



Report

ICF Ordinary Congress
Pattaya, Thailand
3-5 November 2022

Name of the BoD Member: PRONO, Jean Michel

Function on BoD: Chair of the Canoe Slalom Technical Committee

Committee Members: Sue Natoli (AUS), Meritxell Rodriguez (ESP), Alena Maskova (CZE), Arpornpan Buapat (THA)

Committee Advisors: Eric Lokken (USA), Colin Woodgate (GBR), Daniele Molmenti (ITA), Eric Jackson, (USA), Hans-Peter Weiss (GER)

1. Major events since last ICF Congress

2022 ECA CSL Championships, 26-29 May 2022, Mikulas (SVK) Observer programme with the new ICF Technical Manager, Thomas Rosset.

At all events attended, for the first time in 18 years, I was not acting as an ITO but as the Chair of the Committee with availability to meet all stakeholders and liaise with the HOC and organising federation.

2022 ICF CSL World Cup series, attended 3 stages, Krakow (POL), Pau (FRA) and Final in Seo de Urgell (ESP).

2022 ICF CSL Jun /U23 World Championships, Ivrea (ITA), 05-10 July 2022

44 NFs participating, 377 athletes

2022 ICF CSL World Championships, Augsburg (GER), 26-31 July 2022. 51 NFs participating, 300 athletes

For the 50th anniversary of the Munich Olympic Games and on a completely refurbished venue, the DKV and host organizing committee have delivered a very high standard competition. Sport wise with incredible competitions in all events and host nation athletes rewarding the passion of a crowded stand.

After 2 seasons behind close doors, what a pleasure to feel again the public sharing their emotions and pushing the athletes at their best!!

28 000 tickets sold with a limited capacity to 7300 / day because of the Covid

19 public capacity restriction. These figures tell us how popular could be the discipline.

Congratulations to all people involved and thank you for presenting the sport of Canoeing at this level.

2. Tasks undertaken since the last ICF Congress

Preparation /coordination of the main CSL events for 2022 season

In cooperation with COPAC, Continental Games Santiago 2023.

World cups series and World championships 2022 (7 competitions)

As previous seasons, two major actions have been achieved with HOC's:

- Regular conference call meetings with HOC's
- Produce template documentation for all HOC's & stakeholders to guide their work and standardize the procedures and delivery of the competitions.

All competitions have been successful and ran smoothly. No major Covid restriction from the different authorities and only few cases declared within teams and immediately withdrawn from the competition and isolated.

ORIS meeting, 11-13 April 2022, Montreux (SUI)

As for each Olympic cycle, the discipline's Technical Delegate and concerned IF staff (Narelle Henderson, Thomas Rosset) are invited to a complete review of the Olympic Results Management services and print out. This is the opportunity to improve and refine all procedures for the discipline in term of scoring, results processing and communication to all stakeholders. This edition has been also dedicated to establish the newly Olympic Kayak cross format.

For Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the ICF CSL Timing scoring and results service provider, Siwidata, will be the contracted OG services provider by OMEGA, confirming their "state of the art" expertise and recognized professionalism.

Equipment homologation (continue from the previous period 2018/2021)

The ICF regularly passes to national or international sport stakeholders (e.g. Organising committees for Olympic Games, Continental Games, National Federations) a list of technical products and their recognized providers specific to canoe slalom.

The ICF has produced a manual defining the specifications of this equipment. When the manufacturers want to supply equipment they can refer to this manual, ensuring equipment is standard across ICF competitions. It also allows manufacturers to homologate new equipment to meet the required specifications.

Through the homologation process the ICF wants to reinforce the quality control of the technical products and create a strong link with the providers. For example, Paris 2024 LOCOG, for the first time in Canoeing, will select equipment sole providers from this manufacturer's pool.

CSL Equipment homologated so far: Gate poles, crossbar, CSLX; start platform, Gates buoys.

Venue homologation (continue from the previous introduction period)

The ICF Technical Manager and Headquarters have produced a manual describing the ICF homologation process for the canoe slalom / white water stadium.

The homologation process is conducted by an ICF expert panel (ICF Technical committee members, ICF staff, external advisors) nominated by the ICF Secretary General.

The homologation process takes place in two stages:

Stage 1: Homologation technical file to be completed by the applicant

Stage 2: Homologation session with site visit and production of a report

All ICF competition venues hosting level 1 and 2 competitions have to be homologated. New venue bidding for this competition level has to be homologated prior to the bid being sent to ICF HQ.

For more information regarding this section see:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/disciplines/canoe-slalom/venues>

3. Issues and Main Points for the function since last ICF Congress

Slalom and White water Technical Manager recruitment and integration in the ICF headquarter.

