



**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HELD IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY  
6 - 7 May 2026**

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**INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Overview**

This was the first meeting of the ICF Board of Directors in 2026, held in Budapest on 6-7 ;2026. A quorum was formed in line with the ICF Statutes, with 24 Board members.

**Agenda**

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. President's Report
3. Secretary General's Report
4. Vice Presidents' Report
5. Board of Directors Members' Report
6. Finance Commission's Report
7. Impact of the geopolitical situation on our events
8. Organisational Review
  - 8.1. Update
  - 8.2. Draft Statutes Review
9. ICF Event
  - 9.1. Remaining allocation 2027 & 2028
  - 9.2. 2026 ITOs list – Dragon Boat World Championships
  - 9.3. ICF Event Allocation Policy
  - 9.4. Super Cup long term strategy
10. Competition Rules Changes
11. 2026 ICF Congress Preparation
  - 11.1. Preparation Update & Key dates
  - 11.2. Agenda approved by the Executive Committee
  - 11.3. Commission to check the credentials of delegates nomination
  - 11.4. Membership fee for the next four years
  - 11.5. National Federations and membership fee Categories
12. Development Activities Report
13. Paddle Worldwide Rebrand – Update
14. Digital Ecosystem
15. Multi sport events applications
16. Other Paddle Sport IFs (Dragonboat/IVF/Rafting) – Update and cooperation model
17. IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport
18. Other Business
  - 18.1. ECA Letter – Jury Travel Expenses
19. Closing Remarks



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**Participants:**

Thomas Konietzko	TK	President	GER
Richard Pettit	RP	Secretary General	GBR
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	LRC	Vice President	ESP
Jean Zoungrana	JZ	European Canoe Association President	FRA
Toshi Furuya	TF	Canoe Sprint Committee Chair	JPN
Sebastian Brendel	SB	Athlete Committee Chair	RSA
Ruud Heijnselaar	RH	Canoe Marathon Committee Chair	NED
Greg Smale	GS	Canoe Polo Committee Chair	GBR
Terry Best	TBE	Canoe Freestyle Committee Chair	GBR
Noémi Horváth	NH	SUP Committee Chair	HUN
Jane Gibson	JG	Medical and Anti-Doping Committee Chair	GBR
Li Xin	LX	Treasurer	CHN
Marian Sârbu	MS	Canoe Ocean Racing Committee Chair	BEL
Richard Fox	RF	Canoe Slalom Committee Chair	AUS
*Dr. Luk Wai-Hung	LWH	Dragon Boat Commission Chair	HKG
Peter Karai	PK	Continental Representative - EUR	HUN
Andrej Jelenc	AJ	Continental Representative - EUR	SLO
Manuela Gawehn	MG	Wildwater Canoeing Committee Chair	GER
Ahmed Mahamoud Abdoukader	AMA	Continental Representative - AFR	DJI
Maree Burnett	MB	Oceania Canoe Association President	NZL
Moira Aston	MA	Continental Representative - EUR	IRL
Budiman Setiawan	BS	Continental Representative - ASI	INA
Luciano Buonfiglio	LB	Vice President	ITA
John Edwards	JE	Paracanoe Committee Chair	CAN
Joao Manual Da Costa Alegre Afonso	JDC	Confederation of African Canoeing President	STP
Prashant Kushwaha	PK	Asian Canoe Confederation President	THA
Cecilia Farias	CF	Vice President	ARG
Olubunmi Ola Oluode	OO	Continental Representative - AFR	NGR

**Not present:**

Sebastian Gomez	SG	Pan American Canoe Federation President	URG
Martha Hernandez Sanches	MHS	Continental Representative - PAM	MEX
Victor G. Ruiz	VR	Continental Representative - PAM	PUR
Luciano Buonfiglio	LB	Vice President	ITA
Danielle Woodward	DW	Continental Representative - OAM	AUS

\*ICF Board member non-voting



## **1. Introduction and Welcome**

TK opening the meeting by welcoming everyone and highlighted voting on the organisational review during this BoD meeting.

A quorum was formed in line with the ICF Statutes, with 28 Board members.

## **2. President's Report**

TK presented his reports based on his ICF's activities.

