



INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

SUP CANOE RACING
COMPETITION RULES

2017

Taking effect from 16 March , 2017

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide the rules that govern the way of running ICF SUP Canoe Racing competitions.

With regard to any issue not specifically covered in the present rules and in case of controversy in interpretation, the ICF Canoe Ocean (for sea) or Marathon (for flat-water) Rules will apply.

LANGUAGE

The English written language is the only acceptable language for all official communications relating to these Competition Rules and conduct regarding all ICF SUP Canoe competitions.

For the sake of consistency, British spelling, punctuation and grammatical conventions have been used throughout.

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

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CHAPTER I - GENERAL REGULATIONS

1 GENERAL REGULATIONS

1.1 Principles

1.1.1 These competition rules (CR) regulate the organisation of all ICF events and are based on the international rules and are mandatory for any competition authorised by the ICF.

1.1.2 These CR are deemed as accepted through registration and participation in such an event.

1.1.3 The CR may be amended and changed by means of a resolution by the ICF Board and shall be made public in the appropriate media.

1.1.4 In the event of changes to the international CR, these changes may be included in the CR and considered valid from the time that the international changes come into effect. The decision regarding this will depend on the ICF's decision regarding this. The changes shall be announced in due manner.

1.2 Doping and forbidden substances

1.2.1 The WADA regulations current at the respective time shall be an integral part of these CR.

1.2.2 Doping controls may be carried out at any event.

2 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

[GR]

2.1 All international competitions shall be held in accordance with the regulations of the ICF. Competitions arranged by the National Federations or their clubs are considered international if competitors of a foreign country are invited to participate. These competitions must be attended by at least one official approved by the National Federation.

2.2 SUP Canoe competitions in Continental and Regional Multisport Games and Championships shall be organised under the ICF Rules and Regulations for World Championships for that discipline.

2.3 The organization and programme of the canoeing competitions in Multisport Games on a global level must be approved by the ICF and on continental level by the Continental Canoeing Associations.

3 COMPETITORS

[GR]

3.1 Only members affiliated with an ICF National Federation have the right to participate in an international competition.

3.2 A competitor is always allowed to take part individually in an international competition, but must in each case obtain special permission from his/her National Federation.

3.3 A competitor may take part on behalf of the Federation in a foreign country in which he/she is domiciled, if he/she obtains the authorization of his/her Federation of origin. This authorization has to be sent before 30th November prior to the year concerned to the ICF Headquarters with a copy to the Chair of the SUP Canoe Racing. The same procedure applies, should the competitor change back his/her starting right to the federation of origin.

3.4 If he/she has lived for 2 years or more in this foreign country, the approval of his/her Federation is no longer required.

3.5 A competitor may not compete for more than one Federation in any one calendar year in the sport of canoeing.

3.6 The first year, a junior competitor can compete is the year that his 15th birthday falls in and the last year he may compete, as a junior is the year that his 18th birthday falls in.

3.7 A Master competitor can compete in a Masters event in the year he or she reaches the lower limit of the age category, i.e. in the 35-39 age groups in the year of his or her 35th birthday.

3.8 Age group categories will commence from age 35-39 and increase upwards in 5-year age brackets.

4 COMPETITION EVENTS

[GR]

4.1 Authorisation to hold an ICF SUP Canoe Racing competition

All ICF Competitions must be authorised by the ICF. Authorisation is granted for:

- international race events
- international race events recognised by the ICF but carried out by professional event managers.

4.2 Awards ceremonies and awarding prizes

The award ceremony shall be carried out in a due way that is appropriate for the competition. The award winners shall be appropriately dressed when receiving their awards. The names of the winner's sports association or club must also be mentioned at the award ceremony. After the presentation of the first three places the names of further places may be publicised.

