49.73	2	Katie Vincent (CAN)	02:02.50
3	Zsoka Csikos (HUN)	01:49.84	3	Maria Corbera (ESP)	02:04.73
K1 Men 1000m			C1 Men 1000m		
1	Balint Kopasz (HUN)	03:25.50	1	Martin Fuksa (CZE)	03:46.09
2	Thomas Green (AUS)	03:25.68	2	Stefanos Dimopoulos (GRE)	03:47.92
3	Fernando Pimenta (POR)	03:26.16	3	Balazs Adolf (HUN)	03:49.40
K1 Women 1000m			C1 Women 5000m		
1	Zsoka Csikos (HUN)	03:50.46	1	Volha Klimava (AIN)	26:19.99
2	Alyssa Buck (AUS)	03:51.33	2	Katie Vincent (CAN)	26:34.92
3	Aimee Fisher (NZL)	03:54.11	3	Zsafia Csorba (HUN)	26:48.01
K1 Men 5000m			C1 Men 5000m		
1	Mads Pedersen (DEN)	20:53.89	1	Serghei Tarnovschi (MDA)	23:41.31
2	Hamish Lovemore (RSA)	21:13.36	2	Jaime Duro (ESP)	23:43.67
3	Adam Varga (HUN)	21:24.09	3	Wiktor Glazunow (POL)	23:53.73
K1 Women 5000m			C2 Women 200m		
1	Melina Andersson (SWE)	23:10.86	1	Liudmyla Luzan and Iryna Fedoriv (UKR)	00:41.87
2	Susanna Cicali (ITA)	23:54.97	2	Yuliya Trushkina and Inna Nedelkina (AIN)	00:42.59
3	Anna Margrete Sletsjoe (NOR)	24:17.48	3	Audrey Harper and Andreea Ghizila (USA)	00:42.78
K2 Men 500m			C2 Men 500m		
1	Levente Kurucz and Bence Nadas (HUN)	01:28.28	1	Zakhar Petrov and Ivan Shtyl (AIN)	01:39.63
2	Joao Ribeiro and Messias Baptista (POR)	01:28.44	2	Yuebin Yu and Chenwei Yu (CHN)	01:40.60
3	Jacob Schopf and Max Lemke (GER)	01:28.94	3	Kristof Kollar and Istvan Juhasz (HUN)	01:40.74
K2 Women 500m			C2 Women 500m		
1	Martyna Klatt and Anna Pulawska (POL)	01:41.34	1	Liudmyla Luzan and Iryna Fedoriv (UKR)	01:53.30
2	Kailey Harlen and Natalia Drobot (AUS)	01:41.92	2	Zoe Wojtyk and Katie Vincent (CAN)	01:54.36
3	Paulina Paszek and Paulina Jagsch (GER)	01:43.19	3	Angels Moreno and Viktoriia Yarchevska (ESP)	01:54.84
K4 Men 500m			C4 Men 500m		
1	Portugal	01:18.93	1	Hungary	01:30.38
2	Hungary	01:18.98	2	Spain	01:31.15
3	Spain	01:19.33	3	AIN	01:31.45
K4 Women 500m			C4 Women 500m		
1	Spain	01:32.58	1	Hungary	01:46.43
2	China	01:32.68	2	AIN	01:47.48
3	AIN	01:32.80	3	China	01:47.50

# “ Paracanoe



## | Arigato, Poznan

The 2025 ICF Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe World Cup in Poznan once again showcased Asia's rise in Paracanoe as Japan made history with two gold medals thanks to Yuta Takagi and Monika Seryu. It was the first back-to-back Paracanoe golds for Japan, as Takagi dominated from start to finish in the men's VL1 final. Soon, his compatriot Seryu swept to the women's VL1 gold medal. Her victory was extra special as she edged out world champion Viktoriya Pistis Shablova of Italy. Seryu also went on to win VL1 bronze at the World Championships in Milan, finishing on a high.

## | New nationality, same old Yemelianov

The return of Paracanoe action at the International Canoe Federation Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe World Cup in Poznan also marked a new chapter for the sensational Serhii Yemelianov. For him, it was the first ICF competition in three years and nine months. After switching allegiances from Ukraine to Georgia, emotions were running high. But instead of succumbing under pressure, the 32-year-old stormed to the men's KL3 gold. That was not the end. At the World Championships in Milan, he won his fifth gold medal. Think that was it? No, and that is why Yemelianov is special. He also won the European KL3 title, European marathon gold medal, and a historic silver as Gyor, Hungary, hosted the ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships.





## | Marathon history

History was made in Gyor, Hungary, as Germany's Anja Adler, Lillemor Köper, and Moritz Berthold, Great Britain's Jeanette Chippington, Timo Alexander Nowak Lonsdale of Denmark, Robert Suba of Hungary, Nicolas Martinez of Spain, Austria's Markus Mendy Swoboda, Poland's Katarzyna Kozikowska, Mathieu St-Pierre of Canada, France's Myriam Clavreul, and Individual Neutral Athlete Larisa Volik were among the first paddlers to be awarded gold medals as Paracanoe became an official event at the ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships. After demonstration races in the past few editions, the 2025 World Championships showed that nothing can stop these incredible Paracanoe paddlers from competing over the 6k and 10k courses.

