



International Rafting Federation

Sport & Competition Committee Highlights **Report by Pieter Bekkers, Head of S&C for Congress 2017** **October, Miyoshi City, Japan**

The S&C Com was active with a number of issues in 2017:

1. **H2H:** We talked about the future of H2H as it is generally agreed that the present format is not ideal as about 95% of the races, whoever gets in front at the start stays there until the finish. So a group were commissioned to come up with guidelines for changes that can be tested out at some R4 C-level events before the end of the year. (The guidelines are attached). The aim is for this discipline to be a potential candidate for Olympics in the future.
2. **Bids for the upcoming events in the next years:**
 - a. We had two bids for R6 in 2019, Canada and Australia. Both bids were very good and after an intense assessment and interaction with both bidding groups, Australia was finally selected as it was felt that they were able to provide more of what the IRF required. We asked Canada if they would like to bid for WRC 2021.
 - b. Not too long ago we were discussing the bids for R4 EC 2018. Turkey and Slovakia were the possible hosts. Both bids were also very good. After much discussion the final decision was for Slovakia as it was felt their experience guaranteed a high quality event, the lower costs for most of the teams to attend was very attractive to ensure high team numbers attending, and the very important fact that R4 is our route to the Olympics and therefore should ideally be on an artificial track.
 - c. We then asked Turkey if they would like to bid for ERC 2019, R6, as they have a good natural river and they will have plenty enough time to prepare the event thoroughly.
3. **Updating of Race Rules:** at the start of the year discussions were held and the Race Rules were updated.
4. **Continually working with organisers for WRC:** There are times when we are working with 3 different WRC organisers and at least 1 ERC organiser. It is a very busy task.
5. **Ensuring the Race Rules are adhered to:** where members are sending teams to ERC or WRC events these selections and teams need to be falling within IRF Race Rules. Where there are problems these are then addressed. Issues with incorrect teams/ team members being registered for events or incorrect procedures as far as national selections were dealt with for Costa Rica, Serbia and Turkey. National Federations are reminded to stay within the IRF Race Rules to ensure there are no problems at events.

6. **Future:** There is a lot asked of our organization regarding the future of raft racing. The aim for inclusion in the Olympics, when could it be a reality, how do we achieve this, are there advantages to joining other organisations, what are those pro and cons for rafting. These are all matters on which the S&C has to focus and think about.
7. **Other:** there are continual requests being run past the S&C Com, like approvals for paddlers who do not have the passport for the country they wish to paddle for, but are residents of that country. And many other smaller issues that the S&C need to resolve.

I thank all those on the S&C Com who were active participants in the many discussions and voting.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. B.', written over a horizontal line.