The following prizes may also be awarded:

special awards
memorial prizes
money or prizes in kind

CHAPTER III - RACING ORGANISATION AND REGULATIONS OF THE COMPETITIONS

5 COMPETITIONS RULES

5.1 PRINCIPLES

The competitor must be standing on the board for the entire duration of the race. Exceptions will be made for moments of exhaustion or the orientation phase in which case the athlete may execute up to five paddle strokes kneeling or sitting on the board. Any infringement will result in disqualification.

In water starts and finishes the start and finishing lines have to be crossed while standing on the board and in the case of beach starts and finishes the starting and finishing lines will be crossed by running over them. During the race the competitor may only be propelled by their paddle, the waves and wind. Any assistance by means of a sail or clothing that could be deemed to function as a sail are not allowed. During the whole race paddlers are not allowed to paddle towards or use the waves caused by a board i.e. paddlers must keep an appropriate distance from any board. Should a competitor paddle

directly within the area (about 15 m distance) of a board wave for more than 30 seconds they will be disqualified. Any other instrument or influence that could be construed as a means of assistance is likewise forbidden.

5.2 SPECIAL CASE WHITE WATER

Active kneeling (knee contact with board) is not allowed except after a tumble when the paddler is allowed to get the board back into position with just one paddle stroke. In case of infringement the race director will decide whether to disqualify the competitor or just impose a penalty.

5.3 Drafting is defined as paddling in the wave of another participant, either behind or alongside the backwash of a paddler, closer than 2 board lengths for longer than 10 seconds and is only allowed between two participants in the same competition class. This means drafting is not allowed between women and men and vice-versa. The race director has the right to either disqualify any participants infringing this rule or to impose a penalty.

5.4 Fair Paddling: Every care should be taken to ensure that no paddler does anything that may obstruct or endanger other participants or risk damaging boards or other equipment. Knocking and purposely butting others on the course or when turning is not allowed. In the case of such incidents it will lie in the power of the race direction to disqualify participants or impose a penalty.

5.5 Designated bathing zones and nature reserves etc. : Nature reserves and/or designated bathing zones (marked by buoys) must be clearly defined. These areas may not be entered or passed through in any way. Any violation will result in disqualification.

5.6 The instruction of the race direction must be strictly followed when paddling along navigation routes and under bridges. The race direction has the power to disqualify any participant violating the rules or impose a penalty.

5.7 Registration must be no later than 30 minutes before the start of the mandatory race meeting. Any registration at a later time must be approved by the race director. Otherwise conditions as stated in the event announcement will be applicable.

5.8 Every participant is obliged to attend the mandatory race meeting (skipper’s meeting). Acceptance of the CR is affected through registration for and participation in a competition.

6 SAFETY

Every athlete participates at her or his own risk and must ensure that they are healthy and fit enough to meet the demands of the competition. The ICF advises all competing participants to have themselves checked annually by a doctor. Neither the event management or the race management or jury will be liable for any injury incurred by persons or damage to property. By registering and participating in the competition/event the participants assure at the same time their ability to swim.

Out at sea and on lakes it is advisable to have a leash and wear a life jacket. On rivers with currents and obstacles a leash is not advisable as this could become entangled with an obstacle and put someone at risk. In competitions on calm water it is not necessary to have a leash or wear a life jacket.

The race director/competition jury will give instructions regarding the use of leashes and life jackets according to the conditions of the course. The race director and jury can also stipulate the wearing of insulating clothing should prevailing weather conditions require this. Any additional requirements specific to the event will be made known latest at the race meetings.

7 BOARD CLASSES

Event courses:

Race	Women/Men Juniors/	up to 14 ft (428 cm) long* *up to 12’6’’ ft (381 cm) long inflatable
Whitewater	Women/Men	up to 11 ft (366 cm) long

Applicable to all events and courses:

Rudders and/or foils are not permitted.

The board may have only one hull - no multi-hulls allowed and no catamarans

The length of the board will be defined as the distance from the tip to tail.

8 BOARD ATTACHMENTS

Fins

Fins may only be attached to the rear third of the board. Fins may be of any length, form and width so long as they do not in any way enhance the hydrodynamics giving the competitor an unfair advantage. The fin must be secured tightly and may not be moved or adjustable/adjusted in any way that would enable it to be used as a rudder.

