

BoD December 2015
Typed by HQ: 15 Jan 2016
Approved by Pdt: 1 Feb 2016
Distributed by HQ: 7 Feb 2016

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD IN SOUTH AFRICA, CAPE TOWN
11-12 DECEMBER 2015



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<p>MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 11-12 December 2015 Lausanne, SWITZERLAND</p>
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Participants:

Name	Nationality	Position
José Perurena	Spanish	President (Executive Committee Member)
Istvan Vaskuti	Hungarian	1st Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Joao Manuel Da Costa Alegre	Sao Tome and	2nd Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Tony Estanguet	France	3rd Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Luciano Buonfiglio	Italian	Treasurer (Executive Committee Member)
Simon Toulson	British	Secretary General (Executive Committee Member)
Helen Brownlee	Australian	President OCA - Oceania Canoe Association
Albert Woods	British	President ECA - European Canoe Association
Cecilia Farias	Argentinian	President COPAC - Panamerican Canoe Federation (absent)
Maree Burnett	New Zealander	Continental Representative Oceania
Ahmad Donyamali	Iranian	Continental Representative Asia
Octavio Morales Vallarta	Mexican	Continental Representative America
Branko Lovric	Croatian	Continental Representative Europe
Andrej Jelenc	Slovenian	Continental Representative Europe
Saifudin Patwa	Kenyan	Continental Representative Africa
Tim Cornish	South African	Continental Representative Africa
Victor G. Ruiz	Puerto Rican	Continental Representative America
Mario Santos	Portugal	Chair Ocean Racing (online)
Thomas Konietzko	German	Continental Representative Europe
Frank Garner	Canadian	Chair Canoe Sprint
Jean-Michel Prono	French	Chair Canoe Slalom
Jorn Cronberg	Danish	Chair Canoe Marathon
Jens Perlwitz	German	Chair Wildwater Canoeing
Andrea Donzeli	Italian	Chair Canoe Polo
Dr LUK Wai Hung	Hong Kong	Chair Dragon Boat
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	Spanish	Chair Canoe Freestyle
Donald McKenzie	Canadian	Chair Medical and Anti-Doping
John Edwards	Canadian	Chair Paracanoe Committee
Anders Gustafsson	Swedish	Chair Athlete Committee (absent)

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Description	Responsible Person	Deadline
<p>PRESIDENT'S WELCOME</p> <p>Christo Horn, President of South African Canoe Federation welcomed the ICF BoD and wished them a good stay in Cape Town.</p> <p>The ICF President welcomed everybody to Cape Town. He thanked the President of the South African Canoe Federation for having the ICF Board in Cape Town. He announced that Anders Gustafsson and Cecilia Farias were not present. He congratulated the new Board members Mr. Jelenc and Mr Morales Vallarta and looked forward to working with them.</p>		
<p>APPROVAL OF THE BoD MEETING MINUTES MARRAKESH MARCH 2015</p> <p>The BoD approved the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting in Marrakesh.</p>		
<p>REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT</p> <p>The President had a meeting with the IOC Programme Commission. In the future the IOC would assess events and not sports. So if the ICF decided to introduce a new discipline, the new discipline should come through slalom or sprint and not as a new sport otherwise it would not be successful.</p> <p>The President had a meeting with the IOC president in April 2015 and had discussed about the ICF's 2020 Sport vision. At the IOC congress in Kuala Lumpur, the IOC president had nominated the ICF President for 4 more years as an IOC Board Member.</p> <p>The President congratulated all continents for achieving success in the C1 women category which had increased in technical quality and participation numbers in 2015.</p> <p>The President also took part in the ANOC General Assembly in Washington, USA. He discussed the inclusion of Ocean Racing in the Beach Games. The USA Federation was not directly involved in San Diego's Beach Games organisation as it would be organised by a private company. Lobbying would continue to ensure inclusion in these Games.</p> <p>In November he took part in the ASOIF Executive Committee. The IOC had decided to assign a commission to assess the Governance state of IFs. With the doping scandal of IAAF, the IOC was promoting transparency and good governance. The ASOIF Commission would analyse all IFs and produce a report for the IOC.</p>		
<p>REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL</p> <p>Report was referred to the report published on the website.</p>		

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Unfortunately, the last few months had resulted in some challenges for the ICF.

