



INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

CANOE MARATHON

COMPETITION RULES

2025

Taking effect from 1 January 2025

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide the rules that govern:

- a) Canoe Marathon
- b) The organisation of Canoe Marathon competitions

LANGUAGE

British English is the recognised language for all communication relating to these competition rules and the conduct of all canoeing international competitions.

Any word which may imply the masculine gender also includes the feminine.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright belongs to the ICF.

These rules may be photocopied.

The original version of this rule book can be found on the ICF website www.canoeicf.com.

RULES STRUCTURE

ICF Sport Governance Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Rules applicable to all disciplines• Exactly the same wording contained in the first chapter of each rule book	[CR]
ICF Principle Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The principle is applicable to all disciplines• Rules tailor made for each discipline• The principle affects all NFs to a high extent	[PR]
ICF Sport Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition and Field of Play rules• All technical aspects specific to the disciplines	[SR]

RULES DECISION PROCESS

ICF Sport Governance Rules [CR]

	Congress	Board of Directors	Technical Committee	National Federations
Proposal		X	X	X
Drafting Wording		X		
Discussion	X			
Vote	X			

ICF Principle Rules [PR]

	Congress	Board of Directors	Technical Committee	National Federations
Proposal		X	X	X
Drafting Wording		X		
Discussion	X			
Vote	X Overall policy and direction	X Final wording after congress		

ICF Sport Rules [SR]

	Congress	Board of Directors	Technical Committee	National Federations
Proposal			X	X
Drafting Wording			X	
Discussion		X		
Vote		X		

PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW OF ICF RULES

The year prior to the Congress	<i>May to November</i>	Consultation with all stakeholders (e.g., athletes, coaches, officials) about rule changes needed.
	<i>December to First (1st) of March</i>	Rule proposals by National Federations and ICF Technical Committees.
The year of the Congress	<i>March</i>	Analysis of all proposals by ICF Technical Committees.
	First (1 st) ICF Board of Directors meeting in <i>March / April</i>	Vote of the sport rules [SR]. Assessment of sport governance rules [CR] and principle rules [PR].
	At least three (3) months prior to the Congress	Publication of the approved sport rules [SR] by the ICF Board of Directors. Publication of the assessed sport governance rules [CR] and principle rules [PR].
	ICF Congress <i>November / December</i>	Vote of the sport governance rules [CR]. Vote of the main policies and directions concerning the principle rules [PR].
	Board of Directors meeting after the Congress <i>November / December</i>	Vote of the principle rules [PR].
	First (1 st) of January After the Congress	Publication and application of the approved rule changes.

GLOSSARY

Sport	The sport is canoeing, kayaking and all paddling activities.
National Federation	Member National Federation of the International Canoe Federation.
Discipline	A discipline is a branch of a sport comprising one (1) or several events (e.g., Canoe Sprint, Canoe Slalom...).
Competition	The competition runs from the start of the first event to the completion of the last event of a discipline, excluding the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
Athlete or player	Male or female athlete. In Canoe Polo refer to a player.
Gender	Men or Women
Boat/board	A boat/board is the watercraft used to practice canoeing (e.g., canoe, kayak, SUP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single boat/board: a boat/board with only one (1) place for an athlete (e.g. kayak single); • A crew boat/board: a boat/board with more than one (1) place for an athlete (e.g. canoe four).
Age group	e.g., junior, under 21, under 23, masters depending on each discipline
Category	A category is defined by a boat/board and a gender (e.g., Men Kayak, Mixed Canoe).
Class	A class is defined by a category and the number of places in a boat/board (e.g., men kayak double; women canoe four).
Event	An event is a contest in one (1) discipline resulting in the award of medals. An event is defined by at least a class and depending on the competition and the discipline with the additional optional information: a distance and / or an age group (e.g., junior men's kayak double 500m, under 23 women's kayak single, men's canoe double classic).

Type of event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual events: A boat/board comprised of one (1) or more athletes competing against other boats/boards. • Team events: two (2) or more boats/boards competing together against other teams.
Event Phase	A stage of competition (e.g., preliminaries, heats, semifinal, final).
Groups	Denoting one section (usually 5-10 athletes) that paddle in reverse ranked sequence for each run in a phase.
Run or race or match	The basic unit of an event phase (e.g., heats 1 st run, semifinal, final).
Competition programme	The list of events included in a competition.
Competition schedule	The complete list of events and their different phases with the time at which they will be held.
International Technical Official	Oversee the operation of the competition.
Host Organising Committee	The host organising committee can be a National Federation or a subsidiary or a third party organisation specialising in competition management.
Definition of meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may: optional • should: recommendation • must: mandatory / compulsory
Sport Class (only paracanoe book)	A Sport Class is a category defined by ICF Paracanoe in the Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an eligible impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ICF	International Canoe Federation
NF	National Federation
CAMC	Canoe Marathon Committee
ICF HQ	International Canoe Federation Headquarters
CR	Sport Governance Rules
PR	Principle Rules
SR	Sport Rules
HOC	Host Organising Committee
ITO	International Technical Official
DNS	Did Not Start
DSQ	Disqualified for the event
DNF	Did Not Finish
DQB	Disqualified for the whole competition for Unsportsmanlike Behaviour
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency
LAP	Lapped
IWGA	International World Games Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 - SPORT GOVERNANCE	13
1.1 - International competitions	[CR] 13
1.2 - International competition calendar	[CR] 13
1.3 - Athlete eligibility for ICF competition (level 1 to 3)	[CR] 14
1.4 - Age group	[CR] 15
1.5 - Athlete sporting nationality change	[CR] 15
1.6 - Entries process	[CR] 16
1.7 - Validity of a competition.....	[CR] 18
1.8 - ICF World Championships (level 1)	[CR] 18
1.9 - Masters World Championships (level 4).....	[CR] 20
1.10 - Anti-doping.....	[CR] 20
1.11 - Appeal to the ICF Board of Directors	[CR] 20
1.12 - Disqualification for serious unsportsmanlike behaviour	[CR] 21
1.13 - Results	[CR] 21
1.14 - Trademarks and advertising.....	[CR] 21
1.15 - International Technical Official (ITO) - examination	[CR] 22
1.16 - ITO - nomination for ICF competitions	[CR] 23
CHAPTER 2 - INTRODUCTION.....	24
2.1 - Objective	[PR] 24
2.2 - International competitions	[PR] 24
CHAPTER 3 - ATHLETE EQUIPMENT	25
3.1 - Boats specifications	[PR] 25
3.2 - Construction.....	[PR] 25
3.3 - Kayaks	[PR] 26
3.4 - Canoes.....	[PR] 26
3.5 - Pumps.....	[SR] 26
3.6 - Safety equipment	[SR] 26
3.7 - Identifications and Advertising Trademarks	[PR] 27
CHAPTER 4 - COMPETITION PROGRAMME.....	28
4.1 - Boats and distances	[PR] 28
CHAPTER 5 - COMPETITION FORMAT	29
5.1 - Format.....	[SR] 29
CHAPTER 6 - INVITATIONS AND ENTRIES	30
6.1 - Invitations.....	[PR] 30
6.2 - Entries	[PR] 30

CHAPTER 7 - COMPETITION OFFICIALS	31
7.1 - Competition officials..... [SR]	31
7.2 - Duties of the Competition Committee	[SR] 32
7.3 - Duties of the officials..... [SR]	33
CHAPTER 8 - FIELD OF PLAY	37
8.1 - Courses	[SR] 37
8.2 - Marking signs..... [SR]	37
CHAPTER 9 - PRE-COMPETITION	38
9.1 - Duties of the Host Organising Committee	[SR] 38
9.2 - Team Leader	[PR] 38
9.3 - Instructions for Team Leaders and athletes	[PR] 38
9.4 - Team Leaders Meeting	[PR] 39
9.5 - Alteration of entries and withdrawals	[PR] 39
9.6 - Alteration at the order of events	[PR] 39
9.7 - Pre-race boat control..... [SR]	40
9.8 - Boat and personal Competition numbers	[SR] 40
CHAPTER 10 - COMPETITION	41
10.1 - Means of propulsion	[SR] 41
10.2 - Start	[SR] 41
10.3 - Start methods..... [SR]	41
10.4 - Start procedure	[SR] 42
10.5 - Multi-stage races	[SR] 44
10.6 - Passing course markings and turns..... [SR]	44
10.7 - Group racing and overtaking..... [SR]	45
10.8 - Portages..... [SR]	45
10.9 - Assistance	[SR] 46
10.10 - Safety measures..... [SR]	47
10.11 - Finish	[SR] 47
10.12 - Disqualifications and penalties..... [PR]	47
CHAPTER 11 - POST-COMPETITION	50
11.1 - Protest..... [PR]	50
11.2 - Results and reports	[PR] 51
CHAPTER 12 - WORLD GAMES.....	52
12.1 - Organisation	[SR] 52
12.2 - QUALIFICATION SYSTEM - PRINCIPLES..... [SR]	52
12.3 - COMPETITION FORMAT	[SR] 52
12.4 - Entries and Competition schedule	[SR] 52
12.5 - Boats and equipment control	[SR] 52
12.6 - Field of play	[SR] 53
12.7 - ITOs	[SR] 53

