

<b>BoD November 2021</b>
<b>Typed by HQ:</b> January 2022
<b>Distributed by HQ:</b>

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD IN LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND  
14 DECEMBER 2021



<p>The information contained in this document is confidential and strictly for personal use of the members of the ICF Executive Committee and the ICF Board of Directors</p>
--

**MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
14 December 2021 – Switzerland - online**

**Participants:**

Thomas Konietzko	Germany	President (Executive Committee Member)
Cecilia Farias	Argentina	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	Spain	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Liu Aijie	China	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Luciano Buonfiglio	Italy	Treasurer (Executive Committee Member)
Simon Toulson	Great Britain	Secretary General (Executive Committee Member)
Shoken Narita	Japan	President of Asian Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Albert Woods	Great Britain	President of European Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
João Manuel Da Costa Alegre	Sao Tome and Principe	President of African Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Maree Burnett	New Zealand	President of Oceanian Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Victor Ruiz	Puerto Rico	Acting President Pan American Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Toshi Furuya	Japan	Chair Canoe Sprint (Executive Committee Member)
Jean-Michel Prono	France	Chair Canoe Slalom (Executive Committee Member)
John Edwards	Canada	Chair Paracanoe (Executive Committee Member)
Martha Hernandez Sanches	Mexico	Continental Representative America
Maria de Fatima Fernandes Vara	Brazil	Continental Representative America
Ahmad Donyamali	Iran	Continental Representative Asia
Branko Lovric	Croatia	Continental Representative Europe
Jonne Go	Philippines	Continental Representative Asia
Andrej Jelenc	Slovenia	Continental Representative Europe
Jovana Stanojevic	Serbia	Continental Representative Europe
Ola Oluode	Nigeria	Continental Representative Africa
Danielle Woodward	Australia	Continental Representative Oceania
Ruud Heijselaar	Netherlands	Chair Canoe Marathon
Manuela Gawehn	Germany	Chair Wildwater Canoeing
Greg Smale	Great Britain	Chair Canoe Polo
Terry Best	Great Britain	Chair Canoe Freestyle
Colin Simpkins	South Africa	Chair Canoe Ocean Racing - ABSENT
Ahmed Mahamoud Abdoukader	Djibouti	Continental Representative Africa

Tim Brabants	New Zealand	Chair Medical and Anti-Doping
--------------	-------------	-------------------------------

## 1. Introduction

President Thomas Konietzko opened the virtual meeting. Board member Colin Simpkin was unable to take part. The voting format for the meeting was agreed.

The minutes of the November 3 and 7 meeting were approved unanimously.

### **OPENING DISCUSSIONS**

The ICF President informed the board that the IOC has changed the timeline for the submission of the qualification plans for Paris 2024. He explained the ICF would need to submit its qualification plans by the end of December, and apologised that the changed timeline meant it was not possible to send out the relevant documents to board members earlier.

The President said it had been an exciting four weeks for him, he had thrown himself into his work. He had been at an IOC transition seminar, where President Bach introduced him. He said the ICF got a lot of reaction with tv figures from Tokyo, we made great progress and made a huge step forward from Rio. There was great exposure in Asia and North America.

He said he was very grateful to the sprint and slalom committee who worked to get our qualification system in place. He said he intended after the board signed off on the qualification plans to open q and a with NF's where they can ask questions and we can answer.

The ICF Secretary General said the ICF was guaranteed 14 million Euros from the IOC already, and it was expecting another payment in February.

The President stated that Last week we got very good news from IOC that canoeing will be included in LA28. This is great news and we deserve this. 2024 will be the finalization of athlete quotas etc, with initial news in 2023. IOC will examine each of our events, check cost, integrity, environmental plan, host country interest etc. We need to have a discussion what we can do to improve our position in all these issues.

It should be our joint objective not to lose any more quotas or sports at LA28.

Canoe Polo Chair stated I am concerned with various documents regarding improved communication with NF's, because we are basically saying this is what it will be, there is no discussion. Funding cycles have already begun.

<b>BoD November 2021</b>
<b>Typed by HQ:</b> January 2022
<b>Distributed by HQ:</b>

The President replied: I am also not satisfied, but what should we do with this extremely tight timeline? We have no time to discuss with our Federations.

