

ICF PARACANOE for 2026

Bulletin #1

MARCH 2026

Topics in this Bulletin cover the following items:

News:

- Los Angeles Paralympic Games – Paracanoe Events submission
- Classification Workshops
- Upper Limb Impairment Athlete Classification INFO

Paracanoe Events

- EVENTS:
 - List of 2026 Paracanoe events
 - Detailed schedule of events

Classification

- Scheduling for classification
- Athlete Classification – General information
- Required Documents for Classification

Reminder of Important Points

- Safety of Strapping Devices
- Anti-Doping Education
- Paracanoe Racing Rules
 - Equipment passport – how to measure the footrest
- Paracanoe Administration Fees
- Late Entries

PARACANOE NEWS:

LOS ANGELES, 2028 – PARACANOE

The IPC has announced the Paracanoe Qualification System for LA28. Details can be found [here](#). A major change is that instead of qualification competitions, the system includes a ranking with World Championships, World Cups, Continental Championships and National Championships included. Please read the document carefully and submit your questions to sport@canoeicf.sport. ICF will create a Q+A document based on the questions.

CLASSIFICATION WORKSHOPS

In 2026, the Paracanoe Committee is planning to hold one Level 3 Classification Workshop in Europe. Confirmation of these workshops will be announced as soon as possible on the ParaCanoe section of the ICF website.

UPPER LIMB Impairment Athlete Classification - INFO

The ICF has embarked upon a project to include athletes with upper limb impairments within the official Paralympic athlete classification system. The first step in this process is for National Federations to recruit these athletes. ICF has designed an athlete classification system for those with Upper Limb impairments. National Federations can apply this system at the national level. When a sufficient number of athletes are recruited, ICF will conduct a global study for ultimate submission to the IPC. The Classification System is available at this link:

https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/upper_limb_illustrated_guide_to_classification_26.09.23_1.pdf

2026 PARACANOE COMPETITIONS

2026 BRANDENBURG WORLD CUP

BRANDENBURG, GER

- Classification period: 10-12 May
- Team Leader Meeting: 13 May
- Competition: 14-17 May
- Event page : <https://www.canoeicf.com/canoe-sprint-world-cup/brandenburg-2026>

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sunday 10 May	Monday 11 May	Tuesday 12 May	Wednesday 13 May	Thursday 14 May	Friday 15 May	Saturday 16 May	Sunday 17 May
Classification	Classification	Classification	Team Leader Meeting	Races	Races	Races	Races

- **Classification preferred dates can be requested through a Doodle Poll from 02 to 04 April**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best efforts to accommodate everyone.
- **Numerical Entries deadline: 30 March**
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **10 April** -we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation
- **All Classification Documents** must be uploaded by **10 April** -we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation.
- **Nominal Entries deadline: 04 May**
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded to the ICF by **10 April**
- **Entries shall use the ICF SDP system**

Special Olympics (SO) and Intellectual Impairment (II) Events

- Friday, 15 May
- PFDs (lifejackets) and paddles provided by the competitor.
- II participation fee is equivalent to PI participation fee.
- II: Male and Female K1
- II Entry deadline: 04 May via SDP
- SO: Male and Female K1 and K2 Unified
- SO Entries to use SO Germany’s Entry system by 11 May.
- Further details about the registration process will be published in the World Cup bulletins.

2026 PADDLE EUROPE SPRINT AND PARACANOE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
MONTEMOR-O-VELHO, POR

- Team Leader Mtg. 4 June
- Classification Period: 8-9 June
- Paracanoe Events: 11 – 14 June
- Event website: <https://canoesprintportugal.com/en> and <https://paddle-europe.eu/calendar/2026-eca-canoe-sprint-and-paracanoe-european-championships-586>

Thursday 4 June	Monday 8 June	Tuesday 9 June	Thursday 11 June	Friday 12 June	Saturday 13 June	Sunday 14 June
Team Leader Meeting online	Classification	Classification	Races	Races	Races	Races

- **Classification preferred dates will be asked through a Doodle Poll from 1-3 May**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best effort to accommodate everyone
- **Numerical Entries deadline: 27 April**
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **16 May** -we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation.
- **ALL Classification Documents** must be uploaded by **16 May** -we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation
- **Nominal Entries deadline: 01 June**
- **Entries submitted through the ICF SDP system**
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded to the ICF by **16 May**
- **【Currently Potential】 Demonstration Races:** Intellectual Impairment (II), Mixed K2 (only KL3) send to ICF for II as well

