

TERRY BEST

PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ICF BOARD CANOE FREESTYLE CHAIR



Personal Details:

DoB: 20/04/55

National Federation: British Canoeing - GBR

Occupation: Clinical Engineer

As the Chair of the Freestyle committee, I would endeavor to give a voice to our community. Furthermore, together with my colleagues on the committee, I would strive to enable as many people as possible to participate in our exciting discipline. Only then, will they be able to experience the passion and energy that Freestyle, along with its way of life, can bring.

Aims & Objectives

My main objective is to increase participation in Canoe Freestyle. The design and delivery of a development program along with an award scheme aimed at organisers, coaches, and clubs, would be integral to achieving this. Alongside this, I would aim to bring nations, who currently do not compete in our competitions, back into the Freestyle fold.

With regards to competition, I hope to build on the progress that we have made over the last 10 years. I envisage the continued streamlining of judge training, along with the roll-out of online seminars.

I see our rule change procedures, along with our advisory rule change sub-group, as a key to staying in touch with our athletes and ensuring that our discipline remains up to date and relevant.

To deliver on these objectives, I believe that we need to re-engage with the Freestyle community. We need to find out what our athletes want on all levels. We need to communicate more effectively with our community, and we need to learn to listen to our athletes, without whom, the discipline would not exist. We then need to prove to our community that we can truly represent them effectively.

This can only happen if our committee is transparent and accountable. This, I believe, will take Freestyle to the next level. A place where the whole of our discipline can move forward together.

Sport Information

Although I kayaked when I was young, my interest wasn't rekindled until my son was around 13 and joined his local canoe club.

After 6 months of driving my son around the country to various kayaking spots, I decided to buy a kayak and to join him on the water.

We were both hooked, and although I never competed, I did manage to travel the world with my son, where we got to paddle some of the world's greatest rivers.

My son started competing in Freestyle when he was 15 & it was my job to take him to various training venues and competitions. I continued kayaking, and even trained alongside my Son for a few years.

I have a passion for kayaking and have dedicated the last 15 years to the development of my discipline.

Freestyle has unique characteristics and requires a very specific approach. What works for other disciplines will not necessarily work for Freestyle. I think I understand its people and their needs.

2010- 2020 ICF Canoe Freestyle Technical Committee

2020

- Made judge's seminar and exam available online.

2019

- Re-wrote judges seminar and exam.
- Ran judge's seminar and exam.
- Organised Worlds in Sort, Spain.
- Acted as Freestyle Chair during Worlds in Sort, Spain
- With Cyril, wrote Freestyle Technical Deliverables.
- In-putted into rule changes.

2018

- Organised European World Cups.
- Inputted into rules working group.
- Managed ITO's

2017

- Organised the Freestyle Worlds in Argentina
- Set up rules working group
- Ran European judge's seminar and exam.
- Managed ITO's

2016

- Ran judge's seminar and exam in Argentina.
- Organised Freestyle World Cup in Argentina.
- Chief Judge at the World Cup in Argentina.

2015

- Ran the Canadian judge's seminar
- Ran the European judge's seminar.
- Organised the 2015 Freestyle Worlds in Canada.
- Managed ITO's

- Allocated tasks to committee members.
- 2014
- Re-wrote the judges seminar and exam
 - Ran the European judging seminar
 - Organised the 2014 European World Cup.
 - Managed ITO's
 - Allocated tasks & managed committee members.
- 2013
- Organised the 2013 Freestyle Worlds in Nantahala USA.
 - Organised a North American judge's seminar.
 - Managed ITO's
- 2012
- Organised the Freestyle demonstration at the 2012 Olympics.
 - Took over the role of judge training and management for the ICF Freestyle committee.
 - Managed the Freestyle World Cup in North America.
 - Compiled a committee report for preparation for 2013 Freestyle Worlds.
 - Ran a European judge's seminar.
- 2011
- Assisted in the organisation of the Freestyle World Championships in Plattling Germany.
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2005- 2010 BCU Canoe Freestyle Team Manager

Career Background

I have worked in the NHS for 35 years, where I lead a department of Designers and Engineers. My specific job entails attending clinics, where, along with other clinicians, we prescribe medical devices for children and adults with complex physical and mental disabilities. Following these clinics, I design appropriate medical devices to suit our patient's needs. I then instruct my engineers in order that the devices are manufactured to my specification.

In managing a busy department, I have had to put together processes and procedures which have involved creating communication tools, audit systems and quality and management systems.

I see myself as a good organiser and a hard working problem solver.

On a national level, I have been involved in both the BSI and the MHRA, putting together national standards and guidelines.

I believe that I work in collaborative way to build a consensus, bringing emotional intelligence, patience and passion to the task ahead.