



Sport and Competition Report - Congress 2019 **by Eric Boudreau (Chair Sport & Competition)**

13 & 15 May, Tully, Queensland, Australia

As Chair of the Sport and Competition Committee I am glad to present to you this report of what has been done by our committee since the last congress (Japan 2017).

Race organizations

Always wanting to improve the level of race organization, the committee has worked hard to be sure the IRF sanctioned events are all high quality events. Reports and experiences from past events have been taken into consideration to ensure we improve our standards every year of working hand in hand with Race Directors, Jury/judge committee, timing team, safety teams and organizers.

A Race Director workbook has been created and is being updated and hopefully will be merged into a race/event manual including head judge/race director/timing team/safety team/event organizer workbook. This will ensure high quality events that will represent the IRF willingness to have the best quality events as possible and to continue an "IRF way to do" in all upcoming events.

The S&C committee is now also making sure that key positions in the race organization are held by experienced and recognized figures. One example is race directors that are now often a team of a local RD and an IRF appointed RD or simply an IRF appointed RD that is in close contact with the local organizers.

Race Bids

Being aware that the first step to have a good event is to receive quality bids, the S&C committee has been working hand in hand with organizations to ensure quality bids are given and that these bids represent the reality of what the organizations can put in place to have quality events. In the recent years the numbers of bids have been limited but the quality of them was higher than ever being the result of IRF higher standards.

Still with the high quality event requirements, one key factor that the S&C is taking seriously is the cost for teams to attend these events. It is not always easy to keep it low depending on countries but the focus is being brought to this and as an example our 2020 WRC should be one of the cheapest events ever organized for teams to attend.

The committee is also mindful of the fact that teams like to race on great rivers – the Alumine certainly satisfied the teams who attended WRC 2018!

European and World Series events

The Euro Cup Series continues to be popular and strong. Some new locations have been included, like Romania, Georgia and the UK. Overall standards have been improved as well.

The World Cup Series is seeing a strong interest with some organisers offering to cover a certain number of teams' costs, plus prize money as well, a great boost to the series.

Race rules

One of the main responsibilities of the S&C committee is to update the rules. With the recent change of the Head to Head format many small adjustments have been discussed and made following the first events using the new format. Also in late 2018 many rule update were [proposed, discussed and approved by the committee](#).

Racing equipment

The S&C committee has initiated a plan, working hand in hand with the IRF marketing team to put in place and build up a list of materials that the IRF will own. The goal is to continue to be more and more professional during our events and especially improving the image we are providing to media and TV coverage. This includes Jury tent, flags, banners, H2H buoys, start and finish buoys with banners, radios, etc.

The Sport & Competition Committee's next goals

All the aspects mentioned in this report are for one main goal, to bring our organization to a higher level and continue to be recognized as THE rafting federation. We are optimistic that in the recent years many improvements have been made but we are only at the tip of the iceberg of the potential our sport represents on the racing side.