



## Congress 2021

# ATHLETES' COMMISSION REPORT

Chair of Athletes' Commission - Aleš Danek

My period in this position started in 2019 after the WRC in Australia where a new Commission was appointed and the new Athletes Commission will be until the next WRC (hopefully 2022).

The main topic that competitors are interested in are race rules and that's the biggest chance to try to affect anything important for competitor's condition. I'm happy that the last main race rules adjustment was tested in races in 2019 (IRF approved end 2018, applicable from 2019) and that is currently the last international race due to the pandemic. I hope next year's WRC and other raft racing events will go on! I was able to personally see and discuss with competitors during the WRC in Australia and pre-world in China about these new changes. Also during last two years there were several Czech and European cups in Czech Republic that had very big organisation levels due to the Czech rafting union. So we had a lot of opportunities from 2019 to see in reality the new changes:

- especially disciplines point system - Slalom vs Downriver - same for both 350:350 points
- H2H line choice from team with better Sprint - very fair solution seems to be after discussion

These rules adjustments were something that a lot of competitors called for. Especially in Czech Republic for the long time considered as objective change to improvement.

At the end of 2019 there was another opportunity to submit potential rules changes. There was a big task:

- to try to change historical H2H structure like in almost of sports works
- further - point evaluation for Sprint and H2H to have the same point value

These suggestions finally weren't approved. H2H structure still stay as a big challenge for the future, current attempt for this hot topic will come from Czech rafting union.

In conclusion there could be told that we all hope next year that rafters will overcome the pandemic and be again able to travel and compete worldwide for their pleasure, success, results and would all meet each other on rafting events and move rafting forward.

**Report by Aleš Danek (Athletes' Commission Chair), October 2021**

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