

Changes Canoe Slalom is making to meet the IOC needs and remain in the Olympic Program

During the current Olympic period and into the next, CSL has made a number of changes that will build and enhance the sport making it even more attractive as an Olympic discipline.

The changes fall into 4 main areas:

1. Rules Evolution
2. Sport Presentation
3. Racing Format – Whitewater Slalom Cross
4. WW Venues Construction & Operation

The relevant changes in each of these areas are summarized in this document

1. 2015 CSL Rules Evolution

1.1 Direct progression to Semi-final phase introduces a more challenging progression system

- 1 run heats qualify 3/4 of the start field for semifinal, rest qualify through a 2nd heat run (repechage)
- Racing requires more engagement from the athlete as every run now counts
- Heats phase is shorter (approx. 1.5hr) better for HOC

1.2 Result delivery process

- Limitation of 1 enquiry per boat per competition and 1 enquiry per NF toward another National Federation's result per competition
- Enquiry must be submitted within 5 minutes after posting the competitor(s) checklist
- This rule reduced by 50% the number of enquiries (2014 to 2015). Only 10% of these enquiries led to a change (eg none in Final at the 2015 World Championships)

1.3 Video Judge Process

- The Video review process for the semi final and final is more effective, live, with most of the results confirmed during the time the following athlete is on course
- A new video review system was tested during 2015 World Championships (Slomo TV). This system allows reviewing of the same situation from different synchronized camera angles (TV broadcast style), with access to associated features eg slow motion, frame by frame, enlarging of the image.



- For a video example click [here](#).



Slomo Synchronised Split Screen

- The video feed (HDI signal, provided by TV live production crew) is complemented by 8 fixed and automated camera's placed on the gate line (mostly upstream gates)



Fixed Camera View

TV view

These fixed cameras complete the review system by providing short video clips of each athlete which are very effective for observing 50 second penalties (especially $\frac{1}{2}$ head) and light touches hidden in the TV views. These camera feeds still need to be integrated with the main TVS service and at times access via Wi-Fi needs improvement.

To view a sample fixed camera video file please click [here](#).

1.4 2017 CSL rules evolution for next Olympic period:

- A rule for “No enquiry” will be proposed. This is to allow the results to be finalized more quickly. Aim is that the N°1 athlete's result is final when the Athlete N°2 Athlete has completed their run.
- Push button device development for instantaneous recording of

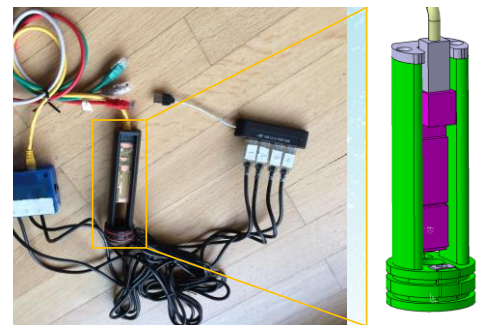
the judging call and transmission to the scoring system. Developed in partnership with ICF Timing & scoring service provider Siwidata as part of the existing contractual arrangements. Currently in testing phase running in shadow mode by the end of Olympic Cycle for implementation in 2017.

- Gate Judges will be free of paper and be dedicated to their observation task, judging 4–6 gates with no documentation of the call.
- Reduce the number of Gate Judges to 10 along the course (+ 2 judges spare), Keeping VJ station with 4 officials. With the same number of staff we are improving the service and speed of delivery. Chief Judge will remain making final decision.
- CSL committee is preparing proposals for rules evolution and will consult with CSL community stakeholders with a final proposal for the 2016 Spring Board meeting.

1.5 Electronic poles & judging system, to assist the Gate & Chief Judges.

- Developing a penalty detection system based on integrated sensors in the pole combined with automated evaluation
- Development work is being done by Maynooth University in IRL and the University of Augsburg (GER)

- 2 sub projects:
- Project 1 is a pole with a motion sensor. This is in prototype and is currently being tested on the Augsburg canal



- Project 2 is a penalty detection system using a camera on the pole. This would provide automated evaluation using machine learning techniques. This project is still in the software development phase.
- The aim is to have a system that is affordable and easy to implement.
- Both projects work on training algorithms to recognise penalties or a clean negotiation.



To read the latest progress report please see the [Electronic Pole Report](#)

2. Sport Presentation Improvements, new features both for TV viewers and spectators at the venue

2-1 Start procedure

- Standardised from race to race and more “dramatic” by placing beam line directly in front of the athlete. So time starts immediately Athlete commences paddling – this is more understandable by non expert viewer.

2-2 Finish area

- Kiss and cry zone showcasing the leaders reaction has been implemented but is still to be improved. Many Athletes do not look comfortable or are not always confident to react naturally thus the video shots can look quite static.



- Athlete’s first reaction interview on water directly at the finish for display on the video wall.

2-3 Athlete presentation & identification

- NOC stickers and athlete's name stickers, following the ICF branding guidelines, had a soft implementation this season with an increasing number of NF advertising stickers positioned following ICF recommendations

2-4 TV graphics development

- Gate graphic associated with penalty, for TV spectators to see where penalties are given.



