

ICF Ordinary Congress
Rome, Italy
4-6 November 2021

Name of the BoD Member: Dr. Don McKenzie

Function on BoD: Chair, Medical and Anti-Doping Committee

1. Major events since last ICF Congress

- Covid-19 pretty-much overwhelmed everything from a medical perspective
- Canoeing athletes being able to compete at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games was a significant achievement
- The *IOC Handbook of Sports Medicine and Science: Canoeing* was published

2. Tasks undertaken since the last ICF Congress

3. Issues and Main Points for the function since last ICF Congress

- Preparation of ICF Covid-19 Protocols. Dr. Jane Gibson needs to be commended for this work. These rules provided the guidance necessary to have competitive events when permitted by local public health authorities.
- As we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has been demoralizing for sport, challenging for personal health and safety but it also played havoc with the normal doping control procedures
- Out-of-competition testing has been challenged by various levels of COVID restrictions throughout the globe
- Several NADOs halted their testing programs for a period of time during the various "waves" of the pandemic

- Several countries had such stringent restrictions that it was near impossible to conduct testing
- The ICF Athlete Whereabouts Pools were revised to include athletes from higher risk nations that were likely to go to the Games
- Taskforce Recommendations were monitored and worked into the existing Test Distribution Plan
- ICF assisted ITA with testing refugee athlete as part of a pre-games Taskforce

4. Future Initiatives and recommendations to be considered

- Major health issues, such as the pandemic, and the importance of doping control suggests that a representative of the Medical and Anti-Doping Committee should be on the ICF Executive Committee
- Canoeing should be proud of what it achieved in the face of this pandemic. Protocols were in place and followed and the advice of the Medical Committee taken seriously by the staff and most of the Board.
- Nevertheless, regretfully, I believe that history will not be kind when it evaluates the action of sport in the Covid-19 pandemic.
- I have been a member or Chair of this Committee for 35 years and am grateful to the ICF for this opportunity. The ICF Secretary General and the staff in the Headquarters have been supportive, professional, and work very hard with a sense of purpose and integrity. I will miss them. Fortunately, I have made lifelong friendships via the ICF and I will continue with the 'Pink Ladies' program.
- The ICF is in good hands with the new Chair of the Medical Committee Dr. Tim Brabants. A physician, Olympic champion and a gentleman. We are fortunate that Tim has accepted this responsibility.

- Finally, as there is no opportunity to speak at the Congress, many years at the Board meetings has confirmed that one person, a group of individuals or a Federation is never bigger than the sport. Keeping the program focussed on the sport rather than personal agenda issues will strengthen the ICF.