2015 had been a very successful year in terms of media and TV exposure. Audience figures were growing and all of our major events had been live on TV. Eurosport produced 14 million viewers for World Cups which was the highest recorded for Canoeing. We had received lots of interest and positive feedback over the season. Unfortunately, Eurosport have announced that they will not show canoeing anymore. Explanation has been given that with the Discovery channel takeover the direction of the channel had changed.

As 95 percent of the ICF's live TV audience had been through Eurosport, it left the TV strategy at a crossroads. The future possibilities for the ICF TV project were to stop TV production, continue with production the same way as the budget was already dedicated until 2017 or to have a reduced web-based production. ICF would continue discussions with Eurosport and the production team to see what would be the best solution.

In Canoe Slalom part of the result management was linked to the TV production and if we had no coverage it would be a difficult situation.

After the Canoe Sprint World Championships in Milan the Italian Olympic Committee and National Federation had taken the ICF to CAS over qualification places. The teams most affected would be Russia, Denmark and France. Great Britain joined Italy to contest the places too. The whole issue would likely cost in excess of 100,000 Euros to the ICF.

The ICF Board reaffirmed its direction and decision regarding the qualification system from its meeting in Marrakesh and would write a letter confirming the stance of the Board.

Tridem, the ICF Marketing Company, has been to several ICF events and met many BoD members. They had made contact with many companies on behalf of the ICF. A large percentage of these companies had shown no interest in canoeing as the sport did not match their marketing strategies. There were a few contacts that have shown interest and the company was following these up but so far no success in this area.

The level of International Federation staffing was assessed recently. Many of the IFs in the same Olympic group had expanded their professional staff in the last year or so and as a result the ICF now had the smallest professional staff of all Summer Olympic Sport Federations by a long way. For example, Modern Pentathlon had 11 staff, Hockey had 25 staff and Rowing had approximately 15 staff. ICF had 6 full time staff. Apart from Golf the ICF had the lowest number of staff of all International Federations.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Istvan Vaskuti Report

Referred to the report on the website.

The European Games being added to the Canoeing calendar highlighted the fact that clashes of events had to be resolved for the future.

It was important to unify the ICF's approach regarding Masters competitions and have the same rules and age groups for all disciplines.

He was present at the Asian Olympic Qualification event and had been surprised regarding the large amount of haze and smog which was not good for the athletes especially for the 1000 metres events.

The competition hosting standard in Indonesia was not according to ICF standards. There were various issues that caused problems for athletes and teams. The Olympic Qualification events must be held according to world Championship rules and standards.

Joao Manuel Da Costa Alegre

No additional comments.

Tony Estanguet

Referred to the report on the website.

The ICF needed to demonstrate good governance and be transparent with media and the IOC. The ICF was in a good position as there were no issues like corruption as in other IFs.

He had met continental representatives with the President and focused on maintaining Canoeing in Continental Games around the world.

If ICF did not have sponsors or lost TV exposure, it meant that the product needed to be improved. He recommended the ICF should spend more on digital communications and the TV product.

The ICF needed to spend more money on events and had to allocate enough resources in term of staffing at events. The ICF could make money the same way that other IFs do by charging a Bidding fee which could be invested in improving the quality of ICF events.

A temporary venue solution for Canoe Slalom could be provided in the form of renting a venue for an event and then the venue could be moved from one event to another. It could be good for those NF's that did not want to invest in a

