

# Paracanoe: A Sport for the 2016 Games

# introduction



In 2009, the ICF, partnered with the International Va'a Federation (IVF) to launch the Paracanoe Development Programme in a bid to expand the sport of canoeing to the worldwide community of people with a disability. Paracanoe (formerly PaddleAbility) gives people with various physical challenges the opportunity to enjoy the sport at club, regional, national and international level.

## 2009 Achievements

- Classification of disabilities developed
- 20 Classifiers from 7 Federations and 2 Continents trained
- Boat standards established
- Partnership of ICF and IVF established
- 2009 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships achieved full accessibility where seven Federations competed

The ICF and IVF pledged their support of Paracanoe in a number of events in the 2010 season. As such, special support will be given for the participation in the 2010 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships in Poland. This is in the form of boat purchase and by training classifiers and developing their role in determining the severity of disability for the sport.

The principal target is the inclusion of Paracanoe in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## Goals for 2010

The ICF needs 24 Federations to participate in the Paracanoe events at the 2010 World Canoe Sprint Championships in Poznan, Poland, in order to be considered for the 2016 Paralympics. The ICF has beaten this target with 31 Federations from all five Continents and 63 athletes entered. Paracanoe has now passed an important step for inclusion in the 2016 Games, which will result in increased interest, motivation and the level of financial support for Paracanoeing throughout the world.



# classification system

The ICF recognises three classes for Paracanoe (LTA, TA, A) while the IVF recognises six. Refinements are being worked on to bring the IVF and the ICF Systems into alignment with IPC standards. The following is a blend of the two classification systems.

## LTA - IVF 5 & 6 Point Paddler

The LTA Class is for paddlers with a disability who have functional use of their legs, trunk and arms for paddling, and who can apply force to the foot board or the seat to propel the boat. Eligible LTA paddlers may typically have a disability equivalent to one of the following:

- Amputee
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1
- Cerebral Palsy Class 8 (CPISRA)

LTA paddlers should meet the minimum disability requirements, which is as follows. A full loss of three fingers on one hand, or at least a tarsal metatarsal amputation of the foot, or the loss of ten points on one limb or fifteen points across two limbs when assessed using the Functional Classification Test as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities and the ICF Classifiers Instructors Manual.

## TA - IVF 4 Point Paddler

The TA Class is for those with use of the trunk and arms. They are unable to apply continuous, controlled force to the footboard or seat to propel the boat due to a weakened function of the lower limbs. TA paddlers typically have a disability equivalent to at least one of these:

- Bilateral around knee amputation or significantly
- impaired quadriceps
- Neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3 level, or an incomplete lesion at L1
- Cerebral Palsy Class 5 (CP-ISRA)

## A - IVF 1 - 3 Point Paddler

The A Class is for paddlers who have no trunk function, or those who have shoulder function only. An A-Class paddler is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders and is likely to have poor sitting balance.

Eligible A-Class paddlers may typically have a disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CP-ISRA)
- Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10





# boat standards



K1	
Maximum Length	520cm
Minimum Width	50cm*
Minimum Weight	12kg

K2	
Maximum Length	650cm
Minimum Width	47cm*
Minimum Weight	18kg

These boat standards were set up by the ICF in collaboration with the IVF.

V1		Ama (Outrigger Pontoon)
Length	640–800cm	200–275cm
Minimum Width	35cm	12cm
Minimum Weight	10kg	

V2		Ama (Outrigger Pontoon)
Length	670–850cm	275–445cm
Minimum Width	40cm	12cm
Minimum Weight	20kg	

\* measured 10cm from the bottom of the hull

**General Notes:**

- Modifications are permitted for stability if the boat is made slower, (ie. stabilizing pontoons)
- Adaptation equipment is not regulated. It is included as part of the weight of the boat if it is securely attached.
- For Va'a boats, rudders are not permitted
- The Ama is attached on the left side.



# paracanoe events

## Paracanoe Events

The K-2 and V-2 offer the opportunity to team pairs of a different disability category. Please note that K-2 paddlers need some lower limb ability in order to steer the boat. On the other hand, the V-2 (with no rudder) is more suited to paddlers with no lower limb abilities.

The K-1 (Int. Dis.) is for paddlers with an intellectual disability. The IPC added the Intellectual Disability category back into the Paralympic Games but more work needs to be done to determine how this will happen.

The K-1 (Int. Dis.) category is already included in the competition programme of the Special Olympic World Summer Games, which will be held in Athens in 2011. The ICF recognises this as an opportunity to develop this part of the sport in the future.

## World Championships

The 2010 World Championships will feature four 200m events, potentially 12 races.

### Men

K-1, LTA, TA & A  
V-1, LTA, TA & A

### Women

K-1, LTA, TA & A  
V-1, LTA, TA & A

- Each event is open to all three Classes (LTA, TA, A) but a minimum of six National Federations are required to compete in each Class and each event in order for it to be a valid World Championship race. This allows the maximum number of athletes and categories while not increasing the number of events on the programme.
- Medals will be given for each Class within each event. All runners up will receive a Diploma of Participation.
- Each Federation is allowed one entry per class in each event.



## The proposed Paracanoe events.

Men	Women
K1	K1
V1	V1



# the future



The new name, Paracanoeing was officially adopted by the ICF in December, 2009 in order to align the sport with the Paralympic movement.

A formal Declaration of Intent was sent by the ICF to the IPC in September, 2009.

The K-1 is on the 2011 Special Olympic World Summer Games programme. Federations should contact their national Special Olympic Committees to apply for entry into the competition.

## 2011 and Beyond

Paracanoeing will be at the 2011 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships. With 27 countries from five continents, confirmed for 2010, making it the largest Paracanoe competition so far, interest for 2011 looks strong.

The 2012 Paracanoeing World Championship will be organised in conjunction with the World Cup. As 2012 is an Olympic year there will be no Canoe Sprint World Championships. This means there is the potential to use the full 8-event programme (which includes the Men's and Women's K2 and V2 events).

As the sport grows, more events will be considered. The ICF could introduce doubles and mixed doubles events, additional distances and additional classifications if there is enough interest.

## Future Developments

- Safety Protocol is in development and will be published.
- Training of Safety Personnel to be developed and piloted.
- PFD (life jacket) use policy to be reviewed.
- Privacy Protocol policy to be developed.

For more details contact ICF Chair of Sport for All, **John Edwards** or ICF Secretary General, **Simon Toulson**.

*...supporting paddlers of all abilities around the world.*

