

Report template for XL ICF Congress Antalya, Turkiye, November 2024

Role, Committee or Continental Association name: Athletes' Committee

Board member writing the report: Bridgitte Hartley

Activities 2023-2024

Since the ICF Congress in Thailand, the Athletes Commission has made significant progress toward supporting and empowering athletes across various disciplines within canoeing. We are pleased to highlight the achievements and ongoing efforts of the commission in ensuring the well-being and representation of athletes.

Key achievements

Athletes' Bill of Rights:

One of our key accomplishments has been the successful adoption of the Athletes' Bill of Rights. This important document outlines the fundamental rights of athletes, ensuring that they are treated fairly, given equal opportunities, and supported in their personal and professional development. It also emphasizes the need for athlete welfare and access to necessary resources for career longevity and transition.

Spotlight on Marathon Athletes:

Ahead of the Flatwater Marathon World Championships, we worked closely with the marathon committee to highlight the stories and achievements of key paddlers. This initiative aimed to increase visibility and inspire the canoeing community by sharing the remarkable accomplishments of these athletes, showcasing their journeys, and building excitement for the upcoming event.

Lausanne International Forum and IOC Networking:

Members of the commission attended a forum in Lausanne, Switzerland, which provided a unique opportunity to visit the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters. During this visit, we engaged with Athlete365, an IOC initiative that offers a wide range of programs to help athletes transition smoothly from their sports careers. These programs cover essential life skills, such as writing CVs, managing mental health, and receiving mentorship. The

opportunity to network with these organizations will prove invaluable as we aim to extend similar resources to our own athletes.

Supporting Ukrainian Athletes:

The global community has faced challenging times, particularly with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The commission was actively involved in meetings with the ICf and the President to help with assistance for Ukrainian athletes, with numerous countries and clubs stepping up to provide support. This assistance enabled Ukrainian athletes to continue training and competing in these difficult circumstances, ensuring that they remain a vital part of the international canoeing family.

Strategic plans for future implementation

Looking forward, we have many dreams and goals to further amplify the voices of athletes within the sport. One of our key initiatives is to create an event specifically for athlete representatives from all ICF member nations. This event would serve as a platform for athletes to network, share ideas, and collaborate on strategies to improve the sport, ensuring it grows stronger and more inclusive with athlete input at the forefront.

Conclusion

The ICF Athletes Commission remains dedicated to supporting and advocating for athletes. We are excited about the progress made and look forward to realizing our future goals. We believe that through continued collaboration and the implementation of meaningful programs, we can create a more equitable, supportive, and thriving environment for all athletes within the ICF.