

ICF PARACANOE for 2021

Bulletin #1

February 2021

Topics in this Bulletin cover the following items:

Paracanoe Events

- EVENTS:
 - List of 2021 Paracanoe events
 - Detailed schedule of events
- TOKYO PARALYMPICS
- COVID-19 Measures

Classification

- Status on Paralympic Quotas
- Scheduling for classification
- Athlete Classification – General information
- Required Documents for Classification

Reminder of important points

- Safety of Strapping Devices
- Anti-Doping Education
- Paracanoe Racing Rules
 - Equipment passport –how to measure the footrest
- Paracanoe Administration Fees
- Late Entries

Update on other points

- Para-PanAm application
- Paris 2024

Paracanoe development

2021 PARACANOE COMPETITIONS:

2021 ICF WORLD CUP (Last Paralympic Qualifier)

SZEGED, Hungary

- Classification period: 8-11 May
- Team Leader Meeting: 12 May
- Competition: 13-15 May

- ICF event page : <https://www.canoeicf.com/paracanoe-world-cup/szeged-2021>
- Organizer 1st Bulletin: https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2021_icf_canoe_sprint_and_paracanoe_world_cup_and_european_olympic_qualifier_-_bulletin_1.pdf
- Organizer website : <https://szeged2021.com/>

2021 ECA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

DUISBURG, Germany

- Classification: 29 May -31 May
- Team Leader Meeting: 1 June
- Competition: 2 - 5 June
- ICF event page: <https://www.canoeicf.com/paracanoe-continental-championships/duisburg-2021>
- Preliminary schedule : <https://www.canoe-europe.org/documents#sprint>

TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES

TOKYO, Japan

- Competition: 2 - 4 September

- ICF Event page : <https://www.canoeicf.com/paracanoe-paralympics/tokyo-2020>
- IPC page: <https://www.paralympic.org/tokyo-2020>
- Tokyo2020 page: <https://tokyo2020.org/en/>

2021 ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

- Classification: 11-13 September
- Team Leader Meeting: 14 September
- Competition: 15 - 18 September

- Event page : <https://www.canoeicf.com/paracanoe-world-cup/szeged-2021>
- Organizer 1st Bulletin: <https://www.canoeicf.com/paracanoe-world-championships/copenhagen-2021>

DETAILED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2021 COMPETITIONS

2021 ICF WORLD CUP (Last Paralympic Qualifier) – Szeged, HUN.

Saturday 8 May	Sunday 9 May	Monday 10 May	Tuesday 11 May	Wednesday 12 May	Thursday 13 May	Friday 14 May	Saturday 15 May
Classification	Classification	Classification	Classification	Team Leader Meeting	Races	Races	Races

- Classification preferred dates will be asked through a poll from **April 12**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best effort to accommodate everyone
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **April 16**
→ New athletes will be required to send medical documents **March 15** for early review by classifiers
- **ALL Classification Documents must be uploaded by April 23**
- **Nominal entries deadline: April 29**
- **Equipment Passports must be sent by May 4**

2021 ECA PARACANOE CHAMPIONSHIPS – Duisburg, GER.

Saturday 29 May	Sunday 30 May	Monday 31 May	Tuesday 1 June	Wednesday 2 June	Thursday 3 June	Friday 4 June	Saturday 5 June
Classification	Classification	Classification	Team Leader Meeting	Races	Races	Races	Races

- Classification preferred dates can be requested through a poll from **May 3**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best effort to accommodate everybody
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **May 7**
- All **Classification Documents must be uploaded by May 14**
- **Nominal entries deadline: May 24**
- **Equipment Passports must be sent by May 25**

2021 ICF PARACANOE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Copenhagen, DEN.

Saturday 11 September	Sunday 12 September	Monday 13 September	Tuesday 14 September	Wednesday 15 September	Thursday 16 September	Friday 17 September	Saturday 18 September
Classification	Classification	Classification	Team Leader Meeting	Races	Races	Races	Races

- Classification preferred dates can be requested through a poll from **August 16**
 - Classification schedule will be communicated directly to the team leaders
 - Selected preferred dates are not guaranteed, but we do our best efforts to accommodate everyone.
- **Medical Diagnosis Documents** must be uploaded by **August 20**
- All **Classification Documents must be uploaded by August 27**
- **Nominal entries deadline: September 1**
- **Equipment Passports must be sent by September 8**

COVID-19 MEASURES

General COVID-19 guidelines have been developed for ICF competitions, and will be used as a base for each specific competition – taking into consideration the situation at the time worldwide and in the country, as well as the specific applicable measures in the host country.

The COVID-19 Measures for each event should be published through the organizer bulletin.