Foils:

Foils are fins of a particular shape or positioned at a particular angle that creates hydrodynamic lift and an unfair advantage.

Rudder

A rudder is a fin or foil that is able to rotate and contribute to steering the board.

Catamaran:

Catamaran is the definition for all boards with more than one hull or having a concave with its deepest point in the middle deeper than 5 cm between the peaks.

Paddle:

The paddle must be constructed with just one blade on one side of the shaft. The paddle may vary in length and size. Paddles with adjustable lengths are also permitted. There are no limits on weight. During a race only one paddle may be used for the duration. A spare paddle may not be fixed to the SUP board to be used if necessary.

9 COMPETITION EVENTS / COURSE

Sprint:

Women and Men maximum 400 Meter

Distance:

Women and Men minimum 5000 Meter with stop watch and timekeeping

Technical Race:

Length of course is open.

White water:

The competition event is run according to the respective competition format either with heat eliminations or fastest times.

Further competition events will require confirmation and approval from the race management.

The competition jury may reduce the length of the course in special circumstances, e.g. if wind and severe weather threaten the safety of the participants. Sprint events can take the form of heats/preliminary races or individual starts. In the case of heats the starting places should be allocated by a draw which should take place shortly before the start of the respective heat.

The race officials will set out instructions for all turns for long distance races as well as for normal courses stipulating whether buoy turns should be right shoulder turns (clockwise) or left shoulder turns (anti-clockwise). In courses with many turns the direction of turns should be evenly designated.

In special races, e.g. cross, white water cross, sprint, survivor etc. the direction of buoy turns can be open. This will be clearly defined and explained in the race meeting.

10 EVENT ORGANISATION

10.1 Trace / Competition Management

The race management must consist of at least the following:

a race director

two assistants for the start and finish

The names of all members of the competition/race management officials have to be published and be excluded from participating in the competition.

10..2 COMPETITION JURY

The Jury must include the race director and at least one member nominated by the ICF as their representative.

11 OFFICIALS

[GR]

11.1 International competitions shall be held under the supervision of the following officials:

Race Director

Technical Director

Starter(s)

Finishing Line Judge(s)

Timekeeper(s)

Board Scrutineer

Announcer

Press Official

11.2 One person may function in two or more of the above positions.

11.3 The competition will be managed by a *Competition Committee*, made up of:

Technical Director and

Safety Officer

The *Competition Committee* shall:

Organize the competition and supervise its arrangements;

11.4 In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances which make it impossible to carry out or finish the competition, postpone the competition and decide on another time when it may be held, or abandon the competition, or, if the competition has already begun, abandon or reschedule the competition;

11.5 Hear any protests that may be made and settle any disputes that may arise;

Decide on matters concerning disqualification in cases where the regulations have been broken during the competition. The decision of the Committee shall be based on the present Rules. Penalties in accordance with the ICF Statutes may also be imposed (i.e. disqualification for a longer period than the duration of the competition in question);

Before any decision is made regarding an alleged infraction of the rules, hear the opinion of the officials who are in control of the race, if it is felt to be of importance in clearing up the alleged offence;

The *Competition Committee* may disqualify any competitor who behaves improperly or who by his or her conduct or speech shows contempt towards the officials, other competitors or onlookers;

A member of the Competition Committee may not participate in a judgment connected with the disqualification of a competitor from his or her own national federation.

12 DUTIES OF OFFICIALS

[TR]

12.1 The race (chief) officials shall carry out the following duties, where applicable:

- The Race Director, who is also the Chairman of the Competition Committee, shall decide all matters arising during the actual contests, which are not dealt with in these rules.

