



**Pan American Canoe Federation  
2019 GENERAL ORDINARY ASSEMBLY. HUACHO, PERU**

On the thirtieth of July of the year two thousand and nineteen, being two hours, the Ordinary General Assembly of the Pan American Canoe Federation, COPAC, began at the Hotel La Villa, in the city of Huacho, Peru, being present at the presidium table: the President of COPAC, Mr. João Tomasini Schwertner, the Vice President of the ICF Mr. Thomas Konietzko, the Honorary President of COPAC, Dr. Cecília Farias, the First Vice President of COPAC Mr. Dwight Corbin, the Second Vice President of COPAC, Mr. Sergio Navarro and the General Secretary of COPAC, Mrs. Sonia Rivera.

**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the session:
2. Words from ICF Vice President Mr. Thomas Konietzko.
3. Words from ICF Vice President Dr. Cecília Farias.
4. Roll-call of delegates and establishment of the quorum.
5. Appointment of scrutineers for the period of the Congress.
6. Report of the President.
7. Acting Treasurer's report on financial matters.
8. Discussion and resolution of the proposals sent by the National Federations, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.
  - a) Modification of Statute - Sent to all Federations on 06/04/2019;
  - b) Modification of the Canoe Slalom Competition Rules.
9. Report on membership applications (Jamaica and Belize)
10. Election of Authorities.
11. Election of Chairpersons of Standing Committees
12. Establishing of the Work Program for the next two years.
13. Fixing the annual membership fee.
14. Establishing of the Budget for the same period.
15. Establishing of the date and the place of Continental Championships
16. Pan American Games Lima 2019
17. Pan American Games Santiago 2023
18. Para Pan American Games Santiago 2023
19. Pan American Games Junior Cali 2021
20. Continental Olympic Qualifiers
  - a) Canoe Sprint - Curuama, Chile
  - b) Canoe Slalom - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
21. General Information
  - a) Dr. Cecília Farias - Prevention of Harassment and Sexual Abuse;
  - b) Dr. Cecília Farias - Charles Yatman Award: Athlete Valentín Rossi;
  - c) Mr. Marcelo Barra - Pan American and South American Canoe Marathon Championships 2019;
  - d) Athletes Committees
22. Set date and place of the next Assembly
23. Congress Closes



## **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION.**

The President of COPAC Mr. João Tomasini opens the session and then begins by thanking the excellent work of the technical delegates in the last two years that he was in charge of the presidency of COPAC, mentioning each one of them. Then spread the word to the Vice President of the ICF, Mr. Thomas Konietzko.

## **2. WORDS FROM ICF VICE PRESIDENT MR. THOMAS KONIETZKO.**

Mr. Thomas thanks all the countries of the Pan American continent on behalf of ICF for the great development in the sport, and says he is proud of the progress and the excellent events that have taken place in the continent. He mentions that the ICF recognizes the difficulty in some countries and reports that in the future the decisions will be to support the Pan American countries more. Thomas thanks Dr. Cecilia Farias for the great effort made to improve the ICF Development Program in the last two years that she was in charge of the ICF Vice Presidency, turning the program into a fair and transparent system, and says we need to invest more in it. It promises to have more investments for the countries of the Americas and asks for the support of all federations with the exchange of information and more participation in sport.

## **3. WORDS FROM ICF VICE PRESIDENT DR. CECÍLIA FARIAS.**

Dr. Cecilia Farias apologizes for not being able to attend the last COPAC assembly in Toronto. She is grateful for the support of her new position as Vice President of ICF and says that her plan for this position is to benefit the Pan American federations. She reports that her points of interest are the development of referees and gender equality. Ask the Federations to work on the development and integration of women, both in administration and in sports.

## **4. ROLL-CALL OF DELEGATES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE QUORUM.**

Argentina, Belize, Bolívia (Proxy for Paraguay), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Equador (Proxy for Argentina), Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Marteen, Trinidad and Tobago , Uruguai, United States of America, Venezuela.

The Secretary General of COPAC Ms. Sonia Rivera says that according to the Statute of COPAC there are 22 National Federations allowed to vote and 20 representatives present at the session and made a call. Therefore, it announces the authorization of the continuity of the assembly for having quorum.

## **5. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS FOR THE PERIOD OF THE CONGRESS.**

The President of COPAC designates as representatives the representatives of the Federations; Mr. Eduardo Ubal from Chile and Mr. Allan MacDonald from Sint Maarten. Everyone present agrees.

