

BoD March 2017
Typed by HQ: June 2017
Approved by Pdt: July 2017
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INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD IN MANCHESTER, GREAT BRITAIN  
24-25 MARCH 2017



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<b>MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING</b> <b>24-25 March Manchester, UK</b>
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**Participants:**

José Perurena	Spain	President (Executive Committee Member)
Cecilia Farias	Argentina	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Tony Estanguet	France	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Thomas Konietzko	Germany	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Luciano Buonfiglio	Italy	Treasurer (Executive Committee Member) not present
Simon Toulson	Great Britain	Secretary General (Executive Committee Member)
Joao Manuel Da Costa Alegre	Sao Tome and Principe	President of African Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Shoken Narita	Japan	President of Asian Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Albert Woods	Great Britain	President of European Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Helen Brownlee	Australia	President of Oceanian Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Frank Garner	Canada	Chair Canoe Sprint (Executive Committee Member)
Jean-Michel Prono	France	Chair Canoe Slalom (Executive Committee Member)
Henriette Engel Hansen	Denmark	Chair Athletes Committee
Octavio Morales Vallarta	Mexico	Continental Representative Americas
Victor G. Ruiz	Puerto Rico	Continental Representative Americas
Ahmad Donyamali	Iran	Continental Representative Asia (not present)
Branko Lovric	Croatia	Continental Representative Europe
Andrej Jelenc	Slovenia	Continental Representative Europe
Ola Oluode	Nigeria	Continental Representative Africa
Maree Burnett	New Zealand	Continental Representative Oceania
John Edwards	Canada	Chair Paracanoe Committee
Jorn Cronberg	Denmark	Chair Canoe Marathon
Tomislav Crnkovic	Croatia	Chair Wildwater Canoeing
Mario Santos	Portugal	Chair Canoe Ocean Racing
Greg Smale	Great Britain	Chair Canoe Polo
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	Spain	Chair Canoe Freestyle
Dr LUK Wai Hung	Hong Kong	Chair Dragon Boat
Donald McKenzie	Canada	Chair Medical and Anti-Doping

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Description

**President’s Welcome**

The President welcomed everybody to Manchester, he announced Luciano Buonfiglio and Ahmed Donyamali would not be attending the Board Meeting. He thanked British Canoeing for hosting the ICF Board meeting. On behalf of British Canoeing David Joy welcomed everybody and added that British Canoeing was looking forward to work with the ICF in the future.

The IOC president held a meeting regarding SUP with the ICF and International Surfing Federation (ISA) however the surfing federation didn’t accept any of the options that were presented. Ongoing discussions would be held between the parties.

It was highlighted how important it was to show the IPC how much money ICF had allocated and what plans the ICF had for Paracanoe development.

**Secretary General (Treasurer’s report)**

The ICF currently had 9.5 million Euros in reserves due to its financial investment strategy. Therefore since 2008 the ICF had added 6 million to its reserves. Swiss taxes for IOC money given to the ICF in 2016 had to be paid and that would be a large sum of money to pay.

In terms of investments the Swiss market gave no return at the moment and the European market was also close to zero return, unless investments were for long durations. Therefore the investment strategy was to lean towards US\$.

The overall budget loss from 2014-2016 was 728,000 Euros. Most of that was accounted for through legal fees, TV production costs for World Championships and development money paid to Hungary that would be returned to the ICF in 2018.

**Board of Directors individual Agenda items:**

**Doping situation, update on Russian Doping cases and Moldovan case.**

Moldova: The athlete won a bronze medal in C1 in Rio. The athlete was given a 4 years sanction as his contamination argument was weak. The case would goto CAS.

Romania: After the ICF suspension decision, the Romanian anti-doping had suspended a lot of athlete and coaches, they had restarted the anti-doping education programme and were working hard to clean up the sport. They requested the ICF reduce the sanction, however the BoD responded this was not possible as there was no rule to allow that.

Belarus: The ICF lost the CAS case due to two strange decisions of the Judges. CAS cases were not predictable and that should always be considered. The case was ongoing in French courts and further action could still be taken should new evidence come to light.