## | British excellence

With four gold medals and eight in total, Great Britain added to their legacy in Paracanoe at the World Championships in Milan. In the first flagship competition since the Paralympic Games Paris 2024, where they also finished as the best nation, Great Britain showed that they are the country to beat in the discipline. Even without the injured multiple Paralympic champion Emma Wiggs, David Phillipson, Charlotte Henshaw, Laura Sugar, and Hope Gordon stood on top of the podium in Milan to seal top position. The cherry on the cake was UK Sport recognising Paddle UK's Paracanoe team with the Innovation Award, showing the dedication and effort put into being the best.



## | Battles intensify

Missing out on a gold medal by 0.52 in Poznan to Brazilian Luis Carlos Cardoso Da Silva was a tough pill to swallow for the Hungarian Paralympic champion Peter Kiss, who got the better of Da Silva in Milan. Another close battle was between good friends Fernando Rufino de Paulo and Igor Alex Tofalini of Brazil. The former finished second to Tofalini in Poznan, but ensured he was not going to allow him to do a repeat at the World Championships in Milan. Poznan also saw Chile's Katherine Wollermann coming unstuck against Ukraine's Maryna Mazhula in the women's KL1, only for the results to be reversed in Milan.

## Results: 2025 ICF Paracanoe World Championships

KL1 Men			KL1 Women		
1	Peter Kiss (HUN)	45.96	1	Katherine Wollermann (CHI)	53.52
2	Luis Carlos Cardoso Da Silva (BRA)	46.93	2	Maryna Mazhula (UKR)	54.16
3	Aleksandr Ilchev (AIN)	49.63	3	Maosan Xie (CHN)	55.06

KL2 Men			KL2 Women		
1	David Phillipson (GBR)	44.04	1	Charlotte Henshaw (GBR)	48.07
2	Christian Volpi (ITA)	44.21	2	Katalin Varga (HUN)	50.80
3	Oybek Yuldashev (UZB)	44.22	3	Anja Adler (GER)	51.94

KL3 Men			KL3 Women		
1	Serhii Yemelianov (GEO)	40.31	1	Laura Sugar (GBR)	46.15
2	Miqueias Elias Rodrigues (BRA)	41.29	2	Nelia Barbosa (FRA)	47.26
3	Dylan Lillehales (AUS)	41.33	3	Hope Gordon (GBR) Felicia Laberer (GER)	51.94

VL1 Men			VL1 Women		
1	Ilya Taupianets (AIN)	58.86	1	Chinette Karina Lauridsen (GER)	1:06.99
2	Benjamin Sainsbury (AUS)	1:01.79	2	Viktoryia Pistis Shablova (ITA)	01:12.63
3	Artur Chuprov (AIN)	01:01.86	3	Monika Seryu (JPN)	01:19.15

VL2 Men			VL2 Women		
1	Fernando Rufino de Paulo (BRA)	51.80	1	Anastasia Miasnikova (AIN)	1:02.62
2	Igor Alex Tofalini (BRA)	51.84	2	Brianna Hennessy (CAN)	1:04.12
3	Edward Clifton (GBR)	53.04	3	Jeanette Chippington (GBR)	1:04.47

VL3 Men			VL3 Women		
1	Yi Pu (CHN)	47.25	1	Hop Gordon (GBR)	55.77
2	Turabek Nazarkulov (UZB)	47.28	2	Charlotte Henshaw (GBR)	58.11
3	Giovane Vieira de Paula (BRA)	47.50	3	Yuqingyan Cai (CHN)	58.67

In Milan, Italy



# “ Canoe Marathon

## Nordic stars shine in Chengdu and Gyor

Sweden's Melina Andersson and Denmark's Mads Brandt Pedersen are continuing to establish themselves as the respective kayak queen and king of marathon racing. The Nordic stars reigned supreme in 2024 and they did the same in 2025. In Chengdu, Andersson and Pedersen came away with two World Games crowns after triumphing over the short and long distance events to complete sensational doubles. One month later, they were topping the podium again in Gyor, Hungary as they retained their world titles in the long distance.



## Pimenta is back with a bang

After a frustrating season in 2024 where he missed out on an Olympic medal in Canoe Sprint and did not seal an individual world title in Canoe Marathon, Portugal's Fernando Pimenta was determined to come back fighting. With the home fans behind him in Ponte de Lima, Pimenta produced a brilliant performance to capture the European title in the men's short distance. He then backed this up by reclaiming the world crown as he got the better of Pedersen in a gripping men's short distance final in Gyor.

## | Ramalho is aging like a fine wine

As well as achieving individual success, Pimenta also experienced joy in the kayak double thanks to his great friend Jose Ramalho. At 43, you might think Ramalho's best days in international racing were behind him but just like a Port wine from his home country he is getting better with age. Ramalho and Pimenta became European champions in Ponte de Lima before winning a fourth successive world title after overcoming their Danish and Hungarian rivals. Ramalho also picked up two individual bronze medals at The World Games and finished third at both the European Championships and World Championships in the short race.



## | Csorba and Csikos are bright sparks for Hungary

With the World Championships returning to Gyor for the first time in 10 years, excitement and anticipation were high in Hungary. There was plenty of pressure on the home paddlers but they delivered, winning 11 senior medals. Among those were three golds as Zsófia Csorba, Zsófia Csikos and Giada Bragato emerged victorious on home waters. Ukraine's Liudmyla Babak has been the dominant force in a canoe but she was unable to stop the Hungarian charge as Csorba won the short race and Bragato swept to the long distance title. Csikos was also impressive as she defeated defending champion Andersson and the great Vanda Kiszli to secure the women's K1 short distance gold.