2026 ASIAN PARACANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS – DETAILS TBC
Turkestan, KAZ

- Classification period: 1 – 3 June
- Team Leader Meeting: 3 June
- Competition: 4 - 7 June
- For Info : link TBC
- **Classification preferred dates can be requested through a Doodle Poll from 22 to 24 April**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best efforts to accommodate everyone.
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **01 May**
- **All Classification Documents** must be uploaded by **01 May**
- **Nominal entries deadline:**
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded to the ICF **by 01 May**

2026 PADDLE EUROPE MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS
PITESTI, ROU

Monday 22 June	Tuesday 23 June	Wednesday 24 June	Friday 26 June
Classification	Classification	Team Leader Meeting & Opening Races	Races

Classification Period: 22-23 June
 Team Leader Mtg. 24 June
 Paracanoe Events: 24 and 26 June
 Event website: <https://paddle-europe.eu/calendar/2026-eca-canoe-marathon-european-championships-589>

Numerical Entries Deadline: 10 May
 Nominal Entries Deadline: 15 June

These events are European Championships events. All twelve categories and a special Open Category will be raced. The Open Category is for all non-eligible impairment groups. See the Bulletin for more info.

NOTE: All competitors are required to use kayaks and Va’a boats which meet the ICF Paracanoe technical standards. See Chapter 3 of the Paracanoe Competition Rules: <https://www.canoeicf.com/rules#paracanoe>

- Athlete Classification will take place on 22-23 June
- **Classification preferred dates will be asked through a Doodle Poll from 13-15 May**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best effort to accommodate everyone
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **25 May**
 -we may reach out in case of inconstant documentation
- **ALL Classification Documents** must be uploaded by **25 May**
 -we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded by **25 May**

2026 MONTREAL WORLD CUP
MONTREAL, CAN

- Classification period: 5-7 July
- Team Leader Meeting: 8 July
- Competition: 9-12 July
- Event page : <https://www.canoeicf.com/canoe-sprint-world-cup/brandenburg-2026>

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sunday 5 July	Monday 6 July	Tuesday 7 July	Wednesday 8 July	Thursday 9 July	Friday 10 July	Saturday 11 July	Sunday 12 July
Classification	Classification	Classification	Team Leader Meeting	Races	Races	Races	Races

- **Classification preferred dates can be requested through a Doodle Poll from 02 to 04 June**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best efforts to accommodate everyone.
- **Numerical Entries deadline: 14 May**
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **05 June**
-we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation
- **All Classification Documents** must be uploaded by **05 June**
-we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation
- **Nominal Entries deadline: 29 June**
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded to the ICF by **05 June**
- **Entries shall use the ICF SDP system**

2026 PANAMERICAN PARACANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MONTREAL, CAN

- Classification period: During World Cup Evaluation sessions due to capacity
- Team Leader Meeting: TBD
- Competition: 13-14 July

Classification documentation such as Medical Diagnosis Documents and Classification Documents must be provided to meet the deadline of the 2026 Montreal World Cup. (Deadline: 05 June)

More information is not available at this time.

ICF is planning to have Athlete Classification available for the competition, however as mentioned above, it will take place during the 2026 Montreal World Cup.

2026 ICF CANOE SPRINT & PARACANOE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

POZNAN, POL

- Classification period: 22-24 Aug
- Team Leader Meeting: 25 Aug
- Competition: 26-30 Aug
- Event Bulletin link :
https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2026_icf_csppara_wch_bulletin_1_v2.pdf

DAILY SCHEDULE

Saturday 22 Aug	Sunday 23 Aug	Monday 24 Aug	Tuesday 25 Aug	Wednesday 26 Aug	Thursday 27 Aug	Friday 28 Aug	Saturday 29 Aug	Sunday 30 Aug
Classification	Classification	Classification	Team Leader Meeting	Races	Races	Races	Races	Races

- **Classification preferred dates can be requested through a Doodle Poll from 03 to 05 July**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best efforts to accommodate everyone.
- **Numerical Entries deadline: 12 July**
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **22 July**
-we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation
- **All Classification Documents** must be uploaded by **22 July**

- we may reach out in case of inconsistent documentation
- **Nominal entries deadline: 16 August**
- **Equipment Passports** must be sent by **22 July**

Special Olympics (SO) and Intellectual Impairment (II) Events may take place, currently TBC.

2026 AFRICAN PARACANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS – DETAILS TBC

ALGERIA

- Classification period: 19-20 September
- Team Leader Meeting: TBC
- Competition: 22-27 September
- For Info: link TBC

- **Classification preferred dates can be requested through a Doodle Poll currently TBC**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best efforts to accommodate everyone.

- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by TBC
- **All Classification Documents** must be uploaded by TBC
- **Nominal entries deadline: TBC**
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded to the ICF by **TBC**

2026 CANOE MARATHON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

GUALEGUAYCHU, ARG

- Classification period: 19-20 October
- Team Leader Meeting: 21 October
- Competition: 22-25 October
- For Info: link TBC

Event website:

https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/bulletin_1_world_championships_2026_gualeaychu_argentina_final.pdf

- **Classification preferred dates will be asked through a Doodle Poll from 16-18 July**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best effort to accommodate everyone

All twelve categories and a special Open Category will be raced as official World Championship Events. The Open Category is for all non-eligible impairment groups.
See the Event Bulletin for more info.

NOTE: All competitors are required to use kayaks and Va'a boats which meet the ICF Paracanoe technical standards. See Chapter 3 of the Paracanoe Competition Rules: <https://www.canoeicf.com/rules#paracanoe>

- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **31 Aug**
- **ALL Classification Documents** must be uploaded by **31 Aug**
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded by **29 Aug**

2026 OCEANIA PARACANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS – DETAILS TBC

AUSTRALIA

- Classification period: TBC
- Team Leader Meeting: TBC
- Competition: 4-6 December TBC
- For Info: TBC

- **Classification preferred dates can be requested through a Doodle Poll currently TBC**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best efforts to accommodate everyone.

- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by TBC
- **All Classification Documents** must be uploaded by TBC
- **Nominal entries deadline: TBC**
- **Equipment Passports** must be uploaded to the ICF by TBC

ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION

Athletes with one of the following statuses are required to pass Athlete Classification before competing:

- “REVIEW Status with a Fixed Review Date” before the Competition
- “REVIEW Status” or
- “New Status”

The athlete classification schedules will be organized through classification doodle polls, through which the Team will be able to choose a preferred date for the athlete’s classification.

The detailed schedule will be communicated to each Team Leader / NF / NPC a few days after the classification scheduling poll has closed.

If an athlete fails to attend his/her classification slot, he/she will not be classified and will not be permitted to race.

PLEASE NOTE: Athletes and all their equipment are expected to be present for the entire Classification Period. Athletes must be classified separately for Kayak and Va’a.

Platform for uploading classification documents:

The Classification platform has to be used for uploading documents to the ICF Classifiers. No document should be sent by email or any other form.

This platform allows a secure and confidential transfer of documents, as well as a secure storage. It is compliant with the IPC Code on Data Protection.

- All mandatory documents should be uploaded on this platform before the specific deadline.
- An access will be required for log-in to the system. If you need a new access, please send an email to: michael.okubo@canoeicf.sport
- The preferred format for all documents is PDF

Access to the *Classification Upload Platform*:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/classification>

Link to current Master List:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/disciplines/paracanoe>

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR CLASSIFICATION

Athletes attending classification at competitions must upload the following Paracanoë forms on the *Classification upload platform* before the classification period, with the following deadlines:

Not later than 4 weeks before the start of the classification period of the Competition (*unless otherwise indicated*)

- Paracanoë Athlete Certificate of Diagnosis
- Athlete Diagnosis Form
- Any/All other supporting medical documentation

Not later than 2 weeks before the start of the Classification period of the Competition:

- Declaration of Medical Complications & Emergency Measures
- Paracanoë Athlete Information & Consent
- Strapping waiver – this document will be valid for the whole 2026 season
- PFD waiver - this document will be valid for the whole 2026 season

Not later than 3 days before the event or before the Classification:

- Equipment passport for Kayak – if the athlete competes in a Kayak category
- Equipment passport for Va'a – if the athlete competes in a Va'a category

All documents must be completed in English.

Athlete Certificate of Diagnosis must be completed in English and signed by a medical doctor. It should also include supporting medical diagnostic documentation. In complex cases, additional supporting medical information may be requested.

The forms are available to download from the ICF Website in the Paracanoë area – in the classification page:

<http://www.canoeicf.com/discipline/paracanoë>

Any athlete who is entered in an event for which he/she has no classification will not be permitted to race.

Paracanoë athletes may enter more than one event if their classification makes them eligible to do so and the schedule permits. (NOTE: Athletes are not permitted to compete outside their classification category, ie. A KL1 category athlete may not race 'up' into KL2)

NF's are required to provide their own boats for their classification. The ICF is unable to provide a boat loan service. Federations who need to borrow boats for the competition or for classification should make boat loan arrangements early with boat manufacturers or event organizers.

EQUIPMENT PASSPORT

ALL athletes competing **MUST** complete and upload an Equipment Passport on the *classification upload platform*. The Passport may be uploaded only once at the beginning of the competition season for the entire season.