Russian cases: The ICF heard the Russian athletes and the Russian Federation that were

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implicated in the McLaren Report. As McLaren refused to be a witness it really limited the strength of the ICF's legal case. Six samples from the athletes were retested but the evidence from the retests was not sufficient to make a viable case against the athletes.

The ICF's BoD main priority was to ensure Russian Canoe Sprint athletes were clean in ICF Competitions. Therefore every Russian athlete needed to be tested at least 2 times independently in order that they could compete in international competitions in 2017.

### **Update on ICF Staffing**

The IT position had been filled last month and the Media Manager would be replaced very soon. The new staff would start working from May 2017. The Media and Communications job had been divided into two roles with the second person acting as a digital manager.

The Slalom Technical Manager was already selected and the Sprint technical Manager search was ongoing. The quality of candidates was very encouraging.

### **SUP and ongoing dispute with International Surfing Association**

The President explained the history of the conflict with ISA regarding SUP.

The IOC had decided not to include the discipline in the YOG due to the argument. The ISA had 86 surfing members and had only one World Championships in SUP as a competition.

The ICF actions were random regarding SUP, no rules, no connection with the professional SUP community but the advantage was the formal infrastructure with strong NFs linked to the NOCs.

The BoD approved that ICF should work towards an agreement with Watermans League and in parallel within the discipline committees they would create a strategy to develop SUP in Ocean Racing, Marathon and Sprint.

### **Global situational study on Canoe - market survey by Nielson marketing**

A global survey regarding the popularity of Canoeing had been performed through a reputable marketing company and the final report would be distributed soon to all the BoD and NFs.

### **ICF Conflict of Interest policies**

It was confirmed that the BoD agreed the Conflict of Interest Policy and the connected forms would be individually signed by the Board members.

According to the new governance changes the ICF Statutes would be updated, the work was ongoing.

### **General/Technical Rules clarification**

The BoD agreed that the Rules be analysed and redefined into three categories.

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## **Bidding process 2021 events**

The BoD accepted the late bids for hosting events.

The BoD decided that the Board members from the same country as a bidding file would not vote in that election.

### Canoe Freestyle

2021 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships  
Nottingham (GBR)

### Canoe Sprint

2021 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships  
Lake Bagsvaerd (DEN)

2021 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships  
Montemor-o-Velho (POR)

### Canoe Marathon

2021 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships  
Pitesti (ROU)

### Canoe Slalom

2020 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships  
Krakow (POL)

### 2021 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships

Bratislava (SVK). It was noted that the Chair needed to receive the plan and budget proposal until July 2017 for it to be accepted.

2021 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships  
Auckland (NZL)

### Wildwater Canoeing

2021 ICF Wildwater World Championships (WWC – Sprint)  
Bratislava (SVK)

### 2021 ICF Junior and U23 Wildwater World Championships (Sprint and Classic)

The vote was postponed and would be decided at the July ExCo Meeting

### Canoe Polo

2020 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships  
Rome (ITA)

Ocean Racing candidate was not accepted

### Dragon Boat

2019 ICF Dragon Boat Club Crew World Championships, Kiev (UKR)

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2020 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships, Indore/Bhopal (IND)

2019 World Cups were allocated

2019 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cups (3 events)

Poznan (POL)

Duisburg (GER)

2019 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cups (5 events)

Prague (CZE)

Markkleeberg (GER)

Lee Valley (GBR)

Tacen (SLO)

Bratislava (SVK)

2019 ICF Canoe Marathon World Cups

Baerum (Oslo) (NOR)

2019 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Cups

Soca (SLO)

Treigna (FRA)

2018 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Cups

Celje (2018), Banja Luca, ITA

2019 ICF Ocean Racing World Cups

Viana do Castelo (POR), Tahiti, France Mauritius

2018 ICF Ocean Racing World Cups

Viana do Castelo (POR), Tahiti, France Mauritius

2018 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup

Millau (FRA), Sort (ESP) To be confirmed later

### **TV broadcasting - future media strategy for TV broadcasting**

The ICF was still waiting for Belgrade's response for TV coverage of the Canoe Sprint World Cup. However, Szeged and Montemor would have TV production for the finals.

