

INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ONLINE

02 July 2024

Overview

This was the third meeting of the ICF Board of Directors in 2024, held on 02 July online. Quorum was formed in line with the ICF Statutes, with 24 board members present.

The agenda and related information were provided by email to each Board Member.

Minutes for the previous meeting held on 05-06 April 2024 were approved via email and are published at the following address: <https://www.canoeicf.com/icf-minutes>

Agenda

1. Opening of the BoD meeting
2. Youth Olympic Games
3. Updates on Paris 2024 Olympic Games
4. Updates on AIN neutral athletes
5. Updates on the office in Hangzhou
6. Updates on the Swiss case
7. Miscellaneous

Participants online:

Thomas Konietzko	TK	President	GER
Cecilia Farias	CF	Vice President	ARG
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	LRC	Vice President	ESP
Luciano Buonfiglio	LB	Acting Vice President and Treasurer	ITA
Richard Pettit	RP	Secretary General	GBR
Maree Burnett	MB	Oceania Canoe Association President	NZL
Jean Zoungrana	JZ	European Canoe Association President	FRA
Sebastian Gomez	SG	Pan American Canoe Federation President	URU
Toshi Furuya	TF	Canoe Sprint Committee Chair	JPN
Bridgitte Hartley	BH	Athlete Committee Chair	RSA
Jean-Michel Prono	JMP	Canoe Slalom Committee Chair	FRA
Branko Lovric	BL	Continental Representative - EUR	CRO
Andrej Jelenc	AJ	Continental Representative - EUR	SLO
Jovana Stanojevic	JS	Continental Representative - EUR	SRB
Victor G. Ruiz	VR	Continental Representative - PAM	PUR
Budiman Setiawan	BS	Continental Representative - ASI	INA
Danielle Woodward	DW	Continental Representative - OCE	AUS
Ahmed Mahamoud Abdoukader	AMA	Continental Representative - AFR	DJI
Olubunmi Ola Oluode	OO	Continental Representative - AFR	NGR
Ruud Heijselaar	RH	Canoe Marathon Committee Chair	NED
Manuela Gawehn	MG	Wildwater Canoeing Committee Chair	GER
Colin Simpkins	CS	Ocean Racing Committee Chair	RSA



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Terry Best	TBE	Canoe Freestyle Committee Chair	GBR
Jane Gibson	JG	Acting Medical and Anti-Doping Committee Chair	GBR

Excused:

Chainarong Charoenruk	CC	Asian Canoe Confederation President	THA
Joao Manual Da Costa Alegre Afonso	JDC	Confederation of African Canoeing President	STP
John Edwards	JE	Paracanoe Committee Chair	CAN
Shao Yaping	SY	Continental Representative - ASI	CHN
Martha Hernandez Sanches	MHS	Continental Representative - PAM	MEX
Wai-hung Luk	WL	Dragon Boat Commission Chair	HKG
Noémi Horváth	NH	SUP Commission Chair	HUN
Greg Smale	GS	Canoe Polo Committee Chair	GBR



Opening of the BoD meeting

1. Thomas Konietzko, the ICF President opened the Board of Directors meeting and welcomed the members attending online. He also extended a warm welcome to Kit McConnell, the IOC Sports Director, for joining the meeting.
2. Thomas Konietzko highlighted the recent announcement of LA 28 that Oklahoma will host the Slalom and Kayak Cross events. He expressed gratitude for the collaboration with the IOC, LA 28, and partners in Oklahoma, highlighting that securing slalom in the 2028 program is a significant achievement.

Youth Olympic Games

3. The ICF Board Members expressed their disappointment, confusion, and concern regarding the IOC's decision to move canoeing from the sports programme to the engagement programme for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games. The ICF's efforts to adapt the format to local conditions and the negative impact of this decision on the development and promotion of canoeing in Africa and other regions was highlighted.
4. Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director, provided an in-depth explanation of the IOC's decision and discussed the rationale behind adapting the YOG programme. He reiterated that all sports from the original program remain an official part of Dakar 2026, and he assured the BoD that including a sport in the engagement programme rather than the competition programme is not a criticism of the sport or its International Federation and does not impact its future in the Olympic programme.
5. The Board Members stated that despite the disappointment, the ICF will focus on using the engagement programme to effectively promote and showcase the sport. They expressed appreciation for the close cooperation and support from the IOC and thanked Kit McConnell for taking the time to join the discussion.

Updates on Paris 2024 Olympic Games

6. An overview of the preparations for the upcoming games was provided to the BoD Members. The venue is nearing completion, with site visits and pre-games training ongoing. Logistical details for board members and guests were shared and will be continually updated. The sports presentation programme will feature music, ergometer races, dragon boat exhibitions, and other activities to enhance the atmosphere and engage spectators and the public. Additionally, there are plans for celebrations at the new French Federation headquarters and an ICF centenary dinner. An African station will offer community activities, showcasing the sport's diversity with kayak, SUP, and dragon boat events.

Updates on AIN neutral athletes

7. Richard Pettit, the ICF Secretary General, provided an update on AIN athletes status with a focus on the decision from the IOC AIN Eligibility Review Panel – Details of the Paris 2024 decisions were published on the [IOC.org](https://www.olympic.org).



Updates on the office in Hangzhou

8. The office opening was celebrated with significant public attention. Currently, job advertisements are being prepared. The office aims to enhance the sustainability team, media relations, and TV broadcast rights administration to expand reach in Asia and Oceania. Part-time admin support will also be hired. The goal is to have a mix of Chinese and International employees, making the office vibrant and globally focused. The office will also serve as a bridge for the Hangzhou Super Cup. The next few months will be a transitional period due to the challenges of the Games, but the aim is for the office to run efficiently by the end of fall. Partnership between ICF and BYD was also highlighted.

Updates on the Swiss case

9. Lluís Rabaneda, the ICF Vice President provided an update on a challenge from a Swiss C1 athlete after the World Championship in London. A hearing, not a CAS case, was held with three CAS arbitrators. The decision favoured ICF, confirming the procedures were correct. LR emphasised the strength of the Slalom Committee's rules and the importance of maintaining open dialogue in conflict situations.

Miscellaneous

10. Thomas Konietzko took the opportunity to thank all the chairs and committees for their hard work. Despite various challenges, such as flooding and other issues, the professional committees managed everything effectively. He also acknowledged the excellent execution of continental competitions and expressed gratitude to everyone working behind the scenes to make these events possible.

11. Richard Pettit shared that the ERASMUS DECK project submitted for an IOC sustainability award and has been shortlisted, the award ceremony will be in Paris during the Olympic Games. He highlighted that to be shortlisted was an excellent achievement and provided further recognition of the ICF as a leader in sustainability initiatives.

12. A reminder was issued to urge national federations to submit applications for ICF positions for the upcoming Congress. The deadline for applications is 8 August, but early submissions are encouraged to provide the nominations committee sufficient time for checks.

13. Thomas Konietzko concluded the meeting by expressing gratitude for the participation of the BoD Members and the valuable discussion.