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<p>permanent venue and legacy.</p> <p>The idea was to launch a project for all NFs to propose their designs on a new gate system for Canoe Slalom. The goal was to involve all NFs to develop the discipline further and to make it more understandable for audiences.</p>		
<p>TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>Referred to the report on the website.</p> <p>The exchange rate Euro/Swiss Franc had impacted the ICF budget by approximately 15%.</p> <p>For the future it would be important to undertake another strategy by placing investments in Swiss Francs, Euros and Dollars to avoid costly exchange losses.</p> <p>The ICF investment strategy had been to remain conservative and not place too much risk on investments. The yield was relatively low but had been consistently more than the interest rates of the banks.</p> <p>The objective of the ICF was to hold enough reserves that should an Olympic Games not occur, for whatever unforeseen reasons, funds would be sufficient to maintain operations for 4 years.</p>		
<p>CANOE SPRINT – Frank Garner</p> <p>Referred to the report on the website.</p> <p>For the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 the depth of the course was an issue. A 4 metre difference from one side to the other and was therefore not seen as a fair course. Rio 2016 had promised to dredge the lake to improve the situation.</p> <p>The second issue was the prevalence of weeds on the course which was a serious problem for the test event. Rio 2016 was working on solutions for this problem as well.</p> <p>It was requested that a provisional rule be approved by the ICF BoD to let manufacturers place a weed protector for the rudder so that weeds would not catch on the rudder. The BoD supported this additional rule for 2016.</p> <p>The 2016 Junior and U23 World Championship dates were changed to 28-31 July.</p> <p>The committee was testing new competition formats in Hamburg and in Oklahoma city. Feedback from these events would be presented to the BoD.</p> <p>A canoe summit would take place in May 2016 before the first world cup in Duisburg.</p>		

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CANOE SLALOM – Jean Michel Prono

The Canoe Slalom Committee had made a number of changes that would build and enhance the sport making it even more attractive as an Olympic discipline.

The changes covered 4 main areas:

1. Rules Evolution
2. Sport Presentation
3. Racing Format – Whitewater Slalom Cross
4. Whitewater Venues Construction & Operation

Rules Evolution

- Video judge process aimed to have results confirmed during the following athlete's run. It had been successful in 2015.
- 8 fixed cameras placed on gate lines (part of siwidata operations). This would give more feeds for judging.
- SlowMotion TV system. This had been tested at World Championships and Rio test event. The system allowed quick review and confirmation of result. The idea was to purchase the equipment and charge a fee to each World Cup and World Championships. 2000 Euros per event would be the fee. The total cost would be covered by the fee over 5 years.

The BoD agreed with the proposal.

Slalom cross: A head to head format with 4 athletes in standard boats. It included a gate system with no penalties and an Eskimo roll zone. Maximum time duration was expected to be 45 seconds. It had been tested in 2015 and the Canoe Slalom committee was willing to test the format in 2016.

The ITOs for 2016 Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships in Krakow was approved by the BoD as was the competition programme.

The number of judges from 2017 would decrease from 15 to 10 ITOs per event.

There would be a 6 day programme during the 2016 Junior and U23 in Krakow for 600 athletes which was difficult for athletes and organisers.

The dates for the 2017 World Championships had to be changed as they clashed with the IOC session where Paris was bidding. The World Cup dates would be changed as well.

Canoe Slalom Rules art 34.45 was to be reworded as per ORIS specification:
Object :TR rule for presentation of results for boats marked with invalid result mark IRM as DNF DNS DSQ-R AND DQB. To be added to rules for 2017.

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<p>WILDWATER CANOEING – Jens Perlwitz</p> <p>Referred to the report on the website.</p> <p>The BoD approved the application from the Austria Canoe Federation to host the 2017 ICF Wildwater Canoeing Junior and U 23 World Championships in Murau / Austria.</p> <p>The BoD approved Canoe Federation of Slovenia to host the 2016 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Cup 1 and 2 in Celje / Slovenia.</p> <p>The Committee proposed a few ideas to improve the discipline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To combine competitions with Canoe Slalom discipline like in 2017 World Championships - Wildwater could regularly use slalom courses and that it could be added value to sustainability of that venue. 		
<p>CANOE MARATHON – Jørn Cronberg</p> <p>Special focus should be on Sports Presentation as an important operational issue. Marathon had gained important experience during the events in 2015.</p> <p>42 countries from all 5 continents participated in the World Championships The Hungarian organisers had created a fantastic venue on the banks of river in the centre of Győr. Big crowds followed the races.</p> <p>Hungarian television transmitted live using 16 cameras along the course and there was live streaming worldwide.</p> <p>For the World Games, it continued to be difficult to be included on the programme in Poland. The Polish Federation President was to discuss with the mayor of Poznan to see if there was a possibility to organise Marathon there for the World Games.</p> <p>Jose Carlos Sousa (POR) has joined the Marathon Committee and it was approved by the BoD.</p>		
<p>CANOE POLO – Andrea Donzeli</p> <p>For 2015 a record of countries participated in official Continental Championships: 19 in Europe and 11 in Asia.</p> <p>An online ITO course was launched. Once the online exam would be completed then the ITO could do the assessment exam during a tournament.</p> <p>The World Championships 2016 was on target and preparations were at a good point.</p>		

