

2025 Canoe Ocean Racing Rule Change Proposals

#	PROPOSED BY NF / BoD / COMMITTEE	CR/PR/SR BYLAW	ART.	CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING. All modifications must be written in bold blue	REASONING	Committee STAND	BOARD STAND April 2024	CONGRESS November 2024
1	COR Committee	PR		Canoe Ocean Racing	Ocean Paddling	There are no canoes used in this discipline.	In Favour	Not in Favour	
2	COR Committee	PR	Language	British English	English	A referral to English automatically implies that it will be British English	In Favour	Not in Favour	
3	COR Committee	CR	1.1.4	The Olympic events should be used as a base for the competition programme in continental games	Scratch	Non-Olympic Discipline	In Favour	In Favour	
4	COR Committee	PR	2.2.1	Reigning World Champions + World top 40 + 5 boats per event per NF (article 12.2.5)	No limitations	If it is accepted that the World Championships is an open event, there will be no need for this clause	In Favour	In Favour	
5	COR Committee	PR	2.2.1	ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Ranking Points competitions	ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Continental Championships	Name change, World Ranking to be removed	In Favour	In Favour	
6	COR Committee	PR	3.2.4	All openings into the hull larger than 12mm in diameter (drain and vent holes) must be fitted with a cover that is mechanically fastened in place	Scratch	Not applicable, as there are no limitations on craft.	In Favour	In Favour	
7	COR Committee	PR	3.3	The dimensions of the surfski do not need to be measured. Inspection should be limited to the presence of a strengthened point suitable for attaching a leash.	The dimensions or weight of the surfski do not need to be measured. Inspection should be the presence of a strengthened point suitable for attaching a leash.	Included "weight"	In Favour	In Favour	
8	COR Committee	SR	3.4.1	They are to be manufactured out of bright coloured material, preferably lumo.	They are to be manufactured out of bright coloured material, preferably luminous.	Some countries are unaware that the word luminous is shortened to lumo.	In Favour	Approved the rule	
9	COR Committee	SR	3.4.5	It is recommended that a minimum of 30% of the deck of the craft must be covered with bright coloured paint or a bright coloured decal (preferably lumo).	It is recommended that a minimum of 30% of the deck of the craft be covered with bright coloured paint or a bright coloured decal (preferably luminous).	Some countries are unaware that the word luminous is shortened to lumo.	In Favour	Approved the rule	
10	COR Committee	SR	3.4.6.a	A signalling mirror	Scratch	This is not a safety device for ocean paddling	In Favour	Approved the rule	
11	COR Committee	SR	3.4.6.f	A cable on the bow for towing	Scratch	This has never been used before	In Favour	Approved the rule	
12	COR Committee	SR	3.4.7	-	At the discretion of the organisers, the following additional equipment may be made compulsory:	Wording	In Favour	Approved the rule	
13	COR Committee	PR	4.1.2	-	OC1 - Outrigger single	Needs to be included	In Favour	In Favour	
14	COR Committee	PR	6.1.2.d	Competition programme	Competition program	Grammar	In Favour	Not in Favour	
15	COR Committee	PR	6.2.3	For the World Championships, athletes are required to affix a decal of their national flag on both sides of their front deck. The decal must measure at least 0cm x 20 cm.	For the World Championships, athletes are required to affix a decal of their national flag, together with their country code on both sides of their front deck. The decal must measure at least 30cm x 10 cm.	The flags of some countries can sometimes be very similar, or even identical. The insertion of the country code will provide clarity	In Favour	In Favour	
16	COR Committee	PR	6.3	In SS-2 events the age of the youngest competitor will determine the age group in which the crew can compete.	In SS-2 events the cumulative age of the 2 athletes will determine the age group in which a crew can compete.	This will give far more scope for nations who do not have many athletes of the same age. They would be able to race in a combined age group and still be competitive	In Favour	In Favour	
17	COR Committee	PR	6.3.2	-	In a mass start, organisers must ensure that the various age group classes are easily identifiable, by providing unique colours of boat stickers, bib numbers or visibility vests.	It is disconcerting not knowing which paddlers around you are from which age group.	In Favour	In Favour	
18	COR Committee	SR	7.1.1	Boat scrutineer	Scratch	None needed, as there are no specs	In Favour	Approved the rule	
19	COR Committee	SR	7.1.1	Competition Manager	Scratch	David: if you remove 7.3.2 Paragraph about Competition Manager, than you should remove the role itself as well	In Favour	Approved the rule	
20	COR Committee	SR	7.1.3.c	Unauthorised persons must not enter any Officials area, unless are called for by either the Competition Committee or the Jury.	Unauthorised persons must not enter any Officials area, unless called for by either the Competition Committee or the Jury.	Grammar	In Favour	Approved the rule	