CHAPTER 13 - WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.....	54
13.1 - Organisation	[PR] 54
13.2 - Competition programme	[PR] 54
13.3 - The course	[SR] 56
13.4 - Invitations, entries and competition schedule	[PR] 57
13.5 - Starting positions	[PR] 58
13.6 - International Technical Officials	[PR] 58
13.7 - Team Leaders Meeting	[PR] 58
13.8 - Boats and equipment control	[SR] 59
13.9 - Paddling on the course	[SR] 59
13.10 - Appeal to the Jury	[PR] 60
13.11 - Awards	[PR] 60
13.12 - Nations cup ranking	[PR] 61
13.13 - Master World Championships	[PR] 62
CHAPTER 14 - WORLD CUP	63
14.1 - Organisation	[SR] 63
14.2 - ENTRY	[SR] 63
14.3 - Competition Schedule	[SR] 63
CHAPTER 15 - ITO - TRAINING PATHWAY.....	64
15.1 - Examination	[PR] 64

CHAPTER 1 - SPORT GOVERNANCE

1.1 - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

[CR]

1.1.1 - All competitions announced as international must be governed by the rules of the ICF.

1.1.2 - Competitions organised by a National Federation, or its affiliated associations are regarded as international if foreign athletes / teams are invited.

1.1.3 - Canoeing competitions in regional, continental, and multi-sport Games must be organised under the ICF rules for World Championships for that discipline.

1.1.4 - The organisation and programme of canoeing in multi-sport games on a world level must be approved by the ICF and for continental level by the relevant continental association.

1.2 - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CALENDAR

[CR]

1.2.1 - The international competition calendar of each discipline is organised in four (4) levels:

	Type of competition	Competition
Level 1	ICF competition	ICF World Championships
Level 2		ICF World Cups
Level 3		ICF World Ranking competitions
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• International competitions• Masters or open competitions• Invitational competitions	

1.2.2 - Only a National Federation, associate member, their clubs, or a continental association of the ICF may apply for a competition level 4 to be entered into the ICF calendar.

1.2.3 - A calendar application for an international competition level 1 and level 2 is outlined in the ICF statutes.

1.2.4 - A calendar application for an international competition level 3 (if applicable) and level 4 can be made by the following process:

1.2.4.a - A calendar application is made directly into the ICF database;

1.2.4.b - The deadline for calendar applications for international competition level 3 is First (1st) of September the year before the competition;

1.2.4.c - The deadline for calendar applications for international competition level 4 is three (3) months before the competition.

1.2.5 - Calendar publication

1.2.5.a - The calendar of ICF competitions level 1 and level 2 will be published by 1st January the year before the competitions;

1.2.5.b - The calendar of ICF competitions level 3 will be published by First (1st) of October the year before the competitions;

1.2.5.c - The calendar of international competitions (level 4) will be published immediately after approval by the ICF.

1.3 - ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY FOR ICF COMPETITION (LEVEL 1 TO 3) [CR]

1.3.1 - Only athletes who are members of clubs or associations affiliated with a National Federation have the right to participate in an ICF competition.

1.3.2 - An athlete having satisfied 1.3.1. and having first obtained the (written) consent of the athlete's National Federation, is permitted to compete individually in an ICF competition.

1.3.3 - Each National Federation must ensure that their athletes are in a good state of health and fitness which allows them to compete at a level commensurate with the level of the particular ICF competition.

1.3.4 - Each National Federation must ensure that their athletes, team officials, as well as the National Federation itself, carry appropriate health, accident, and personal belongings insurance.

1.4 - AGE GROUP

[CR]

1.4.1 - The first year an athlete can compete in an ICF competition (level 1 to 3) or an international competition (level 4) is the year of their 15th birthday.

1.4.2 - An athlete starting from the year of their 13th birthday can compete in an international competition (level 4) in a specific age group event with a suitably adapted competition format / rules defined by the HOC.

1.4.3 - The last year an athlete can compete in the U16 age group is the year of their 16th birthday.

1.4.4 - The last year an athlete can compete in the junior age group is the year of their 18th birthday.

1.4.5 - The last year an athlete can compete in the under 21 age group is the year of their 21st birthday.

1.4.6 - The last year an athlete can compete in the under 23 age group is the year of their 23rd birthday.

1.4.7 - An athlete can compete in a masters' event in the year that they reach the lower limit of the age group. The masters' age groups are defined by each discipline with a minimum age of 35 years.

1.4.8 - To enter in an event with a specified age group an athlete or the National Federation must produce documentary proof such as passport, identity card or similar document with a photograph, confirming the age of the athlete.

1.5 - ATHLETE SPORTING NATIONALITY CHANGE

[CR]

1.5.1 - An athlete who has competed internationally at any level in the last three (3) years requires authorisation from the ICF with the approval of the two (2) National Federations involved to change sporting nationality.

1.5.2 - For an athlete to be eligible for a change of sporting nationality he/she must have lived in that country for the last one (1) year or hold the nationality of the new country.

1.5.3 - An athlete who is aged 18 or under can change sporting nationality with the approval of the two (2) National Federations involved. He/she is not required to fulfil the one (1) year residency rule.

1.5.4 - The request for the change of sporting nationality must be made to the ICF by the new National Federation no later than 30th of November the year before the athlete wants to compete.

1.5.5 - For the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Olympic and Paralympic Charter rules will be applied for nationality issues.

1.5.6 - For an athlete to gain an Olympic or Paralympic quota place in canoeing they must hold citizenship/nationality of the National Federation they represent.

1.5.7 - An athlete cannot compete for more than one (1) National Federation in any calendar year in canoeing.

1.5.8 - UN Refugee athlete.

1.5.8.a - An athlete that has no recognised country of sporting nationality and has official UN Refugee status can compete in ICF competitions. The request to compete in ICF Competitions must be sent to the ICF Headquarters who will decide if the entry can be accepted in conjunction with the Technical Chair of the discipline;

1.5.8.b - The Refugee athlete will hold the same status as a national team member from other countries in the ICF competition and abide by ICF Statutes and Competition Rules;

1.5.8.c - The Refugee athlete must be allowed to compete in the National Championships in the country where he/she obtained UN Refugee status;

1.5.8.d - Changes to the athletes UN Refugee status or that the athlete obtains a sporting nationality will activate the ICF rules for sporting nationality.

1.6 - ENTRIES PROCESS

[CR]

1.6.1 - ICF competitions (level 1 to level 3).

1.6.1.a - Nominal entries for ICF competitions will only be accepted from National Federations which are current members of the ICF;

1.6.1.b - An entry must contain:

- Name of the National Federation to which the athlete(s) belongs;
- First and last name for the athlete(s);

- The country of birth of the athlete(s);
- The gender of the athlete(s);
- Date of birth of the athlete(s);
- The ICF number of the athlete(s) (if known);
- The events in which the athlete(s) or team(s) wish to take part;
- The first, last name(s) and the e-mail address of the Team Leader.

1.6.1.c - Nominal entries must be made on the ICF online entry system;

1.6.1.d - A receipt for the nominal entry will be available via the ICF online entry system;

1.6.1.e - The deadline for nominal entries is 10 days before the first day of competition or classification for paracanoe;

1.6.1.f - In extraordinary circumstances, an application can be made to the Technical Chair for the acceptance of late nominal entries from National Federations. It is the Technical Chair's discretion to accept or decline a late entry. Late entries to the competition will incur a fee of 50 euros per athlete in addition to the participation fee (late entries and withdrawals from events are described in chapter 13);

1.6.1.g - In crew boats the names of the athletes must be in the order that they compete in the boat. The first name must be the athlete at the front of the boat.

1.6.2 - International competition (level 4).

1.6.2.a - Nominal entries for international competitions (level 4) will be accepted from individuals or National Federations;

1.6.2.b - Entries must be in writing or online in accordance with the regulations given by the HOC;

1.6.2.c - An entry must contain:

- The sporting nationality of the athlete;
- First and last name(s) for the athlete;
- The gender of the athlete;
- Date of birth of the athlete;
- The events in which the athlete(s) or teams wish to take part.

1.6.2.d - The HOC must acknowledge in writing or electronically the receipt of each entry within two (2) days.

1.7 - VALIDITY OF A COMPETITION

[CR]

1.7.1 - World Championships (ICF competition level 1).

1.7.1.a - In the Olympic and Paralympic events, a valid World Championship is held only if at least six (6) National Federations from at least three (3) continents start in the event. If during the competition some National Federations drop out or do not finish, the validity of the Championships is not affected;

1.7.1.b - For the non-Olympic and non-Paralympic events, a valid World Championship is held only if at least six (6) National Federations in each event and at least three (3) continents start OVERALL in the competition. If during the competition some National Federations drop out or do not finish, the validity of the Championships is not affected.

