

<b>BoD March 2020</b>
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INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD IN BARCELONA, SPAIN  
6-7 MARCH 2020



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<b>MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6-7 March 2020 Barcelona, Spain</b>
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**Participants:**

José Perurena	Spain	President (Executive Committee Member)
Cecilia Farias	Argentina	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Tony Estanguet (absent)	France	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Thomas Konietzko	Germany	Vice President (Executive Committee Member)
Luciano Buonfiglio	Italy	Treasurer (Executive Committee Member)
Simon Toulson	Great Britain	Secretary General (Executive Committee Member)
Joao Manuel Da Costa Alegre	Sao Tome and Principe	Not present in the meeting
Shoken Narita	Japan	Not present in the meeting
Albert Woods	Great Britain	President of European Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Joao Tomasini Schwertner	Brazil	President Pan American Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Maree Burnett	New Zealand	President of Oceanian Continental Confederation (Executive Committee Member)
Frank Garner	Canada	Chair Canoe Sprint (Executive Committee Member)
Jean-Michel Prono	France	Chair Canoe Slalom (Executive Committee Member)
Tim Lodge	Great Britain	Not present in the meeting
Martha Hernandez Sanches	Mexico	Continental Representative America
Victor G. Ruiz (absent)	Puerto Rico	Continental Representative America
Ahmad Donyamali	Iran	Not present in the meeting
Branko Lovric	Croatia	Continental Representative Europe
Andrej Jelenc	Slovenia	Continental Representative Europe
Jovana Stanojevic	Serbia	Continental Representative Europe
Ola Oluode	Nigeria	Continental Representative Africa
Danielle Woodward	Australia	Continental Representative Oceania
John Edwards	Canada	Chair Paracanoe Committee
Ruud Heijseelaar	Netherlands	Chair Canoe Marathon
Tomislav Crnkovic	Croatia	Chair Wildwater Canoeing
Mario Santos	Portugal	Chair Ocean Racing Committee
Greg Smale	Great Britain	Chair Canoe Polo
Lluís Rabaneda i Caselles	Spain	Chair Canoe Freestyle
Dr LUK Wai Hung	Hong Kong	Chair Dragon Boat
Donald McKenzie	Canada	Chair Medical and Anti-Doping

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## 1. Welcome by the ICF President

- President welcomed everyone to Barcelona
- A minutes silence was held in respect of Mr Otto Bonn who passed away recently
- He announced that Representatives from IRI and JPN could not be present as there were restrictions from the Spanish government due to Coronavirus outbreak.
- A representative from the athlete committee also not present
- Tony Estanguet was present for the Executive Committee meeting but had to go back to France for other meetings.

## 2. President report

- The CAS case with French Federation regarding qualification for the Games was still on going.
- The International Dragonboat Federation was very disappointed as the Asian Games was coming under ICF responsibility. IDBF had complained to the IOC but nothing had come of it.
- World Games : Officially Canoe Polo and Canoe Marathon for 2021. The venue was in the middle of the city. In China, in 2025 Dragonboat would be added.
- The possibility of having Extreme Slalom in Paris was under discussion with the IOC. Decision after Tokyo 2020.
- In 2021 there was no host for the Beach Games however Ocean Racing would be included in 2023 Beach Games.
- In Los Angeles, the ICF accepted to use the venue in Long Beach however rowing needed 1500m and they were still assessing the situation. Canoe Slalom venue still needed to be determined.
- There will be an election in ANOCA, Joao Costa would be a candidate and if he is elected, the possibility of becoming the IOC member was very high.

## 3. Treasurer report

- The ICF had a good financial situation with 11 million Euros in reserve.
- For the next period ICF needed to put TV coverage and legal advice on the budget.
- Possibility of purchasing a property in Lausanne for ICF office continued to be assessed. If a good opportunity in MSI arrived, ICF would make a suitable offer.
- Contingency budget proposal for coronavirus was approved. ICF Headquarters to develop further.

## 4. Update of ICF Headquarters (Secretary General)

- ICF HQ was very busy early 2020 with IOC questions regarding Olympic Games, WADA audit which basically involved a lot of administration work.

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- Rafting situation: ICF conducted a survey and found that many NFs had rafting activities. GAISF had asked that WRF and IRF to make an agreement between themselves and then ICF would define a working relationship with them by April 2020. The ICF predicted that they won't find an agreement and ICF would ask for recognition of GAISF.
- Dragon Boat: Due to the media stories IOC asked ICF to stop sports presentation for Dragonboat at the Games. Tokyo 2020 informed the IOC that Dragon Boat was important for them. IOC was in discussion on how the proposed sports presentation would look.
- A new issue from lifesaving, when ICF moved forward for Dakar, lifesaving boat became an issue, so the ICF had to prove that our boats were different.
- All the disputes do not give a good image externally, especially to the IOC. The ICF needs to consider its strategy and image that it has politically with regards to these ongoing disputes.
- The ICF was "strongly recommended" to join ITA, even if the ICF has a good partner for anti-doping with no influence and completely independent. By 2021 the ICF must contract some services with ITA to appease IOC.
- We had an intense 3 day WADA audit. Three (3) issues made the ICF non-compliant: not spending enough money on anti-doping, not enough testing November to May and, ICF did not communicate to national anti-doping agencies enough. The ICF has worked hard to correct these issues to remain compliant.
- WADA asked for ICF to increase non-Olympic discipline testing. ICF pushed it back but this might have to happen in the future. The ICF was able to have 100,000 euros since the last Congress from membership fee to help with additional testing.
- TV: Eurosport had done an analysis for our sport and made an offer to increase our exposure. It can be a great idea to invest and get exposure around the world but at this stage with coronavirus, the ICF would postpone the discussion.