### **Olympic & IOC Relations**

- Continued lobbying regarding Olympic programme review
- Meetings and discussions with IOC leadership and Brisbane 2032 organisers
- Participation in the 145th IOC Session in Milan
- Review of future Olympic sprint programme and event formats

### **Brisbane 2032 & Australia Visit**

- Visit to Brisbane and Queensland venue projects
- Support developed for Rockhampton venue proposal
- Positive discussions regarding whitewater venue and World Paddle Games opportunities
- Meetings with local authorities and Paddle Australia

### **Governance & Organisational Review**

- Continued organisational review meetings with stakeholders and National Federations
- Participation in Town Hall meetings held with NFs (12-13 February)
- Regularly catch-ups with the Steering Committee

### **Multi-Sport Games Development**

- Involved in discussion for inclusion opportunities in:
  - o Commonwealth Games
  - o Asian Games & Asian Para Games
  - o Islamic Games
  - o World Games - Dragon boat application submitted for future World Games programme
- Submission as Vice President of the World Games Association

### **Asia & India Engagement**

- Participation in ACC ExCo and Board meetings in New Delhi
- Discussions on development projects and multi-sport event inclusion
- Continued promotion of paddle sports growth in Asia

### **Events & Commercial Opportunities**

- Involved in discussion with Hangzhou, which confirmed the 2026 Dragon Boat World Championships
- Partnership discussions progressing with international apparel brands

### 3. Secretary General’s Report

RP thanked the BoD for their flexibility in holding the meeting in Budapest instead of Baku (AZE).

He presented a comprehensive report on the organisation’s strategic priorities, event delivery, Olympic and Paralympic engagement, venue development, innovation projects, governance activities, and staffing updates.

- On staffing, Fiona Xie, Thomas Rosset, and Narelle Henderson completed their contracts, with appreciation expressed for their contributions.
- New appointment of Bendeguz Raboczky, as Finance & Administration Project Manager.
- The organisational review and the development of the World Paddle Games concept continue to progress, alongside the transition to the Paddle Worldwide rebrand as part of the “Fit for Future” strategy.
- Competition preparations for the 2026 season are well advanced, supported by organisers’ meetings, collaboration with Standing Committees, monthly Competitions Commission meetings, and dedicated sport and development liaison officers\*.
- Innovation Fund continues to support investments in event formats, broadcast quality, digital development, and commercial opportunities (e.g. *Club in a Cube, Paddle UK’s proposal*), alongside completion of the integrated digital ecosystem procurement process.
- Preparations for the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are progressing positively, including venue planning discussions and coordination visits.
- Global venue development projects are advancing in Australia, Azerbaijan, Slovakia, and Egypt.
- Governance, athlete welfare, and safeguarding remain key priorities, with continued engagement across the Olympic Movement.

**\*Overview of dedicated liaison officers**

	<b>Sport Liaison</b>	<b>Development Liaison</b>
Canoe Sprint	Bence Szalontai	Sebastian Cuattrin
Canoe Marathon	Bence Szalontai	Sebastian Cuattrin
Dragon Boat	Kelley Yang	Ali Hassan
Stand Up Paddling	Kelley Yang	Ali Hassan
Canoe Ocean Racing	Kelley Yang	Sebastian Cuattrin
Canoe Slalom	Manon Bocquet	Gabriela Stacherová
Canoe Polo	Manon Bocquet	Nikoleta Kazmer
Canoe Freestyle	Sandra De Ugarte	
Wildwater Canoeing	Gabriela Stacherová	
Paracanoe	Mike Okubo	Ali Hassan
Athlete	Mike Okubo	Narelle Henderson
Medical	Mike Okubo	Narelle Henderson

#### **4. Vice Presidents' Report**

CF presented her report.

- Active involvement in the Organisational Review process, including meetings, Steering Committee work, and Town Halls.
- Delivered Good Governance and Gender Equality content at the COPAC Coaches Course.
- Served as Chair of Jury at major ICF events, including the ICF Junior Slalom World Championships (Foix 2025) and the ICF Sprint and Paracanoe World Championships (Milan 2025).
- Continued development and delivery of the ICF Sustainability Webinar Series, with several sessions conducted and participation from different continents.
- Oversaw the Women's Symposium Webinar (7 March, Lausanne), which achieved strong engagement and addressed key topics such as safeguarding and modern leadership.
- Symposium in September, discussion with the BoD member, AMA.
- The ICF Portrayal Guideline is currently under revision and expected to be published soon.
- Continued regular work with the ICF Development Team and cooperation with the five Continental Associations.
- Finalisation of the ICF Portrayal Guideline, which will be published soon.