1.7.2 - World Cup (ICF competition level 2) and ICF competition level 3:

1.7.2.a - A valid World Cup is held only when there is a minimum of five (5) National Federations from at least two (2) continents start in the competition;

1.7.2.b - To be recognised as a valid event at least three (3) boats/boards or three (3) teams from two (2) different National Federations start in that event;

1.7.2.c - For the validity of the event it is not necessary for all three (3) boats/boards or all three (3) teams finish.

1.7.3 - To be recognised as an international competition (level 4) at least an invitation must be distributed to National Federations or to foreign athletes.

1.8 - ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LEVEL 1)

[CR]

1.8.1 - World Championships are only organised upon the authority of the ICF Board of Directors and only in the events given in the competition programme.

1.8.2 - Changes to the organisation of the World Championships may only be made by the process documented in the contract between the ICF and the HOC.

1.8.3 - The ICF Board of Directors will determine the competition programme, based on the recommendation of the concerned Technical Committee.

1.8.4 - The competition schedule is the responsibility of the ICF. The ICF will consider the broadcasting needs and / or other external factors affecting the schedule.

1.8.5 - Jury.

1.8.5.a - During the World Championships, the supreme authority rests with the Jury;

1.8.5.b - The Jury consists of three (3) persons;

1.8.5.c - The ICF Board of Directors appoints the members of the Jury;

1.8.5.d - One (1) of these members is named Chair of the Jury.

1.8.6 - Awards.

1.8.6.a - The awards are given according to the ICF protocol guidelines;

1.8.6.b - The medals are awarded as follows:

- 1st place: a gold medal
- 2nd place: a silver medal
- 3rd place: a bronze medal

1.8.6.c - In the crew boat/board events or team events, each athlete will receive the appropriate medal;

1.8.6.d - To maintain the formality of the ceremony the athletes receiving medals must wear their national team uniforms.

1.8.6.e Athletes/crews/teams who only have an invalid result mark (IRM), are not awarded.

1.8.7 - Nations Cup.

1.8.7.a - The Nations Cup will be awarded to the National Federation at the World Championships with the best overall performance;

1.8.7.b - The ranking list will be produced according to the system defined for each discipline.

1.9 - MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (LEVEL 4)

[CR]

1.9.1 - Masters World Championships can be organised in each discipline.

1.9.2 - The ICF Board of Directors will determine the events based on the recommendations of the concerned Technical Committee.

1.9.3 - Individual and National Federations entries will be accepted.

1.10 - ANTI-DOPING

[CR]

1.10.1 - Doping as defined in the World Anti-Doping Code and the ICF anti-doping rules is strictly forbidden.

1.10.2 - The anti-doping programme must be conducted in accordance with the ICF anti-doping control regulations under the supervision of the ICF medical and anti-doping committee.

1.10.3 - Athletes and support personnel, entered in any ICF competition or continental championships must complete the ICF's anti-doping education programme or equivalent before competing or risk being denied entry to the competition.

1.11 - APPEAL TO THE ICF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[CR]

1.11.1 - A participating National Federation can appeal to the ICF Board of Directors if, after the end of the competition, new facts become known that would substantially affect a decision made at the competition.

1.11.2 - Matters of fact considered during the competition cannot be contested in an appeal.

1.11.3 - An appeal to the ICF Board of Directors must be submitted within 30 days following the end of the competition accompanied by a fee of 75 Euros. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

1.11.4 - The ICF Board of Directors makes its decision and addresses it in writing to the National Federation.

1.12 - DISQUALIFICATION FOR SERIOUS UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOUR[CR]

1.12.1 - Disqualified for Serious Unsportsmanlike Behaviour (DQB)” indicates a disqualification due to a serious breach of the applicable rules or regulations issued by the ICF or the governing body responsible for the competition, or a violation of the World Anti-Doping Code.

1.12.2 - For DQB, the ICF has complete discretion regarding whether an Athlete/Team will be disqualified from one, several or all of the events entered at the competition, regardless of whether they are scheduled, in progress or already completed.

1.12.3 - For disqualification after competition caused by doping or ineligibility the following must be completed:

- Deletion of all achieved results and rankings of boat(s) /board(s) (DQB);
- Re-calculation of all results accordingly;
- Production of the revised version of all affected outputs (results, summaries, medals).

1.13 - RESULTS

[CR]

1.13.1 - For ICF competitions (level 1 to 3) an electronic copy of the detailed official results must be provided to the ICF in a specified format within seven (7) days of the end of the competition. Electronic results must be kept online for historical purposes.

1.13.2 - For international competitions (level 4) an electronic copy of the detailed entries and official results should be sent to the ICF in pdf format for publication on the ICF website within seven (7) days of the end of the competition.

1.14 - TRADEMARKS AND ADVERTISING

[CR]

1.14.1 - The advertising of tobacco smoking and strong spirit drinks is not permitted.

1.14.2 - Boats/boards, accessories and clothing may carry trademarks, advertising symbols and written text.

1.14.3 - Images, symbols, slogans and written text unrelated to sport funding or any political messages are not permitted.

1.14.4 - All advertising materials used should be placed in such a way that they do not interfere with athletes' identification and do not affect the outcome of the race.

1.15 - INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIAL (ITO) - EXAMINATION [CR]

1.15.1 - Examination calendar.

1.15.1.a - Each year the calendar of official examinations is published for each discipline following proposal from each Technical Chair;

1.15.1.b - Continental associations or National Federations are entitled to apply to hold an examination to the concerned Technical Chair. In this case, this organising entity has to cover the examination organisation costs including the full board and travelling expenses of the examiners.

1.15.2 - Candidates' application.

1.15.2.a - Only National Federations are entitled to nominate candidates for examination at least 30 days before the examination;

1.15.2.b - The applications must be sent to the ICF headquarters on the form designed by the ICF and published on the ICF website;

1.15.2.c - The ICF headquarters will forward the list of candidates to the concerned Technical Chair;

1.15.2.d - For every candidate applying for the examination, the National Federation will be charged 20 euros;

1.15.2.e - The final invoice will be sent to the National Federation in the period between 30th of October and 30th of November;

1.15.2.f - National Federations are financially responsible for their Officials.

1.15.3 - Conduct of the examination.

1.15.3.a - A sub-committee, appointed by the concerned Technical Chair, will administer the examination;

1.15.3.b - The examination will be carried out in English for officials who wish to be considered as officials for ICF competitions and will be based on their knowledge of the ICF statutes and the ICF rules. Each discipline may add a practical assessment or minimum experience requirement;

1.15.3.c - If candidates take the examination in any other official language, they may not be considered for officiating at ICF competitions.

1.15.4 - Officials' card

1.15.4.a - After completion of the examination the concerned Technical Chair completes the ICF official examination report and sends it to the ICF headquarters, where the officials' cards for those who passed the exam are issued and sent to the National Federations;

1.15.4.b - The officials' cards expire after four (4) years;

1.15.4.c - If an official's card is expired, lost, or destroyed a 20 euro fee for renewal will be charged;

1.15.4.d - A renewed official's card will be issued starting from the previous expiry date;

1.15.4.e - If an official's card has been expired for more than two years, the ITO must complete the examination again.

1.16 - ITO - NOMINATION FOR ICF COMPETITIONS

[CR]

1.16.1 - Only National Federations are entitled to nominate ITOs for ICF competitions level 1 and level 2.

1.16.2 - The deadline for submitting ITO proposals for each discipline is the 31st of December the year prior to the competition.

1.16.3 - The nominations are submitted to the respective Technical Chair (with a copy to the ICF headquarters).

1.16.4 - The Technical Chair will present a list of Officials to the ICF Board of Directors for their approval at the latest by 1st of March.

CHAPTER 2 - INTRODUCTION

2.1 - OBJECTIVE

[PR]

2.1.1 - The aim of a Canoe Marathon competition is for competitors to race each other in kayaks and canoes over a designated course.

2.1.2 - The athlete must take the water as it is found and be prepared, if it is necessary, to carry their boats around impassable obstacles, or between two (2) waterways.

2.2 - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

[PR]

2.2.1 - Types of international competitions:

Type of Competition		Competition	Entries
ICF competition	LEVEL 1	ICF World Championships ICF Junior and U23 World Championships	2 boats per event per NF
	LEVEL 2	ICF World Cups	To be determined by the organiser
	LEVEL 3	ICF Canoe Marathon World Ranking Competition	
International competition	LEVEL 4	International competitions Masters competitions Masters World Championships Invitational competitions	

2.2.2 - These competitions must be supervised or managed by at least one (1) accredited official in possession of a valid ICF Marathon Official card.

CHAPTER 3 - ATHLETE EQUIPMENT

3.1 - BOATS SPECIFICATIONS

[PR]

Boats	K1	K2	K4	C1	C2
Max. length (cm)	520	650	1100	520	650
Min. weight (kg)	8	12	30	10	14

3.2 - CONSTRUCTION

[PR]

3.2.1 - All kinds of building materials are permitted.