Thomas Rosset has been given the position by the end of 2021 with a contract starting 2nd of May. Thomas was committed with another working contract till the end of April 2022, however he has been attending meetings with the committee and working with Cyril Nivel in order to participate effectively to the season preparation.

The observation of the 2022 ECA CSL championships has been a great induction to the tasks that will be in the scope of his job. Further more the contact with the Timing Scoring service provider and the observation of the setting has been of a great help to prepare the World cups season.

His adaptation was prompt and with the support of the Technical committee

members, Thomas was already able to deliver an efficient support in his key areas of responsibility even in the first part of the season.

Covid 19 management for 2022 CSL competitions

2022 ICF Covid 19 protocol guidelines

From March 2022, the situation in Europe with the sanitary crisis has less impacted the sport activity and the ICF competitions in particular. However the ICF Board and the Headquarters have maintained the precautions toward the health of athletes, officials and organizers with the elaboration of the 2022 ICF Covid 19 protocol guidelines

In cooperation with Jane Gibson from the ICF Medical committee, Thomas Rosset and the Technical committee have produced a slightly amended Covid 19 protocol guideline for the Organisers and participating National Federations. This season the key principle of the ICF protocol was to work on basis of the participant's responsibility and trust them to monitor cautiously their health by self-testing before and during competition. Each accredited group, Athletes and Team staff, ICF family and HOC staff and volunteers, being tested at their initiative and reporting to the ICF Covid Officer Thomas Rosset for further counter measures.

All the 2022 ICF CSL World Cups and World Championships have also been successfully delivered under this protocol registering only few scattered teams members infection with no major consequence on the competition delivery.

Athlete's Representatives new team elected in Augsburg 2022

Eilidh Gibson (GBR) and Jiri Prskavec (CZE)

Kayak Cross (former Extreme Canoe Slalom) on the road to Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The format has been improving with a number of World Cup tests and four World Championships organised from 2017 to 2021 (2020 was cancelled due to Covid sanitary situation)

Due to the new Olympic event status after the introduction in the Paris 2024 Olympic programme, new rules for the 2021 season were developed to clarify and strengthen some areas.

Specifically,

- Safety rules
- Scoring system
- Judging criteria's
- Competition results calculation system

This is why a rules evolution was exceptionally proposed and supported by the ICF board, to be experimented during the 2022 season, to consolidate the final CSLX rules proposal to be approved by the 2022 ICF Congress.

Special attention has been given to the equipment evolution:

- Buoys length increased to 2m, better marking (number and direction)
- Roll barrier and definition of a clearer rule
- Automated start system developed with a German manufacturer (Settele) to build the prototype finally used at the 2022 World championships in Augsburg.

- Helmet, PFD's: ICF specifications and equipment register defined for dedicated / adapted CSLX helmet and PFD's.

IJCSL program - online training and assessment during 2022 Season April 2022 – June 2022

- Delivered 2 online seminar and assessment programs 4+6=10 total candidates (8 successful 1 failed)

Assessed 16 candidates for the practical component, 8 from previous seminar pending of going for practical component at ICF competitions.

15 successful and completed the IJCSL certification.

- Delivered 1 "in person" seminar and assessment programs at the 2022 ICF World championships in Augsburg. 4 candidates all passed.

The CSL online training package consist of:

- Revision quizzes (CSL & Extreme Competition rules, ICF Statutes, CSL & Extreme video examples) available at <https://www.canoeicf.com/disciplines/canoe-slalom/officials>
- Seminar program
- Rules, statutes, video assessment tools using a "Proprofs". Sample CSL assessment available at <https://bit.ly/CSL-2021>
- Practical component to be completed once competitions return to a more normal situation

Thanks to Colin Woodgate (GBR) for his work on the development and delivery of the IJCSL and associated projects and Hoichan KWON (ICF) for maintaining the database and IT support.

4. Future Initiatives and recommendations to be considered

2025 CSL Rules evolution

Sport for Climate action framework must be our bottom line when searching for giving new orientations for the next two Olympic cycle.

Timeline for the stakeholder consultation and elaboration of the rules changes proposal to the ICF Board by march 2024.

Implement a special plan with actions to reboot the international CSL calendar with a supportive approach to a continental (regional) competition organisation.

CSL and White water disciplines "Development Programme" to be re installed. There is a role for a Continental Talent Developer to be promoted allowing a closer and permanent contact with identified developing NF's and talented athletes.

Olympic agenda

- Paris 2024 preparation with a special attention to Extreme Canoe Slalom's first appearance being a success
- Los Angeles 2028 CSL venue to be secured currently working on an existing "offset venue" option, Oklahoma
- Continental Games (Asia 2023, Pan Am and European 2023) preparation with respective Continental associations

2026 Youth Games, format definition, continental qualification system

Assist with development of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games as required especially finalize the field of play selection for CSL at Saly beach.

JM PRONO, October 2022