



# Report

*Always moving forward*

ICF Congress, Pattaya, Thailand

3-5 November 2022

## CANOE OCEAN RACING

NAME:	-	COLIN SIMPKINS
ICF Position:	-	CHAIRMAN – CANOE OCEAN RACING
Committee members	-	Michele Eray
		Rob Jenkinson
		Marian Sarbu
		Raymond Lo

### **1. Major Meetings since last Congress**

- ICF Board Meeting - 21 November - Rome
- ICF Board Meeting - 30 May - Poland
- ICF Ocean Racing Committee Meetings:
  - 23 November 2021 - Zoom
  - 2 February 2022 - Zoom
  - 8 March 2022 - Zoom
  - 19 April 2022 - Zoom
  - 29 June 2022 – Zoom

Introduced the practise of having an agenda and minutes available for all meetings.

## **2. *Tasks undertaken for this period***

- Formulation of extensive amendments to the Canoe Ocean Racing rules. These have been submitted to the board and approved.
- Formulation of a standardized proficiency system. To be discussed with the ICF staff for incorporation in the SDP system.
- Research into a standardized tracking system that can be made available to all race organizers for ICF sanctioned events.
- Proposed amendments to the ICF technical deliverables.
- Revamp of the Ocean Racing page on the ICF website.
- Negotiations with the organizers of the 2022 and 2023 ICF Ocean Racing World Championships.
- The incorporation of an online ITO qualification system whereby candidates can write exams electronically, without having to attend a course. The entire Ocean Racing committee are now qualified ITO's. An ITO course will be held at the World Championships in Portugal, allowing more officials to become qualified.

## **3. *Issues and main points of report***

- Unlike other disciplines, Canoe Ocean Racing does not require a large number of officials. Most of the event occurs out in the ocean. The discipline does, however, have a far greater safety risk than any of the other disciplines. The race director plays an extremely important role in the determination of the assessment of the prevailing conditions and the available options. The race director cannot merely be a qualified ITO with knowledge of the appropriate statues and rules. They need to have an in depth knowledge of the ocean and local conditions. To this end, it is planned to introduce a new level of qualification. This "Race Director" qualification will be achieved based on previous experience and the input of the national federation. A proposal is that each ICF sanctioned event will be required to have at least one qualified race director in attendance. A list of qualified Race Directors will be added to the SDP system.
- The proposed amendments to the technical deliverables for the discipline will include a request for a waiving (or reduction) of the eu10 000 hosting fee that is a requirement of the ICF for a World Championships. The rationale behind the proposal is that very few ICF officials are required at an Ocean Race, and that the fee poses a barrier to smaller and less affluent federations being willing to bid for the event.
- Having the proposed rule changes passed by the congress in November.

## **4. *Future Initiatives and tasks***

- The finalization of a standardized proficiency system
- The finalization of a standardized tracking device.
- A greater incorporation of para paddlers into the discipline.
- The incorporation of the new tier of official (Race Director)
- Providing value to the federations and therefore achieving an increase in the number of bids for ICF sanctioned events.
- Identifying regions where a sustainable development program can be implemented.
- The formulation of a forum, comprising of representatives from as many active Ocean Racing federations as possible, to provide input and suggestions, so that decisions are not made in a vacuum.
- Provide support to the ICF in their bid to have Ocean Racing incorporated into the Commonwealth Games and other multi coded events such as the Mediteranian Beach Games.