3.2.2 - The boats (kayaks and canoes) must have only one (1) hull (monohull construction) and only a single keel line. Multihull and Catamaran styles boats are not allowed.

3.2.3 - All boats must be built symmetrically upon the axis of their length.

3.2.4 - No foreign substance may be added to the surface of the boats, which can give athletes an unfair advantage. The use of hull lubricants is not permitted.

3.2.5 - If any boat is considered by the competition committee to present a safety hazard to the athlete using the boat or to others in the race it can be prohibited from being used until the safety concern has been resolved.

3.2.6 - A boat or an athlete may be equipped with a device which provides real time feedback on performance for use by television or sport presentation.

3.2.7 - An athlete may utilise a device which provides them with feedback on boat speed or heartrate during a race.

3.2.8 - Athletes may not use any communications device that allows them to receive any form of signal or instructions from their coach or other support team members during the course of their race. If any such communications are observed the athlete may be disqualified by the competition committee.

3.3 - KAYAKS

[PR]

3.3.1 - Steering rudders are allowed.

3.3.2 - The maximum thickness of the rudder blade must not exceed 10 mm for K1 and K2 if the rudder blade forms an extension to the length of the kayak.

3.3.3 - Kayaks will be allowed weed deflectors in front of the rudder. Weed deflector can be maximum 20 cm long and cannot be deeper than the rudder.

3.4 - CANOES

[PR]

3.4.1 - Steering rudders or any guiding apparatus directing the course of the canoe are not allowed.

3.4.2 - A keel, if any, must be straight, should extend over the whole length of the canoe and should not project more than 30 mm, below the hull.

3.4.3 - The C1 and C2 may be entirely open. The minimum length of the opening must be 280cm. The edge of the side of the boat (gunwale) can extend a maximum of five (5) cm into the boat along the whole defined opening. The boat can have a maximum of three (3) strengthening bars with a width a maximum of seven (7) cm each.

3.4.4 - Removable spray decks may be used.

3.5 - PUMPS

[SR]

3.5.1 - Manually operated pumps or bailers may be fitted in both canoes and kayaks for all races.

3.5.2 - In addition, electric pumps may be permitted at a race organisers discretion where conditions make this advisable, in which case all athletes should be given sufficient notice in the pre-event information for them to make the necessary arrangements if they wish.

3.6 - SAFETY EQUIPMENT

[SR]

Each boat must carry sufficient buoyancy, either in the construction of the boat or fixed subsequently, to keep the boat floating level when filled with water.

3.7 - IDENTIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISING TRADEMARKS

[PR]

3.7.1 - Requirements for advertising on equipment and clothing for ICF Marathon competitions are detailed in the ICF Guidelines for Advertising Trademark Identification on Equipment Manual.

3.7.2 - Any boat, accessory or article of clothing which does not comply with the above-mentioned conditions will be ineligible for use during the competition.

3.7.3 - Teams are responsible for their own equipment.

CHAPTER 4 - COMPETITION PROGRAMME

4.1 - BOATS AND DISTANCES

[PR]

4.1.1 - The official boats recognised by the ICF are:

Boats	
K1	Kayak single
K2	Kayak double
K4	Kayak four
C1	Canoe single
C2	Canoe double
SUP	Stand Up Paddling Board

4.1.2 - Canoe Marathon races may be run in the following classes:

Men	K1	K2	K4	C1	C2
Women	K1	K2	K4	C1	C2
Mixed		K2			C2
Men	SUP				
Women	SUP				

Paracanoe Marathon races may be run in the following classes:

Men	KL1	KL2	KL3	VL1	VL2	VL3
Women	KL1	KL2	KL3	VL1	VL2	VL3
Men	Open					
Women	Open					

4.1.3 - Distances

4.1.3.a - Long distance marathon races are races minimum 10km long and no upper limit.

4.1.3.b - Short distance marathon races are races between 3,4 km and 10km long.

CHAPTER 5 - COMPETITION FORMAT

5.1 - FORMAT

[SR]

5.1.1 - Races may be run:

5.1.1.a - In one (1) stage

or

5.1.1.b - Several stages over one (1) or several days. The final result being based on total racing time.

5.1.2 - Turning points must be negotiated as directed.

5.1.3 - Marathon races may contain portages.

CHAPTER 6 - INVITATIONS AND ENTRIES

6.1 - INVITATIONS

[PR]

6.1.1 - Invitations should be sent minimum two (2) months before the competition.

6.1.2 - Invitations to an international competition must contain the following information:

6.1.2.a - Date and place of the competition;

6.1.2.b - Situation and plan of the course(s);

6.1.2.c - Proposed events;

6.1.2.d - Competition programme;

6.1.2.e - Nature of the course, water conditions and degree of difficulty;

6.1.2.f - Conditions/terms of participation;

6.1.2.g - Address to which entries should be sent;

6.1.2.h - Entries deadline;

6.1.2.i - Safety requirements.

6.2 - ENTRIES

[PR]

6.2.1 - Details of the entries process and forms are described in article 1.6.

6.2.2 - In addition to nominated crews, participating NFs are allowed to enter unlimited number of substitutes in every race.

6.2.3 - Other than for World Championships it is not necessary to specify the names of substitutes on the written entry.

6.2.4 - When making their entries NFs must give the colours of the clothing worn by the athletes, and these colours must not be changed during the competition.

6.2.5 - The Host Organising Committee (HOC) will accept the entries in conformity with the conditions/terms of participation. Therefore, the HOC can reject or delete the entry of the participants who fail to observe the conditions/terms of participation.

CHAPTER 7 - COMPETITION OFFICIALS

7.1 - COMPETITION OFFICIALS

[SR]

7.1.1 - International competitions are to be supervised by following International Technical Officials (ITOs):

- Chief Official
- Deputy Chief Official
- Safety Officer
- Competition Manager
- Starter(s)
- Aligner(s)
- Chief Course Umpire
- Course Umpire(s)
- Chief Finish Line Judge
- Finish Line Judge(s)
- Timekeeper(s)
- Boat Controller
- Commentator
- Sport Presentation Officer
- Paracanoe Technical Representative

7.1.2 - If circumstances permit, one (1) person may function in more than one (1) of the above positions.

7.1.3 - Officials' obligations -

7.1.3.a - To perform their tasks in conformity with the ICF rules;

7.1.3.b - Every judge will have the obligation to check their equipment necessary to perform their tasks is in working order. In the case any shortcoming is found, it is reported to the Chief Official or Competition Manager;

7.1.3.c - Unauthorised persons must not enter any Officials area, unless are called for by either the competition committee or the Jury.

7.1.4 - All communications between the Competition Officials and the athletes and the Team Leaders must be in English language. In the case of a translator being needed, this must be provided by the team.

7.2 - DUTIES OF THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE

[SR]

7.2.1 - ICF competitions are to be managed by a Competition Committee consisting of:

7.2.1.a - Chief Official

7.2.1.b - Safety Officer

7.2.1.c - Chief Course Umpire

7.2.2 - Minimum two (2) members of the Competition Committee must be in possession of a valid International Canoe Marathon Official card.

7.2.3 - The **Competition Committee** will:

7.2.3.a - Direct and supervise the competition;

7.2.3.b - In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances which make it impossible to carry out or finish the competition:

(i) If the competition has not yet started, postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held, or abandon the competition;

(ii) If the competition has already begun, abandon, curtail or reschedule the competition.

7.2.3.c - Decide on matters concerning disqualifications in cases where the rules have been broken during the competition;

7.2.3.d - Hear any protests that may be made and settle any disputes that may arise;

7.2.3.e - Make decisions based on the ICF Canoe Marathon Rules;

7.2.3.f - Impose penalties in accordance with the ICF Statutes, if applicable;

7.2.3.g - Disqualify any athlete who behaves improperly or who by his/her conduct or speech shows contempt towards the officials, other athletes or onlookers, if applicable;

7.2.3.h - Hear the opinion of the Official(s) who controlled the race in which the infraction was said to have occurred, before any decision is made regarding an alleged infraction of the rules.

7.2.4 - A member of the Competition Committee may not participate in a judgment connected with an incident directly involving or a disqualification of an athlete from his/her own NF.

7.3 - DUTIES OF THE OFFICIALS

[SR]

7.3.1 - The **Chief Official**, who is also the Chair of the Competition Committee, will decide on all matters arising during the actual competition, which are not dealt with in these rules.

7.3.2 - The **Deputy Chief Official** will:

7.3.2.a - Cooperate closely with the Chief Official and the Competition Manager and handle the administrative tasks of the competition;

7.3.2.b - Check the personal identification documents of the athletes and their age, if necessary;

7.3.2.c - Collect the notes from the Team Leaders of the participating countries on the changes notified before the beginning of the Team Leaders Meeting and put them in order according to the races;

7.3.2.d - Keep in contact with the responsible IT person in case of computer data processing;

7.3.2.e - Check the results race by race during the competition;

7.3.2.f - Maintain a written record of the decisions of the Competition Committee passed relating to any protests. and is responsible to have them recorded.

