



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

CV	
Name:	Terry Best
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Paddle UK Membership number:	120461
Name of position the individual is seeking nomination from:	ICF Canoe Freestyle Technical Committee Chair
Canoeing background/experience	
<p>Although I kayaked when I was at school, my interest wasn't rekindled until my son was around 13 and joined his local canoe club. After 6 months of driving him 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 and 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.</p>	
Relevant career background, skills and experience	
<p>I have worked in the NHS for 38 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 to ensure 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.</p>	
Relevant international canoeing background/positions/experience	
<p>2005- 2010 BCU Canoe Freestyle Team Manager 2010- 2020 ICF Canoe Freestyle Technical Committee 2011 - Assisted in the organisation of the Freestyle World Championships in Plattling Germany. 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. 2013 - Organised the 2013 Freestyle Worlds in Nantahala, USA. Organised a North American judge's seminar. Managed ITO's.</p>	



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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.

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.

2016 - Ran judge's seminar and exam in Argentina. Organised Freestyle World Cup in Argentina. Chief Judge at the World Cup in Argentina.

2017 - Organised the Freestyle Worlds in Argentina. Set up rules working group. Ran European judge's seminar and exam. Managed ITO's

2018 - Organised European World Cups. Inputted into rules working group. Managed ITO's.

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 Nivel, wrote Freestyle Technical Deliverables. Inputted into rule changes.

2020 - Made judge's seminar and exam available online.

2021 - Appointed as ICF Canoe Freestyle Chair. Technical visit to Columbus. Appointed Technical Committee members.

2022 - With British Canoeing, organised and managed the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships at Nottingham. Organised Development Camp at HHP Nottingham. Ran 'Future of Freestyle' meeting. Organised and managed 2 World Cups in Columbus, Georgia. Successfully pioneered remote judging. Organised Development Camp. Finalised computer scoring system. Attended ICF Congress in Thailand, gave report to the Board of Directors.

2023 - Submitted rule changes. Managed Technical Committee. Technical visit to Paris. Attended BoD meeting in Budapest. Organised and managed my committee members & committee meetings. Planned World Championships in Columbus, USA. Organised Judge Seminar in Columbus. Organised Development Camp in Columbus. Ran 'Future of Freestyle' meeting. Managed World Championships in Columbus. Attended Marathon & Wild Water World Championships as Jury Chair. Introduced first World Championships satisfaction survey.

2024 - The ICF signed a memo of understanding with the city of Columbus and USAC to create the first national Freestyle development hub. Organised and managed the CFR ICF World Cup series in Plattling Germany, which included a judges seminar and a development camp.

Aims and objectives if successful in appointment to the role

My main objective is to increase Freestyle participation. The design and delivery of a development program aimed at organisers and mentors would be integral to achieving this.

Alongside this, I would aim to bring nations, who currently do not compete in our major 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 and envisage the streamlining of judge training and rule change processes as a key part of this process. In order to deliver on these objectives, I believe that we need to re-engage with the Freestyle community. We need to find out what they want and need at a grass roots level. We need to communicate more effectively with our community, and we need to learn to listen to our paddlers, without whom, the



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discipline would cease to exist. We then need to prove to our community that we can represent them effectively.

This, I believe, will take Freestyle to the next level. A place where the whole of our discipline can move forward together.

Any other relevant information

It has been a busy 3 years. However, my objectives haven't changed from when I first applied for the role of Chair. Over the last 3 years we have made significant progress, especially when it comes to communicating with the Freestyle community. We are currently in the process of implementing changes that should produce long term benefits for Freestyle.

We have managed two successful World Championships and one successful World Cup series. We have trained and qualified 20 new ICF judges, and 52 athletes have attended our development camps. We have pioneered remote judging at an ICF event and completed our first World Championships satisfaction survey.

We are in discussions that should see the introduction of Freestyle hubs in South America and Scandinavia.

I am in discussions that should secure ICF events until the end of the decade.

Rule & Technical Deliverable changes in the pipeline should bring more people into the discipline and make it easier for organisers to bid for events.

I am currently working on a long-term development plan, incorporating ICF Freestyle awards. I hope to see this rolled out in 2025.

In March 2024 we announced the signing of a memo of understanding with the city of Columbus, GA. This will lead to a joint venture with the ICF, USAC and Columbus to create the first National Development Hub for Freestyle Kayaking.

My priority in the next few months is planning next year's World Championships in Plattling Germany in May.