- The Technical Director is responsible for the preparation and running of the competition.
- The Starter decides all questions concerning the start of the races, and alone is responsible for decisions as to false starts. He or she must see to it that the starting signal equipment is in working order. The starter must order the competitors to their places and carry out the start in accordance with the Ocean Racing Rules. The language used shall be English. The starter's decision is final.
- The Finishing Line Judges decide the order in which the competitors have crossed the finishing line. They shall be placed at the finishing line. If the judges differ regarding the placing of two or more of the competitors, the disagreement shall be decided by a simple majority. In the case of equal voting, the Chief Judge shall exercise a casting vote. The decision of the judges is final.
- The Timekeepers are responsible for recording the times. Before each race the Chief Timekeeper shall establish that the time-keeping equipment is working satisfactorily.
- The Safety Officer is responsible for advising the Competition Committee on the safety measures necessary, and for seeing that these are taken.
- The Announcer, on the instructions of the Race Director, announces the start of each race, the order of starting, and the placing of the competitors during the race. After the race is finished he or she will announce the results.

13 INTERNATIONAL SUP CANOE RACING OFFICIALS

13.1 Recognition as an international Official for SUP Canoe Racing is given by the ICF to those persons who have passed an appropriate examination.

13.2 Only national federations are entitled to nominate candidates for this examination, and the candidates' names must be submitted to the ICF General Secretary at least two months before the date of the examination.

13.3 The application shall be accompanied by a fee of 20 Euros, which is not refundable in the event of the candidate failing in the examination.

13.4 Applications shall not be younger than 20 years or older than 65 years.

13.5 A copy of the application form shall also be sent to the Chairman of the SUP Canoe Racing Working Group.

A subcommittee of the ICF will arrange the examination annually, in conjunction with a major SUP Canoe Racing event.

The examination will be conducted in one of the official languages of the ICF and will be based on the Statutes and Ocean Racing Canoeing Rules of the ICF and practical experience of Ocean Racing Canoeing.

If a National Federation wishes to hold an examination at some other time, the federation must meet the living and travel expenses of the members of the examining committee.

Candidates who have failed one examination may enrol for another, but not earlier than the following year. Successful candidates will be issued with an identity card as International Ocean Racing Officials.

The cost incurred by a candidate in connection with the examination, shall be a charge on the national federation of that candidate.

In exceptional circumstances, a national federation may supply the ICF with a list of experienced participants of Ocean Racing events, along with a description of their experience. The ICF may waive the examination requirements for approved candidates.

ICF accepted the nomination from experienced judges from third parties (organizers) if the competition is organized in cooperation with other Federations or professional organizers

Validity and renewals are subject to the Technical Chairs' criteria. If the Officials' Card expires, is lost or destroyed a 20 euro fee for renewal will be charged.

14 INVITATION

[GR]

An invitation to an international competition shall contain the following information:

- a) Time and place of the competition.
- b) Full race instructions, including layout and map of the course.
- c) Classes and distance of races.
- d) Sequence and starting times of races.
- e) Nature of the course, water conditions and degree of difficulty.
- f) Fees.
- g) Address to which entries should be sent.
- h) Last date for receiving entries. This date shall not be earlier than 14 days before the first day of the competition or in accordance with rules of organizers if the competition is organized by professional partners. Invitations to the World Cups competitions shall be sent to all ICF members at least three (3) months prior to the respective event.

15 ENTRIES

[GR]

Entries for an international competition should be made through the national federation and in accordance with the regulations given in the invitation.

An entry shall, however, always contain the following:

- a) The name of the club or federation to which the competitor/s belong.
- b) The events in which the team proposes to compete.
- c) First name and surname of each competitor, together with the date and year of birth and his or her citizenship.
- d) In crew boards the names must be according to the position of the athlete in the board.
- e) The colours of the athlete competition suit.

Entries may be sent electronically and must be dispatched before midnight on the last day for receiving entries. Electronic entries must be confirmed by hard copy and in the eventuality of conflicting information; the information in the hard copy would take precedence. When making their entries federations must give the colours of the clothing worn by the competitors, and these colours must not be changed during the competition.