7.3.3 - The **Safety Officer** is responsible for advising the Competition Committee of the safety measures required and for seeing that these are implemented.

7.3.4 - The **Competition Manager** is responsible for the preparation and running of the competition.

7.3.5 - The **Starter(s)** will:

- 7.3.5.a - Decide all matters concerning the start of the races;
- 7.3.5.b - Be solely responsible for false start decisions;
- 7.3.5.c - Ensure that the starting signal equipment is in working order;
- 7.3.5.d - Utilise English in all communications with athletes;
- 7.3.5.e - Order the athletes to their places and carry out the start in accordance with the Canoe Marathon Rules.

All decisions of the Starter are final.

7.3.6 - The **Aligner(s)** will:

- 7.3.6.a - Bring the boats to the starting line with the least possible delay;
- 7.3.6.b - Utilise English in all communications with athletes.
- 7.3.6.c Confirm that the boats are approaching the start line in their correct order based on their boat numbers as communicated at the team leaders meeting. Once all boats are in correct order the aligner(s) will signal this to the starter.

7.3.7 - The **Chief Course Umpire** will:

- 7.3.7.a - Ensure that during a race the rules are complied with;
- 7.3.7.b - Appoint officials to supervise the control points along the course and maintain contact with all such officials throughout the competition;
- 7.3.7.c - Decide, in discussion with relevant officials, any time penalties that are appropriate in response to minor infractions and communicate these to the officials responsible for managing the penalties;
- 7.3.7.d - Report any major infractions to the Chief Official, if the rules are broken in a way which may lead to a disqualification, who, in turn, should refer it to the Competition Committee.

7.3.8 - Each **Course Umpire** will supervise the control point(s) to which they have been assigned along the course and will report to the Chief Course Umpire in case of infringements of the Canoe Marathon Rules.

7.3.9 - Finish Line Judges will:

7.3.9.a - Work under the control of the Chief Finish Line Judge;

7.3.9.b - Be positioned at the finish line;

7.3.9.c - Decide the order in which the boats have crossed the finish line, making use of any photo-finish or other relevant systems available to help with this task.

The decisions of the Finish Line Judges are final.

7.3.10 - Chief Finish Line Judge, who will:

7.3.10.a - Divide the work amongst the Finish Line Judges;

7.3.10.b - Resolve any uncertainty concerning the order of finish of the boats, making use of all available systems, and making the final decision in the event of conflicting information.

7.3.10.c Check and confirm the official times at the end for each race and immediately inform the Deputy Chief Official of the results.

7.3.11 - The **Timekeepers** are responsible for recording the times. Before each race the Chief Timekeeper should establish that the stopwatches or other time-keeping equipment are working satisfactorily.

7.3.12 - The **Boat Controller** is responsible after the race to check the dimensions, equipment and weight of the boats to ensure they comply with the ICF Canoe Marathon Rules. Should any boat not comply then the athletes will be referred to the Competition Committee for disqualification.

7.3.13 - The Boat Controller will:

7.3.13.a - Confirm that the boat and equipment and clothing of the athletes complies with the requirements of the competition rules that were confirmed at the Team Leaders meeting;

7.3.13.b - Check identity of the athletes and confirm that boat numbers and body numbers are correct;

7.3.13.c - Dispatch the boat to the starting place when the boat, equipment and clothing is approved;

7.3.13.d - Report the required information about the participants in each event to the Chief Official.

7.3.13.e - Check the first four (4) boats, plus any others selected by the competition committee at the end of each race for compliance with the specifications in these rules.

7.3.14 - The **Commentator** will:

7.3.14.a - Announce the start of each race, the order of starting and the placing of the athletes during the race on the instructions of the Competition Manager;

7.3.14.b - Announce the results after the race is completed.

7.3.15 - The **Sports Presentation Officer** is responsible for ensuring the following when appropriate:

- Commentary;
- Sound facilities;
- TV and web TV;
- Web and social media service;
- Public announcement and web-publishing of results in co-ordination with the results team;
- Spectator facilities;
- Marketing of the competition;
- Media facilities;
- Information provision to the ICF Office prior to, during and after the event.

CHAPTER 8 - FIELD OF PLAY

8.1 - COURSES

[SR]

8.1.1 - Course types:

8.1.1.a - River and canal courses without obstacles, or interruptions;

8.1.1.b - River and canal courses with obstacles such as locks, weirs, rocks or shallows involving obligatory or optional portages;

8.1.1.c - Open water courses on lakes, estuaries or the open sea;

8.1.1.d - Any combination of the above.

8.2 - MARKING SIGNS

[SR]

8.2.1 - Flags marking:

8.2.1.a - Portage limits should be marked with flags, diagonally divided with one half (1/2) in red and the other half (1/2) in yellow;

8.2.1.b - Both starting and finishing lines (other than pontoon start) must be marked with red flags/buoys at the points where these lines intersect the outer limits of the course.

CHAPTER 9 - PRE-COMPETITION

9.1 - DUTIES OF THE HOST ORGANISING COMMITTEE

[SR]

9.1.1 - The HOC is responsible for the preparation and running of the competition.

9.1.2 - The HOC must, in particular:

9.1.2.a - Make available a suitable venue and technical equipment conforming to the present Canoe Marathon Competition Rules;

9.1.2.b - Fix the date and the competition programme in agreement with the ICF;

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.

9.2 - TEAM LEADER

[PR]

9.2.1 - The Team Leader will:

9.2.1.a - Represent his/her team;

9.2.1.b - Be the main contact with the Chief Official and the HOC throughout the competition, but he/she cannot disturb their work;

9.2.1.c - Submit any changes or comments in relation to the competition;

9.2.1.d - Arrange to submit the protest or appeal as stipulated if necessary.

9.3 - INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEAM LEADERS AND ATHLETES

[PR]

9.3.1 - Documentation should be available for each Team Leader before the beginning of the Team Leaders meeting, containing the following information:

- Detailed information on the course and their markings;
- Detailed competition schedule;
- Starting line;
- Finishing line;
- Obligatory safety equipment requirements;
- Time and place of the awards ceremony.

9.4 - TEAM LEADERS MEETING

[PR]

9.4.1 - The Team Leaders Meeting must be held between three (3) and 30 hours before the first start. The meeting determines, amongst other things, the final entry details and confirm details of the course and the time schedule.

9.4.2 - After the meeting the definitive Competition Schedule, giving the names and NF of the athletes and the revised start list, must be made generally available to teams, using online platforms where possible.

9.5 - ALTERATION OF ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS

[PR]

9.5.1 - The Chief Official may in exceptional circumstances accept written replacement of named athletes by named reserves up to one (1) hour before the start of the first race.

9.5.2 - The Chief Official's decision as to what constitutes an exceptional circumstance is final and is not subject to appeal.

9.5.3 - The withdrawal of an entry is considered final and no renewed entry of the same athlete/crew is allowed. Entry fees will not be refunded.

9.6 - ALTERATION AT THE ORDER OF EVENTS

[PR]

9.6.1 - 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.

9.6.2 - Alterations cannot be made unless the respective Team Leaders at the Team Leaders Meeting give their consent.

9.6.3 - Extraordinary alterations can be done by the Competition Committee when the circumstances can endanger the safety of the athletes. Any such changes must be communicated to all Team Leaders as early as possible

9.7 - PRE-RACE BOAT CONTROL

[SR]

9.7.1 - The HOC must provide for boat control two (2) certified weighing and measuring devices.

9.7.2 - Teams are responsible for pre-competition boat control.

9.8 - BOAT AND PERSONAL COMPETITION NUMBERS

[SR]

9.8.1 - All boats should carry a boat number, which should be attached to them as instructed by the race organiser.

9.8.2 - The personal numbers (bib) will be provided by the HOC and should be placed on the back and/or on the front of the athlete as required by the HOC. The title or main sponsors name may be shown on the front side with the personal numbers.

CHAPTER 10 - COMPETITION

10.1 - MEANS OF PROPULSION

[SR]

10.1.1 - Kayaks must be propelled solely by means of a double-bladed paddle.

10.1.2 - Canoes must be propelled solely by means of a single-bladed paddle.

10.1.3 - The paddles must not be attached to the boat in any way.

10.2 - START

[SR]

10.2.1 - The Start Line must be marked by two (2) red flags or two (2) red buoys or a combination of both.

10.2.2 - Athletes must be at the start at the time specified in the Competition Schedule.

10.2.3 - The start must commence without reference to any absentees.

10.2.4 - The classes should start in order as determined by the Competition Committee.

10.3 - START METHODS

[SR]

10.3.1 - The method of starting should be one of the following and should be decided by the HOC and included in the information booklet distributed beforehand:

10.3.1.a - Stationary Start

- The position of the boats at the start is such that the bows of the competing boats are on the starting line(s). The boats must be stationary. The boats may be held at the stern or blocked at the front by an automatic start system;
- Wherever possible all boats in a class should line up at the starting line and use the stationary start. Where this is impossible or impracticable owing to lack of space, or water or weather conditions, the following alternative simultaneous starting procedures may be employed.