## **6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.**

Mr. João Tomasini talks about the Canoe Slalom and Canoe Sprint training camps that COPAC secured resources to finance and took place in 2018 and 2019. Emphasize that COPAC needs, and will do everything possible, so that the Paracanotaje is in the Pan American Games in Santiago 2023. He ends up asking for the support of the National Federations for the administrative affairs of COPAC, sending information when requested and participating with athletes. Give the example of the application of

athletes to the Athletes Committee, where COPAC received almost no responses from the Federations.

## **7. ACTING TREASURER'S REPORT ON FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

The COPAC treasurer, Mr. Dwight Corbin begins his speech apologizing because he had a problem with his computer and could not pass the digital file to the members of the assembly, but they all have the physical copy for consultation. Continue like this, explaining the origin of the annual COPAC budget. Being 30,000.00 Euros of ICF and the rest of the annual membership fees of the National Federations. Mr. João explains that the money provided by Panam Sports is specifically destined for training camps and that the unused balance must be returned. Mr. Dwight confirms the information. Mr. João undertakes to send the digital budget to all federations for consultation and archiving. Without further delay, Mr. João asks the members of the assembly if the budget can be approved and unanimously approved.

The financial report is attached to this ata.

## **8. DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION OF THE PROPOSALS SENT BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATIONS, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

### **a) Modification of Statute - Sent to all Federations on 06/04/2019;**

Mr. João Tomasini explains the changes to the Statute previously sent, which are mostly spelling corrections. He indicated that he would like to include in the amendments of the Statutes an article that was not previously sent in the proposed Statute to the Federations. In Article 26.2, Mr. João would like to add after the post of Treasurer the following position "President of the Athletes Committee". He explains that it is a new requirement that Panam Sports requests. Therefore, there would be a President of the Athletes Committee in the COPAC management body. He explains that this new position would be in the COPAC Steering Committee and not in the Executive Committee. Mr. João votes specifically for this point and everyone agrees. Dr. Cecilia Farias explains the inclusion of Article 35 in the COPAC Statute, says that it is part of good governance and that sexual harassment and abuse must be recognized and moderated. Below is the full article in question.

#### *"COPAC STATEMENT REGARDING PREVENTION OF HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ABUSE:*

*The Pan American Canoe Confederation's responsibility is not limited to the organization of paddling events. Our athletes are at the centre of COPAC's interest. As such their protection becomes mandatory for COPAC and its affiliated National Federations.*

*Sexual harassment and abuse in all its forms are violations of human rights and therefore, are utterly rejected by COPAC. The athletes psychological and physical welfare are our concern.*

*COPAC is committed to produce athletes safeguarding policies, and to articulate the means to protect athletes, officials and in general, the canoeing family from any sort of harassment and abuse. At the same time, it requests to all its affiliated National Federations to work on that direction in close cooperation with their national sport authorities and respecting the legal regulations of each country.*

*When the harassment and the abuse happen, the sport organisations stop being a safe place for our children and youth. The institutional integrity and credibility on the leadership are seriously questioned.*

*COPAC considers crucial to reject any sort of physical and psychological Harassment and Abuse in our sport and to secure for its athletes an environment that is respectful, equitable and free from all forms of non-accidental violence.”*

All suggested amendments to the Statute were voted, including new article 35. Everyone present agrees.

**b) Modification of the Canoe Slalom Competition Rules.**

We attached the rules with the approved modifications.

**9. REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS (JAMAICA AND BELIZE).**

The General Secretary Mrs. Sonia Rivera reports that the National Federations of Jamaica and Belize requested their affiliations to COPAC. She informed that received all the necessary documentation and that according to the current statute the mentioned federations are eligible to be official affiliated members of COPAC. Everyone greets and welcomes the new national federations.

**10. ELECTION OF AUTHORITIES.**

POSITIONS	CANDIDATES	
President	João Tomasini Schwertner	BRA
General secretary	Christian Moya León	CHI
Treasurer	Othón H. Díaz Valenzuela Suzanne Britt Paul Dean	MEX USA CAN

President João Tomasini Schwertner and the Secretary General Christian Moya León were elected by acclamation.

Paul Dean withdraws his candidacy to Treasurer in support of Suzanne Britt.

Othón H. Díaz Valenzuela is elected with 16 votes against 7 votes of Suzanne.