LRC presented his report.

#### **Competition Commission**

- Continued work on governance, calendar coordination, rule updates, and World Championships planning across all disciplines.
- Progress on the 2027–2028 competition calendar and standardised calendar procedures.

#### **International Technical Officials (ITO) & Gender Equality**

- Ongoing development of the ITO Gender Equality Framework.
- Continued work on female representation, mentorship, and transparent selection systems across disciplines.

#### **Erasmus+ Projects**

- Ilya Pushkov, Stakeholder Grants Project Manager, hired to support these projects.
- Continued development of Erasmus+ projects, including the HUB Pyrenees Whitewater project.
- Strengthened cooperation with the EOC EU Office and expansion of external funding opportunities.

#### **Dakar – Club in the Cube Project**

- Ongoing coordination with stakeholders on infrastructure development and delivery planning.
- Continued work on establishing the venue as a long-term participation and development hub.

#### **Broadcast & Commercial Development**

- Gross broadcast revenue increased to €537,413 (+63%), with audience reach growing to 11.87 million viewers.
- Net broadcast rights revenue reached €304,000 (+€76,500 year-on-year).
- Focus on maximising revenue and reducing costs, including ongoing agreements in Brazil and Spain.

### **Priorities**

- Completion of ITO Gender Equality Framework.
- Expansion of Erasmus+ and EU funding programmes.
- Development of Dakar and Azerbaijan venue projects.
- Continued optimisation of broadcast revenue and commercial partnerships.

### **5. Board of Directors Members' Report**

- The Discipline Chairs presented their reports.
- The Continental Federations presented their reports.
- The Medical Chair presented the report.

### **6. Finance Commission's Report**

RP presented the financial overview.

- An external audit is currently conducted by BDO, which oversees the ICF's account.
- Strong and stable financial position, with growing reserves and diversified income sources.
- €19.3M held in investments across currencies.
- €5.1M available in cash accounts for operational needs (€2.1M with BCV / €3.0M with Erste Bank).
- 57% of the budget already spent, with several months remaining.
- To be received in the next quarter: €500K (Hungarian hosting fee – 2027 Canoe Sprint World Championships) and €500K (Hangzhou Sports Bureau).
- Dependency on IOC funding reduced from 93% to 50%, significantly improving financial resilience.
- Consider investing in property in Lausanne to reduce long-term rental costs and secure a stable, low-risk asset
- 2027–2028 budget will be presented at the next Board meeting for review and approval.

### **7. Impact of the geopolitical situation on our events**

RP introduced the geopolitical situation affecting ICF events.

- Ongoing geopolitical challenges continue to impact event delivery and participation, particularly due to visa constraints and travel restrictions (including athlete visas).
- Specific visa issues were raised for certain National Federations, with support provided by ICF staff and organisers to facilitate participation, as in Oklahoma.
- TK requests that a staff member is defined as a key point of contact for all Visa issue.
- Rising travel and accommodation costs were highlighted as additional challenges affecting attendance and event organisation.
- The situation is being closely monitored.



**8. Organisational Review**

8.1. Update

TK makes an introduction of the process of the organisational review

Cyril Nivel, Global Director of Operation, presented the key points of the 29 proposals and the proposed vision from the Steering Committee.

Proposal	BoD's Decision
Proposal #1 - Competition Rules Structure – 2 levels only	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #2 - Competition Rules Changes Management	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #3 - Overall Governance Document Structure	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #4 - Policies – Definition & Missing Ones	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #5 - Structure of statutes	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #6 - Congress & Associated Rules	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #7 - Voting System at the Congress & Proxy Votes	<b>Rejected, this proposal will not be proposed to the Congress</b>
Proposal #8 - Voting System at the Congress & Number of votes per	<b>Rejected, this proposal will not be proposed to the Congress</b>
Proposal #9 - Continental Associations & Paddle Worldwide	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #10 - Membership (NF) and Associated Rules	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #11 - Integrity Unit	<b>Approved</b>
Proposal #12 - Create a Development Commission	<b>Proposal removed. Integrated in the proposal #13</b>
Proposal #13 - ICF Governance Structure	<b>Both options will be presented to the Congress for a final decision.</b>