10.3.1.b - Grid Start

- National teams equally represented in each rank of the grid with the positions being determined by a draw. National teams take precedence over club teams.

10.3.1.c - Bank Start

- The boats are lined up on the bank in an order determined by a draw.

10.3.1.d - Rolling Start

- Where strong currents render a stationary start difficult, a rolling start may be used. The boats are allowed to drift towards the start line with a view to crossing at the time of the signal.

10.3.1.e - Interval Start

- Where a simultaneous start is impracticable or undesirable, an interval start may be used, the order being determined by a draw;
- A list of athletes with their starting times must be issued to the Team Leaders and pinned to a notice board at the start at least three (3) hours before the start of competition;
- It is also possible to have an interval start in groups.

10.3.2 - In all cases athletes must be called to the water at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start, or in the case of a Bank Start given a 10-minute warning.

10.4 - START PROCEDURE

[SR]

10.4.1 - The following procedures will then apply for the respective starts:

10.4.1.a - Stationary start and Grid start

- The Starter must ensure all boats are stationary on the starting line or grid line;
- When the Starter is satisfied the line(s) are stationary they will give the start signal as described in the event information;
- If an athlete commences paddling before the start signal he/she has made a false start;
- An athlete who attempts to start before any instruction is deemed to have made an unfair start;

- An athlete who attempts *an unfair start* will be warned;
- A second warning for the same athlete will result in the imposition of a 30 seconds time penalty;
- A third warning for the same athlete will result in the athlete's disqualification from the event;
- A disqualified athlete must leave the water immediately.

10.4.1.b - Bank start

- Athletes must stand stationary on the starting line. The Starter, when satisfied the athletes are stationary, will give the start signal as described in the event information;
- If an athlete or athletes commence running before the start signal, the Starter will declare a false start and warn the offending athletes;
- An athlete who attempts to start before any instruction is deemed to have made an unfair start;
- An athlete who attempts an unfair start will be warned;
- A second warning for the same athlete will result in the imposition of a 30 seconds time penalty;
- A third warning for the same athlete will result in the athlete's disqualification from the event;
- In a Bank Start, no athlete should tackle, block, hinder or obstruct another athlete running to his/her boat.

10.4.1.c - Rolling start

- The boats should bunch up well before the start line and drift towards the Starter;
- The Starter must ensure the line is as straight as possible and that no athlete will obtain any undue advantage as a result of the start;
- When the Starter is satisfied, they should let the line drift to the start line and then give the start signal as described in the event information;
- If an athlete commences paddling before the start signal he/she has made a false start;
- An immediate time penalty of 30 seconds must be imposed upon the athlete making a false start.

10.4.1.d - Interval start

- Athletes should be called into their starting position in the predetermined order. Athletes must be advised five (5) minutes, two (2) minutes, one (1) minute and ten (10) seconds prior to their designated start time;
- The Starter must ensure that each athlete or group of athletes is stationary and lined up;
- An athlete crossing the start line prior to the ten second warning must be recalled with the elapsed time taken from the designated starting time;
- An athlete commencing paddling between the ten-second warning and the start signal must incur an immediate 30 seconds time penalty.

10.4.2 - Any penalty imposed under this rule must be notified to the Team Leader of the offending athlete by the Competition Committee. Whenever possible, advice of any time penalty should also be given to the offending athletes at the first available checkpoint.

10.5 - MULTI-STAGE RACES

[SR]

10.5.1 - Where a race is divided into several stages, the starts of the second and subsequent stages should be carried out individually, or in groups as determined by the organiser, and advised to the Team Leaders at the Team Leaders Meeting.

10.5.2 - If carried out individually the athletes will leave the stage start in the order of arrival from the previous stage and at the same intervals of time.

10.5.3 - If in groups, these should also take into account arrival from the previous stage, and time differences recorded.

10.5.4 - Timing will be cumulative, and the winner being the athlete/crew having taken the shortest time over the whole course, making due allowance for any time penalties awarded by the officials. The restart of the second or subsequent days may utilize any of the initial or stage start methods described in article 10.3.1.

10.6 - PASSING COURSE MARKINGS AND TURNS

[SR]

Course markings including turning points must be passed according to the course description confirmed at the Team Leaders Meeting.

10.7 - GROUP RACING AND OVERTAKING

[SR]

10.7.1 - When a canoe or kayak is overtaking another canoe or kayak, it is the duty of the overtaking boat to keep clear of other boats at all times.

10.7.2 - When athletes are racing in a group, it is duty of all the athletes in the group to avoid colliding with other athletes at all times.

10.7.3 - A collision will be an event where an athlete or any part of their boat or paddle touches another athlete, boat or paddle in a way that disadvantages others in the race.

10.7.4 - A collision can happen at any manoeuvring within the group and is applicable for all parts of the course including the portages and turns.

10.8 - PORTAGES

[SR]

10.8.1 - Athletes must portage at points designated by the race organiser in accordance with the instructions given in the race information.

10.8.2 - At official compulsory or optional portage points, the limits of the section of the river to be portaged must be clearly marked by 2 flags showing the start and 2 flags showing the end of the portage. Athletes must pass between the two flags at each end of the portage.

10.8.3 - Any water after the end of the disembarkation area and before the start of the embarkation area is out of bounds.

10.8.4 - Organisers must aim to provide enough bank space to allow at least four (4) K2s to be portaged simultaneously.

10.8.5 - An athlete making a portage at a point other than the designated portage area along the course must not gain any advantage unless directed by the Competition Committee.

10.8.6 - Under no circumstances may a portage be used with an effect of shortening the course of the race.

10.9.1 - An athlete may not be accompanied along the course or assisted in any way by other canoes/kayaks not entered in the event or by any vessel (e.g., runabout).

10.9.2 - An athlete may receive assistance from bank support crews, as long as it does not impede other athletes, but may not gain any advantage. All assistance must be given from the bank, except for safety reasons.

Such assistance is limited to first aid services, provisions of food, drink and clothes, replacement of faulty equipment including paddles and help with repairs.

10.9.3 - For level 1 and level 2 competitions, in addition to the support provided for in 10.9.2, teams will be allowed to provide feeding and drink support plus any necessary repairs in a designated area on the portage. This area will be clearly marked, and behaviour will be monitored by the officials on the portage. Bibs will be made available for the appropriate number of supporters from each team to wear so they can be identified whilst providing support.

10.9.3.a - Any supporter who obstructs competitors from other teams on the portage or who provides support outside of the designated area will be warned for the first breach of the rules and if necessary, a second time;

10.9.3.b - If a supporter breaches the rules for a third time the individual concerned will not be allowed to provide support in the portage for the remainder of the championships and their bib will be withdrawn for the remainder of that race only.

10.9.4 - In case of a capsize, an athlete may receive assistance with emptying his/her boat and restarting (or resuming) his/her paddling position, but must no advantage be gained from the assistance in any way.

10.9.5 - An athlete suffering from a lower-body disability may, by prior agreement from the Competition Committee, receive assistance at a portage, from designated helpers. Provided no advantage is gained from the assistance and provided the athlete leaves or is lifted from his/her canoe/kayak before the helpers carry the boat.

10.9.6 - No exchange or substitution of boats is permitted, even with other athletes from the same team.

10.10 - SAFETY MEASURES

[SR]

10.10.1 - If the organisers so decide for safety reasons, additional buoyancy must be fitted to each boat such that it will give support to the paddlers when in the water and/or every athlete must wear a buoyancy aid and/or other specified equipment. Such requirements must be written in on the entry form.

10.10.2 - Any athlete failing to observe the safety requirements will be refused the right to start. If they have started, they will be disqualified.

10.10.3 - Athletes participate at their own risk. Neither the organisers nor the ICF can be held responsible for accidents or material damage which may occur during a race.

10.10.4 - Every official is required to observe that the safety measures are being adhered to and to prevent athletes from starting or continuing if they fail to meet the requirements laid down in the race instructions.

10.10.5 - Canoe Marathon may involve participants in dangerous situations. It is a requirement that any athlete, seeing another in real danger should render all assistance in his/her power. Failure to do so may lead to a disqualification.

10.11 - FINISH

[SR]

10.11.1 - The boat has finished the race when its bow crosses the finish line with all crew members in it.

10.11.2 - If two (2) or more boats cross the finish line at the same time they receive the same classification.

10.12 - DISQUALIFICATIONS AND PENALTIES

[PR]

10.12.1 - Any athlete who attempts to compete in a race by any other than honourable means or who breaks the racing rules, or who disregards the honourable nature of the racing rules will be penalised or disqualified for the duration of the race concerned.