16 ACCEPTANCE OF ENTRIES AND PROGRAMME

[TR]

Applications for entry must be acknowledged within 48 hours of receipt. A team leaders / competitor's meeting shall be held commencing not later than three (3) hours and not sooner than 30 hours before the first event starts to determine, amongst other things, the final entry details. After the meeting the definitive programme should be completed and made available at the course, giving names and citizenship of competitors and the results of the draw if one has been required.

17 ALTERATION IN ENTRIES AND WITHDRAWALS

[TR]

Notification of alterations must be given at the team leaders meeting.

The Race Director may, in exceptional circumstances, accept written replacement of named competitors by named reserves up to one hour before the start of the first race.

The Race Director's decision as to what constitutes an exceptional circumstance is final, and not subject to appeal.

The withdrawal of an entry is considered final and no renewed entry of the same crew or athlete is allowed. Entry fees cannot be refunded.

18 ALTERATIONS IN THE SEQUENCE OF EVENT

[TR]

The sequence of races given in the invitation, and the intervals between the races as given in the racing programme, are binding on the organizers. Alterations cannot be made unless the respective team managers or national representatives at the competition give their consent.

Competitors have the right to appeal to the ICF, through their national federations, against a decision of the Competition Committee, within 30 days from the date when the race was held. The appeal shall be accompanied by a fee of 25 US dollars or its equivalent, which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

The ICF Board of Directors shall pronounce the final decision based on a recommendation by the Ocean Racing Working Group.

20 COMPETITION MEETING

Competition courses in international competitions must be decided and published at least one week before the event. An adjustment that may be necessary due to prevailing weather conditions at the time of the event can be decided by the race jury.

All information and changes regarding the competition events and races must be made clearly available to all participants on the competition notice board. Information as well as changes in the course of the competition must be updated on the competition notice board as necessary in due time. Announcement of the finalised race course in all competition events must be announced no later than at the race meeting.

The race meeting is mandatory and must take place at least 30 minutes before the start of every event. At the meeting all important information regarding the course, important points specific to the event as well as safety instructions will be communicated. This information will also be displayed on the competition notice board. In special circumstances, e.g. in the case of sudden weather warnings, the competition management is permitted to call a race meeting at short notice.

21 START/FINISH

The start will be either on land (beach start) or on the water (water start). The exact procedure will be announced at the race meeting.

21.1 WATER START:

The paddler starts standing, kneeling or sitting (on board) on a line between two points (e.g. buoys, starting vessel, pier etc.). This starting line must be perpendicular to the first turn buoy.

The tip of the board may not cross the starting line until the start signal has been given.

21.2 BEACH START:

The paddler starts standing at the starting line between two points (e.g. flags). The starting line is perpendicular to the first turn buoy. The body of the paddlers may not cross the starting line until the start signal has been given.

Long distance:

3 minutes before race start: announcement on loudspeaker or light display to inform participants of pending race start.

The starting line may not be crossed after this.

1 Minute before race start: announcement on loudspeaker or light display.

After at least 60 seconds, but no later than 75 seconds there must be a clear start signal either with a starting gun or fanfare etc.

In championships women and men start separately.

21.3 EARLY START/FALSE START

Sprint/Technical Race:

first false start => participant is warned

same participant with second false start => participant concerned is disqualified

Long distance:

- courses up to 10 km course => 3 minute time penalty for false starter

- courses more than 10km course => 5 minute time penalty for false starter

There is no warning for false starters in these events.

Aborted start:

In sprint and technical race events one aborted start is permitted whereby the participant concerned will be warned. A second false start caused by the same participant will result in the participant being disqualified.

In long distance race events an aborted start will only be permitted when because of the false start 20 or more participants cross the starting line before the start signal. These participants will get a time penalty.

Stopping the race.

Should the race management consider the weather or water conditions to be dangerous, the race event can be stopped. Depending on the circumstances this shall be signalled by:

- Loudspeaker
- Sirens
- Signalling
- Red flag

The participants must without delay follow the instructions of the race management.

The finishing line will be on a line between two points (e.g. buoys, flags)

With a beach finish the participants must cross the finishing line with their paddle.