If the equipment passports are not completed and uploaded, the athlete will not be allowed to race. The Equipment Passports will be checked during classification and before each race. If the equipment does not match the equipment passports, the athlete will not be allowed to race.

If the athlete has sent an Equipment Passport before but has changed some equipment, a new Equipment Passport must be uploaded on the *classification upload platform* and the changes must be specified.

If the athlete has been given a Confirmed Status and are changing the equipment, the Chief Classifier will determine if the changes are approved.

The equipment passport form is available to download from the Paracanoe section of the ICF website.

SAFETY OF STRAPPING DEVICES

Strapping regulations : Rule 3.5.2 of Paracanoe Competition Rules

"...Any strapping used to connect the athlete with the boat must be of a "quick release" type and this can be demonstrated by the athlete prior to the competition."

The Paracanoe Committee conducted an analysis about boat strapping adaptations (rule 3.5.2) This analysis showed that most of the athletes' adaptations are consistent with the rule about strapping in the boat. Unfortunately, some athletes do not appear to follow the expected safety requirements of "quick release". Inappropriate straps are potentially dangerous for the athletes in the event of a capsized.

The Paracanoe Committee strongly reminds all National Federations and Team Leaders of their responsibility in this matter.

We require all nations and athletes to ensure their full compliance with the safety rules.

ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION

For the ICF World Cups and ICF World Championships, every Paracanoe athlete must pass the anti-doping online course. The course can be accessed here:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/anti-doping-education>

The Athlete Learning Program about Health and Anti-Doping (ALPHA) gives athletes information about the dangers of doping, the importance of anti-doping controls and promotes positive attitudes to avoiding doping.

It consists of eight sessions and takes two hours to complete. Athletes are encouraged to take the course in several stages. Progress is then saved from one visit to another. A pre- and post-course anti-doping knowledge test and attitude survey is included to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

A score of 80% or higher is required for ALPHA certification, though athletes with insufficient scores are able to repeat the program until they achieve the minimum 80% score. Those who have completed the programme in previous years do not need to redo it.

Please enter the correct identity information while creating an account, as the completion of the course will be recorded.

PARACANOE RACING RULES

For a full reading of the ICF Paracanoe Competition Rules and Classification Rules & Regulations, go to: https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2025_icf_competition_rules_paracanoe_final.pdf

For the ParaCanoe Competition Rules document which tracks the 2025-26 changes go to this link: https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2025_icf_competition_rules_paracanoe_-_marked-up.pdf

NOTABLE RULES for PARACANOE

(see Paracanoe Rulebook & Classification Rules for exact wording.)

A 50 euros fee will be charged for every late entry, under the condition that the entry is accepted by the Paracanoe Committee.

A 200 euro fee must accompany each Protest of a Classification.

A 75 euro fee must accompany each Protest of a Competition Rule.

National Federations are permitted two entries in all Paracanoe events.

Athletes are only permitted to race in the class in which they are classified; i.e. A KL1 category athlete can only race in KL1.

Spray skirts/Spray decks are not permitted for Paracanoe classification or Paracanoe races unless approved by the Chief Official due to inclement weather conditions. Kayaks are only permitted to have one rudder under the hull. Hence, skegs and/or projecting keels are not permitted. Rudders may be fixed.

Only stabilizing pontoons are permitted as modifications for stability. Va’a hulls are permitted to be concave. Rudders, skegs and projecting keels are not permitted.

Boat Dimensions & Weight (ICF Paracanoe Competition Rules – Section 7.2)

	Kayak	Va’a
Max. length	520	730
Min. width	50*	
Min. weight	12	13**

NOTE: * measured 10 cm from the bottom of the hull.

**Including hull, ama & iatco

All measurements in cm and all weights in kg.

PARACANOE ADMINISTRATION FEES

Paracanoe teams attending the ICF World Cups & ICF World Championships (CSP & CAM) are subject to the fees noted in the table below. Fees will be calculated from the ICF’s SDP entry system and will be invoiced by the ICF office after the event directly to each National Federation. Payment by cash during the competition is not possible.

Team Size	Euros
Less than 4	150
Less than 8	300
Less than 12	400
12 or more	500

PARACANOE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Some Paracanoe introductory documents have been developed in twelve languages, in order to help as many countries as possible to run introduction classes or webinars for their coaches / members. The Paracanoe experts remain available for sharing the knowledge with the developing countries.

<https://www.canoeicf.com/disciplines/paracanoe>

QUESTIONS??:

If you have any question, please contact:

Michael Okubo – ICF Athlete and Entourage Manager

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or

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