



BRITISH CANOEING SPRINT RACING COMMITTEE

A statement in response to the ICF proposal announced on the 25th November for changes to the 2024 Paris Olympic programme

As the committee responsible for nurturing sprint racing in the UK we feel it is important that we publicise our view of the recent changes made by the ICF to the Olympic Program for Paris 2024.

We feel the changes, as presented, have created unnecessary stress and division within the canoeing community that they could, and should, have been better considered.

Though we accept that modernisation of our offering is essential to the survival of canoeing events in the Olympic program. We also strongly believe, that when significant changes are to be made there should be some non-negotiables in the decision-making process that lead to those changes.

The decision should be made with input from all stakeholders in a timeframe that allows for constructive discussion, considered responses and that prioritises the long-term future of the sport.

The decision should be made without regard to personal, federational or political agendas but instead should prioritise the needs of the sport as a whole and of the athletes who partake in it.

The decision-making process should comply with the rules of the organisation that is making the decision.

The decision made, should in no way undermine the existing disciplines and the existing offering of our sport or the athletes in it.

We feel the current decision appears to fall short on many, if not all of these points, and as such we, as a committee, support the efforts of the NGB's who oppose the changes based on their legality, and the athlete commission who have objected to them on the basis of the impact on paddler welfare.

Our input into any future discussions will place the athletes and the long-term future of the sport as our primary concern.