Smale countered it would be better to have a meeting like this with Federations, rather than by sending letters everywhere.

President concluded that maybe we can organise several meetings and split it across the continents.

The SUP committee members were announced. President Konietzko said we should highlight the number of women on the SUP commission. Congratulations to Noemi Horvath for her professional approach.

Smale: asked are there any concerns that there are members of SUP commission and advisors from same countries.

The Secretary General replied, Yes, for a Committee but not for a commission where we need the skills and expertise on this commission. Dr Chris Norbury was approved as a member of ICF Medical Commission.

The President said he planned to announce the allocation of responsibilities within the ICF in the coming week to show we are more than event organisers. He proposed Cecilia Farias will be in charge of the project.

He said two staff members would also assist – Marine Pergeaux is in charge if you have any admin questions, and Heny Ahadpour will help committee chairs if they have questions relating to their work and finance etc. The Board approved unanimously the actions.

## **OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC QUALIFICATION PRINCIPALS.**

The Slalom Chair noted that there will be six events in Paris, with extreme slalom added. Host nation will have two quotas reserved, not four. Six quotas in extreme, three men, three women, for athletes who have not qualified a quota. Each NOC will be able to qualify up to three quotas for gender.

Two athletes per gender permitted in extreme slalom. Same NOC can qualify a quota in both canoe and kayak in the same gender.

12 boats in the final of both K1 and C1.

Which continental qualification will be used and when? European looking at European Games in Krakow.

What is the reason that double up is not allowed in slalom when sprint it is allowed?

How confident sufficient number of athletes compete in extreme slalom?

<b>BoD November 2021</b>
<b>Typed by HQ:</b> January 2022
<b>Distributed by HQ:</b>

Woodward: Why not double up? I don't understand what the benefit is by not allowing double up across canoe and kayak.

PRONO: We have different situation between slalom and extreme. We have been facing this situation since 2000, when we allow a double entry, who is bringing these athletes? Mostly NOC with high number of quotas. Level of achievement of these NOC's is already high, the funding, the coaching etc is already high. A double entry is a strong game changer. We do not believe this is a good move.

2000 and 2004 we only had 21 NOC's. Since stopped we now have 34 NOC's. We had two double medals in Sydney, and also for French in 2004. Benefits: NOC happier because have two medal chances, media stories could be written, and national qualification will be different.

Single entry: More possibilities for countries from developing nations, to help build the discipline in their country. NZ and Thailand, Ireland, Russia, Australia – we take into account these factors. Also doubling allow NF's to do tricks with qualifying.

We allow in extreme slalom because we have smaller numbers and will allow us to fill and have a better program. I ask the board member to trust the committee.

President: Nobody is happy we had to allow double ups in sprint, but we have lost a lot of quotas in sprint since Sydney 2000.

Put to vote. Do we support the presented principals?

YES: 16. NO: 8. ABSTAIN: 1. Motion passed.

## **CANOE SPRINT QUALIFICATIONS**

Canoe Sprint Chair: Ten events in Paris. 236 quotas instead of 248. Changes – K2 and C2 men 500, no more K 200 races. One additional K1 and C1 quota per gender for Asia and Americas. We expect more doubling up of K1 and K2 – we will have more entries from each continent. K2 and C2 quotas are allocated to all continents.

STANOJEVIC: I think it is very important to include our NF's. If we make a decision today, and then after discussion with NF's can we change something. We need to be very careful because we need to put the best at the Games. Are we sure the continental allocation is excellence?

OLUODE: If we go back to NF's and then suggestions or amendments come in, will it effect the decision we are making?

<b>BoD November 2021</b>
<b>Typed by HQ:</b> January 2022
<b>Distributed by HQ:</b>

WOODS: We've almost been presented with a fait accompli. Our development program needs revisiting to make sure all the continents improve so they can go to world championships and beat everyone else.

### **CANOE SPRINT VOTE**

YES: 18. NO: 6. ABSTAIN: 2. Motion passed.

### **PARACANOE QUALIFICATION**

Para Chair : Ten events. Addition of women's VL3. 100 quotas, ten for women's VL3. Six quotas allocated per event at first qualification

YES: 24. NO: 0. ABSTAIN: 1.

