

Always moving forward

ICF Board of Directors, Manchester, UK 23rd - 25th March 2017

Full Name: Greg Smale

ICF Position: Chair ICF Canoe Polo Committee



1. Visits and Meetings since last Board Meeting

ICF Canoe Polo Committee Meeting 10th – 12th February 2017.

ICF CAP Skype Meeting 26th February 2017 re bid for 2020 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships.

2. Tasks undertaken for this period

1. Allocation of roles to committee members – this will be published on ICF website.
2. Invitation and formal confirmation of two ICF CAP Advisors/Consultants to the Committee:
 - Duncan Cochrane – Australia
 - Jacques Webbers – Netherlands
3. Invitations to NF's qualified for 2017 World Games.
4. Roles and responsibilities for 2017 IWGA World Games including identifying referees.
5. General 'catch-up' regarding World Games which had not progressed including budget.
6. Identification of major date issue with 2018 World Championships and 2018 Asian Games.
7. Provisional Draw 2018 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships.
8. Commencement of work to improve doping education for Canoe Polo.
9. Commencement of work around future development of Canoe Polo.
10. Fixing of future ICF CAP Meetings – Namibia in April 2017 and Canada in October 2017.



3. Issues and Main Points of Report

2016 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Syracuse, Italy

Unfortunately, the organisers have not provided high quality television/internet footage for use by the ICF from this event. A commitment was made and communication then made regarding 'snow' and UPS delivery – nothing has arrived.

The CAP now has the ICF photographs and a video file from British Canoeing however all these were obtained after images were required by the IWGA for the World Games and so earlier WC images were used.



Poland raised one issue with the results and this has been addressed by the organisers and the results will be updated on the ICF website soon – Game 638 – Poland beat Belgium.

GS also noted he was surprised that one category had more one more entry than qualification had allowed.

MP had informed the CAP during their discussion with HQ staff that a couple of federations had still not paid their 2016 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships Referee Accreditation Fee. GS stated that the forthcoming continental championships were part of the next world championships and unless these NF's pay they will be excluded from the next world championships.

A discussion took place surrounding this situation. In summary teams were asked late for their fee and accordingly competed without paying and went home before monies received.

GS noted to the group that a 'goodwill' payment of 300 Euro to each of the self-funded referees had been made from the previous year's budget as they had been charged an excessive amount by the 2016 WC organisers who had subsequently ignored correspondence by referee Steve Watts who had tried to resolve this matter on the volunteer self-funded referees' behalf.

2017 IWGA World Games – 25th – 31st July 2017

Invitations have traditionally been handed to qualifying teams at the end of the world championships from which they qualify. This did not happen and the 'new' team have had to try and recover lost time.



There is full entry from those qualified as follows:

Men	Country	World Ranking		Women	Country	World Ranking
1	Italy	1		1	New Zealand	1
2	France	2		2	Germany	2
3	Spain	3		3	France	3
4	Germany	4		4	Netherlands	4
5	New Zealand	5		5	Italy	5
6	Chinese Taipei	10		6	Canada	8
7	Poland (Host)	11		7	Poland (Host)	7

The following officials/referees are being/have been invited – all referees are Grade A:

Nos allowed on passport	Names	Country	Role
1	Simon Toulson?	ICF	Jury
2	Poland President?	ICF	Jury
3	Greg Smale	ICF	Jury
4	Joao Botelho	ICF	Chief Official & Competition Committee
5	Eva Lindmark	ICF	Chief Table Official/Technical Organiser - Playing & Ref Schedule & Competition Committee
6	Dion Chen	ICF	Chief Scrutineer & Competition Committee
7	Andi Fear-Ross	NZL	Referee
8	Ralf Budde	GER	Referee
9	Maurizio Pelli	ITA	Referee
10	Martijn Rol	NED	Referee
11	Ezio Ambrosetti	USA	Referee
12	Te-Chih Liu	TPE	Referee
13	Steve Watts	GBR	Referee
14	Virginie Brackez	FRA	Referee

ICF HQ will additionally be present at the WG to promote the discipline. ICF HQ to clarify who and how they will assist.

2018 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships

The provisional draw took place and is an appendix to this report. The CAP encourages Continental Associations to attempt to fix their championships earlier to enable teams to plan – an example being the 2019 European Championships is already allocated.

The ICF CAP will meet in Canada in October 2017 in preparation for next year's world championships.

GS had already advised the committee, ICF President and ICF Secretary General of a serious issue with dates for next year as it was highly likely Canoe Polo will be a demonstration sport in the full 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia. DC informed the group that the Olympic Council of Asia was due to meet early March where it was hoped the inclusion of Canoe Polo as a demonstration sport would be formally approved.

The CAP all agreed this was a significant and important step in the development of Canoe Polo and being in two multi-sport events – World Games and Asian Games was very positive for the future high level recognition of this exciting and in comparison, to many sports 'cheap'

GS noted that while good Canada were very concerned with the proximity of dates and wanted clarification asap. GS advised he would raise this at the ICF Board meeting in Manchester, England at the end of March 2017.

Canada proposed dates are:

- 21st – 26th August 2018
- 28th August – 2nd September 2018
- 4th – 9th September 2018

Asian Games dates are:

- 18th August – 2nd September 2018

GS noted it is important that a qualification process be developed for the Asian Games, as there is for the World Games, so teams are obliged to still enter the world championships and the organisers can be assured of quality teams in the multi-sport games – it would not be good if the standard of competition was poor at such a critical time.

The potentially prohibitive cost of Canada and Indonesia in a matter of weeks was discussed.

DC will continue to liaise with ACC.