## **5. Update on Russian situation following WADA's suspension and other recent anti-doping matters**

- Russian athletes and Rusada was suspended for the upcoming Games.
- Everyone was waiting the outcome of the CAS case. The ICF had a difficult experience in Rio 4 years ago and yet finds itself in the same situation. ICF had concentrated on Russian athletes since 2016 and they can freely compete in our competitions. They have to have 3 test within 12 months outside of Russia for each athlete in order to be eligible for the Games.
- The Vincent Lepointe case was decided recently. The science that was provided was very solid. They could prove that the substance could enter her body through a fluid from another person. It was unintentional as she had no way of knowing the substance was there. ICF had to take a lot of advice to make sure the decision was sound.

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- We have made an agreement with CAS for independent hearing for future doping cases. ICF will have one free hearing per year, however the price will go up significantly if we face several cases per year.

## 6. Update on Stand Up Paddling

- Until today, the ICF has no decision from CAS, there are 2 possibilities, either the case is too complicated or its imminent.
- The bidding for SUP events will be dependent on the CAS case.
- The decision of SUP bids from 2022 will be postponed.
- Surfing was trying to get recognition from IPC, the ICF was in a very strong position in that particular case, but again could lead to a dispute.

## 7. French CAS Case – Tokyo Olympic Games

- Simon thanked Tony, Jean-Michel and Cyril to negotiate with the French NOC. But even after significant negotiation, the case goes to CAS.
- ICF had to spread the message to NFs that it is not good for Canoeing image to take us to CAS for qualification decisions. the CAS decision won't be made before May.
- Preparations are going well for the Games, venues are ready, 95% of tickets are sold out so far which is very good for the interest in our sport.
- Minor issues with Tokyo were: Advertising banners, heat effect for ITOs on top floor of the finish tower, sharing venue with rowing for paracanoe, training period for Canoe Slalom in March. The list of countries who were not allowed to come to Japan because of coronavirus was increasing.

## 8. ICF Statutes and Technical Rule Changes

- The ICF statutes Sport discipline proposals were discussed and voted upon.

## 9. YOG 2022 Senegal update

- All International Federations had to support these Games paying all costs for equipment and resources. The Canoeing competition format was still being discussed with the IOC.
- There was some discussion about the new boat design for the YOG. It was confirmed that the IOC ruled that existing boats in the market needed to be used.

## 10. Election of hosts for ICF Events

- World Championship Competitions were:  
2024 ICF Canoe Sprint Non-Olympic Events World Championships: Minsk (BLR)  
2024 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships: Plovdiv (BUL)  
2024 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships: Liptovsky Mikulas (SVK)

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2021 ICF Canoe Slalom Masters World Championships: Krakow (POL)  
 2024 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships: Metkovic (CRO)  
 2024 Dragon Boat World Championships (National): Ningbo (CHN)  
 2023 Canoe Freestyle World Championships: Columbus, Georgia (USA)  
 2024 Canoe Polo World Championships: Deqing (CHN)  
 2022 Ocean Racing World Championships: Takapuna (NZL)  
 2023 Ocean Racing World Championships: Mandurah (AUS)  
 2021 Stand Up Paddling World Championships: Balatonfüred (HUN)

- 2022 World Cups were approved

Canoe Sprint: Racice (CZE) and Poznan (POL)  
 Canoe Slalom : Prague (CZE), Krakow(POL), Ljubljana, Pau, La Seu  
 Dragon Boat : China Chendu  
 Canoe Marathon : Awaiting date confirmation  
 Wildwater Canoeing: Celje (SLO)

## 11. Update on Recreational Platform (Simon/Catherine)

- A presentation regarding recreational canoeing which covered a very large community was made to the ICF BoD.
- The BoD voted in favour to continue the work on this project and come back with more research and business plan to be further discussed in light of the discussion held at the BoD meeting.

## 12. Coronavirus update

- The situation was changing on a daily basis. The ICF had prepared a contingency plan to face the situation. The ICF would discuss with the IOC regarding some options in case it was not possible to complete the qualification plan. IOC stated that the Games is on and we don't need to cancel any qualification competition. The issue was that at the moment many countries were closing borders to travellers from other countries.
- ICF Medical Chair explained the Coronavirus, contamination, symptoms and risks.
- ICF would send information to the NFs, athletes and ITOs on the changing situation.
- The ICF had to be prepared for any circumstances including if the Games were cancelled. It was unknown if the IOC would finance stakeholders but fortunately, the ICF had reserves, should the Games get cancelled and would prepare contingency budgets.
- The Contingency plans were presented to the ICF BoD. The plans would constantly be adapted depending on the situation. The plan was for CSP Olympic qualifier competitions, Paracanoe qualifier, Canoe Slalom Olympic qualifier, 2020 ICF Competitions and ICF Congress.
- The Contingency proposal, to be sent to the IOC, was approved by the ICF BoD.