21	COR Committee	SR	7.2.2.b	Postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held, or abandon the competition, or, if the competition has already begun, abandon or reschedule the competition, in the event of inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances which make it impossible to carry out or finish the competition;	Postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held, or abandon the competition, or, if the competition has already begun, abandon or reschedule the competition, in the event of inclement weather, dangerous conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances which make it impossible to carry out or finish the competition;	Added dangerous conditions	In Favour	Approved the rule	
22	COR Committee	SR	7.3.9	The Boat Scrutineer is responsible after the race to check the boats to ensure they comply with the ICF Canoe Ocean Racing Rules. Should any boat not comply then the athletes will be referred to the Competition Committee for a decision on a sanction.	Scratch	No boat scrutineer required, as there are no specs to confirm	In Favour	Approved the rule	

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23	COR Committee	SR	8.1.1	Races may be held on any open water or the open sea in a variety of formats and conditions but predominantly with downwind conditions. Courses should be selected to test the seamanship and ability of the athletes to use the conditions to their advantage.	Races may be held on any open water or the open ocean in a variety of formats and conditions but predominantly with downwind conditions. Courses should be selected to test the seamanship and ability of the athletes to use the conditions to their advantage.	Sea changed to Ocean	In Favour	Approved the rule	
24	COR Committee	SR	8.2.2	It is advised that markers are easily visible and recognisable (dimensions, form, colour).	Markers must be easily visible and recognisable (dimensions, form, colour).	This is not optional	In Favour	Approved the rule	
25	COR Committee	SR	9.1.2.b	Fix the date and the competition programme in agreement with the ICF.	Fix the date and the competition program in agreement with the ICF.	Grammar	In Favour	Approved the rule	
26	COR Committee	SR	9.1.2.c	Draw up and distribute the competition programme including the date and time of the Teams Leaders meeting. It must be distributed in advance of the competition.	Draw up and distribute the competition program including the date and time of the Teams Leaders meeting. It must be distributed in advance of the competition.	Grammar	In Favour	Approved the rule	
27	COR Committee	PR	9.4.1	The sequence of races given in the invitation, and the intervals between the races as given in the Competition Programme, are binding on the organisers.	Scratch	These conditions cannot be binding on the organisers if there is a 3 day window period, and a potential to change events at short notice.	In Favour	In Favour	
28	COR Committee	PR	9.4.2	Alterations cannot be made unless the respective Team Leaders at the Team Leaders Meeting give their consent.	Scratch	This decision would be made by the organising committee, in consultation with the ICF COR committee	In Favour	In Favour	
29	COR Committee	SR	10.1.1	The boats used for Canoe Ocean Racing must be propelled solely by means of double-bladed paddle.	The boats used for Ocean Paddling must be propelled solely by means of a double-bladed paddle (S1 and S2) or a single bladed paddle (SUP or OC1).	Introducing single bladed paddles for SUP and OC1	In Favour	Approved the rule	
30	COR Committee	SR	10.1.2	The paddles must not be attached to the boat in any way, except by a safety leash that is kept slack at all times while paddling.	Scratch	Recently some paddlers have devised a system whereby the paddle is attached to the nose of the boat. In extreme conditions this assists in keeping the boat straight	In Favour	Approved the rule	
31	COR Committee	SR	10.1.2	The Start Line should be long enough to allow athletes to line up alongside each other. When this is not possible, paddlers seeded according to the Canoe Ocean Racing seeding protocol should be allowed places in the front row.	The Start Line should be long enough to allow athletes to line up alongside each other. When this is not possible, paddlers will be seeded at the discretion of the race committee, taking into account previous results and current form.	Without an international ranking system, the selection of paddlers to be placed on a front row would need to be made by the HOC and the COR committee	In Favour	Approved the rule	
32	COR Committee	SR	10.2.5	Athletes should be at the start at the time specified in the racing programme.	Athletes should be at the start at the time specified in the racing program.	Spelling	In Favour	Approved the rule	
33	COR Committee	SR	10.2.7	-	There must be a separate start for men and women.	This has happened for the past number of years	In Favour	Approved the rule	