## | From development camp to world medal

History was made in Gyor as Muhammadi Rajabov became the first paddler from Tajikistan to win a medal at a Canoe Marathon World Championships. Rajabov arrived in the Hungarian city as a participant in the ICF development camp and left as a world medallist. Rajabov was involved in a dramatic men's junior C1 final. Hungary's Abel Farago-Toth was on course for victory only to capsize just metres from the finish line. Czechia's Martin Novacek pounced on Farago-Toth's mistake to win gold, while Portugal's Leonardo Barbosa and Rajabov also profited from the blunder, winning silver and bronze respectively.





Results: The World Games 2025

K1 Men Short Distance			K1 Women Short Distance		
1	Mads Brandt Pedersen (DEN)	13:45.46	1	Melina Andersson (SWE)	15:20.64
2	Hamish Lovemore (RSA)	13:45.61	2	Vanda Kiszli (HUN)	15:36.86
3	Jose Ramalho (POR)	14:08.95	3	Susanna Cicali (ITA)	15:43.79

K1 Men Long Distance			K1 Women Long Distance		
1	Mads Brandt Pedersen (DEN)	1:36:28.44	1	Melina Andersson (SWE)	1:48:11.11
2	Hamish Lovemore (RSA)	1:35:39.17	2	Vanda Kiszli (HUN)	1:49:54.75
3	Jose Ramalho (POR)	1:36:25.10	3	Pernille Hostrup (DEN)	1:51:16.60

In Chengdu, China

Results: 2025 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships

K1 Men Short Distance			K1 Women Short Distance		
1	Fernando Pimenta (POR)	13:37.11	1	Zsoka Csikos (HUN)	15:21.64
2	Mads Brandt Pedersen (DEN)	13:38.03	2	Melina Andersson (SWE)	15:24.65
3	Jose Ramalho (POR)	13:47.38	3	Vanda Kiszli (HUN)	15:28.93

C1 Men Short Distance			C1 Women Short Distance		
1	Philippines	00:47.07	1	Zsofia Katalin Csorba (HUN)	18:25.50
2	Canada	00:48.69	2	Zsofia Nora Kisban (HUN)	18:29.79
3	AIN	00:49.03	3	Liudmyla Babak (UKR)	18:40.95

K1 Men Long Distance			10-seater 2000 Women		
1	Mads Brandt Pedersen (DEN)	2:00:19.78	1	Melina Andersson (SWE)	1:56:38.69
2	Andrew James Birkett (RSA)	2:00:21.02	2	Vanda Kiszli (HUN)	1:56:42.74
3	Csanad Sellyei (HUN)	2:00:44.59	3	Anna Margrete Sletsjoe (NOR)	1:58:41.00

K2 Men Long Distance			K2 Women Long Distance		
1	Jose Ramalho and Fernando Pimenta (POR)	1:54:00.62	1	Tania Fernandez and Tania Alvarez (ESP)	1:51:26.22
2	Mads Brandt Pedersen and Philip Knudsen (DEN)	1:54:01.89	2	Zsofia Szerafin and Vanda Kiszli (HUN)	1:51:27.11
3	Adrian Boros and Tamas Erdelyi (HUN)	1:54:03.85	3	Panna Sinko and Panna Csepe (HUN)	1:51:28.89

C1 Men Long Distance			C1 Women Long Distance		
1	Mateusz Zuchora (POL)	1:43:20.20	1	Giada Bragato (HUN)	1:17:16.13
2	Mateusz Borgiel (POL)	1:43:23.16	2	Daniela Cociu (MDA)	1:17:45.84
3	Fernando Busto Bandin (ESP)	1:43:30.95	3	Liudmyla Babak (UKR)	1:18:18.28

C2 Men Long Distance					
1	Ricardo Coelho and Rui Lacerda (POR)	1:35:45.63			
2	Jaime Duro and Manuel Garrido (ESP)	1:36:34.96			
3	Mateusz Zuchora and Mateusz Borgiel (POL)	1:37:32.65			

In Gyor, Hungary

# “ Wildwater Canoeing



## | Czech siblings enjoy dream day

The ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships returned to Czechia for the first time in 19 years with Ceske Budejovice playing host. It was a big moment for Czech wildwater paddlers and one that a pair of siblings seized. Klara Vankova and Matej Vanek both struck gold on the same day to deliver joy to their family. Vankova was the first to top the podium with gold in the women's kayak single before Vanek retained the men's canoe single crown. There was also home delight for Kristina Novosadova and Marie Nemcova in the women's canoe double and in the teams events, while Czechia reigned supreme in Solkan, Slovenia, topping the sprint and classic standings at the Junior and U23 Wildwater Canoeing World Championships.



## Urankar triumphs in Slovenian showdown

One of the most much anticipated races of the World Championships was the men's K1 as Slovenians Anze Urankar and Nejc Znidarcic went head-to-head. Znidarcic is a six-time winner of the event, winning three in a row from 2019 to 2022 but Urankar currently holds the upper hand in this duel. After triumphing in 2017, 2023 and 2024, Urankar emerged victorious again for a fourth world crown. Urankar won in 41.92 as Znidarcic had to settle for second in 42.59 and Czechia's Vojtech Matejicek claimed bronze in 42.68.