COVID-19 Measures for the classification area

Safety measures and precautions are being put in place for the classifications. The classification team will follow the IPC guidelines in respect to the COVID-19 situation.

This will result in:

- Avoiding too many persons in the waiting area
- Mandatory mask in the classification area
- Disinfectant use for athletes’ hands, Classifiers hands, cleaning all material and tables after a single use, disinfecting any area touched during classification (including equipment adaption or prosthesis)
- Non-latex gloves for classifiers (used for only one classification)

The athlete and accompanying personal will be asked to attend classification with their own masks.

Ongoing evaluation of the COVID-19 Situation in relation to event organization

The ICF is continuously assessing the situation, and have put in place the following timeline for key step of the assessment:

	Date	Action
1st step	3 months prior to an ICF competition	Review feasibility ICF / HOC Confirmation or Cancellation
2nd step	2 months prior to an ICF competition	Review feasibility ICF / HOC Confirmation or Cancellation
3rd step	Weekly review <i>ICF / HOC COVID19 protocol to be finalised for 1st publication at least 1 month prior the competition</i>	

The updates about the ICF calendar will be continuously communicated, and will appear on the ICF website:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/coronavirus-COVID-19-updates-canoekayak-events>

2020 TOKYO PARALYMPIC GAMES (2021):

Please take in consideration the following document concerning the Paralympic Games:

- [Freight Support Plan](#)
(will be updated shortly with new dates. Paracanoes boat collection will be done at Szeged, Hungary)
- [Tokyo 2020 Athlete Sponsorship and Advertising Guidelines](#)

PARACANOE PARALYMPIC QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

The updated qualification system has been published by the International Paralympic Committee. It can be found on the IPC website.

It is also published on the ICF website:

https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2020_06_02_tokyo_qg_-_canoe.pdf

Note: To be eligible to qualify an athlete position for a National Paralympic Committee, the athlete must have an eligible Status of “Confirmed” or “Review with Fixed Date” with the date after the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games (2021).

ICF CONTINGENCY PLAN CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATION:

In case of a cancellation of the last qualifier (Szeged 2021) due to the COVID-19 situation, the ICF will consider the following options (upon approval of the IPC and Relevant organizers):

- The ICF will first investigate if a later competition could host the last Paralympic Qualifier, in the appropriate conditions and fairness.
- If no event could be organized properly and on time, the ICF will then consider the 2019 World Championship results to allocate the remaining quotas for the Paralympic Games.

CLASSIFICATION STATUS FOR THE PARALYMPICS

The Paracanoe committee would like to remind everyone about the following eligibility criteria:

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must:

- *be internationally classified either with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2021,*
- and*
- *have competed in the 2019 ICF Paracanoe World Championships or the 2021 ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 (Paralympic Qualifier).*

Athletes who had earned an athlete slot for their NPC at the 2019 World Championships and have since become ineligible must attend Athlete Classification at the Second World Qualifier at the Szeged World Cup in May, 2021.

If the Second Qualifier is cancelled, the ICF will organize an out-of-competition Athlete Classification Camp for athletes with current Review Status (ineligible) and whose NPC's have received an Athlete Quota Slot for Tokyo 2020 in order for them to achieve eligibility, dependent upon their subsequent Classification evaluation.

An athlete with a Review Status will not be able to earn a quota for its NPC at the last qualifier.

ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION

Athletes with one of the following statuses are required to pass the classification before the competition:

- "REVIEW Status with a Fixed Review Date" before the Competition
- "REVIEW Status" or
- "New Status"

The classification schedule will be organized through a classification poll, through which the Team will be able to choose a preferred date for the athlete's classification.

The detailed schedule will be communicated to each Team Leader / NF / NPC a few days after the classification pool has closed.

If an athlete fails to attend his/her classification slot, he/she will not be classified and will not be permitted to race.

PLEASE NOTE: Athletes and all their equipment are expected to be present for the entire Classification Period. Athletes must be classified separately for Kayak and Va'a.

New Athletes

In order to anticipate most of the preparation for the Athlete Classification and for having a preliminary review based on medical documentation and pictures/videos, we request the NFs / NPC's to send the **medical documents in advance, by March 15th**, of the following athletes:

- Any new athlete
- Any athlete required by the classifier team
- Any athlete in current Review Status that the NFs consider as an uncertain class

- Any athlete in current Review Status that have had a change of his/her impairment or of his physical mobility.

Platform for uploading classification documents:

The Classification platform has to be used for uploading documents to the ICF Classifiers. No document should be sent by email or any other form

This platform allows a more secure and confidential transfer of documents, as well as a secure storage. It is compliant with the IPC Code on data protection.

