



# Ruud Heijselaar

Proposed candidate for Chair of the ICF  
Marathon Technical Committee

## Personal Details:

Date of Birth: 26 September 1950

National Federation: The Royal Water sports federation - NED  
Job position: Retired.

In the past: Facility Manager of Library Haarlem and officer of departments Health & Safety, project coordinator, event manager.

Other relevant information: After passing away of Jorn Cronberg 2020, appointed as Chairman Marathon committee.

I was co-founder of the marathon committee in the Netherlands, in early '80s and was member and Chairman for a long time of that committee. In the years as a member of the ICF marathon technical committee was my main task; World Series manager, taking care of the World Cup and World Championships and ITO education.

I was working closely with Jorn and the Chinese Canoe Association from 2016 till 2020, to develop the marathon in China and we have had a successful World Championships in Shaoxing in 2019, and in the coming years we continue with races in Asia.

I was the technical advisor for the marathon, during the World Games in Cali 2013.

After passing away from our Chairman Jorn Cronberg, I took over his jobs as Chairman, and it was at a time that we were busy with the preparation of several events, such as World Games Birmingham (2021), World Championships (Norway 2020 and Romania 2021). It was not easy but we managed that and due to the corona, a lot has changed, but the challenges are still there.

## Aims and Objectives

My main goal for the next 4 years is to develop marathons in all areas of the World. The committee must exist of technical members who will have the experience as a person to develop marathon. Committee Chairman is a position in the committee, but we have to do the work as a team.

We ranked in the top 3 of the Canoe disciplines with a high exposure but we have still some work to do. Races must be more competitive and attractive and I like to have challenges to make the marathon still more exciting. The excitement of a marathon must be seen by the audience; professional broadcast and live streaming must make that possible. Short distance marathon was one step forward to make the marathon more attractive and interesting for all paddlers.

Promotion of the area, funding parties and national federation must get attention during live streaming and broadcasting. National races will be held for national (youth) paddlers and we need that to promote our sport in the best way.

## In short

- I will engage the committee into working as a 'team' to ensure all are involved in the decision-making process.
- I will consult and support in a proactive way with Continental Associations and Federations and work as a 'team'.
- To develop marathon in all areas of the World, and special give attention to Africa, America and Asia.
- To develop marathon master's competition during World Championships period.
- I will implement paracanoe, in cooperation with the paracanoe committee, during the World Championships period.
- I will look further than our sport and like to see how other sports will develop and where possible use this in canoeing marathons.
- I will make a plan for paddlers, who have been part of the Talent Identification Plan (TIP), to follow the coming years and help them and their coaches by further development as marathon paddler/coach.
- I will continue the development and exposure in order to grow the discipline and enable paddlers/federations to develop.
- I like to work closely with the ICF staff, the athletes committee and the other flatwater committees to make our Canoe Sport better.
- I will, with my experience in this discipline, continue, with your support, to develop it to the best of my abilities.

### Sport Information

Started with canoeing when I was 15 and was several times junior champion.

Marathon paddler from 1969, paddled several races in the World. Favourite races in Great Britain and Denmark.

Member of national sprint team 1968 - 1970

Team manager national marathon team Holland 1983 - 2010

My favourite sports to do, besides canoeing, is cycling and swimming.

### Experience in Canoe sport working area

Member of ICF Marathon Committee 1986 - 2020

Member of Dutch marathon Committee 1983 - 2010

Organizer Grand Prix Hardenberg 1985 - 1987

Organizer World Cup Hardenberg 1986

Organizer World Championships Amsterdam 1994

Technical Delegate World Games 2013

Technical Delegate World Games 2021

Technical Delegate World Championships and World Cups 2016 - 2021