## Fontaine leads French charge

It's also been a great year in Wildwater Canoeing for France, headlined by Laura Fontaine's world title. It was a third successive women's C1 gold for Fontaine as she overcame Czechia's Anna Retkova and Slovakia's Katarina Kopunova to clinch top spot in Ceske Budejovice. Following Fontaine's triumph, France picked up another gold when Corentin Combe and Clement Monjanel combined to secure the men's C2 title. The French team also took the Wildwater Canoeing World Cups by storm.



## Sauteur produces five-star showing

Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Skopje, North Macedonia were the hosts of this year's Wildwater Canoeing World Cups. France's Nicolas Sauter enjoyed plenty of success across the events, including five gold medals in Banja Luka – the venue for next year's World Championships. Among those titles included the men's C2 classic, C1 sprint, C2 sprint and C1 classic mass start as well as a silver in the C1 classic. Sauter also starred in Skopje, capturing back-to-back men's C1 crowns.



## Panato family joy in Mezzana

There was delight for the Panato family in June when Mezzana staged the European Championships. Cecilia Panato was responsible for all of Italy's four golds in Mezzana. She won the women's C1 titles in both sprint and classic and teamed up with her sister Alice Panato to triumph in the women's C2 in both categories again. It was a memorable competition for the Italian family as Cecilia and Alice are the daughters of legendary Vladi Panato who was the organiser of the European Championships.

## Results: 2025 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships

K1 Men Sprint			K1 Women Sprint		
1	Anze Urankar (SLO)	41.92	1	Klara Vankova (CZE)	47.91
2	Nejc Znidarcic (SLO)	42.59	2	Mathilde Serena Rosa (ITA)	48.19
3	Vojtech Matejcek (CZE)	42.68	3	Luisa Puttkammer (GER)	48.72

K1 Men Teams Sprint			K1 Women Teams Sprint		
1	Slovenia	44.59	1	Czechia	51.11
2	Czechia	45.04	2	Slovenia	52.80
3	France	46.51	3	Germany	53.72

C1 Men Sprint			C1 Women Sprint		
1	Matej Vanek (CZE)	46.42	1	Laura Fontaine (FRA)	52.79
2	Nicolas Sauter (FRA)	47.80	2	Anna Retkova (CZE)	53.20
3	Charles Ferrion (FRA)	48.10	3	Katarina Kopunova (SVK)	54.01

C2 Men Sprint			C2 Women Sprint		
1	Corentin Combe and Clement Monjanel (FRA)	46.16	1	Kristina Novosadova and Marie Nemcova (CZE)	52.23
2	Matej Vanek and Karel Rasner (CZE)	46.68	2	Elsa Gaubert and Margot Beziat (FRA)	54.11
3	Nicolas Sauter and Theo Viens (FRA)	47.18	3	Alice Panato and Cecilia Panato (ITA)	54.38

C1 Men Teams Sprint			C1 Women Teams Sprint		
1	Czechia	49.94	1	Czechia	57.95
2	Germany	51.36	2	France	58.87
3	France	51.52	3	Great Britain	1:21.01

In Ceske Budejovice, Czechia



# “ Canoe Ocean Racing



## | Bester puts best foot forward

It has been a difficult period for Kira Bester having suffered the loss of her coach and mentor Peter Cole earlier this year. But Bester has reacted in a way that would have made Cole beam from ear to ear. The 24-year-old put her best foot forward as she retained the world title in the women's surfski single on South African waters. She also finished the year in style, storming to victory at the ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Cup in Reunion.

## | South Africans put on show in Durban

Due to the popularity of surfski paddling in South Africa, Durban was always going to deliver a fantastic World Championships. It lived up to the hype as South Africa staged a great event with a strong contingent of home paddlers making an impression. Among those was Bester as she made it back-to-back women's SS1 crowns. There was also glory for South Africa's Matthew Fenn and Saskia Johanna Hockly as they were crowned world champions in the mixed surfski double. Fenn and Hockly were not the only South Africans on the podium in that event as Hamish Lovemore teamed up with Jenna Nisbet to secure bronze.

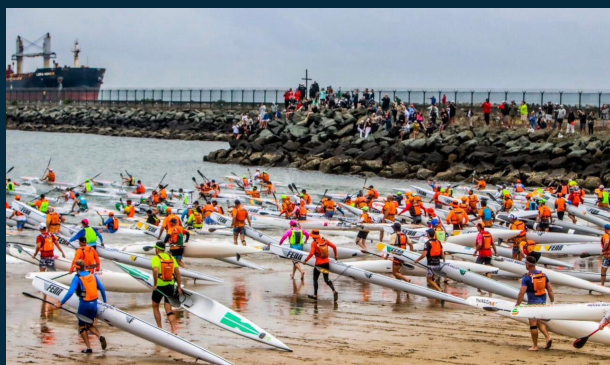


## | Hill scales new heights with fourth gold

Back in 2015, Australia's Cory Hill secured the first of his world titles courtesy of his triumph in Tahiti. Fast forward 10 years and Hill can now call himself a four-time world champion. Last year, Hill came unstuck to an inspired Gordan Harbrecht of Germany in Madeira. But no one could stop Hill from emerging victorious in Durban as he delivered his race plan to perfection. Hill pulled away from France's Pierre Vilella and Portugal's Bernardo Pereira to take the title for an unprecedented fourth time, adding to his victories in 2015, 2017 and 2023.