For the 5 Canoe Slalom World Cups there would be a combination of TV production and siwidata production to ensure live streaming for the whole events.

### **Development Programme - Determine the new development strategy**

The proposal for Canoe Polo regarding equipment for the World Games was accepted under the condition that it was the responsibility of the recipient to make sure that customs fees were waived.

### **Olympic Programme Tokyo, 2020**

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The BoD agreed the Olympic Programme for 2020.

**ICF-IDBF collaboration -Establish a working relationship between ICF & IDBF for future World Championships**

The ICF would have a meeting immediately after the Board Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March with IDBF and there was the possibility of collaboration with a joint World Championship.

**ICF competitions , Proposal of Dragonboat World Series**

The ICF had been contacted by a Chinese company through a company in Great Britain who was interested to organise a Dragon Boat series. There would be a test event in October or November in China to see if the concept was viable. The ICF BoD agreed to continue negotiations.

**ITO selections - 2017 W. Cups, World Jr./U23 Champs & World Champs**

The ITOs were approved by BoD.

**List of Jury members for 2017 Events**

**Canoe Sprint Junior and U23 World Championships, Pitesti**

President     Thomas Konietzko  
Members     Octavio Morales

**Canoe Sprint World Championships, Racice**

President     Thomas Konietzko  
Members     Shoken Narita  
                 Ahmad Donyamali

**Junior and U23 World Championships Canoe Slalom, Bratislava**

President     Andrej Jelenc  
Members     Tomislav Crnkovic

**Canoe Slalom and Wildwater World Championships, Pau**

President     Cecilia Farias  
Members     Shoken Narita  
                 Lluís Rabaneda  
                 Albert Woods

**Junior and U23 World Championships Wildwater Canoeing, Murau**

President     Andrej Jelenc  
Members     Tomislav Crnkovic

**Dragon Boat Club Crew, Venice**

President     Shoken Narita  
Members     Branco Lovric

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### **Marathon World Championships, Pietermaritzburg**

President Thomas Konietzko  
Members Albert Woods

### **Ocean Racing World Championships, Hong Kong**

President Shoken Narita  
Members Victor Ruiz  
Helen Brownlee

### **Canoe Freestyle World Championships, San Juan**

President Tony Estanguet  
Members Jean-Michel Prono  
Tomislav Vrnkovic  
Cecilia Farias

### **Governance**

- **ICF statutes**

A new draft of roles and responsibilities had been communicated to the BoD members. The ICF Statutes still needed a big revision. All technical rule changes must be prepared for the next BoD meeting in order to be analysed.

- **Ethical Commission**

There was an Ethics Commission in each Sporting Federation. The ICF Congress had agreed to have the Ethics Commission combined with the ICF Court of Arbitration as an independent body. The rules of which were being drafted.

### **Dragonboat ITOs**

The proposed ITO list was approved by the BoD.

### **Canoe Freestyle**

- **Rule Appendices**

The appendices contained information about how to judge and the score for moves. Every year, after the last event, there would be an open call for two months where the athlete commission will talk to athletes to make the changes in the appendix. It is not related to the rules but was important for the discipline.

### **The Appendices were approved by the BoD**

In 2017, Judges seminars would take place in San Juan and Plattling. The Committee currently did not have enough A Class judges, therefore opened the call for the seminars.

The ICF was asked to cover the costs of these seminars: maximum 8'000 EUR. The



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budget would be taken from the seminar budget and not the Development Programme budget.

The BoD approved the budget allocation for the seminars in 2017.

### **Freestyle in a box**

**Phase 1:** Freestyle had two companies producing the TV and the Computer system for the two World Championships. TV Production Corner Wave (CAN) proposed two different standards (one for WCh and one for WCup). For the Race Management software: Wave Monkey (USA).

The Committee would prepare a plan to sell the product. ICF could have sales person for the event paid on a commission. The money would go to the organiser to cover the cost. Once the costs were covered, additional money would go to the ICF.

