

Olympic Qualification beyond 2024

Purpose

- 1) Increase participation all across the board
- 2) Generate more continental activity
- 3) Simplify the qualification rules
- 4) Increase NF funding from local governing bodies by creating a longer qualification pathway
- 5) Increase media exposure
- 6) Operate more sustainably by decreasing travel distances

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

General

The ICF Ranking would be a list of individual athletes in each category (Men's Kayak, Women's Kayak, Men's Canoe, Women's Canoe)

Rationale: The current national (team boat) ranking doesn't really serve any purpose while having multiple ranking (one in each class) is devaluating the whole ranking ideal. Additionally, keeping track of individual athletes racing in team boats would be too complicated (with all the changes throughout the seasons).

A single list of athletes is easy to use for communication, prize money and other purposes as well.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Observed period

Results of the previous two whole seasons (season = calendar year = January 1st-December 31st) are observed plus the ongoing season's results.

Rationale: Intending to be more global a season must be considered to be longer than the current one (from May to August). The simplest way to go is with a full calendar year as it doesn't need much explanation.

Even before the first ranking event of the season the ranking is solid as it's based on the results of two full seasons.

Above rule means that if World Ranking would eventually be part of the Olympic Qualification process, roughly two and a half seasons would be observed. From the same perspective, one year off (not counting in qualification) after the Olympic Games seems to be ideal.

All continents would be motivated to have all their Championships and Ranking Competitions organised almost every year.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Observed period

Results (of the 3rd season prior) drop out on the first day of the first Ranking Competition of every season.

Rationale: Dropping out results on January 1st could lead in sudden change on the leader board without competitions happening. This would create very odd situation and the credibility of the ranking could be questioned.

Example: the first Ranking Competition of the season is Oceania Championships, beginning on the 14th of February, 2024. Until the 13th of February the observed results on the World Ranking are the results of the 2021, 2022, 2023 seasons, while on the 14th of February 2021-results drop out and World Ranking observes results of the 2022 and 2023 seasons with 2024 season-results gradually being added as the season progresses.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Observed period

World Ranking gets updated within 5 days after the termination of a Ranking Competition.

Rationale: Reflecting all the most recent results almost up-to-date. Leaves enough time to include the points if results are well-prepared. Quicker processing may create difficulty for organisers of a Ranking Competition the following week if World Ranking is the basis for seeding.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Ranking Competitions with weights

event	multiplier	rationale
Senior World Championships	1,5	ICF 's top event intending to attract the best paddlers from all over the world, leading to highest participation once every year.
World Cups	1x	ICF's more frequent, televised showcase of canoeing with intended high stakes for earning World Ranking points.
Continental Championships	0,7	Continental Association's most important event quite close to the value of above world event, encouraging the staging of these events every year.
ICF World Ranking Competitions	0,5	A new tier of competitions (already existing in Slalom) with low technical requirements, being attractive for potential new organisers around the world and smaller NFs not being able to travel far too many times. Low technical requirements mean no TV coverage and no high expectation of services for participants but basic and fair event delivery.
Summer Olympic Games	1,5	Not an ICF competition with only qualified athletes competing (a higher multiplier would stretch the first part of the leaderboard to much).

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Ranking events

Every event is a ranking event on the programme of any given Ranking Competition (needs to be defined well beforehand and not open for Host Organising Committee's wishes).

Rationale: Simple, easy to understand and administer.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Ranking events

No differences in Olympic vs. non-Olympic events but size of boats. (Differences between K1/K2/K4 and C1/C2/C4 only.)

Rationale: More chances to collect more points. The purpose is to increase participation all across the events and not defining “important” and “not-so-important” ones. It is intended to lead to more balanced participation and programme (timetable) which would make the life of all stakeholders easier (athletes, coaches, ITOs, organisers).

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Ranking events

K4/C4 races would not be held at every Ranking Competition (needs to be defined well beforehand and not open for Host Organising Committee's wishes).

Rationale: Cheaper organisation and participation (boat transportation). World Ranking would not be stretched too much between NFs participating and not participating in 4-person boat events.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Ranking points

In single events points start as 1000-900-840-800 followed by 10-point decrements with 30-point decrement between the last place in a higher ranked final (e. g. Final B) to the first place of the next lower ranked final (Final C). In case of 8-lane competitions the decrement between finals grow to 40 (from 30) due to simply dropping the points for the 9th places. (See table below)

Rationale: Having a World Ranking with 4-digit or 5-digit points looks more serious than lower numbers. The winning point needs to start quite high so it would not go down to zero too soon with the decrements. Smaller differences in points result in tighter ranking, hence more exciting overall contest.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Ranking points

K1/C1 – 100%

K2/C2 – 150% divided equally

K4/C4 – 200% divided equally

Rationale: Considering the single event points as a basis (100%) an individual would receive 75% of those points for the same ranking in a double-boat event and 50% in a 4-person boat event. In case a crew is changed from one phase of the competition to the next (rule 13.4.8), the points of the replaced and the substitute athletes are split equally between them, independent of the phase(s) completed and the number of races actually run in that event. (For example, in K4 the points would be distributed like this: 50%-50%-50%-25%-25%)

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Ranking points

Technical incompetence and unsportsmanlike behaviour earn zero or negative points:
DNS (-50); DNF (0); DSQ (-100); DQB (-300)

Rationale: The dissuasive effect of negative points may have a positive impact on reducing the number of these cases. The negative points would be applied irrelevant to phase of events and override points theoretically and arguably earned already in the given event. (A DNS in Final A will not get the point for the 9th place but -50.)

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Additional rules

5 best results (highest ranking points) count from each season

Rationale: One doesn't need to travel to all the Ranking Competitions to have 5 results in a season. Still, the potential of improving the overall ranking score throughout a season is kept. Top athletes can't draw away from the rest by achieving too many good results.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Additional rules

- Tie-breaker 1: highest ranking point from a single-boat result in the latest (current) season
- Tie-breaker 2: highest ranking point from a single-boat result in all observed seasons
- Tie-breaker 3: participation (entered in more Ranking Competitions throughout the observed period the better)
- Tie-breaker 4: draw

Rationale: Simple, easy to follow. Single-boat results are favoured.

Updating Canoe Sprint World Ranking

Additional rules

Pregnancy protection: frozen points for 24 months from the date of the official announcement to the ICF

Rationale: This is the same way as other sports with World Ranking handle it.