



Minutes of the ECA Board of Directors Meeting

2/2024

Online Meeting

12th March 2024, 06:00 pm

Present members:

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

ITEM 1

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The President greeted the board members, thanked them for their attendance, and provided updates on meetings, progress, and challenges since the last session before introducing the meeting agenda.

PRESENTING THE AGENDA

1	Opening of the Meeting	J. ZOUNGRANA
2	Sport committee	J. ZOUNGRANA
3	ECA medal claim due to doping control	J. STANOJEVIC
4	Satellite Office Hungary–Job description	J. ZOUNGRANA
5	ECA Competition Calendar 2024-2027	J. STANOJEVIC
6	Bidding process– Decision about the Organizers of the ECA Championships in 2027	J. STANOJEVIC
7	ICF Refugee status athletes at ECA Championships	J. STANOJEVIC
8	European Championships Ocean Racing – List of events for 2024	J. STANOJEVIC
9	ECA Governance–Statutes	P. KARAI/ J. ZOUNGRANA
10	ICF and Olympic Solidarity 2024 ICF CANOE SLALOM JUNIOR AND U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS in Lipovsky Mikulas – Slovakia	A. JELENC
11	ECA training camp in North Macedonia	A. JELENC

12	ICF Olympic Solidarity Cyprus	J. ZOUNGRANA
13	ECA Sport Program – Update	J. STANOJEVIC
14	Risk management measures Gifts, invitations, and hospitality policy	J. ZOUNGRANA
15	ECA Development Programme survey	. JZOUNGRANA
16	Miscellaneous	

Without any comments or alterations to the agenda, the President proceeded with the meeting.

ITEM 2

SPORT COMMITTEE

The creation of a Sport Committee within the ECA, presented to the Board by President Jean Zoungrana, aims to facilitate coordination among sports committees, harmonizing their actions and functions while providing opinions on rule changes and ensuring event calendar consistency.

In discussing the committee's name, concerns were raised about adherence to statutes and terminology differentiation, with suggestions to align terminology with statutes and maintain flexibility. The Board members emphasized the need for adaptation while respecting existing statutes, agreeing to temporarily refer to it as a Commission, subject to potential future changes.

ITEM 3

ECA MEDAL CLAIM DUE TO DOPING CONTROL

The request to reclaim a medal from the 2013 ECA Canoe Sprint European Championships arose due to a doping suspension affecting athlete Shuklin Jevgenij from Lithuania, rendering him ineligible from 12 November 2019 to 11 November 2021 and annulling results from 11 August 2012 to 10 August 2016. This necessitates changes to results in the 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 ECA Canoe Sprint Championships. The agenda item discussed pertains to reclaiming the medal due to doping control issues, with a suggestion to contact relevant federations for medal returns. The procedure for the return and delivery of medals will be handled by Branko Lovric, who will oversee the necessary steps to execute this.

ITEM 4

SATELLITE OFFICE HUNGARY– JOB DESCRIPTION

The discussion about ICF establishing a satellite office in Hungary led to a proposal by ICF to have a staff member there. The idea is for the ECA to be involved in the selection process, ensuring the staff member's alignment with ECA's needs. It's proposed to have a Development Manager to implement ECA Development program currently under construction. However, concerns were raised about potential conflicts with existing roles and the need for clarity in job descriptions, particularly between the sports manager who is required to propose training camp projects and the Development Manager who will also

be required to work there. While the proposal is supported, it's emphasized that the staff member should be paid by the ICF, not the ECA. Additionally, it's highlighted that the role should complement existing functions, particularly in ensuring equal attention to Europe and development within the ICF program. Further discussions will address the specifics of the job description and selection process.

ITEM 5

ECA COMPETITION CALENDAR 2024-2027

The discussion on the ECA calendar for 2024-2027 revealed some updates and pending items. Updates will be made accordingly on the website.

