

Date of the report: 15.03.2025

## **MARATHON TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Chair: Ruud Heijselaar (NED)

Members: Edwige Bakkaus (FRA), Anastasia Sergeeva (MDA), Rui Cancio (POR) and Reinhard Ross (GER)

### **ACTIVITIES 2023-2024**

Mainly a working group was formed with Edwige Bakkaus (FRA), Lars Darmgard (DEN), Jose Roman (ESP) Kristo Sepp (EST) and Reinhard Ross (GER). Mainly we set the lines for marathon which came about with SWOT analysis. You can see the document on the ECA website. Essentially, we looked at the weakness and strength of the marathon, which showed that there was some work to be done to keep it popular. Youth, making it interesting to the public and making sure that the cost to the athletes would not go up. We also looked at how to make sure that the classes that don't really get much participation now, such as the C classes, get more participation and competition. We also made sure that there would be more competitions at the club level so that the competition and skills of marathon paddlers would increase.

### **COMPETITIONS 2023**

In 2023, the European Championships was Slavonski Brod (Croatia) on the Sava River (which is on the border of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina). For the organization it was quite a challenge to organize a European Championship, as making a portage was not easy. All together an enthusiastic team, led by Branko Lovric, made it a beautiful portage, which met the requirements at marathon (see photo). The temperatures during the race days rose quite a bit to around 40 degrees, which is not ideal for marathon. This was evident as a paddler who was fainting on the portage, but first aid was nearby and did a good job. Another case was that a sailor of a K2 also fainted in the boat, which fortunately could be taken care of by her teammate, but which was certainly a dangerous event. Fortunately, the first aid arrived quickly, and we were forced to shorten the women's race by 1 lap and the men's race by 2 laps. We made a report to pass this on to the Medical Committee. In consultation with Jane Gibson, we made a heat plan which hopefully we will not use, but chances are that this will certainly have to be used more times.

#### **The statistics of the competition.**

Entries total	:	327
Men	:	199
Women	:	128

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Medals	:	11 nations won medals
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Best overall nation	:	Spain
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Number of masters	:	95
Nations	:	19 (exclude masters)

## **COMPETITIONS 2024**

The European Championships were sailed in Poznan on the regatta course. The course, despite being a regatta course, was appreciated by the paddlers. The Para races as a demonstration was paddles for the first time during European Championships and a race for Intellectual Impairment, which was very much appreciated by the paddlers and their helpers and thanks for the Polish Canoe Federation which made this possible.

The organization had done its best to make a portage that met the requirements. The weather let us down only one afternoon during the master's race, and we were forced to abandon the race. The other day we paddled the race again with 2 full laps, which was the only solution. The number of participating countries was high with 24 countries showing great races.

### **The statistics of the competition.**

Entries total	:	395 (include 24 Para)
Men	:	235
Women	:	160
Medals	:	14 nations won medals
Best overall nation	:	Spain
Number of masters	:	95
Nations	:	24 (exclude masters)

## **DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

Due to lack of finances it was not possible to organize a TIP camp in 2023 and 2024, development is important and especially for the countries that do not have a marathon tradition, and as mentioned earlier in this report, the C-class we would like to focus on in the future and therefore we will clearly have to look east Europe. We do expect to hold a TIP camp in 2025 in Ponte de Lima.

## **MEETINGS**

We have had several discussions with the 2023 - 2024 Working Group but not yet with the new committee (appointed in December) but that will take place soon.

## **SPORTPROGRAMME**

In our sportprogramme, you find more information about education, development, European Club marathon Cup and our strategic plan.