



Ruud Heijselaar

Proposed candidate for Chair of the ICF
Marathon Technical Committee

Personal Details:

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 the death of Jørn Cronberg in 2019 appointed temporary chairman of the Marathon Commission and elected chairman at the Congress of Rome in 2022.

I co-founded the marathon committee in the Netherlands in the early 1980s and was a long-time member and chairman of that committee.

I was competition manager for the marathon at the 2013 World Games in Cali and the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, USA.

My main goal for the next four years is to further develop all types of marathons in all parts of the world, so continuing what I started in 2021. The committee should consist of technical members who as individuals have the experience to develop marathons. The committee chair is a function within the committee, but we must do the work as a team. The next 4 years will continue to be dedicated to marathon development in all continents, important steps have already been taken but there are still plenty of challenges and it is important that the committee provides the support to make this happen. The regional advisors (technical delegates) will certainly need to be involved in these developments. Also important remains the cooperation with other committees to ensure that canoeing continues to grow.

Aims and objectives

We are high on the list of canoe disciplines with high ratings in terms of livestreaming, but we aim for more and still have some work to do to make it more interesting for the audience at home and in the stands. Races need to become more competitive and engaging and there are still plenty of challenges to make marathons even more exciting. The excitement of a marathon must be seen by the public; professional broadcasting and live streaming with professional commentary should make that possible. Promotion of the area, subsidizing parties and national federation should receive attention during live streaming and broadcasting.

The short distance marathon was a step forward to make the marathon more attractive and interesting for all paddlers. The next thing is that Para will be paddled as a World Championships race, which will certainly bring challenges, but

in recent years we have had Para as a demonstration race during the World Championships days and we (Para and marathon committee) can now make the step to serious Championships, the Para athletes deserve that.

Also we will have to give attention to the popular sitting C boats in the rest of the world, also not only will the concept of World Championships need attention, but certainly the long distance marathons deserve our attention in the coming time.

In short

- I will involve the committee in working as a "team" to ensure that everyone is involved in the decision-making process.
- I will continue to consult and support continental federations and federations and work as a "team".
- We will continue to develop marathon in all areas of the world, with special focus on Africa, the Americas and Asia.
- Continue to develop marathon masters competition at the World Championships.
- We will make paracanoe, in cooperation with the paracanoe committee, part of the World Championships
- I will look beyond our sport and like to see how other sports are developing and use this where possible to develop marathon
- We will continue to monitor the paddlers who have been part of the Talent Identification Plan (TIP) in the coming years and help them and their coaches by continuing to develop as marathon paddlers/coaches
- We will continue development and exposure to grow the discipline and enable paddlers/federations to develop.
- I enjoy working closely with the ICF staff, athlete committee and the other flatwater committees to make our sport of canoeing better.
- We will continue, with my experience in this discipline, with your support to develop it into the best discipline.
- Implement relay races into the World Championships schedule.
- Continue to add all canoe disciplines to our program, but also focus on Sit Down C1/C2 and Intellectual Disability (Special Olympics) races and children's races.
- Close cooperation with other disciplines to further develop the sport of canoeing.

Sport Information

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

Experience in Canoe sport working area

Member of ICF Marathon Committee 1986 - 2020

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

Member of Dutch marathon Committee 1983 - 2010

Member of national sprint team 1968 - 1970

Organizer Grand Prix Hardenberg 1985 - 1987
Organizer World Cup Hardenberg 1986
Organizer World Championships Amsterdam 1994

Team manager national marathon team Netherlands 1983 - 2010

Competition manager World Games Cali 2013
Competition manager World Games Birmingham (USA)2022
Technical Delegate World Championships 2016 - 2024 and World Cups

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