## | Asian growth with talented officials and paddlers



Canoe Ocean Racing is continuing to gather momentum in Asia. In September, Qingdao, China hosted the Asian Canoe Ocean Racing Championships that featured more than 350 athletes from 10 countries. It was a hugely successful event with Hock Wing Winnie Wong and Lyu Weiwu winning the respective women's and men's SS1 titles. Alongside the racing at Shilaoren Beach, Qingdao was also hosting a seminar for International Technical Officials. Not only did it showcase Asia's passion for Canoe Ocean Racing but also laid strong foundations for the continent to contribute further to the global growth of the sport.

## | Excitement builds for 2026

Next year will see the ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships take place in Villajoyosa, Spain. The venue provided a glimpse of what to expect in 2026 when it played host to the opening World Cup of the season in May when Harbrecht and Bester emerged victorious. The 2026 calendar has also been bolstered with World Cups to be held in Madeira, Portugal, Kuantan in Malaysia, Tahiti in French Polynesia, Molokabira in Brazil and Reunion, France. Among those venues, Reunion staged a World Cup this year as Bester and Fenn struck gold, while Molokabira hosted this year's Pan American Canoe Ocean Racing Championships where Brazil swept the podium. This all whets the appetite for a mouthwatering 2026 season.

## Results: 2025 ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships

SS1 Men			SS1 Women		
1	Cory Hill (AUS)	02:05:22	1	Kira Bester (RSA)	02:22:46
2	Piere Vilella (FRA)	02:06:05	2	Danielle Richards (NZL)	01:23:09
3	Bernardo Leca Pereira (POR)	02:06:05	3	Rosemary Edwards (GBR)	02:28:17
SS2 Mixed					
1	Matthew Fenn and Saskia Johanna Hockly (RSA)	01:51:16			
2	Thais Derieuz and Hector Henot (FRA)	01:53:34			
3	Jenna Nisbet and Hamish Lovemore	01:56:56			

**In Durban, South Africa**



# “ Canoe Polo

## | Oranje is the new bronze

It was a historic World Games for the Netherlands. Before coming to China, their best-ever finish at the Games was fifth in the United States. That changed in Chengdu thanks to some brilliant players like Alisha Van Den Berg and Wendy Huizinga, among others, led by coach Sytse van der Zwan. The fact that the team were there via crowdfunding makes their story all the more impressive. With a crushing 9-2 win over Italy, the country won its first-ever bronze medal at the Games.



## | German engines roar in Chengdu

Two finals, two gold medals for Germany. However, signs of this were evident from the very first match in Chengdu. Such was the dominance of Germany in the Canoe Polo competition in China that any other result would have been an upset. The men's team defeated Italy 3-1, defending their title from four years ago in Birmingham, Alabama, United States. It was also their fourth gold medal in a row at the Games. The women's team enjoyed redemption in China after a fifth-place finish at the 2024 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships. In the final, they beat New Zealand 4-0 to win their fourth gold medal overall at the multi-sport event.



| Return of Great Britain

The stories from Chengdu do not end with Germany and the Netherlands. Once a powerhouse, Great Britain's last hurrah at The World Games came when the sport made its debut in 2005 in Duisburg, where they won bronze. Since then, the men's team had not competed in the Games until Chengdu. And when they finally did, it was a memorable return, edging debutants Denmark 3-2 to win their second bronze medal. The team also delivered one of the most dramatic moments of the tournament when Shivan McCutcheon scored a goal from halfway against France to send them to the medal matches.



| First of many

With the aim of elevating the standard of the game in Asia, an ICF Canoe Polo Level 1 Coaching Course was held for the first time in Malaysia. While referee courses have happened in the past, this was a new beginning in the search for good coaches to lead the future generation. A total of 25 participants attended the course. The module touched upon basic skills, technique, tactics, and practical drills, with some special skills videos that were recorded by Mario Perez Lopez and the ICF Canoe Polo during the 2024 World Championships. There was also a session by Dr Mehregan Kheirollahi, a professional exercise physiologist, around the topics of motor learning and physiological demands.



| Community spirit

When Poland withdrew from hosting the European Championships, France kindly stepped in. One way or the other, paddle sport community steps up and delivers. It was a fantastic tournament that saw Germany and Spain triumph in the senior women's and men's categories, respectively. The French also made the most of the home advantage, winning at least one medal in each category.

Results: The World Games 2025

Men		Women	
1	Germany	1	Germany
2	Italy	2	New Zealand
3	Great Britain	3	Netherlands

In Chengdu, China



# “ Canoe Freestyle



## | All-British battle to savour

The ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships might have been forced to finish early due to low waters levels but that was unable to overshadow a thrilling season. The men's squirt final will live long in the memory as British duo Sam Wilson and Alex Edwards put on a masterclass of squirt paddling. It was a captivating battle as Wilson and Edwards traded one sublime run after another. Edwards held the upper hand in the hope of winning his first world title only for Wilson to pull off his best performance when it mattered most. Wilson put together a wonderful routine before submerging for a 19-second mystery move that saw him register a record-breaking score of 3,246.67 points.



## | Robinson-Shaw sweeps to hat-trick

While Wilson and Edwards locked horns in a thrilling duel, fellow British paddler Otilie Robinson-Shaw demonstrated her dominance. Robinson-Shaw saw off compatriot Tamsyn McConchie and defending champion Rose Wall of the United States to win the women's squirt title. It was the first of her three gold medals sealed as she retained the women's canoe crown before coming out on top in the women's kayak. Her hat-trick in Plattling means she now stands on nine world titles, including seven in seniors and two in juniors, and it is hard not to see her adding to that tally in the future.