10.12.2 - Should an athlete have failed to follow the correct course of the race (for example missed a turning buoy) the athlete has broken the racing rules will be subject to a penalty:

10.12.2.a - If the Race Umpire believes the athlete has gained a small advantage on other athletes: Time penalty of 15 seconds will be given;

10.12.2.b - If the athlete has gained a major advantage a disqualification (DSQ) will be imposed;

10.12.2.c - Should a buoy be missed as a result of a collision in group racing during a turn this will be investigated and the boat that caused the collision will be penalised or disqualified (DSQ), see article 10.12.3. The athlete who missed the buoy due to collision will not be penalised.

10.12.3 - Collision or damage:

10.12.3.a - Any athlete who is considered by a Course Umpire or Race Official to have been responsible for a collision (as defined in rule 10.7.3), or who damages the canoe or kayak or paddle of another athlete or unnecessarily deviates from the direct racing line or deliberately blocks the path of an athlete may be penalised or disqualified;

10.12.3.b - If it is considered that other paddlers have only had some minor disadvantages compare to other athletes as a result of the incident the responsible athlete will get a time penalty of 30 seconds;

10.12.3.c - If it is considered that the incident has given other paddlers a major unfair disadvantage the penalty will be disqualification (DSQ).

10.12.4 - Boat control infringement:

Should an athlete/crew have completed a race in a boat which is shown upon inspection does not conform with the ICF rules will be disqualified (DSQ) from the race.

10.12.5 - Any athlete who is accompanied along the course by other boats which are not in the race will be disqualified (DSQ) from the race.

10.12.6 - Handling of penalties:

10.12.6.a - Time penalties as decided by the Chief Course Umpire are not subject to appeal and must be taken at the earliest opportunity during the race;

10.12.6.b - Time penalties must be executed in a designated area at the portage and supervised by a Race Official or will be added to the athletes finishing time if a time penalty stop is not used in the competition;

10.12.6.c - Disqualifications are decided by the Competition Committee and are subject to an appeal.

10.12.7 - If an athlete is observed by a race official to discard any waste item or rubbish such that it ends up in the water, they will receive a 30 second penalty. The decision is to be confirmed by the Chief Course Umpire and cannot be the subject of an appeal.

10.12.8 - All penalties or disqualifications must be confirmed by the Competition Committee in writing immediately, giving the reasons. The Team Leader of the athlete/team must acknowledge the receipt on the notice copy with the exact time, which marks the start of the protest time.

10.12.9 - Failure to deliver the copy confirmation of the disqualification to the Team Leader does not invalidate the disqualification.

CHAPTER 11 - POST-COMPETITION

11.1 - PROTEST

[PR]

11.1.1 - A protest against the right of an athlete/crew to compete in a race must be addressed to the Chief Official and handed to the Competition Committee, not later than one (1) hour before the start of the race of the competition.

11.1.2 - A protest made during a competition must be in a written form, addressed to the Chief Official and handed to the Competition Committee not later than 30 minutes after the last of the athletes involved in the incident have:

11.1.2.a - Completed the course;

or

11.1.2.b - Retire from the race.

11.1.3 - The organisers should be permitted to commence issuing preliminary results and carry out award ceremonies after the first three (3) athletes of the class have completed the course.

11.1.4 - If the protest is against a decision of the Competition Committee, the protest must be received not later than 30 minutes after the Team Leader is called to attend the Competition Committee to receive the written disqualification.

11.1.5 - The Competition Committee must note the time that the Team Leader is called to attend the Competition Committee on the written disqualification.

11.1.6 - All protests must be accompanied by a fee of 75 Euros (or an equal sum in the local currency). The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

11.1.7 - Should an incident be witnessed by Race Officials and action is being considered there should be a public announcement as soon as possible to notify teams and spectators of the situation.

11.1.8 - The decision of the Competition Committee on a protest should be reported to the Team Leaders concerned within 30 minutes of the protest being received.

11.1.9 - When a protest or a report is made against an athlete or a team, the Team Leader of the athlete/team in question should be presented with the protest or report to read and should be notified of the time by which they should make any response they want to be considered.

11.2 - RESULTS AND REPORTS

[PR]

After the ending of World Championships and all International Canoe Marathon 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.

CHAPTER 12 - WORLD GAMES

Refer to the International Competition Rules and Special Rules for World Championships except as amended in this Chapter.

12.1 - ORGANISATION

[SR]

12.1.1 - Applications, entries, and programme for World Games must be in accordance with the IWGA Rules.

12.1.2 - Any rule not regulated by the IWGA is subject to the relevant ICF rule.

12.1.3 - Where ICF rules are applicable they may be subject to IWGA rules related to the World Games.

12.2 - QUALIFICATION SYSTEM - PRINCIPLES

[SR]

12.2.1 - The International World Games Association (IWGA) in consultation with the ICF will agree the events and the number of athletes per event.

12.2.2 - Eligible National Federations will be invited based on the qualification system, published by the ICF after agreement with the IWGA, before the qualifying period begins.

12.3 - COMPETITION FORMAT

[SR]

The IWGA in consultation with the ICF will agree the competition format.

12.4 - ENTRIES AND COMPETITION SCHEDULE

[SR]

12.4.1 - Entries for World Games can be made only through the NF in accordance with the regulations given in the invitation.

12.4.2 - The competition schedule will be agreed between the ICF, IWGA and the host organising committee.

12.5 - BOATS AND EQUIPMENT CONTROL

[SR]

National Federations are responsible for ensuring their own equipment meets these rules and regulations.

12.6 - FIELD OF PLAY

[SR]

The use of existing facilities by the IWGA may necessitate variation to the field of play regulations.

12.7 - ITOS

[SR]

12.7.1 - The ICF Canoe Marathon Committee will invite an appropriate number of ICF ITOs based on, continental and country representation, recent refereeing history and location of the World Games.

12.7.2 - It may be necessary to impose a fee on participating teams to cover the costs of any ITOs invited.

12.7.3 - Details of fees and associated regulations for World Games will be communicated by the ICF.

CHAPTER 13 - WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Refer to the International Competition Rules except as amended in this Chapter.

13.1 - ORGANISATION

[PR]

13.1.1 - World Championships may be arranged every year with the consent of the ICF Board of Directors at a place and time approved by it and in accordance with the ICF Canoe Marathon Rules.

13.1.2 - World Championships can be run up to a maximum of 6 (six) days.

13.1.3 - Entries must be limited to two (2) boats per NF per class.

13.1.4 - All officials must be recognised International Canoe Marathon Officials holding a valid Canoe Marathon card.

13.2 - COMPETITION PROGRAMME

[PR]

13.2.1 - World Championships are restricted to the following classes:

13.2.1.a Long distance:

Men	K1, K2, C1, C2
Women	K1, K2, C1
Under 23 Men	K1, C1
Under 23 Women	K1, C1
Junior Men	K1, K2, C1, C2
Junior Women	K1, K2, C1

13.2.1.b Short distance:

Men	K1, C1
Junior Men	K1
Women	K1, C1
Junior Women	K1

13.2.1.c Paracanoe marathon

Men	Open, KL1, KL2, KL3, VL1, VL2, VL3
Women	Open, KL1, KL2, KL3, VL1, VL2, VL3

Additionally, Paracanoe events will be contested at the World Championships in classes defined by the ICF Para Committee.

13.2.2 - The program of events should be arranged by the Canoe Marathon Committee in a schedule which will allow for the separation of the classes when necessary to facilitate fair racing and minimize interference between classes.

13.2.3 - The exact order and time schedule may vary at different World Championships.

13.2.4 - At least seven (7) days before the competition information should be sent to all entered NFs and should be available on the event website, containing the following information:

- Detailed information on the course and their markings;
- Starting times and procedures;
- Starting line;
- Finishing line;
- Preliminary start list;
- Obligatory safety equipment requirements.

13.2.5 - There will only be one (1) long distance race for each age group class on any particular day of the competition. Where heats are required as well as a final over the short course these may both take place on the same day but this will not be the same day as a long distance race for the same class.

13.2.6 - The drawing of lots for the first race in each class must be carried out under the control of an ICF official.

13.2.7 - Short race - competition format

13.2.7.a When more than 20 boats are entered in a class, there will be 2 heats in that class.

13.2.7.b From each of the 2 heats, the best six (6) boats go directly to the final and in addition, the best 8 other boats based on time over the 2 heats will go to the final.

13.2.7.c The total number of boats in the final is 20.

13.3 - THE COURSE

[SR]

13.3.1 - The course for a World Championship should be of a type within the normal and general experience of the HOC.

13.3.2 - The course must be a lap format with the start, finish and portage in the same area.

13.3.3 - Long distance:

13.3.3.a - The recommended number of laps is:

- Eight (8) laps for kayak senior men;
- Seven (7) laps for kayak senior women and kayak U23 men;
- Six (6) laps for, kayak U23 women, kayak junior men, canoe senior men;
- Five (5) laps for kayak junior women and canoe U23 men;
- Four (4) laps for canoe junior men and canoe senior women;
- Three (3) laps for canoe U23 women and canoe junior women.