ECA Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe Championships, Racice (CZE) – dates confirmed, 19-22 June 2025

ECA Canoe Sprint Jun&U23 Championships, Pitesti (ROU) – dates confirmed, 3-6 July 2025

ECA Wildwater Sprint & Sen/Jun Cup, Banja Luka (BIH) – dates changed, 8-9 September 2024

ITEM 6

BIDDING PROCESS – DECISION ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS OF THE ECA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2027

The decision for the 2027 competition organizers is postponed. Concerns arise regarding scheduling conflicts, notably with hosting both the European Games and senior Sprint competitions simultaneously. Official confirmation and technical support are needed, especially for Championships with only one bid. There's a preference against consecutive hosting in the same country, highlighting the importance of geographical diversity. Technical expertise and previous experiences of potential organizers are crucial considerations. Postponement of the decision is deemed necessary to gain more clarity on future events and logistical complexities.

ITEM 7

ICF REFUGEE STATUS ATHLETES AT ECA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Upon the inquiry from Canoeing Austria regarding the participation of UN Refugee status athletes in the European Olympic Qualifier and European Championships, due to concerns about eligibility and lack of established policies current year's European Championships will not be open to Refugee athletes as well. Instead, they proposed further investigation and development of a clear policy for future championships, considering feedback from National Federations and the specific circumstances of each discipline. This decision aims to ensure fairness and consistency in athlete participation across different sports events.

ITEM 8

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS OCEAN RACING – LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2024

Following the ICF Rules and regulations governing World Championships, the following

proposal outlines the official European Championships events, ECA Titles, and ECA Medals:

1. Men's Surfski Single-MSS-1
2. Women's Surfski Single -WSS-1
3. Under 23 Men's Surfski Single- U23MSS-1
4. Under 23 Women's Surfski Single -U23WSS-1
5. Junior Men's Surfski Single-JMSS-1
6. Junior Women's Surfski Single-JWSS-1
7. Mixed Surfski Double-XSS-2
8. Under 23 Mixed Surfski Double - U23XSS-2
9. Junior Mixed Surfski Double-JXSS

Additionally, two (2) medals will be awarded in the Open Men's SS1 and Open Women's SS1 categories, where participants from all age groups will start together and race over the same course, resulting in combined rankings and results. This proposal has been approved by the Board.

Furthermore, the proposal to include master's categories as Official European Championships titles for the current competition has been approved. Despite potential logistical challenges and participant concerns, it has been decided to officially recognize master's categories as European Championships titles in compliance with the Bulletin.

There has been a strong emphasis on the need to clarify rules and ensure consistency across disciplines to prevent similar discrepancies in the future. Suggestions have been put forward to provide essential guidelines for organizing committees in this regard.

ITEM 9

ECA GOVERNANCE – STATUTES

Peter Karai briefed the Board on suggestions from the Governance Working Group. Following the review of materials, the Board provided their comments. The Governance Working Group has made significant strides in developing the new ECA Statute since September 2023, showcasing its operational effectiveness. Five meetings have occurred thus far, with the latest one in February focusing on preparing surveys to integrate National Federation opinions into the new statutes.

Key proposed changes include defining statutes, adjusting headquarters designations, updating official languages, specifying ECA objectives, and integrating gender equity measures. Discussions are ongoing regarding proxy voting, executive committee removal, and the addition of a finance director, with majority opinions guiding the direction. Furthermore, emphasis is placed on transparent director appointments, establishing a finance committee, and implementing clear disciplinary procedures.

These proposed changes closely align with survey results, highlighting the significance of National Federation opinions. As discussions progress, it's evident that the new ECA Statutes strive to balance efficiency with shared governance, reflecting the evolving needs of the ECA.

Peter Karai and Jean Zoungrana will relay this feedback to the working group and continue collaborative efforts to refine the proposed changes. This iterative process ensures that the final ECA Statutes reflect the collective input and expertise of all parties involved.

ITEM 10

ICF AND OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY 2024 ICF JUNIOR AND U23 CANOE SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN LIPOVSKY MIKULAS – SLOVAKIA

Jean Zoungrana has informed the Board members about the organization of the training camp scheduled to take place during the 2024 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. The camp is set to run from June 24th to July 7th, 2024, aiming to support young athletes from emerging nations in Canoe Slalom.

ITEM 11

ECA TRAINING CAMP IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Andrej Jelenc proposed a plan for a training camp in North Macedonia, scheduled from March 30 to April 7, 2024, to aid the development of Balkan region countries. Due to limited availability, each country can nominate only two athletes. Initial discussions involved contacting Serbia, Romania, Macedonia, and Bosnia, with plans for outreach to Greece and Turkey. If slots remain, Slovenia may be considered, with attention to countries like Kosovo with fewer resources. Financial support from ECA covers accommodation, local transport, and coaching fees, for 12 athletes and 2 coaches is presented. The Board expressed support for the initiative and intends to collaborate with relevant federations for successful participation.

