

# News & Updates

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## ICF SORT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS : JULY DATES CONFIRMED

**1st - 7th July, 2019\***



As a committee, we are excited to continue to represent you as we develop, support and drive forward freestyle kayaking on a world scale over the coming years.

Our goals in 2019 are to continue to promote, develop and support freestyle kayaking around the world. The ICF World Championships continue to be the pinnacle event in our sport and as such this will be one of our main priorities in 2019. We are working hard to ensure it will be a fair and fun competition for all involved.

We wish you every success in your training and forthcoming competitions and look forward to seeing you all in Sort, Spain in July.

## WELCOME TO YOUR ICF FREESTYLE COMMITTEE

Volunteering and  
working hard to  
support you in 2019

Lluís Rabaneda I Caselles  
(ESP) **Chair**

Jez Blanchard  
(AUS) **Member**

Terry Best  
(GBR) **Member**

Stephanie Viselli  
(USA) **Member**

Ned Poffenberger  
(USA) **Advisor**

Magnus Karlsson  
(SWE) **Member**



## ICF Judging Seminars

ICF Judging seminars are planned to be run in Australia, Europe & North America in 2019.

If you are interested in finding out more contact [terrybest@icloud.com](mailto:terrybest@icloud.com)

We are ideally looking for non-competitors with prior judging experience to train as ICF judges.



## ICF Development Grants

The ICF has grants available to support development projects.

If you have a project that might be suitable contact [lluis.rabaneda@canoeicf.com](mailto:lluis.rabaneda@canoeicf.com)

Previous successful ICF Freestyle Development Projects include Expand & Extend San Juan & the African Development Project

## Bratislava Athlete Meeting Feedback

At the 2018 European Championships a group of athletes and coaches called a meeting with the ICF Freestyle Committee members present at the event to present some questions and concerns. These issues were addressed at the September ICF freestyle committee meeting. In response to the questions raised we would like to provide the following feedback and updates.

- 👤 The 2019 ICF Freestyle Kayak World Championships dates have been confirmed as the 1st - 7th July 2019. \*There is a possibility it could start as early as the 30th June depending on the location and format used for the squirt boating event. Exact start date will be announced as soon as the schedule is confirmed.
- 👤 The freestyle feature development is a top priority for Sort. Development is due to commence in December 2018. The goal is to create a world class feature. We will keep you up to date on the progress through the ICF freestyle committee facebook page.
- 👤 The ICF Freestyle Committee will be supporting the organisers in Sort to ensure the best possible level of service, safety and support is available to athletes at this event.
- 👤 Details on how to register for the World Championships including entry fees and judging fees are being finalised and will be announced soon.
- 👤 The ICF Freestyle Committee and event organisers are always looking for sponsors and partners for our major events. If you have anyone who might be interested in supporting freestyle please contact [jez@jacksonkayak.com](mailto:jez@jacksonkayak.com)
- 👤 As part of the bid to continue to develop the communication between the ICF freestyle committee, athletes and freestyle community we will be working to create regular news updates and bulletins to provide transparency and information from the committee meetings and communicate the work being done by the committee. The ICF freestyle committee website, facebook page and instagram and will continue to be the main point of outgoing communication.
- 👤 The ICF Freestyle Committee continue to pursue the possibility of freestyles involvement in the Olympic Games. Early discussions are underway to see if there is an opportunity for any freestyle exposure in the Tokyo Olympics. We will keep you updated with any progress.
- 👤 If you have any concerns and questions please contact the members of the Freestyle Committee direct via email or through the ICF Freestyle Committee facebook page. If you have an official query or concern please submit an official request to [lluis.rabaneda@canoeicf.com](mailto:lluis.rabaneda@canoeicf.com) through your National Federation.
- 👤 Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend this athletes meeting and for the feedback. We look forward to continuing to work with you and on your behalf as the freestyle committee.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

**Volunteers are vital to the success of a World Championships.**

We are looking for volunteers, in particular non paddlers. That plan to attend the Sort World Championships and can help in anyway!



## ICF Athlete Committee & Athlete Representatives

In 2017, freestyle World Champion Claire O'Hara was selected to join the ICF Athletes Committee. As your ICF athlete committee representative, Claire has a strong position and voice within the ICF.



The ICF Athlete Committee is an active team of current athletes from a mixture of Olympic and non Olympic disciplines working on behalf of athletes across all disciplines in the sport.

The ICF Athlete Committee is in a unique position as it has a voice and direct communication not only with the ICF Freestyle Committee but also to the ICF Chair and ICF Executive Board. The Athlete Committee Chair Tim Lodge sits on the ICF Executive board.

Claire will be working closely with the ICF Athletes Committee on behalf of the wider canoe athlete community as well as working with the ICF freestyle committee. This is a great opportunity for freestyle athletes to not only have a voice but also work with the ICF on the future of the sport.

Contact Claire and the ICF Athletes Committee at [athletes@canoeicf.com](mailto:athletes@canoeicf.com)

## XXXVII ICF Ordinary Congress : 23rd - 24th November 2018

Lluís Rabaneda will be heading to Budapest in November to represent the Freestyle Committee at the ICF Congress. Equality in sport is one of the key areas Lluís will be addressing at this meeting.

- Proposed Rule Change - Equal places for Junior Women and Junior Men in future ICF events.

## ICF Freestyle Rules & Appendix Updates and Amendments

Two working groups have been created to re-visit and revise the ICF freestyle kayak rules and the freestyle kayak and squirt boating appendix's. These sub committees, chaired by Ned Poffenberger (Freestyle) and Ben White (Squirt) are working to develop updates to the appendix's (winter 2018) and rules (winter 2019). The proposed changes will be put forward to the ICF Freestyle Committee and then the agreed changes will be presented to the ICF Congress for official confirmation. If you have an interest in helping develop these areas please contact the ICF Freestyle Committee.

## Volunteering

The ICF freestyle committee is a team of committed volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to help at the World Championships or support the committee in the build up and throughout the year please contact [lluis.rabaneda@canoeicf.com](mailto:lluis.rabaneda@canoeicf.com). All help is greatly appreciated. No prior experience necessary.

**Next ICF Freestyle committee meeting - November 2018**

Key agenda : preparations for the 2019 World Championships