

2023 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships Columbus GA.

A Joint statement on behalf of the ICF Canoe Freestyle Committee, the American Canoe Association, and the Host Organising Committee Columbus G.A.

We would like to announce, that due to extreme drought conditions, leading to low water levels, some modifications to the competition schedule will be required.

After extensive consultation and careful consideration, it was decided, that to fit a World Championship program, into the limited water release time that was now being offered, would require a breach of 2 rules.

This decision was not taken lightly, and prior to reaching this conclusion all alternative options were explored.

All training days and competition days will remain in place, but water release hours at competition levels will be reduced.

It has been agreed that water releases for the duration of official training and competition will be at 7,800cfs-8,000cfs.

On behalf of all of those involved in the organisation of this event, we would like to express our apologies at any disappointment or disruption this may cause.

A New competition schedule is currently being put together and this will be finalised and published as soon as possible.

The issues, and proposed solution are outlined in the motion on page 2.

The Following proposal was put before and approved by the ICF Board of Directors.

26th September, 2023 Motion:

The Canoe Freestyle Committee is allowed to deviate from the following two Sport Rules of the current CFR Rules in order to secure the safe and fair running of the upcoming Canoe Freestyle World Championships in Columbus, Georgia:

Rule 5.2.4 – Number of runs and their duration at each competition phase

Phase	Attainable		Non-attainable*	
Heats	2 runs of 45 sec.	Both scores added	4 runs of 45 sec.	Best 2 scores added

*the 2023 World Championships is run on a non-attainable feature.

Rule 5.4.3 – When an event has 35 or fewer athletes, the top 10 from the heats go straight to the semi-finals.

Reason:

Drought in the watershed of the Chattahoochee River since mid-August depleted water levels to the extent that the previously agreed upon volume of water will not be provided by the Corps of Engineers (governing body of the dams of the watershed).

Originally a waterflow of 7200 cubic feet per second for 10 hours a day was accepted but now competition time needs to be reduced under 6 hours every day to have the same standard flow throughout every session. In order to save time on the World Championships water feature above rules should temporarily be put on hold with the support of the Board of Directors.

Regarding Rule 5.2.4 the new timetable would consist of one less run in the heats for everyone (3 instead of 4) to still maintain a fair competition and the opportunity for all athletes to showcase their talent. For progression the addition of the 2 best scores count, as it is stated in the rules.

Regarding Rule 5.4.3 in the Women's C1 event the current number of entries is 11 (4 days ahead of the entry deadline). According to rules only one boat would be eliminated for the semi-finals (2x5 boats) so heats should go straight to final (5 boats) which is the normal progression for fields of 10 and under. Even if there would be one or two more boats entering, the straight-to-final format is preferred.

Always moving forward