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- Discussions would be held individually with each host organiser to find the best solution for all involved, particularly reducing any cancellation costs.

### 13.YOG 2022 Senegal update (Simon)

- ICF staff would visit in March with the IOC staff to look at the venue and work suitable solutions. A proposed detailed operational plan would be made after the visit. ICF was looking for an organiser to hold the Global qualification event Easter 2022.
- The location does not match with the technical requirements from IOC in that it must have a natural pathway to Olympic medal, must involve elite performance and it must use existing boats from the marketplace. The location and the problem of water quality in Senegal results in the need to be creative in the competition format.

### 14.YOG 2022 Senegal Qualification System principles

- The draft version was presented to the ICF BoD which would form the basis for discussions with the IOC. Several key topics were outstanding including type of boat to be used and type of format given the water conditions in Saly.
- The universality concept is the same as 4 years ago. The IOC highlighted that an IF cannot impose athlete competing in two combined events. Hence the ICF has an additional 30 quotas for the YOG. Each event would be separate for athletes to enter. ICF had also increased the number of maximum participants for NOCs per category which allowed more entries. The objective was to try to motivate the athletes to enter as many events they can.
- The ICF was in negotiations with the IOC to have a one-off Training camp and Qualification event. The IOC understands this is probably acceptable for our sport, but it has to be ratified by their Executive Committee.

There were two options regarding the competition:

- If the waves are not so large, ICF would like to race across the bay
- If the waves are high and strong, ICF may start in the sea and race back to the beach.

The anticipated format was four athletes per heat and a progression system of first two go through and last two go out. The distance should be 800m – 1000 m maximum.

- For Canoe Slalom, it would be similar to Extreme Slalom events with four boats. Inflatable ramps had been used in RSA for the start.
- BOD agreed on the provisional proposal and a further draft would be sent to the Board members for any comments before finalising with the IOC.

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Two major issues were outstanding:

- One, is that the ICF would like to hold the qualification events around Easter 2022. The problem is that ICF needed to organise in Europe in springtime.
- Boat types: ICF must use existing boats that are on the market. There was no clear canoe to be used. Also, ICF had to pay for all the boats as Senegal are not able to. Every IF faced the same situation. The cost would be expensive for the ICF.
- A legacy concept that may help to reduce costs for Senegal was presented. The idea was to create a venue for beach activities based on a format good for legacy and based on containers or similar that could be easily shipped. This could link competitions, recreational events, regional tourist development and training centres. Open to propose to other disciplines like Sailing.

The next steps would be;

1. Prepare a proposal based on the presentation
2. Present the concept to the IOC, NOC, local OC, IFs, Sponsors
3. Business Plan

BoD decision was to continue to the next step in developing the concept idea.

## 15. Paracanoe Development (John)

- Paracanoe had done well with various development projects and this continued to be the case into 2020. Concentration into Africa and trying to align projects with Canoe Sprint were seen as advantageous for the future development. Moving into other non-Olympic disciplines was also being addressed.
- 2021 Paracanoe World Conference: TAH NF President offered financial and staff support. The government of Tahiti and the FPASH (French Polynesian Adapted Sport and Handi-sport) would help to sponsor the Conference.

## 16. ICF Safeguarding update (Cecilia)

- A document was being prepared after the workshop held earlier in the week. The ICF would publish on its website this document once it would be completed.
- The ICF HQ would work on a communication strategy for this subject.
- The continental associations would be responsible to work with their national federations.



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## 17. Development programme update (Cecilia)

- The development programme outline for 2020 was proposed and agreed by the ICF BoD. The use of equipment and how it would be distributed was also highlighted. The issue of coronavirus was mentioned in terms of potential postponement or cancellation of camps.

## 18. Miscellenous

- The appendix for Canoe Freestyle was approved by the BoD
- ICF Headquarters were to visit the site of the 2020 ICF Congress to ensure preparations were well underway.
- Financial logistic help for countries with difficulties to attend the Congress. BoD decision was not in favour of the timing and a new proposal was to be discussed for the following Congress
- The Juries for 2020 events were decided
- New Technical Committees skillset: A skills set had been drafted by the ICF HQ to be sent to National Federations for people interested to become Technical Committee Members. The BoD accepted the project to ensure the Committees had suitable people that matched the work required. .
- Jorn Crongberg's son would be invited by the ICF at the next Congress to give him a trophy for recognition of his contribution to Canoeing.

## 19. Next BoD Meeting

- The next meeting would be in the Philippines in December 2020.
- Congress dates: from 4<sup>th</sup> December afternoon to 6<sup>th</sup> of December.