



**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD ONLINE
13 March 2026**

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ONLINE

13 March 2026



Overview

This was the first meeting of the ICF Board of Directors in 2026, held online on 13 March 2026. A quorum was formed in line with the ICF Statutes, with 24 Board members.

Agenda

Welcome

2. President's Introduction

3. Committees chairs decision request

2026 Competition Rules Appendices

- 3.1. Canoe Slalom
- 3.2. Canoe Sprint
- 3.3. Canoe Freestyle
- 3.4. SUP
- 3.5. SUP Committee Members

4. ICF Event Allocation

- 4.1. 2027 & 2028 Events
- 4.2. 2026 Super Cup – Update
- 4.3. Paddle Games – Update

5. 2026 International Technical Officials Nominations

- 5.1. 2026 Marathon World Championships (Guauguaychu, ARG)
- 5.2. Mediterranean Games (Taranto, ITA)
- 5.3. FISU University Games (Sukoró, HUN)

6. 2026 ICF Congress Preparation

- 6.1. Preparation Update

7. 2026 Jury for World Championships Nomination

8. Other Business

9. Closing Remarks



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Participants:

Thomas Konietzko	TK	President	GER
Richard Pettit	RP	Secretary General	GBR
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	LRC	Vice President	ESP
Jean Zoungrana	JZ	European Canoe Association President	FRA
Toshi Furuya	TF	Canoe Sprint Committee Chair	JPN
Sebastian Brendel	SB	Athlete Committee Chair	RSA
Ruud Heijnselaar	RH	Canoe Marathon Committee Chair	NED
Greg Smale	GS	Canoe Polo Committee Chair	GBR
Terry Best	TBE	Canoe Freestyle Committee Chair	GBR
Noémi Horváth	NH	SUP Committee Chair	HUN
Jane Gibson	JG	Medical and Anti-Doping Committee Chair	GBR
Li Xin	LX	Treasurer	CHN
Marian Sârbu	MS	Canoe Ocean Racing Committee Chair	BEL
Richard Fox	RF	Canoe Slalom Committee Chair	AUS
*Dr. Luk Wai-Hung	LWH	Dragon Boat Commission Chair	HKG
Peter Karai	PK	Continental Representative - EUR	HUN
Andrej Jelenc	AJ	Continental Representative - EUR	SLO
Manuela Gawehn	MG	Wildwater Canoeing Committee Chair	GER
Ahmed Mahamoud Abdoukader	AMA	Continental Representative - AFR	DJI
Maree Burnett	MB	Oceania Canoe Association President	NZL
Danielle Woodward	DW	Continental Representative - OAM	AUS
Moira Aston	MA	Continental Representative - EUR	IRL
Budiman Setiawan	BS	Continental Representative - ASI	INA
Luciano Buonfiglio	LB	Vice President	ITA

Not present:

Cecilia Farias	CF	Vice President	ARG
Prashant Kushwaha	PK	Asian Canoe Confederation President	THA
Olubunmi Ola Oluode	OO	Continental Representative - AFR	NGR
Joao Manual Da Costa Alegre Afonso	JDC	Confederation of African Canoeing President	STP
Sebastian Gomez	SG	Pan American Canoe Federation President	URG
John Edwards	JE	Paracanoe Committee Chair	CAN
Martha Hernandez Sanches	MHS	Continental Representative - PAM	MEX
Victor G. Ruiz	VR	Continental Representative - PAM	PUR

*ICF Board member non-voting



1. Welcome & Quorum

1. ICF President's Introduction

- TK opened the Board of Directors meeting by welcoming all participants. He explained that the meeting had been convened to address several time-sensitive matters following the rescheduling of the session originally planned in Baku, Azerbaijan (11-15 March 2026), which will now take place in Budapest on 4 -8 May 2026.
- The change was necessary due to ongoing travel disruptions in the Middle East, which made it difficult for a number of Board members to attend in person in Baku.
- A quorum was formed in line with the ICF Statutes, with 24 Board Members present.

2. Committee's chairs decision request

LRC introduced the proposals and the Committee Chairs presented rules appendices for approval to the BoD.