34	COR Committee	SR	10.3.1a	Beach Start	Lifesaving Start	This method of start is used in Lifesaving events	In Favour	Approved the rule	
35	COR Committee	SR	10.3.1.a	Athletes will be seeded according to the Canoe Ocean Racing Ranking with number one (1) in the middle, number two (2) on the right, and number three (3) on left, and using the same pattern until all are seeded. If considered by the Competition Commission decides athletes will be seeded considering the best-ranked athletes will be in the best place to start. Non-ranked athletes will be seeded in an order determined by a draw.	Scratch	No Ranking system	In Favour	Approved the rule	
36	COR Committee	SR	10.3.1.a	All athletes will hold their craft, in ankle to thigh deep water as instructed by the Starter or assistants. When all athletes are aligned, and the conditions are favourable, the start signal will be given.	All athletes will hold their craft, in ankle to thigh deep water as instructed by the Starter or assistants. When all athletes are aligned, and the conditions are favourable, the start signal will be given. If the organizers have made the wearing of a leash compulsory for the event, the leash must be attached to the craft before the start.	This incorporates the enforcing of wearing a leash.	In Favour	Approved the rule	
37	COR Committee	SR	10.3.1.b	The athletes should position themselves so that the bows of the competing craft are behind the start line. The boats must be stationary and may be held at the stern if required.	The athletes should position themselves so that the bows of the competing craft are behind the start line. The boats must be stationary and may be held at the stern if required. If the organizers have made the wearing of a leash compulsory for the event, the leash must be attached to the craft before the start.	This incorporates the enforcing of wearing a leash.	In Favour	Approved the rule	

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38	COR Committee	SR	10.3.1.c	Where strong wind or current render a stationary start difficult, a rolling start may be used. The boats are allowed to drift or paddle slowly towards the start line with a view to crossing at the time of the signal. The start line may be fixed or be between two (2) boats that are moving, usually downwind.	Where strong wind or current render a stationary start difficult, a rolling start may be used. The boats are allowed to drift or paddle slowly towards the start line with a view to crossing at the time of the signal. The start line may be fixed or be between two (2) boats that are moving, usually downwind. If the organizers have made the wearing of a leash compulsory for the event, the leash must be attached to the craft before the start.	This incorporates the enforcing of wearing a leash.	In Favour	Approved the rule	
39	COR Committee	SR	10.3.1.d	-	Beach Start: Athletes will arrange their craft in a line on the beach. If there is not enough space, two or more lines may be used. Athletes will then stand behind a line at the back of their craft until the starter gives the starting signal. If the organizers have made the wearing of a leash compulsory for the event, the leash must be attached to the craft within the first 500 metres after the start.	Paddlers mostly fail to attach their leashes if they have a beach start,	In Favour	Approved the rule	
40	COR Committee	SR	10.3.1.e	Where a simultaneous start is impracticable or undesirable, an interval beach start, stationary water start or rolling water start (either in groups or individually) may be used. The order can be determined by a draw or by seeding;	Where a simultaneous start is impracticable or undesirable, an interval lifesaving start, beach start, stationary water start or rolling water start (either in groups or individually) may be used. The order can be determined by a draw or by seeding;		In Favour	Approved the rule	
41	COR Committee	SR	10.4.1	Beach Start and Stationary Water Start	Lifesaving Start, Beach Start and Water Start	Change beach start to Lifesaving	In Favour	Approved the rule	
42	COR Committee	SR	10.4.3.d	The second warning will result in the imposition of a two (2) minutes penalty;	The second warning will result in the imposition of a two (2) minute penalty;	Grammar	In Favour	Approved the rule	
43	COR Committee	SR	10.5.1	When athletes are racing in a group it is duty of all the athletes in the group to keep clear of each other at all times. This rule applies to any manoeuvring within the group and while slipstreaming. Inadvertent contact between boats should be avoided.	When athletes are racing in a group it is duty of all the athletes in the group to keep clear of each other at all times. This rule applies to any maneuvering within the group and while slipstreaming. Inadvertent contact between boats should be avoided.	Grammar	In Favour	Approved the rule	
