



Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting
Budapest, Hungary
29th April 2023

B. 04/2023

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting was opened by the President Mr Jean Zoungrana at 3:00 p.m. by welcoming the present members of the Board. The President informed the Board about his individual meeting with ICF President Mr. Thomas Konietzko, ECA Technical delegates, ECA Board members, and ECA Media Officer Mrs Nina Jelenc.

Present members:

President:	Jean Zoungrana
Vice Presidents:	Miroslav Haviar, Andrej Jelenc
Secretary General:	Branko Lovric
Board Members:	Manuela Gawehn, Ruud Heijselaar, Peter Karai, Geir Kvillum, Jovana Stanojevic

1)	Opening of the Meeting
2)	Accepting of the Minutes from the ECA Board meeting 3/2023 Chania-25 March 2023
3)	News from the EG Krakow 2023
4)	ECA/ICF Development programme discussion after the ICF Development programme commission
5)	Duties of the ECA Technical delegates - for discussion
6)	ICF Sprint Rules – 5000 m races for discussion
7)	Announcing the invitation for the organisers of the next ECA Congress in 2025
8)	ECA Web page

9)	Exemptions ECA-ICF Rules
10)	The participation of athletes from other continents in competitions organized by the ECA
11)	The request for a wild card in CIM from the Azerbaijan federation to participate in the European Games in Sprint.
12)	Confirmation of the dates of the ECA Freestyle Cups 2023
13)	The ECA strategic plan
14)	The question of the participation of, Russian and Belarusian athletes in international and European competitions
15)	Cooperation with the ICF in organisation of the TV coverage for period 2025-2028
16)	Next ECA Board meeting date proposal
17)	Miscellaneous

ITEM 2

ACCEPTING OF THE MINUTES FROM THE ECA BOARD MEETING 3/2023 CHANIA-25 MARCH 2023

The Minutes of the previous Board meeting were unanimously approved.

ITEM 3

NEWS FROM THE EG KRAKOW 2023

Mrs Jovana Stanojevic and Mr Andrej Jelenc updated the Board with current situation in regard to the European Games in Krakow. Mrs Stanojevic highlighted a few situations concerning Canoe Sprint:

- Canoe Sprint Competition Manager got fired
- concerns were raised as tenders are still open for suppliers of start and finish tower
- poor promotion of the Sprint event
- wrong information on Sprint and Slalom are going in public

Mr Jelenc did onsite visit and for Canoe Slalom technical parts are secured. He is now dealing with accreditations for coaches, because NOC Accreditation rule limits.

EG Krakow Media department won't be involved; therefore the ECA needs to provide a person for doing interviews with athletes, taking photos, writing articles, etc. Policies for the Training access pass and the late athlete replacement still needs to be confirmed by the IOC.

Given that the event is very close and many organizational parts have not been defined, an assistant will be needed from Mr President, Mr Branko and Mr Albert Woods - the member of the Coordination Commission for the EG 2023.

ITEM 4

ECA/ICF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME DISCUSSION AFTER THE ICF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COMMISSION

Mr Branko Lovric informed the Board that 25 boats, 3 ergometers and 50 paddles are at ECA's disposal within the ICF Development programme. A few years ago, one ergometer was reserved for Cyprus Canoe Federation; because of transport complication it was never delivered. It's been agreed to deliver the ergometer to Cyprus team during WCH in Duisburg. ICF present strategy is that a container with equipment from Development programme goes to solely one Federation, but each country has developed different disciplines, therefore has different needs. Since ECA sent a query to NF's in order to define their needs but no replied has been received, Mr Lovric is planning to have a meeting with Mr Sebastian Cuatrin.

Mr President suggested using funds from Development programme for all discipline and for ECA Development programme in the form of hiring staff and tools to improve the Programme. Mr. Haviar and Mr. Jelenc emphasized the importance of education for coaches. Considering that, in previous years there was no interest from the Federations to participate in seminars for coaches. Due to complicated EU regulations and national laws, The Board agreed to monitor and follow the ICF strategy and actions on this.

ITEM 5

DUTIES OF THE ECA TECHNICAL DELEGATES - FOR DISCUSSION

Document with defined duties of Technical delegates made by Mr Miroslav Haviar was delivered to the Board of Directors prior the meeting. Board members agreed with Mr Haviar's proposal in which duties are defined. Document will be as a basis to define more clearly duties of Technical delegates.

- To evaluate the ECA Championships bids, visit the venues if necessary.
- Up to Organizer is in charge of the expenses.
- To submit the report to the BOD for decision.
- To cooperate with the selected organizer before and during competition, visit the venue before the competition if necessary. Regularly up to 2 technical visits are predicted for organization. In case of necessity, TD can ask for additional inspection on the cost of the organisers.
- In case of discussion about TV coverage TD can invite and other persons to attend the inspection on the cost of the organisers. Organizer is in charge of the expenses.
- To report to the BOD after the competition.
- To cooperate with the ICF Technical delegate.
- To submit the proposal for ECA Competition rules differences, if necessary.