Proposal	BoD's Decision
Proposal #14 - Development Strategy focus on Clear Priorities	<p><b>The Board of Directors proposes to use the key drivers of this proposal to implement the current strategic plan until 2028 and to develop the 2029 – 2032 strategic plan.</b></p>
Proposal #15 - Increase the Development Budget to Match Global	
Proposal #16 - Establish a Framework for NF-to-NF Development	
Proposal #17 - Leverage Former Athletes with Influence to Accelerate Development and Strategic Partnerships	
Proposal #18 - Participants – Accreditation Fee and Daily Fee	
Proposal #19 - Entries (individual) and level of competition	<p><b>Agreement with the proposal, however, more investigations requested (e.g. legal). To be reviewed with the Competition Commission for decision in 2028.</b></p>
Proposal #20 - Hosting Fee & Services Fee	<p><b>The Board of Directors proposes to use the key drivers of this proposal to implement the current strategic plan until 2028 and to develop the 2029 – 2032 strategic plan.</b></p>
Proposal #21 - Licensing Model	
Proposal #22 - Modern Digital tools	
Proposal #23 - Develop Digital Tools-Platforms for Knowledge Sharing and Education for NFs and the Public	
Proposal #24 - Sustainability & Event Organisers	
Proposal #25 - Fan Engagement – Attract & Entertainment	
Proposal #26 - Paddle Worldwide Events - One global Brand Identity	
Proposal #27 - World Paddle Games	<p><b>This proposal is a NF motion presented in due time to be voted at the Congress. The principle proposed by the ARG NF are supported by the BoD:</b></p> <p><b>A.16.1 – In favour</b>  <b>A.33.2 – In favour with a transition period until 2028 Congress</b>  <b>A.33.6 – In favour with an adapted wording.</b></p>
Proposal #28 - NEW – ICF Governance & Gender Equality (by ARG)	

Proposal	BoD's Decision
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The final wording for the each article need to be reviewed and agreed by the ARG NF.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The ICF administration will liaise with them.</b></p>
Proposal #29 - NEW – ICF Language (by DEN, NOR, FIN & SWE)	<p><b>The BoD rejects the principle to remove an official language. This proposal will not be proposed to the Congress.</b></p> <p><b>The BoD supports the principle to ease the translation process during the ICF Congress with new technology (term of reference of the Congress).</b></p>

As a conclusion, the following comments should be considered in the final version:

- Quorum rules at the Congress
- Continental Board chaired by the President
- “Canoe” IOC members integrated part of the Executive Committee
- New NF memberships: role of the Continental Association in the process
- Composition of Continental Board & Development Board: Discipline Chair or a nominated member & Continental President or a nominated member.
- Decision process between Boards proposals and Executive Committee / Council

### 8.1. Draft Statutes Review

Cyril Nivel, Global Director of Operation, presented the key evolutions of the statutes. To allow a proper review of each BoD members, this draft will be recirculated with a deadline to send all the feedbacks.

The BoD will have to vote on this new version prior to the official publication for the Congress during an online meeting early June (Date to be confirmed).

## 9. ICF Event

### 9.1.& 9.2. Event allocation 2027 & 2028

Balint Vekassy, Global Director of Sport, presented the events allocation 2027 & 2028.

<b>2027 Canoe Sprint World Cup 2</b>	<b>Komatsu, (JPN)</b>	17-19 September 2027
<b>2027 Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe World Cup 3</b>	<b>Tokyo, (JPN)</b>	23-26 September 2027

**Decision: the BoD voted unanimously in favour of the allocations presented for the 2027 ICF World Cups.**



### **9.3.1. ITO lists – Dragon Boat World Championships**

BV presented the ITO lists for Dragon Boat World Championships.

**Decision: The BoD voted unanimously in favour of the ITO lists for the Dragon Boat World Championships.**

### **9.3.2. ITO lists – FISU Canoe Sprint World Championships**

BV presented the ITO list for FISU Canoe Sprint World Championships.

**Decision: The BoD voted unanimously in favour of the FISU Canoe Sprint World Championships**

## **9.4 ICF Event Allocation Policy**

BV presented the new ICF event allocation policy.

- Introduced the ICF event bidding process.
- Evaluation criteria include alignment with the “Fit for Future” strategy
- Event assessment will be conducted by ICF staff on site for each competition, reviewing pre-, during-, and post-competition aspects through a standard evaluation system.
- Evaluations will include a numerical scoring scale (1–5), written comments on strengths and areas for improvement, and will be considered in future event applications.
- Final reports will be shared with the HOC and presented to the ICF BoD at the end of the season.