- All mandatory documents should be uploaded on this platform before the specific deadline.
- An access will be required for log-in to the system. If you need a new access, please send an email to michel.alarcon@canoeicf.com
- The preferred format for all documents is PDF

Access to the *Classification Upload Platform*:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/classification>

Link to current Master List:

https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/classification_master_list.pdf

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR CLASSIFICATION

Athletes attending classification at competitions must upload the following Paracanoe forms on the *Classification upload platform* before the classification period, with the following deadlines:

Not later than 3 weeks before the start of the classification period of the Competition (*unless otherwise indicated* – **NOTE: by March 15th for the Second World Qualifier at the Szeged World Cup for new athletes.)**

- Paracanoe Athlete Certificate of Diagnosis
- Athlete Diagnosis Form
- Any/All other supporting medical documentation

Not later than 2 weeks before the start of the Classification period of the Competition:

- Declaration of Medical Complications & Emergency Measures
- Paracanoe Athlete Information & Consent
- Strapping waiver – this document will be valid for the whole 2021 season
- PFD waiver - this document will be valid for the whole 2021 season

Not later than 3 days before the event or before the Classification:

- Equipment passport for Kayak – if the athlete competes in a Kayak category
- Equipment passport for Va'a – if the athlete competes in a Va'a category

All documents must be completed in English.

Athlete Certificate of Diagnosis must be completed in English and signed by a medical doctor. It should also include supporting medical diagnostic documentation. In complex cases, additional supporting medical information may be requested.

The forms are available to download from the ICF Website in the Paracanoe area – in the classification page:

<http://www.canoeicf.com/discipline/paracanoe>

Any athlete who is entered in an event for which he/she has no classification will not be permitted to race.

Paracanoe athletes may enter more than one event if their classification makes them eligible to do so and the schedule permits. (NOTE: Athletes are not permitted to compete outside their classification category, ie. A KL1 category athlete may not race 'up' into KL2)

NF's are required to provide their own boats for their classification. The ICF is unable to provide a boat loan service. Federations who need to borrow boats for the competition or for classification should make boat loan arrangements early with boat manufacturers or event organizers.

EQUIPMENT PASSPORT

ALL athletes competing **MUST** complete and upload an equipment passport on the *classification upload platform*.

If the equipment passports are not completed and uploaded, the athlete will not be allowed to race. The equipment passports will be checked during classification and before each race. If the equipment does not match the equipment passports, the athlete will not be allowed to race.

If the athlete has sent an equipment passport before but has changed some equipment, a new equipment passport must be uploaded on the *classification upload platform* and the changes must be specified.

If the athlete has been given a Confirmed Status and are changing the equipment, the Chief Classifier will determine if the changes are approved.

The equipment passport form is available to download from the Paracanoe section of the ICF website.

SAFETY OF STRAPPING DEVICES

Strapping regulations : Rule 3.5.2 of Paracanoe Competition Rules

"....Any strapping used to connect the athlete with the boat must be of a "quick release" type and this can be demonstrated by the athlete prior to the competition."

The Paracanoe Committee conducted an analysis about boat strapping adaptations (rule 3.5.2) during the last Tokyo Test Event (September 2019).

This analysis showed that most of the athletes' adaptations are consistent with the rule about strapping in the boat. Unfortunately, some athletes do not appear to follow the expected safety requirements of "quick release". Inappropriate straps are potentially dangerous for the athletes in the event of a capsizing.

The Paracanoe Committee strongly reminds all National Federations and Team Leaders of their responsibility in this matter.

We require all nations and athletes to ensure their full compliance with the safety rules.

ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION

For the ICF World Cups and ICF World Championships, every Paracanoe athlete must pass the anti-doping online course. The course can be accessed here:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/anti-doping-education>

The Athlete Learning Program about Health and Anti-Doping (ALPHA) gives athletes information about the dangers of doping, the importance of anti-doping controls and promotes positive attitudes to avoiding doping.

It consists of eight sessions and takes two hours to complete. Athletes are encouraged to take the course in several stages. Progress is then saved from one visit to another. A pre- and post-course anti-doping knowledge test and attitude survey is included to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

A score of 80% or higher is required for ALPHA certification, though athletes with insufficient scores are able to repeat the program until they achieve the minimum 80% score. Those who have completed the programme in previous years do not need to redo it.

Please enter the correct identity information while creating an account, as the completion of the course will be recorded.

PARACANOE RACING RULES

For a full reading of the ICF Paracanoe Competition Rules and Classification Rules & Regulations, go to:

<http://www.canoeicf.com/discipline/paracanoe>

NOTABLE RULES for PARACANOE

(see Paracanoe Rulebook & Classification Rules for exact wording.)

A 20 euros fee will be charged for every late entry, under the condition that the entry is accepted by the Paracanoe Committee.

A 200 euro fee must accompany each Protest of a Classification.