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<p>At the next World Games in 2017 the problem with the swimming pool would be solved.</p>		
<p>DRAGON BOAT – Dr Wai Hung Luk</p> <p>Referred to the report on the website.</p> <p>A survey was conducted among all ICF NFs in early 2015, but the response was low. Responses received included: Brazil, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Lebanon, India, Hong Kong, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine, Australia & New Zealand. The committee called for returns again in April 2015 and additional inputs from Brunei, Japan, France and Spain had been obtained for the Committee to establish future development plans.</p> <p>In the World Championships 2015 11 countries participated.</p> <p>The 3rd International Venice Dragon Boat Festival would be held on 13-14 May 2016 at Grand Cannel, Venice, Italy.</p> <p>The ICF Dragon Boat Club World Championships, Moscow, Russia would be held on 7-11 September 2016 at Canoeing Course “Krylatskoe”.</p>		
<p>CANOE FREESTYLE – Lluís Rabaneda</p> <p>Referred to the report on the website.</p> <p>He thanked Tony Estanguet’s work on sport presentation in Freestyle World Championships, Canada.</p> <p>The two coaching seminars were a success and had advanced this area of Canoe Freestyle.</p>		
<p>CANOE OCEAN RACING – Mario Santos</p> <p>The second Canoe Ocean Racing World Championships was a challenge, however, it was a very successful event even if the participation numbers were not high.</p> <p>There had been live results, live streaming and GPS positioning for the Championships.</p> <p>The BoD approved Tahiti and Portugal as hosts for 2017 Ocean Racing World Cups.</p>		
<p>PARACANOEING – John Edwards</p> <p>The participation growth in Paracanoe had increased from 7 countries in 2009 to 43 countries in 2015.</p>		

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The number of athletes in Milan World Championships had been 161. Two participants from each NF were allowed to compete which allowed more accessibility to events in Paracanoe for NFs.

2016-2020 activities

- Duisburg World Championships & Final Paralympic Qualifier
- Continental Championships (ECA, AM?, OC, AFR)
- Rio Paralympics
- VA'A Classification study submission to IPC in November, 2016 and continued Kayak work
- Classifier Training Workshop (Loc. & Time TBD)
- Discussions to expand into Canoe Marathon
- Audit of Classification Rules to ensure IPC compliance
- Rule modifications for November Congress

Every year a classification training workshop would be planned.

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MEDICAL COMMITTEE – Donald McKenzie

Water Quality Rio 2016

From January 2016, an agency would monitor e.coli and enterococcus levels. No viruses tested for. Monthly tests would be done with daily tests closer to the Games.

A study would be undertaken from January 2016 to examine the relationship between rain and pathogens in the water.

The responsibility rests with Rio 2016 organizing committee.

A consulting group would decide what actions to take if situation was bad for the Games.

IOC Handbook

The project was advancing. Chapters had been completed by relevant experts in the fields of medicine. It should be finalised before Rio 2016.

Issue in Russia and impact on Canoeing

Issue originated by a German TV documentary in December 2015. "Top secret Doping: How Russia Makes its Winners", which only dealt with the Russian Athletic Federation.

Systematic doping controls exist for Russian athletes. Wada did a study and produced the "Wada Independent Commission Report" which was compelling evidence. It went beyond the simple doping control issue exploring corruption, bribery, extortion.