## **9.5 Super Cup long term strategy**

TK introduced the Super Cup long-term strategy.

- The sport event needs to be discussed in the long term.
- A workshop needs to be organised for brainstorming on the Super Cup.

**The BoD agreed in principle to develop a long-term strategy for the Super Cup and China.**

## **10. Competition Rules Changes**

LRC presented the method use by the Competition Commission to review all proposed rules changes.

### **10.1 Principle Rules and Sport Rules for each discipline**

Each Committee chair presented the key proposed rules changes.

The BoD supported the recommendation of the Competition Commission for each **Principle Rule** change proposed. The final decision will be done by the Congress.



The BoD approved the recommendation of the Competition Commission for each **Sport Rule** change proposed. It is the final decision. The document will be published for information for Congress.

The Canoe Sprint Sport rule 10.5.6.a to 10.5.8.h concerning the relay races is on hold to allow a review between the CSP Committee and the Athlete Commission. A revised version will be proposed at the next Board meeting.

### **10.2 Sport Governance Rules Common to all disciplines**

LRC presented each proposed change.

The BoD supported the recommendation of the Competition Commission for each **Sport Governance Rule** change proposed. The final decision will be done by the Congress.

## **11 2026 ICF Congress Preparation**

RP presented the Congress preparation.

### **11.1. Preparation Update & Key dates**

- Ongoing preparations are progressing well, with 23 National Federations registered, combining in-person and online participation.
- A hybrid Congress format will be implemented to ensure broader participation despite travel and visa constraints.
- Some challenges were highlighted, notably visa issues, travel costs and geopolitical constraints, which may impact attendance.
- Registration is ongoing, with continued efforts to increase participation.
- Interpretation needs are being assessed, with limited requests received so far.
- The importance of ensuring a quorum and successful Congress delivery was emphasised, including adapting timing and strengthening online participation.
- The draft Congress agenda was reviewed and approved, including key topics such as governance review, financial matters and elections

### **11.2. Key dates**

- Registration for the Congress closes on Friday 26 June 2026.

### **11.3. Commission to check the credentials of delegates nomination**

As per ICF Statutes (article B.16.3) a commission made up three (3) persons will verify the credentials of Delegate. This Commission consists of the ICF Secretary General and two (2) ICF BoD members.

TK proposed to nominate Moira Aston (IRL) and Danielle Woodward (AUS) to be part of this Commission.

**Decision: The BoD voted unanimously in favour these nominations.**

#### **11.4. Membership fee for the next four years**

RP presented the membership fee for the next four years:

- Low membership fee - €100
- Medium membership fee - €250
- Full membership fee - €1,500

**Decision: The BoD approved these membership fees.**

#### **11.5. National Federations and membership fee Categories**

RP presented the membership categories:

- The current classification will remain the same
- We proposed the following category for the unclassified NFs based on GDP/capita and GNI/capita compared to the current NF list:

CAF - CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	Low
COM - COMOROS	Low
KOS - KOSOVO	Medium
KSA - SAUDI ARABIA	Full
SOL - SOLOMON ISLANDS	Low
SLE - SIERRA LEONE	Low
CPV - CAPE VERDE	Medium
GAM - THE GAMBIA	Low

**Decision: The BoD approved these proposals.**

### **12. Development Activities Report**

CF presented the development activities.

#### **Resources & Funding**

- Secured €750,000 in external development funding (IOC, IPC, hosts and partners).
- Key support included Olympic Solidarity (athlete scholarships, coach education, WISH), IPC grants, Centres of Excellence and HOC contributions.

#### **Coaching & Camps**

- Delivered 16 coaching development actions across all continents.
- Implemented multiple international courses and camps (Sprint, Paracanoe, Wildwater, SUP, Dragon Boat, Freestyle).
- Expanded WISH and online coaching programmes and increased NF coach integration for knowledge transfer.



### **Talent & Performance Development**

- Strengthened Talent Programme with increased training opportunities and structured follow-up.
- Supported athlete progression toward high performance and Olympic qualification pathway.
- Early performance success from emerging nations despite logistical challenges.

### **Paracanoe Development**

- Regional activation programmes supported via IPC funding.
- Continued NF/NPC development in Africa and Arab-speaking regions with training camps and education.