To extend these proposals the President also proposed that in the absence of precise indication within the framework of our Statutes and while waiting for the renovation of our Statutes, the Statutes of the ICF can serve as a good reference base to carry out the

missions of the Technical Delegates. (ICF Statutes ARTICLE 31 / ARTICLE 33 - DUTIES OF THE ICF STANDING COMMITTEES).

ITEM 6

ICF SPRINT RULES – 5000 M RACES FOR DISCUSSION

Mrs Jovana Stanojevic informed the Board on introduction of 5000 meter races in the programme of the ICF World Cups Szeged and Poznan and the ICF World Championships Duisburg. After performing as Chief Official for listed events, Mrs Stanojevic will be able to share her position with the Board. As previously agreed, competition programme for Canoe Sprint events will stay the same until new Olympic cycle.

As there is a portage on this event a discussion started about the experience of the Marathon committee that can help to organise this kind of competition in a secure condition for the athletes. As a new event in sprint the impact on marathon discipline has also been discussed.

ITEM 7

ANNOUNCING THE INVITATION FOR THE ORGANISERS OF THE NEXT ECA CONGRESS IN 2025

The Board agreed to send invitation to National federations for potential organizer by the end of May 2023.

ITEM 8

ECA WEB PAGE

Mr Miroslav Haviar will discuss with Ms Nina Jelenc – the ECA Media officer, what is the easiest option to keep the website up-to-date, specifically with documents related to disciplines and Rules.

ITEM 9

EXEMPTIONS ECA-ICF RULES

In regard to Olympic disciplines, differences in the competition rules between the ECA European Championships and ICF World Championships are published on the ECA web page. The competent technical delegates are in charge for keeping differences up-to-date.

ITEM 10

THE PARTICIPATION OF ATHLETES FROM OTHER CONTINENTS IN COMPETITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE ECA

The Board of Directors agreed to allow competitors from other continents to take part in competitions organized by the ECA, with the exception of ECA European Championships.

ITEM 11

THE REQUEST FOR A WILD CARD IN C1M FROM THE AZERBAIJAN FEDERATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EUROPEAN GAMES IN SPRINT

This request was received by the Azerbaijan Federation but this option is not defined in the EG Policy. Therefore it was forwarded to the EOC to investigate possible positive options.

ITEM 12

FREESTYLE: ECA EURO CUP 2023 EVENTS: PLATTLING, GERMANY 9 – 11 OF JUNE / MILLAU, FRANCE 29 OF JUNE – 2ND OF JULY / PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC 12 – 13 OF AUGUST

At the request of the Technical delegate for Freestyle the following competitions will be organised as ECA Euro Cups in 2023:

1. Plattling, Germany 9 – 11 of June
2. Millau, France 29 of June – 2nd of July
3. Prague, Czech Republic 12 – 13 of August

ITEM 13

THE ECA STRATEGIC PLAN

The President Mr Jean Zoungrana has presented a plan and a draft calendar to build strategic plan of the ECA and to renovate the ECA Statutes. The Board agreed to create workgroups for the different programmes; the priorities are programs for Governance and Sport. In the following weeks, Federations will receive proposal made by Mr President and Mr Lovric.

Mr. Haviar asked Mr. President for the analysis showing what is bad, what is good in previous work of the ECA and explanation what the new organisation will improve. The President Zoungrana will be back to the Board with the analysis.

ITEM 14

THE QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN ATHLETES IN INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS (ECA PRESIDENT)

The ECA Board made the decision to follow the statement of the ICF Board from 28th April 2023: The International Canoe Federation (ICF) Board has opted to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to return to its competitions under a neutral flag, provided they do not support the war in Ukraine and are not members of the Army sport clubs or Army directly. Also, they need to fulfil obligation to have passed three (3) or more WADA-compliant doping tests in the last 12 months.

Decision is subject to the decision of the World Championships and International competitions Host Countries Governments regulations.

ITEM 15

COOPERATION WITH THE ICF IN ORGANISATION OF THE TV COVERAGE FOR PERIOD 2025-2028

The ICF has to sign new contract with EBU about TV Coverage for period 2025-2028, Mr Branko Lovric was contacted responsible persons in the ICF HQ to investigate possibilities of including the European Championships in the contract, too. As the negotiation with the EBU has not started yet, it was proposed to set up the special meeting in Lausanne with this topic to define conditions and define in which direction the ECA will go in the future.

ITEM 16

NEXT ECA BOARD MEETING DATE PROPOSAL

The Board agreed that the next Board meeting will be held in October 2023.

ITEM 17

MISCELLANEOUS

- Protest and Appeal forms
 - to prepare a unified form that will obtain all necessary information for each discipline with instructions what needs to be filled in for each discipline
- Memosoft – system improvement
 - the Memosoft suggested to update system with course Umpires lane observation, that will cost 10.000,00 EUR (Mr President will look into if the ICF can participate in the cost)

The President Jean Zougrana thanked all members of the Board for their inputs and contribution. There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was closed at 6:30 p.m.

Branko Lovric
ECA Secretary General



Jean Zougrana
ECA President