The committee agreed that EL would be proposed to the ICF Board as Technical Delegate as her 'back office' knowledge, while often unseen, is excellent and will prove a benefit to the organisers. GS noted as this part of Canada uses French as well as English/Canadian MG would also be able to assist EL where necessary.

- The Opening Ceremony being sport related is a preference.
- Individual pitch access was noted as important for 2018 so referees could be prompt for their duties.
- Spectators who have travelled from other countries must be able to access the final games.
- Discussion took place regarding a commentator, possibly from France and this would be taken to meeting in Canada in October 2017.
- As soon as entry numbers are confirmed the referee accreditation Fee would be calculated and all NF's advised to stop a repeat of payment issues surrounding 2016.

- There will be 28 referees. For 2016 a further 8 were invited for development purposes but were self-funded.

The CAP has notionally begun to discuss wildcards and although there are deliberately no fixed rules as they are as the word says 'wildcards' first consideration is to those who have entered their respective continental championship.

2018 Asian Games – Indonesia



A qualification process be developed for the Asian Games, as there is for the World Games, so teams are obliged to still enter the world championships and the organisers can be assured of quality teams in the multi-sport games – it would not be good if the standard of competition was poor at such a critical time.

Exact dates for Canoe Polo are unknown.



2020 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships

The rules Appendix – Qualification for World Championships was discussed and it was agreed that for 2020 the teams per category from 2018 would be repeated – see updated Appendix.

There is one bid – Rome, Italy.

There was another European federation with serious interest but they were unable to prepare a bid by the required deadline.

The rules Appendix – Qualification for World Championships was discussed and it was agreed that for 2020 the teams per category from 2018 would be repeated – see updated Appendix.

If awarded this will be the third time in a ten-year period, the championships will have been in Italy however the committee noted positively that 2010 and 2016 were very different events at completely different venues.

The CAP congratulates Italy in taking the sport into town/city centres although this does bring with it different issues to address - good exposure to the public and potentially more sponsors.

The CAP has significant concern that while there has been good the television coverage it is for Italy only and the internet presence could be improved a lot, Post championships good quality product has not been supplied from 2016.

An initial discussion took place regarding the bid from Italy for 2020 which was continued via a further Skype meeting with points raised in general terms and where referenced in accordance with the points in the bid letter.

- 4.4 and 5.1 - The costs appear expensive albeit difficult to compare as one includes food and the other does not. The CAP wish detailed clarification in this area. It is noted that if a team finds its own accommodation it is 30 Euro per person per day – team of 10 = 3000 Euros. For 2014 this equivalent cost was 100 Euro total (10 per day per person).
- 15 – Spectators on one or both sides. International spectators must be able to access finals – not always the case for 2016.
- 16 – No mention of social media.
- 16.4 – Press/photographers – they must be given full access to the pitches to promote the sport – very limited in 2016.
- 17.2 – There is mention of Sky Sports – is this reality or an intention?
- 18.1 – No answers given.
- 18.2 – Should also provide video.
- Members of the CAP raised the issue of penalties if an organiser does not provide what they have agreed to.
- The website for 2016 was difficult to understand from Asia – translation could be improved.
- The CAP has tried to understand the venue better and look forward to further details in Manchester.

Manufacturers Programme

Duncan Cochrane will retain leadership of this on behalf of the ICF CAP.

The CAP had already discussed two letters of complaint regarding the non-delivery of ordered equipment from

ICF approved manufacturer 'Agility'. ICF Secretary General is already aware. The committee discussed possible options however from input by Duncan Cochrane it appears that at last this matter is beginning to be resolved. The situation to be clarified at the next committee meeting in Namibia.

Doping Control

This was discussed at the recent ICF CAP meeting. The education of athletes with recent developments in other sports and data on the Wada website which included results for Canoe Polo.

Email sent 16/2/17 the ICF Medical Committee Chair – no reply to date:

Last weekend the new ICF Canoe Polo Committee met and we discussed the education etc of teams/coaches as we briefly discussed in Baku.

We found various reports over the years that reveal the Canoe Polo test figures and alarmingly some AAF (think Adverse Analytical Findings) but we have no information regarding any action against player/s over the years. Do you have any more information regarding these?

There is even one in the 2015 figures <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/anti-doping-statistics>

This strengthens my thoughts that we have encourage better awareness asap but before I circulate to the various federations I want to check I'm directing them to the right place?

Is it right to direct athletes in Canoe Polo to?

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/what-we-do/education-awareness/tools-for-stakeholders/alpha>

<http://alpha.wada-ama.org/login/index.php>

I would also like to know regarding past offending/targeting a 'particular team' as a result - what is allowed or not allowed?



4. *Future Initiatives and Tasks*

Development Programme

EL and JB from ICF CAP are in the process of drafting electronic survey/questionnaires for:

1. Continental Associations
2. National Federations

This draft questionnaire will be discussed when the ICF CAP attend the African Canoe Polo Championships in April and meet with Seif Patwa.

Discussion took place regarding the 'strong' developed NF's perhaps mentoring new countries in their development.

CAP members have been allocated the following continents as their responsibility with GS overseeing all and assisting where necessary.

- Africa – Maxime Gohier
- Asia – Dion Chen
- America – Joao Botelho
- Europe – Eva Lindmark (working in conjunction with ECA TD)
- Oceania – Duncan Cochrane and possibly James Mitchell from NZL

Referencing the Asian Games, it is noted that South America is identified as important if in the future Canoe Polo could also be in the Pan-American Games this would be again a significant step forward.

GS has asked the CAP to 'think' and come up with ideas for future development. He referenced the recent Nitro Series Athletics, indoor Sky Diving as a couple of developments that if people had asked years ago, they would have been dismissed.

Dion Chen is researching and present to the CAP the feasibility of lighting/night games of polo as a possible way forward.