



# Report

XXXVIII ICF Ordinary  
Congress Rome, Hungary  
4-6 November 2021

**Name of the Committee:**

**Name of the Chair:**

**Name of the Committee Members:**

**Freestyle**

**Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles (ESP)**

**Stephanie Visselly (USA)**

**Magnus Karlsson (SWE)**

**Terry Best (UK)**

**Jeremy Blanchard (AUS)**

**Claire O'Hara (GBR)** Athletes committee member

**Ned Poffenberger (USA)** Assistant

## **1. Major events since last ICF congress**

### **a. World Championships 2019. Sort. Spain. June/July.**

- Sort-Spain held the ICF freestyle championships for second time.
- The town, build the first Freestyle stadium into a natural river thanks to the ICF worlds. So the legacy and the freestyle development in the region will behappening thanks to the worlds and this investment.
- TV production and distribution was a highlight of this event, where more than12 hours of live production was distributed.
- The overall budget of this event was 1,3M€ (Construction + logistics)
- During the event the organizers bring a new computer system for results management and TV graphics linked. At this point the ICF Freestyle committeeis working to apply this system as official ICF system to warranty the standardof future events.
- Medals where distributed into 4 continents.
- A Local youth development camp took place during the World Championships. More than 40 Juniors from 10 countries where invited and coached by two ICF coaches. Also kids under Junior age where invited.

## **2. Tasks undertaken since the last ICF congress**

### **a. Creation & approval of the CANOE FREESTYLE ICF TECHNICAL DELIVERABLES**

- This document specifically contains information for Host Organising Committees (HOC) on the minimum operational and technical requirements for an ICF Canoe Freestyle competition.
- Main areas covered in this document are: Operation, Athletes area, Competition management, Field of play, Media, VIP, Spectator, Manager & branding, TV production.
- This document is a document that will be updated after every major ICF event if need it and that wants to be a tool to standardise the Freestyle events and help organizers.

### **b. Developing judges seminars is crucial for our discipline as the type of judging is totally different to the rest of Canoe disciplines, for this reason we keep pushing to run good quality seminars . Last year, for the first time, we were able to run an online seminar, and online accreditation exams**

### **c. Contacts with NFs and host cities for World Cups and World Championships keeps being a major task to ensure a future calendar.**

### **d. The Rules working group where, paddlers, judges, organizers and committee members are involved and having a regular talks about evolution of appendixes and rules. Evolution of the Freestyle appendixes is also an on going task as must be adapted to the new trends of the discipline.**

### **e. New appendixes and rules proposal for approval send to the BoD and the Congress, based on the work of the Rules working group.**

### **f. Allocation of the 2023 World Championships to the city of Columbus in USA. Also World Cups 2022.**

### ***3. Issues and main points for the function since the last congress***

- a. **The pandemic COVID, has been a big challenge for our discipline,**
- b. **Due to COVID 19 we afford the following cancelations and postponements :**
  - 2020 World Cup circuit was cancelled.
  - 2021 World Championships in Nottingham (GBR) has been postponed till 2022
- c. **Actions taken during the first period of COVID 19 where various to keep in touch with our community:**
  - Reproduce the 2019 world championships night finals on YouTube, with the finalists making comments from their rides.
  - Freestyle judges seminars were planned and held during the pandemic period.
  - A webinar was produced to help development in different countries and reinforce the vision of the ICF freestyle committee to help new countries to join the NFs.
  - Couple of projects were produced and presented to the ICF commission SOURCES OF INCOME.

#### ***4. Future Initiatives and Tasks***

- a. Meetings with Organizers for possible World Cups 2024 and 2025 World Championships.**
- b. Create a group of paddlers to develop a YouTube Channel to showcase the freestyle discipline as one of the new TREND disciplines in the outdoor sports.**
- c. Push for the recognition of freestyle on the countries where the activity already exists**
- d. Work for the creation of regional events on the continents where they didn't exist.**
- e. Develop the concept of Freestyle can be the new trend discipline of the ICF.**
- f. Work on the idea to include the Freestyle into the multisport games, as Regional games, World Games, ....**
- g. Support the setting up of regional white water development hubs.**