The main concern was to see more spectators could be attracted to the sport.

**Phase 2 :** The Committee will launch a tender for the period 2020 to 2026.

By January 2020, the Committee should be able to appoint two companies for a period of six years. So, if the Committee changes, the product would remain.

### **Canoe Sprint Strategic Plan**

A Strategic plan had been drafted for the next four years following discussions between the Canoe Sprint Committee and different stakeholders. The main objective was to find an Olympic Programme for 2020 in order to maximise our potential of Olympic Canoe Sprint events and to create a unique brand and to tell the NFs what the future of the discipline would look like.

A final format proposal would be presented to the ICF BoD in 2019 in time for the 2024 Olympic Games. Canoe Sprint wanted to improve the Sport presentation and engage the Community more. New existing competition formats must be discussed and tested like mix and team events.

The proposal for the Junior and U23 World Championships in Pitesti would be that the same programme would be run as per Senior World Championships with the addition of C4M 500m.

Two World Cups for 2019 were approved by the BoD. It was indicated that the World Cup rankings as per the rules could not be concluded properly without third World Cup.

### **ASIA**

Concern was raised over the membership fees for NFs which was decided 1000 EUR at the ICF Congress. Some NFs were struggling to pay the money.

Issue would be analysed at the next ExCo meeting.

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## **Ocean Racing**

A Proposal from the Technical Committee was to ignore the ICF rule for 2 entries per country per event for Junior and U23. This was a regular discussion and the BoD decided that the ICF rules needed to be followed and entries would be limited in Junior and Senior categories for the World Championships.

## **Canoe Slalom**

Two World Championship programmes had been established with consistent formats. Mixed C2 would be added for 2017 as well as Extreme Slalom. The Junior and U23 World Championships had seen a change to events allowing better double up for athletes.

Extreme slalom is an open event without need for high level technical equipment. If it works well the idea would be to start a World Cup series with rankings. The format was still under development.

## **Canoe Marathon**

A four year Marathon Strategic Plan had been discussed by the Technical Committee in order to:

- Improve the quality of the competitions
- Develop a Media strategy
- Improve the quality of ITOs
- Improve the quality of meeting proceedings

The sport presentation would be improved including the competition format with a focus on the field the play presentation and good TV production.

The goal was to increase the number of NFs in the World Championships and to have better media exposure.

## **Canoe Polo**

The list of officials for World Games was approved by the BoD.

The clash of dates for Canoe Polo at the Asian Games and the World Championships in Canada 2018 caused concern and needed to be resolved. The proposed dates for the World Championships would be changed to 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2018. The BoD approved the proposed date changes.

## **Paracanoe**

The application for events for Tokyo 2020 has been completed. The ICF had asked for 10 events including 4 va'a events. It asked for 12 quota places per event – instead of 10 In Rio. The IPC would make a decision in September 2017 after an evaluation process of all sports. The Committee also had set the Paracanoe Strategic Plan for 2017-20

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## **Miscellaneous**

The 2017 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup in Portugal organizers needed help to promote the event. All continents were requested to ask NF's to send at least one athlete to the event.

Elections for the Athletes Committee would be held at the World Championships in 2017. Information would be communicated to the NFs shortly.

The ICF HQ had not received any explanation from Seif for his social media comments related to the Congress 2016 voting. The BoD decided that as an interim no more money would be paid to Mr. Patwa from the ICF and he would not be selected as an ITO until situation was resolved.

The BoD approved that the ExCo would decide what sanctions if any, would be applied to Mr Patwa after hearing his side of the story.

## **Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires**

The issue of boat provision for the World Qualification Event that would be held in Barcelona April 2018 was raised. As this was a new project a solution must be found that would not cost so much money. Initial costs for boats would be between 80'000 and 120'000 EUR.

For Barcelona the organisers were concerned regarding the boats situation. The President of the Venue had confirmed that it was not part of the budget but they would try to help.

The direction was to explore the ICF buying boats and offering them for free locally. There was some concern that the boat types would not be of interest to canoe clubs

**The next ICF Board meeting would be 21-24 March 2018 In Tokyo**