- Double window for showing different information during the same run (eg. close shot and general action, Kiss and Cry and competitors run, or for 2016 - Video Judge and competitors run).
- Athlete’s TV Bio graphic (picture and best results summary) displayed at start of live coverage during Final and will be extend to Semi Final.
- Graphics immediately displaying the World Cup Standings result at the end of the final at each World Cup.



Athlete TV Bio Graphic



World Cup Standings C2-Men
after World Cup Final Pau

1	FRA	G. KLAUSS/M. PECHE	306
2	CZE	J. KASPAR/M. SINDLER	276
3	CZE	O. KARLOVSKY/J. JANE	265
4	POL	P. SZCZEPANSKI/M. POCHWALA	175
5	SLO	L. BOZIC/S. TALJAT	171
6	GER	R. BEHLING/T. BECKER	164
7	FRA	P. LABARELLE/N. PESCHIER	152
8	SVK	L. SKANTAR/P. SKANTAR	150
9	SVK	T. KUCERA/J. BATIK	140
10	FRA	Y. PRIGENT/L. KERVELLA	139

World Cup Standings Graphic

2-5 Mini camera attached to Athlete

- HF transmission developed in partnership with Olympic Broadcasting Service
- To be tested November / December 2015

2-6 Live streaming of all competitions (Planet Canoe Channel)

- Youtube - Eight events were streamed live during the season with an increasing audience throughout. Figures to be provided soon.

To read a Richard Pettit's full report on live streaming please see the [Live Streaming Report](#)

2-7 Social media

- Facebook - Cumulative audience reach over the slalom events was 8 Million
- Twitter - Had its most successful season with a continual increase in numbers and interactions throughout;
- Hashtag #ICFslalom was fully embraced by the community (athletes, coaches, national federations and fans)

- Instagram account was activated showing a good sign of growth throughout the season with the use of canoe photography.com excellent images
- TVS - the split screen comparing athletes head-to-heads runs also proved successful and provided a great insight into technique and tactic variations between the world's best competitors. These clips were posted to Facebook
- Email - Press releases and promotional emails were distributed throughout the season that increased the profile within the international media and the wider-canoeing audience and community
- New website - The launch of the new website significantly enhanced the online presence of the sport with live stream, results and reporting displayed all within a mobile friendly platform
- Infostrada - previews and athletes profiles were added for the senior world championships providing the international media and general public a detailed insight into the competing athletes
- Video interviews of all winners and more were taken throughout the season providing reactions direct from the action, these were then pushed through the social media channels and used for news and 26 minute highlights package for television.
- To read a Richard Pettit's full report on social media please see the [Social Media Report](#)



3. Introducing Head to Head Whitewater Slalom Cross Competition

Canoe Slalom would like to evolve in the line with the IOC agenda 2020 recommendations and propose an additional whitewater format more accessible in term of development for National Federations.

Canoe Slalom wants to reach young paddlers, public and non-Olympic slalom specialists. To do this we have developed and tested a new format – Whitewater Slalom Cross racing.

3-1 Whitewater venues must offer opportunities for other formats, Canoe Slalom has evolved a slalom cross format which will:

- Welcome new athletes from other canoeing disciplines
- Provide a more accessible competition format
- Open more competition sessions on the Olympic course
- Present a TV oriented and spectator friendly competition which is easy to follow, spectacular, unpredictable and suspenseful.
- This format is to be easy to develop and easy to organise for National Federations

3-2 Format framework

- Head to head, 4 boats competing together a maximum for the final phase.
- Kayak events only, one male and one female event (K1M, K1W).
- Same boat used by all competitors, a plastic boat from the recreational market.
- Fair but spectacular start line with a ramp when possible.
- Course marked with buoys or obstacles to impose spectacular trajectories, but always using the best whitewater features of the particular course.
- Two symmetric upstream gates on same line or close where athletes may choose which one they negotiate.
- Eskimo roll zone.
- Time duration around 45 seconds long – fast and furious.
- No timing of the head to head series just first across the line wins. It is possible that individual time trials are organized to qualify the start field of the heats phase.
- No penalty touch, elimination for gate (obstacle) missed etc.



3-3 Milestones for the full implementation

- Balance of the 2015 test presented during Pau World Cup Final
- Defining the format, rules and event technical requirements (November to February 2016)
- In agreement with HOC's, introduce this event as a demonstration in at least 4 of the five 2016 CSL World cups in replacement of the Teams events.
- Prepare a specific set of ICF rule articles for this event to be presented to the Board for vote at the 2016 Congress and implementation in 2017 and having the first and official 2017 ICF kayak Slalom Cross World Championships organized in Pau.

To view Slalom Cross live please click [here](#).

Or to watch a full race unfold see click [here](#).



4 Whitewater Venues Construction & Operation

4-1 Production of the booklet “Sustainable WW Sport Center’s” (completed January 2015)

- This has been a success and very much appreciated by the venue project promoters and partner authorities
- Next phase is redacting and editing the “Technical Guidelines for construction of a WW Course” to be started immediately after the RIO 2016 games (using an already existing document to be updated from Rio experience and Agenda 2020 recommendations)
- This will be completed by a working Group coordinated by ICF with contributions from international experts

4-2 Pro actively working with future Olympic bids;

- Liaising closely and early with their teams and local community
- Organizing a seminar gathering all 2024 bidder’s for sharing the key factor of success for an Olympic canoeing venue and to promote legacy beyond the Games