Thousands of samples had never been tested. Payment has been made to cover-up positive tests etc.

What about Canoeing?

Fifteen athletes were on the current list of sanctions with two to four years sanctions. Thirteen of them were Russians.

The ICF program met the more stringent requirements of the new World Anti-doping code by focusing on education, intelligence gathering, investigations and targeted testing. There was no grey zone within the ICF procedure. The program could be seen as completely transparent. There was a mandatory use of ADAMS and the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) which had been expanded.

Pure Paddling Performance had more than 4500 registered users.

MLA: new Minimal Level of Analysis initiative was introduced in 2015 increasing the cost (or decreases number of tests) of the programme. The ICF process was very safe but the current program could be seen to be underfunded 45 000 Euros would be needed to be compliant with the WADA Code and maintain levels.

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AFRICAN CONTINENTAL REPORT

The African Canoe Sprint Championships, Olympic Qualifiers, would take place near Durban in South Africa between 31st March and 4th April 2016.

All African Continental Games

Canoeing was not included in the last Continental Games. Meetings and lobbying had started for the next edition.

African Youth Games in 2018 in Algeria: Canoeing was confirmed on the programme.

National projects: There was a possibility to sign a memorandum with Olympic African Foundation to include a domestic boat manufacturer project.

AMERICAS CONTINENTAL REPORT

There had been a visit to Belize in November to establish the strategy to be carried out for the 2018 Games. The continent had a desire to collaborate with new Federations regarding strategic plans. Belize would be a pilot federation.

ASIA CONTINENTAL REPORT

The 2017 South East Asian (SEA) Games in Malaysia would see the inclusion of Canoeing disciplines with a specific program of flatwater events.

There had been a meeting with the Indonesian IOC member in order to include Dragon Boat and Canoe Polo in the 2018 Asian Games programme.

2015 Asian Canoe Polo Championships in Hong Kong. 11 countries participated but only 6 countries represented by women.

The 16th Asian Canoe Sprint Championships / Asian Continental Qualifier for the 2016 Rio Olympics and the 17th ACC Ordinary Congress held in November.

For the 2020 Tokyo Olympic preparations, It was highlighted the importance of securing the legacy of the Canoeing venues. Alternative usage of the whitewater course besides Canoe Slalom were being considered.

The Canoe Sprint Venue would be 3km away from the Canoe Slalom venue.

The layout of the Canoe Sprint venue would help improve the legacy and use post Games for the local community. A Canoeing Festival including other Canoeing disciplines could take place at the venue in the future.

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EUROPE CONTINENTAL REPORT

European Youth Olympic Festival, Gyor (HUN): Canoeing would be in the programme. There would be a maximum number of athletes per federation (6): two K1M, one C1M, two K1W and one C1W.

There was a request to standardise the 75 EUR for protest fee for Canoe Sprint in line with other disciplines at the next rule review.

European Representatives recommended establishing a ranking order of World and Continental competitions.

It was proposed to organise a calendar meeting between the ICF, Continental representatives and media experts, to avoid clashing of the events.

OCEANIA CONTINENTAL REPORT

Attended the 2nd ICF Ocean Racing World Championships where athletes enjoyed the conditions very much. Very good presentation and event.

Development: It was anticipated to work together with the International Va'a Federation especially for the Pacific Games.

A Canoe Slalom venue was under construction in Auckland. It would be an excellent training centre.

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

The ICF was congratulated on the general mindset regarding gender equality.

The Commission asked that Chairs update the questionnaire on the composition and state of Committees.

ICF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Presentations were presented by Istvan Vaskuti and Jean Michel Prono outlining the plans for 2016.

OLYMPIC PROGRAMME COMMISSION

The Olympic Programme Commission had worked on the best ways to improve the sport. The Commission provided recommendations based on its researches and evaluation across all our disciplines.

A booklet "Sustainable Wild Water Sport Centres" had been produced in 2015 as well as other documentation.

New formats of canoeing disciplines were tried (eg. Canoe Slalom Cross format,

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City events (Hamburg)) to showcase canoeing in a different manner.