ITEM 12

ICF OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY CYPRUS

Jean Zoungrana presented a report to the Board regarding the Level 2 Canoe Sprint Coaches Course held in Limassol, Cyprus, from February 28th to March 4th, 2024. The course, financially supported by Olympic Solidarity, aimed to enhance coaching skills within the region. Fifteen male participants, including coaches, athletes, and the NF president, attended the course. Practical sessions were complemented by theory lectures covering various aspects of performance assessment, technique, and coaching methods.

ITEM 13

ECA SPORT PROGRAM– UPDATE

Jovana Stanojevic provided a brief update on the progress of the working groups across various disciplines. Despite initial challenges, including minimal communication, the groups have become more active, with frequent meetings and discussions. While majority of disciplines have submitted their sports programs, others are continuing their work requesting a deadline extension. The main areas of focus align with the objectives set during the kick-off meeting. It was noted that some disciplines may require additional attention to ensure progress.

ITEM 14

RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES GIFTS, INVITATIONS, AND HOSPITALITY POLICY

Jean Zoungrana brought up the topic of gift invitation and hospitality policy, and the absence of ECA policy in this area. Recognizing the potential risk of corruption and conflict of interest, he emphasized the need for a clear policy to guide the Board members on accepting gifts and invitations. It was suggested to determine acceptable gift types, frequency, and situations, and proposed to integrate this policy into the ethics document. Other board members agreed, suggesting setting a maximum gift value and considering charity events as alternatives. The discussion underscored the importance of addressing this issue formally to avoid uncomfortable situations in the future.

ITEM 15

ECA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME SURVEY

The President, Jean Zoungrana, shared an update on the ECA Development Programme survey, indicating that feedback from 36 federations and 3 additional answers from NFs so far has been received, primarily from Secretary Generals. While not all federations have responded yet, President expressed contentment with the current progress and mentioned plans to follow up with federations that have not yet responded to ensure their participation in the survey.

ITEM 16

MISCELLANEOUS

CANOE SLALOM JUDGING

Miroslav Haviar pointed out significant challenges with Canoe Slalom judging, primarily stemming from subjectivity. The proposal for electronic touch registration under scores the importance of modernizing equipment. However, both Miroslav Haviar and Jean Zoungrana emphasize that tackling this challenge should remain a priority for the ICF. While there is agreement on the importance of the issue, Mr. Miroslav Haviar will examine the potential possibilities in this way, given the financial resources required and time constraints, is needed.

INFORMATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE 2024 ECA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jovana Stanojevic provided an update on the preparation status of the ECA Championships for 2024, indicating significant progress. Key areas such as host agreements and policies have been addressed, with pending reports expected post-competition.

Additionally, Jovana discussed follow-ups on previous meeting topics, regarding neutral athletes. While documents on the ICF website are current, the ICF office is yet to finalize discussions on the process of neutral athletes.

Regarding SDP access, clarification is needed from Technical Delegates to determine their preferences, with Jovana offering support in facilitating the process if required.

WILDWATER

Manuela Gawehn highlighted the need for additional funding to support a development camp in preparation for the upcoming Junior&U23 European Championships. The proposed camp aligns with the new ICF development policy, which was finalized recently. Manuela expressed her intention to invite new nations, including Estonia, Poland, Kosovo, and other nations, to participate in whitewater canoeing. While President Zoungrana approved the proposal, emphasizing the acceptability of the budget, he also stressed the importance of having a detailed project document for better understanding and communication. Manuela assured that the document would be finalized promptly, with the invitation letters already dispatched to National Federations via the ICF. Further collaboration with Jean Zoungrana was suggested to finalize the budget and ensure clarity in project communication. This initiative marks a significant step in fostering the growth of whitewater canoeing and expanding participation among new nations.

The President, Jean Zoungrana, expresses his appreciation for everyone's active participation. Despite its length, important topics were addressed, reflecting the significant progress being made within current initiatives. He extends his gratitude to all attendees for their dedication. With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Branko Lovric
ECA Secretary General



Jean Zoungrana
ECA President