### **Sustainability & Inclusion**

- Delivered ICF Sustainability Webinar Series and developed supporting tools.
- Continued Gender Equality actions, including ICF Women Symposium planning and surveys.
- Oceania Women Symposium - in Australia
- Ongoing revision of Safeguarding Policy and monitoring of women's participation in coaching and officiating.

## **13. Paddle Worldwide Rebrand – Update**

RP provided an update on the Paddle Worldwide rebrand.

- The initial logo design unites five shapes representing the continents through paddle, symbolising movement, flow, and connection with water.
- The proposed logo features a boat as the primary structure of the sport. A strike-through element represents the blade cutting through water and forms the paddle shaft, while the negative space represents the heart of the sport: the paddle.
- The aim is for this to act as the primary brand for the paddle sport community, continental federations, and 172 national federations across all disciplines. Should any federation wish to use this identity the ICF will provide all artwork for their use.

**Decision: The Board of Directors approved the Paddle Worldwide rebrand.**

## **14. Digital Ecosystem**

Khush Ramesh, Head of Sport Information & Digital Innovation, presented the digital ecosystem

- Focused on the open and thorough Request for Proposal process to find a new engineering agency for the ICF.
- Followed with the aim and ambition of the Digital Ecosystem and how it could serve the ICF and its member federations in the long term, including investment amounts and technological opportunities.
- Outlined the specific products that will help the ICF achieve its strategies as outlined in the Fit for Future Evolution.

**The Board of Directors approved the project and within the constraints of the outlined budget.**

## **15. Multi-sport events applications**

BV presented opportunities for canoeing within major international multi-sport events.

- Canoe Sprint and Canoe Slalom are included in major events such as the Asian Games, Pan American Games, European Games, and African Games.
- Dragon Boat, Canoe Polo, Canoe Marathon, and Va'a are also featured in selected multi-sport event programmes, including the Pacific Games and World Games.
- Several multi-sport events still do not include canoeing, providing opportunities for future expansion and cooperation with organising committees and continental sport organisations.
- The Confederation of African Canoeing was encouraged to support greater African participation in the Mediterranean Games.

## **16. Other Paddle Sport IFs (Dragonboat/IVF/Rafting) – Update and cooperation model TK will give an update**

- TK noted that the ICF has applied to include dragon boat racing in the next World Games in Karlsruhe.
- RP updated that he had a meeting with BoD member MS and the IVF Federation.
- Informed the BoD that the OC1 men's and women's events will be removed from the 2026 World Cup events in Malaysia, Polynesia and Brazil due to governance arrangements with the International Va'a Federation.

## **17. IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport Gender verification working group**

JG introduced IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport.

- Update provided on IOC policy developments, noting that key details and implementation guidelines remain unclear.
- It was indicated that the IOC intends to implement the policy for LA 2028, although responsibilities and procedures (IFs and NOCs) are yet to be defined.
- Upcoming IOC meeting (18–19 June) is expected to provide further clarification and guidance.
- ICF policy on the protection of the female category was presented (*See Appendix*)
- Timeline for development and implementation of ICF gender verification policy was presented (*See appendix*)
- The timeline will be updated once further IOC guidance is received.
- Need to closely monitor developments on this matter was noted, given the sensitivity and evolving nature of the topic.

## **18. Other Business**

### **18.1 ECA Letter – Jury Travel Expenses**

TK introduced the issue of travel expense coverage for Jury Members at ICF World Championships and JZ explained his proposal regarding this matter.



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- Jury Presidents have their travel expenses covered, while Jury Members are generally required to fund their own travel.
- Concerns regarding fairness were raised, as jury members serve on a voluntary basis and often receive no financial support from their national federations.
- A comparison with ITO arrangements was made, where costs are fully covered, as is the case at European Championships.

### **18.2 AIN Policy Update**

Due to the international situation and to avoid any issue during the Olympic & Paralympic Qualification pathway it is needed to adapt our AIN policy to allow fare access to all athletes to the LA 2028 to anticipate any evolution about the AIN situation.

It is proposed to distinguish AIN-A (Russia) and AIN-B(Belarus) to allow and having the gained points linked to the athlete and the respective NF in case of evolution.

### **19. Closing Remarks**

TK concluded the BoD meeting by expressing appreciation for the Board members' commitment and collaboration, noting the successful discussions, and thanking everyone for their engagement. He noted that the next in-person Board meeting will be held in Oklahoma.