

Always moving forward

ICF Congress, Pattaya, Thailand

3-5 November 2022

MARATHON COMMITTEE



World Championships Ponte de Lima K2 men seniors

NAME: Ruud Heijselaar

ICF position: Chairman CAM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Stien Verlinden (BEL), Brian Chapman (GBR), Tim Cornish (RSA), Andras Faludy (HUN). Advisors: Stefan Gustafsson (SWE) and Sergio Ferreira (POR)

1. MAJOR MEETINGS SINCE LAST CONGRESS

CAM meeting*	17	December
ORG WCH 2022 and Paracanoe	15-17	January
BOC (Birmingham (AL) concerning World Games each 2 weeks	2 February till June 29*	
CAM annual meeting Vejen	25-27	February
Sport Presentation Stefan Gustafsson World Games*	12	March
Meeting World Games Birmingham Organisation/Wave Ski	16	March
Update call World Games organisation*	28	March
Swiss timing concerning World Games*	29	March
Sport commission meeting ICF*	31	March
Development Non-Olympic disciplines	27	April
Bid evaluation (Fit for future)*	29	April
Swiss timing concerning World Games*	4	May
World Cup (with Stien Verlinden and Brian Chapman)*	10	May
Bid evaluation (Fit for the future)*	12	May
Sponsor plan (Exploratory talks)*	21	May
Board meeting	30/05 – 2/06	
Sponsor plan (Exploratory talks)*	04	August
CAM meeting*	20	October

* Virtual meetings

2. Tasks undertaken for this period

Inspection course WCH 2022 Ponte de Lima together with ParaCanoe	15/17	January
Inspection course World Games (Oak Mountain Lake)	17	March
Inspection course bid World Championships 2026 (Sarasota - USA) together with Chair SUP (Noemi Horvath)	19	March
Inspection bid world cup Trasona (Spain)	26	March
Preparation with organisation World Cup Prague		
Chief official World Cup Prague	26/30	May
Preparation World Games May-June-July together with ICF/HQ		
Inspection venue World Cup 2023 Ruse (Bulgaria)	05/06	June
Inspection venue and course during the national championships Ponte de Lima	16/17	June
Course preparation World Games Birmingham (AL)	05/10	July
World Games	11/12	July
World Championships, preparation and championships	21/09– 25/09	
Chief official world championships	29/09–02/10	

3. Issues and Main Points of Report

In 2022, it was about the World Games and making sure it was a success. The concept of the races was different because we paddled on a small lake, with short laps and more portages. It was a success and gave marathon a higher standard in the sport, which is important for the further development of our discipline. It was unfortunate that the live streaming was only accessible to a few countries.

The new committee members performed their duties according to the agreements made at the CAM meeting in Denmark at the end of February.

The **budget is a problem for the sport**, but the World Cup in Prague was successful and the organisers were able to hold a successful competition with the available finances.

The World Championships (and also the European Championship) showed that marathon has become **a real spectator sport**. There were too few stands to accommodate all the spectators. The competition this year was high level with fantastic races and the number of views via livestreaming was one of the highest ever for marathon.

A challenge were the Para athletes at the World Championships. This would not have been possible without the help of the Para committee.

All in all, it was a busy year, but nice to see that the borders are open again and paddlers can do what they love, compete at a high level.

4. Future Initiatives and Tasks

- Webinar education, **distance education** and important to train more ITOs from continents with fewer ITOs, which also benefits marathon on their continent.
- Development marathon **outside of Europe**
- We don't have great participation in **the C boats** and we need to explore how we can attract better participation and increase public interest.
- To follow the paddlers who have participated **in the TIP programme** and helping these paddlers and coaches to further develop marathon sport in their countries.
- Sprint and marathon **use the same boats (same dimensions)** but the weight is different and given the sustainability that is part of the ICF policy, it is a good solution to explore if it is possible to have an equal weight of the boats.
- **Refinement of sports presentation**. As we (have to) become more of a spectator sport, it is important that all aspects of sports presentation are brought to a higher level. Much has been done in recent years, but improvements will always be necessary. Importantly (to ensure) that development does not stand still, enter **into long-term contracts** regarding race management, GPS and live streaming so that the contracted party can invest in a better product.
- Ensure that **technical deliverables** are adapted to the current time and situation. **The cost factor** for organisation and teams must come down, but we must ensure that quality remains high. Sponsorship of the World Championships should ensure that costs for teams and organisation are contained.
- Together with the Para Committee further implement the Para in marathon so that a **full-fledged World Championships** can be paddled.
- **Combine the World Marathon Championships with other disciplines**, but the program should be made so that the main events of the disciplines take place in the same place. This will allow the public to see **the best performances of the combined disciplines in one place**. The priority of the program should be to continually entertain the public with exciting races.
- More initiatives will follow and, depending on the world situation, it is important to ensure that the initiatives in marathon sport (non-Olympic) **keep quality high and cost low for the athletes and development in all continents**.