### **AGENDA FIT FOR FUTURE**

President: At times we need to question our approach, now is a good time to start again a good discussion. Hope our working groups can start from January, and we can put to the ICF Congress in Thailand in 2022.

FARIAS: Fit for future proposal. To continue to strengthen our sport in general and to promote and develop canoeing around the world.

Eight strategic pillars. Culture of cooperation and communication.

SMALE: A lot of work gone into this. Need member consultation. We need to get people involved. Should be a four-year process.

EDWARDS: Need to have a more inclusive program. We haven't been involved in the discussions about the documents. Athletes have not been involved. We are not taking the opportunity to have the consultation even though we can. I don't see the secretary general involved anywhere.

HEIJSELAAR: Why no non-Olympic disciplines present in ICF events committee?

STANOJEVIC: what is process of appointing NF representatives?

BURNETT: A significant piece of work, it is a good place to start, but it is really important we have real buy-in, and that we go through the consultation process. I propose in Charlotte (USA) we allocate a significant amount of time to workshop on each of these.

PRESIDENT: The Secretary General and President will participate in discussions. Involvement of NF's is key for the development of the future. We have to keep in our mind, experiences of the past, we need efficient working groups. Groups larger than eight or nine often do not work, but I will listen to our NF's and am open minded. The timeline is flexible should

<b>BoD November 2021</b>
<b>Typed by HQ:</b> January 2022
<b>Distributed by HQ:</b>

the work take longer than expected, what is important is the quality of the work.

FARIAS: This is a working document, a starting point. Everything can be made much better for sure.

BUONFIGLIO: Why not John Edwards send in a proposal after the meeting.

RABANEDA: This is a draft. The names on the list were based on assumptions, but the chairs need to adapt. Yes we need people representing non-Olympic disciplines.

## **TOKYO 2020 FIGURES**

SECRETARY GENERAL: Canoeing did really well. Number of viewing hours 194,000. In Asia we had over 120M people watching in China. South America also did very well, we saw big scope, time zones hard for Europe. Oceania success made us good in that region as well.

We are comparable with triathlon, equestrian and others. We beat rowing for the first time. Canoe more than the average, none of the new sports did well, and modern pentathlon did poorly.

Figures different because of time zone differences. That is what we are trying to do with Paris, have a time zone to help audience figures.

We did okay with digital, it is the streaming of events. We had people clicking onto local networks. Perhaps television in the US is not where we need to focus, we require more on digital.

Main countries China, Brazil, USA and Australia. Canoe events better than kayak events, and longer distances better than the shorter distances.

For 2021 ICF events, we had good report back from Eurosport – 10m viewers across world cups, figures good compared to other Olympic sports. Sprint and slalom world championships in an Olympic year was not good for ICF. Record number of broadcasters took the events, but the figures were really low. Saturation of sport end of 2021 seems to be the problem.

PRESIDENT: These figures prove future success depends on US and Asia markets.

Delay approval of COVID policy until later next year.

## **UN SPORT AND CLIMATE INITIATIVE**

SECRETARY GENERAL This is UN/IOC agreement for sports to take on more positive approach to sustainability. So far 30 IF's have joined. We are in a

<b>BoD November 2021</b>
<b>Typed by HQ:</b> January 2022
<b>Distributed by HQ:</b>

situation where world is changing quickly, we need to decide if we join this framework – 50 per cent cut now, eventually zero emissions.

PRESIDENT: If we agree, our sport will completely change in coming years. Can't just write on a piece of paper. We have to make decision by 31 December. Other water sport federations have already joined.

SECRETARY GENERAL There is a company the IOC put us in touch with to help us – a lot involves planting trees and carbon trading etc.

EDWARDS: The optics of not joining would be very bad for ICF on all fronts.

The initiative passed unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

STANOJEVIC: Rowing changed venue in LA 2028. What does this mean for canoe sprint?

SECRETARY GENERAL: We have not changed it. We are in Long Beach. LA28 wants it there. Slalom we are close to having an announcement very soon.

PRESIDENT: Next meetings. Wednesday 30 March until Sunday 3 April in Charlotte USA, pending COVID situation.