

# ICF PARACANOE PROGRAMME

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

### CORE PRINCIPLES 2009 - onward

#### 1. **Technical Accessibility** (equipment)

- Stable kayaks & Va'a's
  - This is a fundamental technical principle leading to PC's initial success.
- Inexpensive equipment
  - On a comparative basis, this is also a fundamental technical principle leading to success for PC. High performance boats are cheaper than high performance equipment in many Paralympic Games sports and at the introductory level, stable novice equipment is ubiquitous & even less expensive.

Ready and easy accessibility of athletes into PC must be a permanent feature of the discipline. PC needs to grow participation at a higher rate than the Paralympic Sport average participant growth rate.

#### 2. **Geographic Accessibility**

- Expansion to new NF's & NPC's
  - World-wide exposure and participation is a key part of IPC Assessment. Currently, ICF has a good overall number of participating NF's. 2017-20 efforts need to focus upon consolidation of existing NF's to deepen their participation in all events and women's events, in particular.

#### 3. **Out-reach to New Groups**

- Expansion of participation as well as world-wide coverage cannot be achieved in the sport sector only. General awareness needs to be raised outside the sport community.
- The Canoesport recreational/tourism sector dwarfs all the competitive canoe sport disciplines combined. It is a natural target sector to work with to raise the profile of Paracanoe AND the broader 'paddling for persons with impairments'.
- The medical rehabilitation sector is another new opportunity for PC arising from the research on Paracanoe. Dr. Bjerkefors' PhD thesis was on the positive correlation between paddling and health/lifestyle benefits for persons with spinal chord injuries. We need to reach out to this sector to raise the profile of paddling as a rehabilitative therapy for persons with impairments. One does not need much thought to imagine the wide-reaching systemic benefits of a new financial stream to the paddlesports system (coaches, clubs, manufacturers (boats & ergs) NF's ICF), not to mention the athlete recruitment vehicle which would occur.
- The primary project is a world-wide Conference on Paddling with Impairments for sport, tourism and medical therapy sectors planned for 2018 as a kick-off to creating new relationships between Sport, Recreation & Medical Rehabilitation.
- A secondary project is the publication of an instruction book on recreational paddling for persons with impairments. It exists in Swedish and needs translation & publication

#### 4. Solidify & Grow ICF/IPC Partnership

- Provides credibility & high profile
  - Participate in all IPC activities
- CONSOLIDATE events
  - (see note above) an expansion to new Paralympic categories or events is a long multi-year process, likely 8 to 10 years from inception to fulfilling the requirements for eligibility under current standards. Planning for this must be carefully thought out and consistently worked upon because of the long and involved process. Of course, NF's are at liberty to initiate any impairment group or category.
- Honour IVF/ICF agreement
  - An important consideration in the *international world of paddlesports*. ICF shows a 'BIG-TENT' inclusive philosophy as the pre-eminent organization in the world for all paddling sports. It models this behavior to its member NF's, each of whom has a different geographical reality and, consequently, a different paddlesports reality which it needs to work with in the furtherance of its and ICF's global growth objectives.

## **STRATEGIC WORKPLAN – 2017-2020**

### **2016/17**

- VA'A Classification study public circulation & submission to IPC in Dec., 2016 / Jan. 2017
- Initiate audit of Classification Rules to ensure IPC compliance (new IPC code)
- Ongoing classification research in kayak
  - Database analysis
  - Classifier inter-reliability study

### **2017**

#### **COMPETITIONS**

- World Championships, Szeged World Cup (with training camp), Belgrade World Cup
- Continental Event support (ECA-Plovdiv, ACF-Shanghai, COPAC-Ecuador)
- Develop World Ranking system
- Submission of 2020 Event proposal to IPC (*Completed*)
  - Kayak & Va'a events & add athlete quota (12/event)

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

- Targeted mentoring programme (Strong NF partnering with a 1 or 2 weaker NF(s); female participation and/or Va'a focus); 2 year project; two projects. Africa & Oceania desirable.
- AGITOS Funding application for development (June)
  - COPAC & ACF priority projects
  - 2 year project funding now

- Same priorities of targeted mentoring programme.
- New opportunity – Toyota funding to NPC’s – BUT NPC’s choose their priorities.

#### **CLASSIFICATION**

- Data Management
- Research
  - ongoing in classification
  - Inter-reliability
  - monitor classes
- Classifier training
  - (ROME workshop for Int’l Classifiers)(APRIL 21-23) - (ECA, COPAC, ACF, OCA)
  - Mentoring – (ECA, COPAC, ACF, CAC)
  - National Level Workshop – TBD (Location & Date)
  - Finalize audit of Classification Rules to ensure IPC compliance by Jan 1, 2018

## **2018**

#### **COMPETITIONS**

- World Championships (Montemor), 2 World Cups,
- Support to Continental Champs; ECA-Belgrade, COPAC, ACF

#### **DEVELOPMENT**

- Complete second year of development projects
- Initiate application process for 2019/2020

#### **CLASSIFICATION**

- Data management
- Research – ongoing in classification
  - Inter-reliability,
  - monitor classes
  - Establish framework for possible classification system changes for 2021-24 quadrennial.
- Classifier Training
  - 1 national level workshop
  - Mentoring
  - Development of an education syllabus

#### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on PADDLERS with an IMPAIRMENT**

- Sport – Recreation/commercial – Medical Therapy
- Sept-October
- Interest from Sweden
- Sponsorship opportunities (Government, Manufacturers, etc.)

## 2019

### COMPETITIONS

- Worlds (Szeged) & 2020 1<sup>st</sup> Qualifier
  - with Training Camp (Access 2019 Worlds funding)
- 2 World Cups,
- Continental Champs
- Test event - Tokyo

### DEVELOPMENT

- Initiate 2019-2020 two year development projects using experience from 2017-2018 projects

### CLASSIFICATION

- Data management
- Research – ongoing in classification
  - Inter-reliability
  - Monitoring classification
  - Establish framework for possible classification system changes for 2021-24 quadrennial.
- Classifier Training
  - (workshops & mentoring)

## 2020

### COMPETITIONS

- Worlds & 2<sup>ND</sup> Qualifier, World Cup,
- Continental Champs
- Tokyo **PARALYMPIC GAMES**

### DEVELOPMENT

- Complete second year of two-year development projects

### CLASSIFICATION

- Data management
- Research ongoing in classification
  - Inter-reliability
  - Monitor classes
  - Formalize possible classification changes for 2021-24 Quad.
- Classifier training (workshops & mentoring)