The key results of the analysis :

- Small increase of participating federations in Olympic disciplines.
- The participation of non Olympic disciplines did not achieve the necessary numbers for Olympic events
- Social media activity had an important role to play.
- Sustainability and legacy: There was a need to improve Olympic venue sustainability.

Analysis was based on the IOC evaluation post London 2012 compared to six other Olympic sports which were in the same category as Canoeing (Boxing, Wrestling, Rowing, Weight lifting, Shooting and Judo). The ICF results were consistent with being in the middle of this group.

Recommendations for the future:

- Analyse and approve the new Olympic Program for 2024
- Improve sport presentation: discuss reducing the distances and competition lanes for Canoe Sprint.
- To test new events formats, being easy to understand and more exciting.
- Keep new formats simple and use available venues.
- Open opportunities for the future Olympic Program to Non-Olympic disciplines.
- Increase NFs participation at World Championships
- Prepare a development program worldwide for the Non-Olympic disciplines
- Connect the development of White water Canoeing with Slalom and the development of Marathon with Sprint.

There had been a new change regarding the disciplines: from Rio 2016, the IOC would decide which events will go forward and not the ICF.

Canoe Sprint Programme 2020

The Canoe Sprint recommendation to the ICF Board after long discussion and analysis inside the Commission:

- 12 events
- K1M 200m, K4M 500m, K1M and K2M 1000m
- K1W 200m, K1W, K2W and K4W 500m
- C1M and C2M 1000m
- C1W 200m, C2Women 500m

The proposal regarding Women events was approved by the BoD.

The proposal regarding Men events is approved by the BoD.

This decision would be proposed to the IOC for discussion and subject to ratification.

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There was a proposal to work as a group and to organise a specific meeting to discuss Olympic and Non-Olympic disciplines with an external facilitator for the future of the sport.

ICF GOVERNANCE REVIEW

ASOIF created a commission that would assess IF Governance structures and policies.

The ICF Governance Strategy would be finalised by February and voted at the 2016 Congress during an Extraordinary Congress held before the Ordinary Congress.

The main proposals were:

- To include 5 Continental Presidents to the Executive Committee people. One Woman Chair and athlete representative would be added to make a total of 13 for the Executive.
- The BoD composition would stay the same except for committee chairs for both Olympic disciplines would become Vice-president positions on the ICF ExCo.
- The 2 Vice-Presidents expert in Olympic discipline and the 5 Continental Presidents would work together for the Development Programme.
- All the roles and responsibilities for every BoD member had been redefined.
- The term of office for the ExCo and BoD members would be set to no more than 3 terms.
- European representatives on the BoD had been reduced to three.
- The 2 Vice-Presidents for Slalom and Sprint would be discipline auditors monitoring the work done by the professional staff in the Headquarters. The marketing/finance Vice-President would audit the marketing and financial work done by the Secretary General and staff. The Vice Presidents would all report to the ExCo and the BoD regularly.

BoD vote: Proposal to add the two positions (1 for women 1 for athlete representatives) to the ExCo ? Majority in favour, document would be updated.

BoD vote: To hold Extraordinary congress before Ordinary Congress in November 2016 to approve new statutes by the entire congress. BoD approved.

The ICF Governance Paper would be updated and sent to NFs for their comments. All responses would be discussed at the next BoD.

MISCELLANEOUS

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For the YOG 2018 Qualification event the ICF could not use the Junior /U23 World Championships anymore (IOC decision). The ICF needed to hold a specific event. A bidding process to host a Qualification competition would be launched.

It was proposed to organise the YOG event in Lausanne on Lake Lemman. This would require assessment of budget from Government, city and local investors.

A presentation on the new ICF website and the social media projects for 2015 was made.

CONGRESS 2016 AND RULE CHANGES

Decision to go to Baku was taken after terrorist attacks in Tunisia. Priority would be given to Tunisia for future Congresses when the situation in the country stabilised.

The next ICF Board meeting would be 10th - 12th March 2016 in Madrid, Spain