3.1. 2026 Canoe Slalom Rules Appendices

- RF, Canoe Slalom Chair, presented the 2026 Canoe Slalom rules appendices.
- The rule changes concerned only dates updates and no other changes.

Decision: The BoD voted in favour of the 2026 Canoe Slalom Rules Appendices 2026, with RF abstaining.

3.2. 2026 Canoe Sprint Rules Appendices

- TF, Canoe Sprint Chair, presented the 2026 Canoe Sprint rules appendices.
- The rules changes concerned the progression systems review.
- Due to Olympic qualification ranking, timetable review, and rationalising competition schedule, also need to be submitted to the BoD for approval.

Decision: The BoD voted in favour of the 2026 Canoe Sprint Rules Appendices 2026, with TF abstaining.

3.3. 2026 Canoe Freestyle Rules Appendices

- TB, Canoe Freestyle Chair, presented the 2026 Canoe Freestyle rules appendices.
- The rules changes concerned Appendices 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.
- They also include new figures and progression on the system.

Decision: The BoD voted in favour of the 2026 Canoe Freestyle Rules Appendices, with TB abstaining.

3.4. 2026 SUP Rules Appendices

- NH, Stand Up Paddling Chair, presented the 2026 Canoe SUP rules appendices.
- The proposed rules changes include aligning progression systems across disciplines by removing the quarterfinals.

Decision: The BoD voted in favour of the 2026 SUP Rules Appendices, with NH abstaining.

3.5. SUP New Committee Member & Advisors approval

- NH, Stand Up Paddling Chair, presented the new SUP Committee member and advisors.
- The new advisors are Micheal Booth (AUS), and Satish Kumar (IND).
- Sotirios Notas (GRE) appointed as a member of the Committee, formerly advisor for the SUP committee.

Decision: The BoD voted in favour of the SUP New Committee Member & Advisors approval, with NH abstaining.

4. ICF Events

- **Information - 2026 SUP World Championships**

- Moved from Taormina (ITA) to Sabaudia (ITA).
- Same Host Organiser (FICK), date unchanged.

- **Information - 2026 SUP World Championships**

- ICF received the official withdrawal of the Sarasota (USA) bid.
- Finding a new organiser is underway.

4.1. 2027 Events to be allocated

LRC presented allocations for upcoming 2027 ICF World Cups and World Championships.

2027 Canoe Sprint World Cup	Duisburg (GER)	27 - 30 May 2027
2027 Canoe Slalom World Cup	Montgomery (USA)	30 September - 3 October 2027
2027 Wildwater Canoeing Junior & U23 World Championships	Graz (AUT)	17 - 21 August 2027
2026 Dragon Boat World Championships <i>(pending Government approval)</i>	Hangzhou (CHN)	25 - 27 September 2026
2026 Dragon Boat World Cup	Yuanling (CHN)	25 - 27 September 2026
2027 Dragon Boat Club Crew World Championships	Puerto Princesa (PHI)	28 - 31 October 2027



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Decision: The ICF BoD voted unanimously in favour of approving all the allocations presented for the 2026 ICF World Cups and World Championships.

4.2. 2026 Super Cup - Update

Balint Vekassy, ICF Global Director of Sport, presented the update on the 2026 Super Cup.

- 1-3 October 2026 (national holiday week in China).
- Stricter budget compared with 2024.
- Only sprint and slalom on the programme (20% reduction of invited athletes).
- Actual events are still to be agreed upon.
- Only local boats will be used.
- Organised jointly with the 2026 Dragon Boat World Championships.
- One 5K mass event with local participation in mixed boats (canoes, kayaks, SUP boards).

GS noted that the competition programme did not correspond to what had originally been agreed.

TK informed him of budget cuts by Hangzhou City and suggested discussing this matter at the next Board meeting.

4.3. World Paddles Games

RP presented the updates on World Paddles Games.

- Several nations have expressed interest in hosting the World Paddle Games.
- Paddle Australia is the most advanced and credible partner at this stage.
- The ICF propose prioritising targeted strategic dialogue with Paddle Australia.
- This process keeps globally open while progressing the strongest opportunity.
- Next action is to present a refined concept and recommendation to the Sport Commission in May following the targeted dialogue phase.