44	COR Committee	SR	10.10.6	An athlete suffering from a lower-body disability may, by prior agreement from the Competition Committee, receive assistance at a beach start or at a check point from designated helpers. Provided no advantage is gained from the assistance and provided the athlete leaves or is lifted from his/her boat before the helpers carry the boat.	An athlete suffering from a lower-body disability may, by prior agreement from the Competition Committee, receive assistance at a lifesaving start, a beach start or at a check point from designated helpers. Provided no advantage is gained from the assistance and provided the athlete leaves or is lifted from his/her boat before the helpers carry the boat.	Including all possible starts	In Favour	Approved the rule	
45	COR Committee	SR	10.10.8	-	Paddles may be exchanged if damaged.	This is usual in an Ocean Race	In Favour	Approved the rule	
46	COR Committee	SR	10.11.1	Before an athlete may participate in an ICF recognised event, they must provide a written acknowledgement by his/her federation that the athlete is competent to paddle in open ocean races of the length expected at a World championship.	Before an athlete may participate in an ICF recognised event, they must provide a written acknowledgement by his/her federation that the athlete is competent to paddle in extreme open ocean races of the length expected at a World championship.	The word, (Extreme) has been added. Some nations have very benign open ocean conditions, which will not equip their athletes if they were to compete in a country that had these conditions.	In Favour	Approved the rule	
47	COR Committee	SR	10.11.6	Time bonuses based on actual delays can be awarded to any athlete providing assistance to a fellow participant.	Time bonuses based on actual delays may be awarded to any athlete providing assistance to a fellow participant.	Grammar	In Favour	Approved the rule	
48	COR Committee	PR	10.13.2	Should an athlete/crew have completed a race in a boat which is shown upon inspection does not conform with the ICF rules or other requirements as described by the organisers will be disqualified (DSQ) from the race.	Scratch		In Favour	In Favour	
68	ESP	SR	11.2.1	After the ending of World Championships and all International Canoe Ocean Racing competitions, listed in the ICF Competition Calendar, two (2) copies of the results, protests and appeals must be posted by the HOC to the ICF Headquarters (ICF HQ), one (1) to the Technical Chair, as well as displayed electronically on official websites.	After the ending of World Championships and all International Canoe Ocean Racing competitions, listed in the ICF Competition Calendar, two (2) copies of the results, protests and appeals must be posted by the HOC to the ICF Headquarters (ICF HQ), one (1) to the Technical Chair, as well as displayed electronically on official websites. The results will be published according to the ICF official categories participating in each competition.		In Favour	Approved the rule	

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49	COR Committee	PR	12.2.2	World Championships should be held over a three (3) days period. The races will be held on the day with the best downwind conditions forecast.	World Championships should be held over a three (3) day period. The races will be held on the day with the best downwind conditions forecast, with preference given to the SS1 competition day.	The 3 day window period was agreed on a few years ago. However, there was only an implied manner in which it would be applied	In Favour	In Favour	
50	COR Committee	PR	12.2.5	Entries will be limited to five (5) boats per nation per event. In addition, the first 40 athletes, as reflected on the ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Ranking (per event) and the World Champions from the previous World Championship will also be eligible to participate.	There will be no limit to the number of boats entered per nation.	Open event	In Favour	In Favour	
51	COR Committee	SR	12.4	The drawing of lots for the starting position in each event should be carried out under the control of an ICF Official.	Where possible, the start line should accommodate all competitors. If this is not possible, paddlers will be seeded at the discretion of the race committee, taking into account previous results and current form.	This would be done in the absense of an international ranking list.	In Favour	Approved the rule	
52	COR Committee	SR	12.5	Boats inspection	Safety inspection	Boats do not need to be inspected, Safety gear does.	In Favour	Approved the rule	
53	COR Committee	SR	12.5	The boat controllers will check boats for the required equipment before the start. At the end of the race the first four (4) boats will be checked again.	The boat controllers will check the athletes and boats for the required safety equipment before the start.	Boats do not have any equipment	In Favour	Approved the rule	
54	COR Committee	SR	12.6.3	Courses may be changed at short notice to suit the best downwind conditions on the day of the race.	Courses may be changed at short notice to suit the best downwind and safety conditions on the day of the race.	Added safety	In Favour	Approved the rule	
