



# International Rafting Federation

## AGENDA – Sport & Competition meeting 2011 6 Oct 2011

1. Opening. *Sue continued straight on after the BOD election*
2. Apologies, roll call/ establish delegates, establish a quorum - *see Part 2 of the Main Congress.*
3. Discussion and establishment of Heads of Sport & Competition Sub-Committees
  - a) Youth and Masters Committee: *Oleg Grigoriev (Russia)*
  - b) Judges Committee (only for Assessor and Chief Judges): *Eric Boudreau (Canada)*
  - c) Anti-doping Committee: *Michael Lindberg (Denmark)*
  - d) Euro Cup Committee (made up of head organiser of each Euro Cup event): *Stan Hajeks and Zdeslav Karlovac*
  - e) Continental Committees (no African Committee as only 1 member at this time):
    - i. Euro Committee: *Ondrej Panenka (Czech)*
    - ii. Australasian Committee: *Graeme Maifredi (Australia)*
    - iii. Pan-American Committee: *Joe Willie Jones (Chile)*
4. Discussion and establishment of the S&C Committee. *It was decided that this committee should be made up of 3 members from Youth & Masters Committee + 3 members of the Judges Committee + 3 members from each of the Continental Committees. The heads of each of these sections are to propose who these 3 from their committee will be.*
5. Discussions and resolutions on the proposals submitted by National Federations and BOD – *see discussions and conclusions below*
  - a) Rafts for future A and B level events
  - b) Rafting in International Sport University Federation (FISU)
  - c) Rafting ergometer and Indoor Rafting
  - d) IRF Olympics commission
  - e) Youth event age groups
6. Any other business if time allows
7. Closing of Part 2 (Sport & Competition section) of the Congress.

IRF CONGRESS 2011 – member and BOD proposals for  
Sport & Competition meeting 6 Oct 2011

**Proposal 1: Rafts for future A and B level events**  
from BOD on behalf of all members

At the 2009 Congress the suggestion that teams bring their own rafts to the 2011 WRC was declined. Recently, due no bids coming in for the 2012 WRC and requests to make demands on event organisers affordable this proposal has come up again. Discussions have already been had on the IRF Forum and so we are therefore tabling the proposal again at Congress. The proposal is as follows:

- Organisers can request teams to bring their own rafts to A and B level events;
- these rafts must fall within the specifications set down by the IRF;

Reasons:

- Some locations (usually on the more exciting Grade 4/5 rivers) do not have easy turn around times to get rafts back to the start. Therefore one raft per team is needed. This means 50+ rafts are needed – this is a VERY high cost for an organiser. Even in the unlikely case of a raft manufacturer sponsoring 50+ rafts there is still a huge cost in shipping these in.
- This would create a good stimulus for the raft manufacturing industry all over the world;

Considerations:

- disadvantages teams with little funding;
- specifications defined by IRF would have to be very precise;
- Judges would have to be trained and methods set up to assess rafts at start to ensure they fall within the defined specifications;
- this could be done on a trial run for one WRC and then reconsidered.

The decision is therefore:

- 1) organisers to continue to provide all rafts as before or
- 2) organisers can choose whether or not they provide the rafts or whether teams are to bring their own rafts.

**Discussion:**

- *some one pointed out that making teams bring their own rafts is shifting the costs of buying and shipping from the organisers on to the teams and so makes it more expensive for teams to attend. Shipping all the rafts together is cheaper than 1 by 1.*
- *The question was asked – what happens if the organisers accidentally damage a team's raft? Imagine a team spending a fortune on a very specifically designed raft and then it gets irreparably damaged during transporting around at the event.*
- *Each year will see more and more expensive rafts coming out. The poorer teams will get left behind, especially in those countries where no one manufactures rafts.*
- *Everyone was in agreement that organisers should not be expected to provide all the rafts at the event. The IRF needs to look into buying rafts or getting them sponsored or looking at deals with manufacturers where they can sell them afterwards at good prices, or any other ideas.*

**Conclusion:**

*IRF S&C Com must work with the event organisers of A and B level events and if it's needed, secure the rafts for these events.*

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## **Proposal 2: Rafting in International Sport University Federation (FISU)**

**From Serbian Rafting Federation**

The proposal is to develop a strategic plan for inputting rafting into the family of University sports in FISU and organizing a World University Rafting Championships, Continental University Rafting Championships and making possibilities for entering a program of future Universities, as a optional sport.

Zeljko Rajkovic will be addressing the Congress on this issue. (FISU CT Chair Canoe Sprint; candidate for IRF Judge; Assistant Professor; Rowing and Canoeing; Faculty of Sport and Physical Education; Belgrade's University, Serbia.)

### **Discussion:**

*Everyone is keen on the idea and suggest a sub-committee is created.*

### **Conclusion:**

*Zeljko Rajkovic is appointed as Head of IRF FISU sub-com and is asked to find others to include on the committee to work with him on that. A report where he has got with this in about 6 months would be great. (Or earlier if he likes.)*

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## **Proposal 3: Rafting ergometer and Indoor Rafting**

**From Serbian Rafting Federation**

The proposal is to popularize Rafting as a sport, through designing and using a special Rafting ergometer and possibilities of organizing a Rafting Indoor National and Regional competitions as a condition of creating new discipline – World Indoor Rafting Championship. Serbian Rafting Federation has already started the engineering project with the company that produces rowing ergometers in Serbia for our needs.

Boris Purjakov will be addressing the Congress on this issue

### **Discussion:**

*Everyone was really interested in the concept. As it is new to everyone they have asked for more information. Boris will send the information to Sue and she will put it on the website and facebook for everyone to see. Deb Cook mentioned that it would be very popular amongst students. Maybe it could link it with the FISU side of things.*

### **Conclusion:**

*Boris will send the information to Sue and she will spread it to everyone for their input.*

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## **Proposal 4: IRF Olympics commission**

**From Serbian Rafting Federation**

The proposal is to form a new IRF commission, which will be responsible for creating a path to Olympic Games. To create a long term project with detailed plans and activities for making a proposal to IOC to include Rafting as a demonstration sport in the near future of Olympic Games.

Stefan Purjakov will be addressing the Congress on this issue

**Discussion and Conclusion:**

*As this is a very key part of the International Relations Committee it was suggested that all who are interested in this aspect join the IR meeting which will be tomorrow evening.*

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## **Proposal 5: Youth event age groups**

### **From Union of Boaters of Czech Rep**

Is the age group of 16 - 19 going to be enforced for Youth WRC 2012 or will it be 16 - 21 again? And if it is the latter then should we be re-writing the rule to make the age group officially 16 - 21 instead of 16 - 19?

**Discussion:**

- *Peter said that usually the terminology is: 16 – 19 = Youth; 19 – 21 = Juniors.*
- *The reasons the age groups have been changed for events was understood and accepted by all (many countries would not be able to put forward teams aged 16 to 19).*
- *All though in some countries there are many youth rafters and youth events many other countries are just starting with this.*
- *It was suggested that the rules are left as is (16 – 19) and an exception be made once again for 2012 Youth WRC to be set at 16 – 21yrs). This was accepted.*
- *Everyone agreed that each federation needs to work on its Youth section and aim at presenting teams that are 16 to 19 as soon as possible.*

**Conclusion:**

*Rules will stay the same and YWRC will be an exception again at 16 to 21yrs.*