



## 2020 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships - Rome, Italy



To: ALL PARTICIPATING FEDERATIONS, TEAM LEADERS & REFEREES

Copy: Mr José Perurena López - ICF President

Mr Simon Toulson - ICF Secretary General

Mr Cyril Nivel – ICF Canoe Slalom and Whitewater Technical Manager

Federazione Italiana Canoa Kayak (FICK), Host Organising Committee and Competition Organiser

ICF Canoe Polo Committee

8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear All,

### 2020 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Rome, Italy – POSTPONEMENT

Further to the ICF Press release published today I write with additional detail.

The Covid19 global epidemic is the most serious health problem in the last 100 years. Like many sports organisations the ICF have to make decisions on a multitude of events.

The primary concern for everybody globally is currently the health and welfare of themselves and their families. We have, like all, been watching global events unfold and the continuing impact and felt we couldn't wait any longer to give clarity to athletes and their families.

We have liaised closely with the host organising committee, the Italian Federation and all agree the reality of the world's being in September 2020 is not realistic for many reasons not least:

- The inability to predict travel restrictions.
- The ability of teams to actually book flights.
- The deadline for hotel payments is fast approaching.
- Athletes in most countries are restricted in being able to train as a team and to prepare effectively.



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We are very conscious that those involved in Canoe Polo are amateurs and we do not want them to lose money unnecessarily.

This postponement is a two-stage process. Firstly to clarify the situation so far as September 2020 is concerned and secondly to confirm the new date for the championships and as best we can give a 'best estimate' time delay for international/cross border travel to be allowed again. .

At this time I can advise the most appropriate date is being worked on and we hope can be finalised quite quickly but the organisers need to check regarding hotel availability etc so all I will say at present it is likely to be April/May 2021. We are aware that this is when the Oceania Canoe Polo Championships are normally held and we have been in contact already with the Oceania Canoe Association.

This championship will continue to be the qualifier for the next World Games which like the Olympics has been postponed one year and is now 7-17th July 2022.

The intention is to in effect freeze the 2020 situation and move it to 2021. To be as clear as I can at the moment the following are noted:

- The event title will be 2021 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships – Rome, Italy.
- The 2019 ICF Canoe Polo Rules will still apply – not any new rules.
- All teams qualified or invited and wildcards/special invites are still eligible. Confirmed entries to date are 72 teams (maximum 76) from 31 countries. For those who have confirmed their place is secure.
- The age categories will be exactly the same as if the world's had taken place in 2020. So if any Under 21 player has aged out due to the postponement they WILL still be able to compete in their original category but no new minimum age players will be accepted if they become 15 years of age in 2021.

I hope this clarifies most points teams will be concerned about and as soon as a date is fixed you will of course be notified.

Very best wishes to you all!

Yours sincerely,

*Greg Smale*

Member ICF Board of Directors

Chair ICF Canoe Polo Committee

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