#### **11. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.**

<b>POSITIONS</b>	<b>CANDIDATES</b>	
Chairman Canoe Sprint	Charles Luckman	USA
Chairman Canoe Slalom	Eric Lokken	USA
	Alex Ian Olguin Henriquez	CHI
Chairman Canoe Wildwater		
Chairman Canoe Polo	Miguel Arce	ARG
Chairman Canoe Ocean Racing	Jefferson Camargo Sestaro	BRA
Medical Committee	William Jurjus Yousef	BRA

Directors Charles Luckman, Miguel Arce, Jefferson Camargo Sestaro and William Jurjus Yousef were elected by acclamation. Mr. Alex Ian Olguin Henriquez were elected Director of Canoe Slalom with 19 votes against 4 votes of Eric Lokken.

#### **12. ESTABLISHING OF THE WORKING PROGRAM OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS.**

Continue work seeking assistance at ICF and Panam Sports.

#### **13. FIXING THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE.**

The COPAC membership fee will not change, leaving one hundred (100) US dollars per year.

#### **14. ESTABLISHING OF THE BUDGET FOR THE SAME PERIOD.**

ICF resources will be used for administrative expenses and technical assistance to countries.

#### **15. ESTABLISHING OF THE DATE AND THE PLACE OF CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

It was not possible to vote due to lack of available information. Candidate federations will be requested to organize the continental championships to submit their proposals. Voting will be done by email.

#### **16. PAN AMERICAN GAMES LIMA 2019.**

The Games were well organized and we thank the hospitality of Peru.

#### **17. PAN AMERICAN GAMES SANTIAGO 2023.**

We will be monitoring the organization of the Games and we will send technical delegates this year to evaluate the location.

#### **18. PARA PAN AMERICAN GAMES SANTIAGO 2023.**

We are seeking with ICF the inclusion of the Paracanoe in the Para Pan American Games in Santiago 2023 with the IPC - International Paralympic Committee and the APC - Americas Paralympic Committee.

#### **19. PAN AMERICAN GAMES JUNIOR CALI 2021.**

We were confirmed in the Pan American Games Junior Cali 2021 and we will require the category to be under 21 years old.

#### **20. CONTINENTAL OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS.**

##### **a) Canoe Sprint - Curuama, Chile**

Mr. João explains that for this championship the boats will come in containers and to have enough time the federations must request the required number of boats until January of next year.

##### **b) Canoe Slalom - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Mr. João informs that this championship will be held at "Parque Radical", Rio de Janeiro, location of Olympic Games Rio 2016.

#### **21. GENERAL INFORMATION.**

##### **a) Dr. Cecília Farias - Prevention of Harassment and Sexual Abuse;**

As this topic had already been explained by Dr. Cecilia during item eight of the agenda, regarding the amendment of the statute, the meeting proceeds to the next topic.

##### **b) Dr. Cecília Farias - Charles Yatman Award: Athlete Valentín Rossi;**

Dr. Cecília begins by explaining the choice of athlete Valentin Rossi to receive the award. She says he is an example of an athlete to fulfill, with a lot of dedication and participation in the sport, having a lot of honor when choosing this athlete. However Dr. Cecilia apologizes and says that, as she knew that the athlete would not be present at the Pan American Games Lima 2019, she asks permission to deliver the Charles Yatman Award to the athlete at the next Pan American Championship, being possible to hold a delivery ceremony. All agree.

##### **c) Mr. Marcelo Barra - Pan American and South American Canoe Marathon Championships 2019;**

Mr. Marcelo Barra presents the candidacy of the Pan American Canoe Marathon Championships 2019.

**d) Athletes Committees**

<b>ATHLETES COMMITTEE</b>		
Canoe Sprint	Sergio Johann	COL
Canoe Slalom	Ana Satila Vieira Vargas	BRA
Paracanoe	Katherinne Wollermann	CHI
Non-Olympic Modalities	Diego Gago - Kayak Polo	ARG

**22. SET DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT ASSEMBLY.**

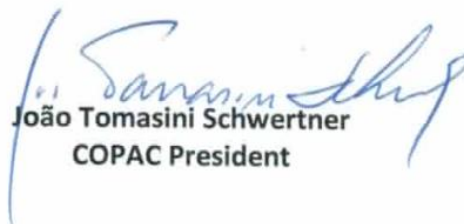
The next meeting will be the Extraordinary Assembly in Curauma, Chile. During the Pan American Canoe Sprint Championship 2020.

**23. CONGRESS CLOSES.**

There being no more to be treated, the General Assembly of COPAC ended. The present document written by me, Secretary General of COPAC Mr. Christian Moya León and signed by the President of COPAC and by me.



Christian Moya Leon  
General Secretary of COPAC



João Tomasini Schwertner  
COPAC President