



**PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ICF CANOE POLO COMMITTEE
ENDORSED BY THE PADDLE UK BOARD**

CV	
Details of the Individual	
Name:	Greg Smale
Address:	REDACTED, Spain.
Email:	gregsmale@hotmail.com
Phone:	+34 680157564
British Canoeing Membership number:	17013
Name of position the individual is seeking nomination from:	Chair, ICF Canoe Polo Committee
Canoeing background/experience (Pen portrait max 300 words)	
<p>I started canoe polo and slalom as a boy scout at the age of fourteen with St. Alban's Canoe Club. I have a little experience in marathon competition and canoe life-saving but predominantly my canoeing life has been Canoe Slalom and Canoe Polo.</p> <p>As chair of the ICF Canoe Polo Committee together we have moved the discipline significantly forward over the years - federations playing, U/21 Women, finances (sponsorship and manufacturers licence scheme), development initiatives (donation of equipment and supportive courses), rules (introduction of shot-clock, golden goal, power play after federation consultation), officials (referees - increased numbers and financial support for world championships), online training courses for referees, media (live broadcasting of all of world championships).</p> <p>We also have a good presence in the IWGA World Games (2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2022) where in 2013 in Colombia, Canoe Polo was ranked in the top three sports.</p> <p>Following re-election in 2016 I negotiated sponsorship from Yupin Sports with the overall benefit to the discipline over 10 years of circa 500,000 Euro – equipment sponsorship to developing federations, referee clothing and ball sponsorship of all world and continental championships.</p> <p>In 2019 we held a successful Canoe Polo seminar where athletes and coaches participated in very constructive discussions regarding the future direction of the discipline and its rules. The current rules have in the main resulted in far less fouls as the sanctions are more serious, it's easier for spectators and commentators to understand, but there still needs more simplification not complexity.</p> <p>2022 saw arguably the most successful world championships to date with additional 'big screen' required at the venue to cater for spectator numbers and equipment, coaching and referee support given to Egypt.</p> <p>In 2023 I have personally supported both the Asian and Oceania Canoe Polo Championships and have supported referees to attend and support the African and America's continental championships.</p>	



**PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ICF CANOE POLO COMMITTEE
ENDORSED BY THE PADDLE UK BOARD**

Relevant career background, skills and experience

- British Canoeing – Vice President (since 2019)
- UK Sport – International Leadership Programme (first intake) – graduate.
- British Canoeing – Board member – long standing member from 2007 – relatively recently retired.
- British Canoeing Events – Board member since 2022.
- Member of British Canoeing Canoe Polo Committee (2003-04).

For much of my working life I worked as a specialist in safeguarding and this has enabled me to contribute to ICF Board discussions effectively.

Relevant international canoeing background/positions/experience

National

- British Canoeing Canoe Polo Senior A Team for 10 years – won circa 25 International Tournaments
- 1993 European's – Silver
- 1994 World's – Gold
- 2008 World Masters Games – Australia – Gold (O/35) and Silver (U/35)
- Coaching GBR Women and Men – 8 consecutive European and World Canoe Polo Championship Finals – 3 world golds, 1 European gold and 4 silvers.

International Level

Relevant Key Roles held at major events:

- 2024 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – China – Chief Official
- 2022 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – France – Chief Official
- 2022 IWGA World Games – USA - Jury Member
- 2018 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Canada – Chief Official
- 2017 IWGA World Games – Poland - Jury Member
- 2014 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – France – Chief Official
- 2013 IWGA World Games – Colombia – Jury Member
- 2012 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Poland – Chief Official
- 2010 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Italy – Chief Official
- 2009 IWGA World Games – Chinese Taipei – Chief Official
- 2008 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Canada – Chief Official
- 2007 ECA European Canoe Polo Championships – France – Chief Official
- 2006 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Netherlands – Chief Referee
- 2005 IWGA World Games – Germany – Chief Official
- 2004 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Japan – Technical Organiser, Chief Scrutineer and Referee
- 2003 ECA European Canoe Polo Championships – Ireland – Chief Scrutineer and Referee.



**PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ICF CANOE POLO COMMITTEE
ENDORSED BY THE PADDLE UK BOARD**

Aims and objectives if successful in appointment to the role

- To remain an active and constructive ICF board member. My time has enabled good contacts to be made and my knowledge of all disciplines is now good having been a Jury member/chair at all the discipline world championships over the years.
- To deliver successful world championships in both 2026 (Germany) and 2028 (Denmark – subject to finalisation at time of writing). This short sentence doesn't reflect for one second the substantial volunteer working time to make these and past events successful.
- It must be noted that unlike other disciplines, due to the playing schedule, there is a limit on the number of teams that can compete in the final rounds of each world championships. In this next period the ICF CAP will reflect and review the world championship qualification system to ensure categories that are developing fast are not held back by categories that are unfilled.
- To continue to support development of Canoe Polo globally and to support those federations with less resources to do so. We are currently trying, with customs issues trying to donate equipment to south America and recently had a conversation about Canoe Polo in Tasmania.
- To support ICF HQ as necessary to enable Canoe Polo to be part of more multi-sport games.
- To renew the existing sponsorship of ICF Canoe Polo so far as ball supply to both world and continental championships.
- To improve the pathway and experience for international referees – online training, transparency re upgrading and downgrading.
- To conduct a seminar to look to the future of Canoe Polo and in part how to reduce costs for participating teams.

Any other relevant information

I retain the appetite and energy to continue to be an active and collaborative discipline chair.

My years of experience, surrounded by good committee members, has taken the sport forward a great deal and I wish to continue this progress, bearing in mind change must suit as many as possible and not leave some federations behind.

I will, if re-elected, with my 45 years in this discipline, continue, with your support, to develop it to the best of my abilities.