13.3.3.b - The exact number of laps and the number of portages may vary if required because of specific circumstance at the course;

13.3.4 - Short Distance:

13.3.4.a - The recommended format is three (3) laps and two (2) portages;

13.3.4.b - The recommended distance is 3.4km;

13.3.4.c - Distance between the turns of approximately 500m;

13.3.4.d - The first portage is after approximately one (1) km;

13.3.4.e - The distance may vary due to circumstances of the course.

13.3.5 - Recommended course for Masters:

13.3.5.a - Masters men in kayaks in their 64th year and younger will race five (5) laps of the course for the Long distance World Championships events;

13.3.5.b - Masters Women and all Canoe classes in their 64th year and younger will race four (4) laps;

13.3.5.c - Masters in their 65th year and older will race one (1) lap less than the younger Masters and will not be required to do portages.

13.3.6 - Federations wishing to arrange a World Championship and a World Cup must have submitted the proposed course and technical arrangements for the inspection of the ICF Canoe Marathon Committee and received its approval before submitting their application to the ICF Board of Directors.

13.4 - INVITATIONS, ENTRIES AND COMPETITION SCHEDULE

[PR]

13.4.1 - Invitations for World Championships will be issued by the organising NF (or HOC) and must be in accordance with the ICF rules. Invitations should be sent out at least nine (9) months before the first day of the Championships.

13.4.2 - Entries:

13.4.2.a - Entry process is described in article 1.6;

13.4.2.b - Teams must provide a photo(s)/ drawings of National racing uniform(s) that will be used during the competition;

13.4.2.c - Only those substitutes named on the entries are allowed to replace the nominated athletes. Notification of such alterations must be given at the Team Leaders Meeting;

13.4.2.d - The deadline for the numerical entries is 45 full days and for nominal 10 full days before the first day of the competition.

13.4.2.e After the deadline of the nominal entries, the valid races for the World Championships will be decided.

13.4.3 - The preliminary Competition schedule must be available at least three (3) days before the Championships and must contain the following details:

13.4.3.a - The starting time of each race;

13.4.3.b - The names and NF of the athletes in each race;

13.4.3.c - Full instruction on the course and training arrangements.

13.5 - STARTING POSITIONS

[PR]

The drawing of lots for the starting position in each class should be carried out under the control of an ICF official. For single events will be based on the results of previous World Championships.

13.6 - INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

[PR]

13.6.1 - Each team attending the World Championships will pay an administration fee (set by the CAM) to share the travel costs of the ITOs to officiate at the World Championships. The travel costs will be divided over all athletes equally, based on the nominal entries, so that every National Federation pays the same amount per athlete.

13.6.2 - The expenses (room and board) for all ITOs during the competition period are the responsibility of the HOC.

13.7 - TEAM LEADERS MEETING

[PR]

13.7.1 - The Team Leaders meeting must be held between 12 and 40 hours before the first start.

13.7.2 - The Team Leaders must use the English language in the Team Leaders meeting and if necessary, provide a translator.

13.8 - BOATS AND EQUIPMENT CONTROL

[SR]

13.8.1 - Prior the competition the HOC must provide a certified weighing device in a suitable place so the teams may check the weight of their boats.

13.8.2 - At the end of the each race the first four boats plus others as required by the competition committee will be checked by the boat controllers using regulated equipment. Any boat which fails to go to boat control when required may be disqualified.

13.8.3 - All the boats must have the athlete's country code stickers on each side of the boat and perfectly visible and readable.

13.8.4 - All participants from each nation must wear the same national uniform at the same start. Variation of the sleeves and shorts is permitted. If this is not complying, the athletes will not be allowed to take the start, and they will be disqualified.

13.9 - PADDLING ON THE COURSE

[SR]

13.9.1 - Athlete must not ride the wash of any athlete in another class except in masters races when specifically permitted in the race information.

13.9.2 - If any athlete is observed to be wash riding an athlete in a different class (unless it is permitted as described in rule 13.9.1) they may receive a time penalty of 30 seconds and will be warned when this penalty is taken at the next portage. If an athlete is observed again wash riding an athlete in a different class they may be disqualified.

13.9.3 - Athletes who have been lapped will end their race before they have completed the full race distance. Once the leading boat has completed their final portage all boats will complete the final short lap after their next portage and will proceed to the finishing line where their time will be recorded. Paddlers will then be included in the results according to the number of laps they have completed, and the time taken.

13.10 - APPEAL TO THE JURY

[PR]

13.10.1 - Team Leaders or other NF representatives have the right to appeal to the Jury against a decision of the Competition Committee on behalf of their athletes.

13.10.2 - The appeal in writing, must be handed to the Competition Committee for the attention of the Chair of the Jury, not later than 20 minutes after the Team Leader is called to attend the Competition Committee to receive the written disqualification.

13.10.3 - The Competition Committee must note the time that the Team Leader is called to attend the Competition Committee on the written disqualification.

13.10.4 - An appeal must be accompanied by a fee of 75 Euros (or an equal sum in the local currency). The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

13.10.5 - On receipt of the appeal, the Chair of the Jury must advise the relevant Team Leader and indicate arrangements for hearing the appeal.

13.10.6 - The appeal must be heard as soon as possible. Witnesses may be called.

13.10.7 - The decision of the Jury is final.

13.10.8 - Final results should be prepared, and medals and trophies presented after the Jury's decision is announced or the time limit for appeals to the Jury has expired (whichever is the latter).

13.11 - AWARDS

[PR]

13.11.1 - The medals will be awarded in accordance with article 1.8.6 and must on no account be presented to any other persons than those who have won championship races.

13.11.2 - Only medals, to the exclusion of all other prizes, are to be presented at the official ceremony.

13.12 - NATIONS CUP RANKING

[PR]

13.12.1 - Nations Cup ranking is in accordance with article 1.8.7.

13.12.2 - Only the best ranked boat per NF will be placed in the Nations Cup points ranking.

13.12.3 - In case of a tie the NF with the highest individual position will win the cup in that event.

13.12.4 - The ranking will be calculated as follows:

Classes eligible for points	MK1; MK2; WK1; WK2; MC1; MC2; WC1
Position	Points
1 st	21
2 nd	19
3 rd	18
4 th	17
5 th	16
6 th	15
7 th	14
8 th	13
9 th	12
10 th	11
11 th	10
12 th	9
13 th	8
14 th	7
15 th	6
16 th	5
17 th	4
18 th	3
19 th	2
20 th	1

13.12.5 - Paracanoe results from eligible events are included.

13.13 - MASTER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

[PR]

13.13.1 - There is no limit to numbers of boats per class per NF.

13.13.2 - In K2 and C2 events the age of the youngest competitor will determine the age group in which a crew can compete.

13.13.3 - The World Championships are restricted to the following classes:

Men	K1, C1, K2, C2 all age groups
Women	K1, C1, K2, C2 all age groups
Mixed	K2 all age groups

13.13.4 - Age groups in singles are defined in 5 year bands, starting with 35 to 39 years. Age groups in doubles are defined in 10 year bands, starting with 35 to 44. There is no upper limit to the age bands, subject to a minimum of 4 boats required for a valid class.

13.13.5 - Athletes in team boats can be from different countries.

13.13.6 - The Masters World Championships will be held in accordance with the information as published by the organisation, agreed by the CAMC. Any changes to published information will be displayed online and at the championship venue.

CHAPTER 14 - WORLD CUP

14.1 - ORGANISATION

[SR]

14.1.1 - The ICF Canoe Marathon World Cup competitions must be arranged under the auspices of the ICF.

14.1.2 - The competitions are held in accordance with the ICF Canoe Marathon Rules.

14.1.3 - The competitions will be held every year with at least one competition.

14.1.4 - No World Cup competition can be held during the two (2) weeks preceding the World Championships.

14.1.5 - The competition should be organised over two (2) days but can be extended by the ICF Board of Directors if required.

14.2 - ENTRY

[SR]

There is no limit on the number of entries from any National Federation in each event of the World Cup competition.

14.3 - COMPETITION SCHEDULE

[SR]

The competition schedule must be set at least three (3) months before the first day of the competition by the CAMC based on the events approved by the ICF Board of Directors.

CHAPTER 15 - ITO - TRAINING PATHWAY

Procedure for becoming an ICF Canoe Marathon International Technical Official:

15.1 - EXAMINATION

[PR]

15.1.1 - Officials Examination may be organised:

15.1.1.a - At every World Championships if there is a sufficient interest;

15.1.1.b Out-of-World Championships examinations.

15.1.2 - Application deadlines are the same as for the International Competition Calendar. The Examination Calendar is published on the same date as the International Competition Calendar.

15.1.3 - In Canoe Marathon ITO examination is linked with a seminar. NFs are entitled to apply to hold together a seminar and an examination.

15.1.4 - Examination Procedure

15.1.4.a - A sub-committee consisting of two (2) members, appointed by the Technical Chair, will:

- Run an ICF Official Seminar containing theory and practise sessions at an international level competition;
- Hold the examination after as per article 1.15.