## | Jackson competes with broken leg

One of the other big storylines from the World Championships was the appearance of Dane Jackson of the United States. Just five weeks before competition got underway in Plattling, Jackson sustained the biggest injury of his career. The 32-year-old broke two bones in his right leg and damaged his knee ligaments and calf muscle. But this did not stop him from competing at the World Championships. Jackson was hobbling on his crutches when he was off the water but once in his kayak the multiple world champion was still able to put together a string of tricks to the delight of his fans.



## | Plattling shows strength of freestyle community

Another enduring memory of the World Championships in Plattling was the packed stand for the medal ceremonies. Low water levels might have caused no action to take place for the final two days of competition, but the freestyle fans still stuck it out until the end to see paddlers celebrate their medals. There were joyous scenes as Robinson-Shaw received her hat-trick of titles, while golds were also hung around the necks of Wilson and fellow countryman Matthew Stephenson, Ireland's Eoghan Kelly and France's Tom Dolle. Despite the lack of action on the water, the support from spectators underlined the strength of the freestyle community.





## Columbus paves way for growth of discipline

There was a big buzz in Columbus in July when the city in the state of Georgia was unveiled as the ICF's inaugural Centre of Excellence designation for Canoe Freestyle. Committing itself to becoming the "Freestyle Kayaking Capital of the United States", Columbus will stage the 2028 World Cup and 2029 World Championships. It offers a launchpad for the next generation of world-class kayakers, provides a blueprint for other Centres of Excellence around the world and helps to shape the future of Canoe Freestyle on a global scale.



## Results: 2025 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships

K1 Men			K1 Women		
1	Tom Dolle (FRA)	2838.33 pts	1	Ottilie Robinson-Shaw (GBR)	1610.00
2	Tim Rees (GER)	2600.00	2	Zofia Tula (POL)	1076.67
3	Gavin Barker (GBR)	2466.67	3	Rebekah Green (GBR)	953.33

C1 Men			C1 Women		
1	Matthew Stephenson (GBR)	633.33	1	Ottilie Robinson-Shaw (GBR)	686.67
2	Tom Dolle (FRA)	523.33	2	Anica Schacher (GER)	556.67
3	Harry Price (GBR)	480.00	3	Jasmin Stangl-Brachnik (AUT)	323.33

Squirt Men			Squirt Women		
1	Sam Wilson (GBR)	3246.67	1	Ottilie Robinson-Shaw (GBR)	2790.00
2	Alex Edwards (GBR)	2820.00	2	Tamsyn McConchie (GBR)	1900.00
3	Taft Sibley (USA)	2046.67	3	Rose Wall (USA)	1466.67

Open Canoe		
1	Eoghan Kelly (IRE)	86.66
2	Jordan Poffenberger (USA)	70.00
3	Harvey Harwood (GBR)	61.67

In Plattling, Germany

# “ Stand Up Paddling



## | Rivera's clean sweep

When Mariecarmen Rivera arrived in Abu Dhabi, it was clear that she was a paddler on a mission. Having previously failed to win a world title, there was no way that Rivera was leaving the Emirati city without a gold medal around her neck. Such was her drive, one gold was simply not enough. After making history by winning a first-ever world crown for Puerto Rico, Rivera claimed two more as she emerged victorious across the sprint, technical and long distance categories. Her golden hat-trick in Abu Dhabi also ensured she finished the ICF Stand Up Paddling World Ranking Series in first place in sprint, second in long distance and third in the technical standings.

## | Spanish show need for speed

Aaron Sanchez Quetglas was involved in a thrilling tussle with Japan's Shuri Araki before finding a brilliant turn of pace. His sudden acceleration saw Sanchez Quetglas not only overhaul Araki but pull away from the Japanese star as he surged to victory in the men's technical. His victory came just 24 hours after Sergio Cantoral also demonstrated great pace to clinch the men's sprint gold medal by the narrowest of margins. This was not Spain's only medal success in Abu Dhabi as Sanchez Quetglas earned technical silver, Alba Alonso Frey achieved sprint silver and technical bronze and Duna Gordillo claimed long distance silver at the World Championships in Abu Dhabi.





## | Sey Chelle is an inspiration

Just one week before the World Championships got underway, Sey Chelle took to social media to reveal that she was three months pregnant. But there was no way that the American paddler was going to miss the World Championships. Sey Chelle said she had been suffering sickness and fatigue in the build-up to the ICF flagship event, but she still delivered on the biggest stage. Sey Chelle pulled off a stunning showing to win sprint bronze and participated in the technical and long distance categories, proving to be an inspiration to many.



## | UAE make history as SUP excites Middle East

For the first time in history, the ICF staged one of its World Championships in the Middle East. Abu Dhabi provided the perfect setting for SUP competition with races taking place against the backdrop of the Grand Mosque. As well as welcoming the world's best paddlers, they also set the stage for athletes from the UAE to prove themselves against the elite in SUP. Madhad Almheiri and Edgar Pampols were among eight paddlers representing the UAE in Abu Dhabi. With the help of Paddlers Hub UAE, led by Olympic Canoe Sprint medallist Krisztián Bártfai, and the Emirates Canoe and Rafting Federation, SUP is growing in the UAE and across the Middle East.