Milestone	Target Date
WPG Concept Completion	April 2026
Business Case Finalisation	May 2026
Government Funding Decision	June 2026
Formal Bid Submission to ICF	May-June 2026 (subject to funding decision)

Decision: The BoD approved starting targeting dialogue, with RF abstaining.



5. 2026 International Technical Officials Nominations

TK presented International Technical Officials (TO) nominations.

- The presentation contains details of female and male representation as well as continental distribution.

5.1. 2026 Marathon World Championships (Gualeguaychu, ARG)

Decision: The BoD voted unanimously in favour of the nominations for the International Technical Officials (TO) for Gualeguaychu.

5.2. 2026 Mediterranean Games (Taranto, ITA)

Decision: The BoD voted unanimously in favour of the nominations for the International Technical Officials (TO) for Taranto.

Noted that future Mediterranean Games editions (Kosovo/Pristina) may require additional assessment due to political recognition considerations, and that a technical and feasibility review would be needed at a later stage.

5.3. FISU University Games (Sukoró, HUN)

The Board members will discuss this nomination in Budapest during the BoD meeting in person.

6. ICF Congress Preparation

RP presented the updates on the ICF Congress 2026

- The agenda and all information about the Congress have been published and confirmed on the ICF website at [ICF Congress 2026](#).
- The hotel contract has been signed with [Omni Hotel](#), Oklahoma City.
- The voting provider will be the same as for previous Congresses.
- Communication to Board members and National Federations has been sent.
- The application process for visa support has been set up with ACA and the USOPC and is currently in progress.
- Commitments from ACA, Riversport OKC, and Visit OKC are being finalised.
- Contracts with technical providers for audio-visual setup, hybrid participation, and live streaming are in progress.
- The registration form for Board members and National Federations is being finalised.
- Branding for the event is under development.
- All Congress documents are scheduled to be published by 11 June 2026, 45 days prior to the opening of the ICF Congress.

7. 2026 Jury for World Championships Nomination

TK presented the Jury nominations for the 2026 World Championships.

ICF Event 2026	Jury Nomination
WW Banja Luka	Jean Zoungana Chair; Andrej Jelenc; NF still to nominate
Slalom Junior/U23 Krakow	Moira Aston Chair; Jane Gibson; Jean Zoungana
Sprint Junior/U23 Halifax	Cecilia Farias Chair; Lluís Rabaneda; Ruud Heijselear
Slalom WCh Oklahoma	Lluís Rabaneda Chair; Moira Aston; Danielle Woodward
Sprint and Paracanoe WCh Poznan	Cecilia Farias Chair; Peter Karai; Ahmed Mahamoud
Canoe Polo Duisburg	Lluís Rabaneda Chair; Moira Aston; Ruud Heijselear
Dragon Boat Hangzhou	Ahmed Mahamoud Chair; Jean Zoungana; Luk Wai-Hung
Canoe Ocean Race Spain	Jane Gibson Chair; Greg Smale; Andrej Jelenc
Stand Up Italy	Cecilia Farias Chair; Terry Best; Jean Zoungana
Canoe Marathon Argentina	Lluís Rabaneda Chair; Martha Hernandez; Andrej Jelenc

8. Other business

Rule Placement and Entry Deadlines:

- GS suggested moving discipline-specific rules out of the common rules section and extending entry deadlines.
- These topics will be discussed further in Budapest.

Gender Equity Measurement for Officials:

- GS and LRC discussed the best method for measuring gender equity among technical officials.
- Agreed to focus on ITOs and to clarify the approach in future events.

Visa and Travel Challenges:



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- The BoD discussed complexities of confirming entries for countries facing visa difficulties, such as Iran.
- MB raised the need for contingency planning for travel disruptions affecting Olympic Qualification and World Championships.
- TK proposed to discuss this more comprehensive at the next BoD meeting.
- RP confirmed that the ICF will follow up on this.

9. Closing Remarks

- TK thanks all Board members for their attendance online at the BoD meeting.
- The next BoD meeting will be held in Budapest, Hungary, on 4-6 March 2026.