A 75 euro fee must accompany each Protest of a Competition Rule.

National Federations are permitted two entries in all Paracanoe events.

Athletes are only permitted to race in the class in which they are classified; i.e. A KL1 category athlete can only race in KL1.

Spray skirts/Spray decks are not permitted for Paracanoe classification or Paracanoe races unless approved by the Chief Official due to inclement weather conditions. Kayaks are only permitted to have one rudder under the hull. Hence, skegs and/or projecting keels are not permitted. Rudders may be fixed.

Kayaks will be allowed weed deflectors in front of the rudder.

Only stabilizing pontoons are permitted as modifications for stability. Va'a hulls are permitted to be concave. Rudders, skegs and projecting keels are not permitted.

Boat Dimensions & Weight (ICF Paracanoe Competition Rules – Section 7.2)

Boats	Kayak	Va'a
Max. length	520	730
Min. width	50*	
Min. weight	12	13**

NOTE: * measured 10 cm from the bottom of the hull.

**Including hull, ama & iatco

All measurements in cm and all weights in kg.

PARACANOE ADMINISTRATION FEES

Paracanoe teams attending the ICF World Cups & ICF World Championships are subject to the fees noted in the table below. Fees will be calculated from the ICF's SDP entry system and will be invoiced by the ICF office after the event directly to each National Federation. Payment by cash during the competition is also possible.

Team Size	Euros
Less than 4	100
Less than 8	200
Less than 12	300
12 or more	400

2021 PARACANOE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the development program for Paracanoe has been put on hold in 2020.

In 2019 - 2020, ICF Paracanoe had organized webinars featuring the introduction to the sport and the basis of classification, through video calls in different languages and targeted for countries with lower knowledge of the sport that are aiming to grow the sport.

Some Paracanoe introductory documents have been developed in several languages, in order to help as many countries possible to run introduction classes or webinar for their coaches / members. The Paracanoe experts remain available for sharing the knowledge with the developing countries.
<https://www.canoeicf.com/disciplines/paracanoe>

Further materials are planned to be developed for helping all stakeholders to develop the sport through better knowledge.

We are hoping to resume some development activities from this year.

Szeged 2021 – Athlete Support Programme (To be confirmed):

- The selection of athletes is based on a continuous long-term plan, and is not subject to open application
- Further information will be sent to the selected NFs when the project is confirmed

West Africa – This project will be resume when the situation will be safe, possibly in 2022

- An athlete camp will be organized with participants from 4 countries of West Africa: Nigeria, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana.
- This camp is part of a wider project that aims to develop the sport and the paracanoe knowledge in the Region. This project is supported by AGITOS, and is in collaboration with the International Rowing Federation.
- Classification Education will also be conducted to develop Paracanoe expert in the region

Regional development:

Several regional development projects had to be cancelled. When the conditions will be good again, we will restart discussing those projects with the interested stakeholders.

Ocean Racing, Marathon, Waveski

There have been developments to have Paracanoe events within these paddling disciplines. The Covid-19 pandemic has played havoc with these projects. We hope to resume expansion into these disciplines as soon as there is some return to normalcy in international travel.

Update on other points

2022 Asian Games

Paracanoe has been added into the Sport Program of the 2022 Asian Games.

The details about the number of event and the number of quotas has not yet being communicated. The qualification system is currently being develop.

This information will be communicated as soon as they are confirmed.

2023 Para-PanAm Games application

Unfortunately, Paracanoe has not been included in the 2023 Para-PanAm Games. It has been considered that the sport is not practiced at an elite level in enough countries.

We will be looking to further develop the sport in the region, and will apply for the next edition of the Para-PanAm Games (2027).

Paris 2024

The ICF and Paracanoe committee have applied for increasing the number of events and quotas for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. The final decision on the specific medal events programme and corresponding athlete quotas has not yet been communicating.

According to the IPC Handbook Paralympic Games Chapter:

“ The medal events programme and corresponding athlete quotas will ordinarily be decided no later than 36 months prior to the relevant Paralympic Games. ”

The ICF and Paracanoe committee applied for the following (in order of priority).

- 1/ Adding the VL3 Women category in the program – with the main objective of reaching Gender balance in the event program
- 2/ An increase of 2 quotas (from 10 to 12 entries) for our 4 most popular events (Men’s KL2 and KL3, Women’s KL3 and Men’s VL3) and keeping 10 entries for the other events.

For the two categories for athletes with high support needs (VL1 Women and Men), the current participation is unfortunately too low to apply for Paris 2024. It remains however a key objective of development, and will continue encouraging the National Federation and NPC to develop these categories and increase participation in international competition.

Questions:

If you have any question, please contact Michel Alarcon – ICF Paracanoe Manager:

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or

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