

ICF Canoe Slalom Chair Report for XL ICF Congress Antalya, Turkey, November 2024

Name of the BoD Member: PRONO, Jean Michel

Function on BoD: Chair of the Canoe Slalom Technical Committee

Committee Members: Sue Natoli (AUS), Meritxell Rodriguez (ESP), Alena Maskova (CZE), Arpornpan Buapat (THA)

Committee Advisors: Eric Lokken (USA), Colin Woodgate (GBR), Daniele Molmenti (ITA), Eric Jackson, (USA), Hans-Peter Weiss (GER)

Activities 2023-2024:

List all competitions and development activities since the previous congress

For 2023 and 2024 first semestre activities, please refer to the two previous reports, April 2023 and April 2024 attached as annexes 1 and 2.

This present report is dedicated to the last six months activity, May to October 2024

List all competitions and development activities since the last Board (April 2024)

May :

1st to 5 of May, Technical visit to Kenya, Sagana and Kutus, River Thiba. The purpose of the visit was to survey the possibilities of establishing a permanent canoe slalom facility especially downstream a new dam built recently. Despite the high level of the river (the whole Kenya just experienced flooding at this time) we have been scouting several stretches of the river Thiba.

The visit was supported by the national federation and National Olympic Committee, however it has not been possible to meet with the County Governor and Water authorities. In order to go further to establish a permanent facility it is necessary to have the authorities on board with CAC and ICF. The political situation (huge demonstrations around the country, state of emergency) in the country in the months following the visit has not allowed the local stakeholders and authorities to meet to explore further the project with the Kirinyaga county authorities. Project still pending but with potential.

15 to 21 of May, Vaires sur Marne, Final tuning of the Paris 2024 Olympic canoe slalom course. The final configuration was ready for the beginning of the first training period organized by Paris 2024, ICF and the venue operator.

June:

28 of May to 2 of June, CSL World cup N°1 Augsburg (GER)

4 to 9 of June, CSL World cup N°2, Prague (CZE) and Olympic qualifier for Kayak cross

13 to 17 of June, Technical delegate visit and meetings with 2026 Asian Games HOC, Nagoya, JAP. Survey and definition of the venue characteristics with Toyota City and HOC.

July:

1 to 8 of July, Junior&U23 ICF CSL World championships, Mikulas (SVK)

20 of July to 5 of August, Official Training and competitions for the Paris 2024 Paris Olympic Games

September:

10 to 15 of September, ICF CSL World cup N°4, Ivrea (ITA)

16 and 17 of September, Coordination meeting with Foix 2025 Junior&U23 ICF CSL World championship HOC.

17 to 22 of September, ICF CSL World cup Final, La Seu de Urgell (ESP)

Always moving forward

October:

2 of October, online ICF Board meeting

7 to 14 of October, first ICF multi-disciplines Super cup, Hangzhou (CHN)

Key achievements:

For this 2024 Olympic season last step, the attention was mainly on the Olympic qualification Continental process and the Kayak Cross global qualification event held in Prague.

All the competitions went smoothly and with no issue in the quota allocation procedure.

When needed, the Quota re-allocation procedure has been run according to the rules and all NOC's /NF's have been reactive and communicating quickly with the ICF HQ. All quotas were used and even late qualified NOC's and athletes have been able to train during the Pre-Games training periods (June, early July)

The Olympic Games competitions for Canoe slalom have been extremely successful in many aspects.

Spectators wise, the number and atmosphere were amazing along the 5 days of the competition programme.

The Course design proposed for Canoe and Kayak slalom was challenging for the athletes and "readable" for the spectators who could understand when the athletes perform or fail.

For its first appearance, Kayak Cross was presented at the best and the public, medias and IOC were impressed by the battle on the water.

The perfect organisation and officiating were also key factors of success for canoe slalom discipline during these Olympic Games.

Strategic plans for future implementation:

The outgoing Canoe slalom Committee and myself, as outgoing Chair will not indicate here the plans for future implementation, this will be the task of the new Chair and his team.

However, the strategy for the future of Canoe slalom will hopefully continue the work done by the current team during the past 8 years.

A project has been prepared for the 2025 season with the CSL rules changes proposal and related appendices to be implemented.

A new Olympic qualification system for LA 2028 is to be elaborated probably based on the ICF ranking.

Last but not least, Kayak Cross format has to be consolidated after this first development phase and spread to a wider participation and audience.

The success of this vulgarization will be possible by developing simpler course setting system and introducing dedicated competitions on natural rivers courses.

JM PRONO October 2024