## | Teenagers get their kicks

At just 19 years old, Japan's Araki can already lay claim to being a double world champion. After making history with his long distance gold medal at last year's World Championships, Araki backed it up with an impressive victory in Abu Dhabi. He suffered the disappointment of losing out to Sanchez Quetglas in the men's technical before bouncing back to win the long distance gold. He also starred in the ICF SUP World Ranking Series which featured legs in Austria, Italy and Greece before the World Championships in Abu Dhabi. Another teenager to do superbly on the ICF circuit this year was Hungary's Csillag Kocsis as the 18-year-old topped the technical category in the series after stunning results.



## Results: 2025 ICF Stand Up Paddling World Championships

Men Sprint			Women Sprint		
1	Sergio Cantoral Quirant (ESP)	23.92	1	Mariecarmen Rivera (PUR)	29.22
2	Vadim Korobov (LTU)	23.99	2	Alba Alonso Frey (ESP)	29.81
3	Andrii Kraitor (BUL)	24.45	3	Sey Chelle (USA)	30.42

Men Technical			Women Technical		
1	Aaron Sanchez (ESP)	05:12.60	1	Mariecarmen Rivera (PUR)	05:49.86
2	Shuri Araki (JPN)	05:17.94	2	Duna Gordillo Rodriguez (ESP)	05:55.18
3	Rai Taguchi (JPN)	05:18.90	3	Alba Alonso Frey (ESP)	06:02.18

Men Long Distance			Women Long Distance		
1	Shuri Araki (JPN)	55:45.95	1	Mariecarmen Rivera (PUR)	1:02:04.11
2	Aaron Sanchez (ESP)	55:49.21	2	Duna Gordillo Rodriguez (ESP)	1:02:07.36
3	Rai Taguchi (JPN)	55:52.78	3	Alba Alonso Frey (ESP)	01:02:11.33

**In Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**



# “ Dragon Boat

## | World at its feet

The premier competition for Dragon Boat this year was The World Games Chengdu 2025. If the sport with Chinese origin heading to China was not enough cause for celebration, it was also an official medal event for the first time at the multi-sport event after invitational appearances in 2005 in Duisburg, Germany, and the 2009 edition in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei. Held along with Canoe Marathon, it delivered on all fronts, marking a huge step forward for Dragon Boat.



## | Emergence of Europe

Action in Chengdu showed us that Dragon Boat is becoming more global. Dominated by Asia once upon a time, Ukraine, Spain, Hungary, and Czechia ensured Europe got the spotlight, putting on a show in the Land of Pandas. Ukraine, in fact, finished with two gold medals and as the second best nation, while Spain won two bronze medals. With Ukraine going toe-to-toe with Asian powerhouses like Indonesia in some of the races, it was a warning sign for the traditional nations to buckle up in the years to come.





## | Indonesian class

This Dragon Boat season belonged to Indonesia in all senses. At the Xinglong Lake Hubin Arena, they won the first-ever gold medal of the discipline at The World Games, and added two more to finish as the best nation in Chengdu. Having qualified as one of the strongest nations, they lived up to the billing under treacherous weather conditions. Their first win came in the open eight-seater 2000m final, followed by the open eight-seater 200m and the mixed 10-seater 500m.

## | Educational reform

In Malaysia and the Philippines, education was prioritised in the 2025 Dragon Boat season. Malaysian coaches took part in a five-day course by the ICF, led by Csaba Szanto, in February, with 17 attending. It shed light on theoretical sessions, endurance, and paddling technique, making it a holistic experience. In the Philippines, too, they added to the 2024 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships legacy with a coaching seminar. Aiming to increase coaching standards across the nation, a research-driven curriculum was taught by experts from various fields at multiple locations.



## | Breast cancer awareness

Breast cancer awareness and Dragon Boat go hand in hand thanks to The Pink Ladies and other initiatives around the world. In 2025, the Pan American Canoe Federation held a conference titled "Dragon Boat Paddling is Medicine", led by the famous Dr. Don McKenzie, a renowned Canadian expert in sports medicine and post-cancer health. The online conference focused on the positive impact of sport in recovery after breast cancer treatment and was organised by the network Latinoamerica en Rosa with the support of Pura Vida Dragon Rosa.





## Results: The World Games 2025

Mixed 10-Seater 200m			Open 8-Seater 200m		
1	Thailand	47.15	1	Indonesia	45.79
2	China	48.81	2	Thailand	46.32
3	Ukraine	48.85	3	Chinese Taipei	47.27

Mixed 10-Seater 500m			Open 8-Seater 500m		
1	Indonesia	2:06.64	1	Ukraine	2:05.53
2	Ukraine	2:07.02	2	Indonesia	2:05.71
3	Thailand	2:07.80	3	Thailand	2:06.48

Mixed 10-Seater 2000m			Open 8-Seater 2000m		
1	Ukraine	9:19.87	1	Indonesia	9:08.12
2	Indonesia	9:22.43	2	China	9:19.22
3	Spain	9:23.84	3	Spain	9:23.75

In Chengdu, China

# “ Board Meetings



## Online – February 6

- Following the XL ICF Congress mandate, the ICF Board officially established the ICF headquarters at Váci út 76, 1133 Budapest, Hungary.
- The Board reaffirmed that ICF President Thomas Konietzko and ICF Secretary General Richard Pettit hold individual rights of legal representation for the ICF, in accordance with past and current organisational practice.
- The proposal for the 2028 Paralympic Programme, including the addition of Women VL1 and Men VL1 events and the requested quotas was approved.
- Amnuay Tanphanich (THA) was approved as a Dragon Boat Committee Advisor.
- Rafal Smolen (USA) was approved as a Canoe Slalom Committee Advisor.