55	COR Committee	PR	12.8.2	Additional two (2) medals will be awarded to Open Men SS1 and Open Women SS1 where all age groups, which start together and race over the same course, will have combined ranking and results.	Medals will be awarded to the open, U23 and junior categories, in both men and women. All athletes will be included in the open category. It is possible for a junior, master, or U23 competitor to win an open medal, as well as their age group medal. Juniors cannot win an U23 medal. There will be no senior category.	The introduction of the senior class in an open event has created confusion. Some athletes have the potential of winning an open medal, a senior medal and a masters medal in the same race.	In Favour	In Favour	
56	COR Committee	PR	12.8.3	The prizes will be distributed accordingly to the Open Men SS1 and Open Women SS1 ranking. Those medals and ranking will not be included for the Nations cup and Friendships cup calculations.	Scratch		In Favour	In Favour	
57	COR Committee	SR	12.9.3	In a competition with simultaneous starts of different events where prize money can be awarded by scratch result per event.	Scratch		In Favour	Approved the rule	
58	COR Committee and ESP	PR	12.10.1	The Nations Cup will be awarded in accordance with article 1.8.7 using the cumulative results of the first three (3) overall placings for the Senior, U23 and Junior results in both the men and the women.	The Nations Cup will be awarded in accordance with article 1.8.7 using the cumulative results of the first three (3) boats classified in each of the official events indicated in article 12.2.4. Points will be awarded in the following manner: 1st-3 points 2nd-2 points 3rd-1 point	The senior category will be used in the calculation of the Nations cup and the friendship cup	In Favour	In Favour	
70	ESP	PR	12.11.3	Friendship Cup - At the discretion of the HOC, a friendship cup may be awarded. The friendship cup will be determined by the sum of points awarded to the top three (3) athletes, in each age category, from each nation, which will be added to the points awarded to the nations cup.	Friendship Cup - At the discretion of the HOC, a friendship cup may be awarded. The friendship cup will be determined using the cumulative results of the first three (3) boats classified in each of the official events indicated in article 12.11.4, in each age category, from each nation, which will be added to the points awarded to the nations cup.	Points will only be awarded for categories that comply with the requirements to qualify as a world championships	In Favour	In Favour	
59	COR Committee	PR	12.11.4.c	XSS-2 (Mixed surfski double)	XSS-2 (Mixed surfski double). The two athletes may be from different countries.	As with marathon, this gives paddlers from different nations (who would otherwise not have been able to enter) an opportunity to participate and win a medal.	In Favour	In Favour	
60	COR Committee	PR	14.1.4	The Ocean Racing World Cup will be held between the World Championships competitions. There will be a maximum of five (5) competitions per year. Points will be awarded to the athlete per competition according to the point system.	Scratch	Irrelevant	In Favour	In Favour	
61	COR Committee	PR	14.1.5	Only SS-1 events will count for Ocean Racing World Cup ranking points.	Scratch		In Favour	In Favour	

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62	COR Committee	PR	14.2.1	Upon a proposal submitted by the ICF CORC, the ICF Board of Directors may approve the time and place for holding the separate competitions of the Ocean Racing World Cup and World Ranking Points (WRP) international competitions for the upcoming years.	Upon a proposal submitted by the ICF OPC, the ICF Board of Directors may approve the time and place for holding the separate competitions of the Ocean Racing World Cup and international competitions for the upcoming years.		In Favour	In Favour	
63	COR Committee	PR	14.2.2	To receive an ICF World Cup competition a minimum prize money of 2.500 Euros must be provided or prizes of an equivalent value.	Scratch	No longer enforced	In Favour	In Favour	
64	COR Committee	PR	14.3	The Ocean Racing World Cup and WRP competitions must be conducted under the authority of a member of the ICF CORC or their representative.	The Ocean Paddling World Cup competitions must be conducted under the authority of a member of the OPC or their representative.	Name change	In Favour	In Favour	
65	COR Committee	SR	14.4.2	The competition officials for the Canoe Ocean Racing World Cup or WRP International competitions will be nominated by their NFs.	The competition officials for the Ocean Paddling World Cup or International competitions will be nominated by their NFs.	Wording	In Favour	Approved the rule	
66	COR Committee	SR	14.4.3	After the completion of each competition, the organising committee must calculate the classification of the athletes on points in accordance with the adopted system of ranking.	Scratch	Irrelevant	In Favour	Approved the rule	
67	COR Committee	SR	15	ICF Canoe Ocean Racing World Ranking	Scratch the whole paragraph		In Favour	Approved the rule	