## Full minutes







## Hangzhou, China – March 4

- ICF President Thomas Konietzko shared that a proposal was put forward to include two additional 5K long distance events in the LA28 Olympic programme.
- ICF Secretary General Richard Pettit confirmed the appointment of Two Circles as the broadcast agency, citing their strong remote production model, cost efficiency, and innovative digital services with robust distribution capabilities.
- BCV was approved as the official manager of the ICF investment portfolio.
- A new event allocation process was presented by Balint Vekassy, Global Director of Sport & Budapest Headquarters, designed for greater flexibility and alignment with ICF strategic goals. The process removes strict time constraints, allowing discussions and approvals to continue beyond Board meetings as needed.
- Mr Konietzko presented the full list of all received intentions to bid from the National Federations.
- Mr Pettit introduced the Innovation Fund, which aims to drive change in the sport by supporting projects that enhance event experience, use data in new ways, and innovate in officiating.
- The ICF Board approved the final locations for the following events: 2025 ICF Ocean Racing World Cups, 2026 ICF Stand Up World Cup, 2027 ICF Canoe Slalom Junior & U23 World Championships, 2028 ICF Canoe Slalom Junior & U23 World Championships, and 2028 ICF Stand Up Paddling World Championships. The ICF Board also approved the final allocation moved from 2028 to 2029 for the 2028 ICF Canoe Slalom Junior & U23 World Championships, as well as pending allocations for the 2026 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup and 2026 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Cup.
- Ocean Racing Committee: The ICF Board unanimously approved the appointments of Anne Cairns (SAM) as a committee member and Eduardo Luís Peixinho Reis (POR) as an advisor.
- ICF Vice President Dr. Cecilia Farias highlighted new ICF Excellence Training Centres in China, Kazakhstan, and Thailand. The updated development programme policy, emphasising gender equality and age criteria, was approved.
- Dr. Farias shared the results of the gender equality and inclusion survey, noting that the ICF was listed as one of the top five International Federations in terms of gender equality.
- Mr Konietzko presented the Paris 2024 Olympic Games evaluation and concluded emphasising the importance of implementing short-term improvements for Los Angeles 2028 while developing long-term strategies for Brisbane 2032.



**Full minutes**

## | Online – May 21

- Mr Konietzko welcomed new ICF Board members Moira Aston (IRL) and Peter Karai (HUN) as Continental Representatives.
- The ICF Board approved awarding the Order of Merit to outgoing IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach in recognition of his exceptional service to the Olympic Movement and his support for paddle sport.
- Hoichan Kwon (KOR) has been appointed as Sport Manager for LA28 and is expected to transition from the ICF Events Team in August 2025.
- Oklahoma City has been officially designated as the host venue for the Canoe Slalom competitions at the LA28 Games.
- The recommendation to maintain the existing Paracanoe event programme for the Paralympic Games Los Angeles 2028 was approved.
- The ICF Board voted unanimously in favour of the allocation of 2026 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships to Banja Luka in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- A joint strategy is being developed to increase the presence of paddle sport in multi-sport games, supported by a survey of continental associations to identify opportunities and key deadlines.
- A new partnership between the ICF and UNITAR establishes a collaboration to advance educational and environmental projects.

[Full minutes](#)

## | Online – July 24

- The ICF Board unanimously approved the allocation of several major events, including the 2026 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships to Guallequaychú (Argentina), the 2026 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships to Halifax (Canada), the 2026 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup to Montreal (Canada), and both the 2028 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup and 2029 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships to Columbus, Georgia (USA).

[Full minutes](#)

## | Online – September 9

- The World Games was considered a major success, with Canoe Polo and Canoe Marathon performing strongly in Chengdu and Dragon Boat receiving significant coverage on CCTV5, China's main sports channel.
- Mr Konietzko outlined the continued success of the ICF digital platforms noting that the membership of the YouTube channel continues to grow.
- Following the presentation of the "Paddle Games" concept to unite all disciplines every four years, the ICF Board voted unanimously to hire a consulting agency to conduct a formal feasibility study for the event.

The ICF Board approved advancing the "Paddle Worldwide" rebrand and its new naming conventions while initiating a marketing review and further consultation to address committee concerns regarding discipline identity and market clarity.

The official opening of the new headquarters in Budapest is planned for mid-November, pending confirmation from Hungarian Prime Minister

[Full minutes](#)

## | Online – September 23

- Regarding the Olympic Qualification System (OQS), the ICF Board voted 18 to 6 in favour of adopting a nation-based ranking approach instead of an individual-based system.

[Full minutes](#)

## | Online – November 4

- The ICF Board approved the appointments of Danielle Richards (NZL) and Charlie Brackpool (GBR) to the Athletes' Committee as the female and male representatives for non-Olympic disciplines, respectively, joining the eight-member group led by Chair Sebastian Brendel (GER) and featuring Katie Vincent (CAN), Amelie Hilgertova (CZE), Michal Martikan (SVK), Emma Wiggs (GBR), and Eslam Jahedi (IRI).

[Full minutes](#)



# 2025

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