

ICF SLALOM RULES EVOLUTION

This Document is a summary of some of the rules changes proposed by the ICF Slalom Committee (SLC) to go into effect in by the first of January, 2009. Many of these changes are significant and it is the view of the SLC that the slalom community should have a chance to review and comment on these changes. It is the feeling of the SLC that these proposals will move the sport in a positive direction and there is great excitement in sharing these proposals with Federations, Athletes and Coaches. During the decision process, the following factors have been taken into account:

Any Rule Change should

- Increase the excitement of the sport for both Competitors and Spectators.
- Simplify events for organizers, make the sport easier to understand for Spectators, and, where possible, make the event fairer for Competitors.
- Increase the opportunity for Athletes to compete in high-level international competitions.
- Be conducive to increasing participation in the sport of slalom at both national and international levels.
- Advance the sport in the Olympic Games

The four main ideas are as follows:

- 1) Introduction of an ICF World Ranking that not only considers World Cups, World Championships and Olympics, but also considers designated International Events. This World Ranking will also, in part, determine World Cup entries.
- 2) The Format of the World Cup, World Championships and Olympics will include an additional "Extreme" slalom race. This format is shorter (6-10 gates) and more difficult than the current format. The format of progression through these competitions (both classic and extreme) will also be changed.
- 3) The penalty and gates requirements will be changed. Most notably, the penalty for touching a gate will be reduced to 1 second, with a gradual phasing out of touch penalties altogether with the appropriate gate technology. In addition, the introduction of single pole gates will simplify organisation and judging at events without loss of the challenge inherent in slalom.
- 4) Introduction of C-1W in the 2010 World Championships.

Each one of these proposals is presented in a subsequent section with a clear definition and explanation. Upon review of this document, please send comments to the SLC Chairman and the ICF headquarters.

1. ICF World Ranking Races

Rule Change:

44.3.1

In the WCS, each Federation may enter one (1) boat per event plus up to five (5) additional boats per event that have qualified via their World Ranking. At the end of each year, the SLC will publish the World Ranking along with the list of Athletes qualified for the WCS in the following year.

Starting in 2009, the WCS entries will be determined by the 2008 ICF World Ranking, which is in turn determined by list of 2008 events shown below.

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location	NOC
Jan 24	Jan 27	Olympic Qualification - Africa	Masinga Dam	KEN
Mar 15	Mar 16	Olympic Qualification - Oceania	Penrith	AUS
Apr 26	Apr 28	Olympic Qualification - America	Charlotte	USA
May 3	May 4	Slavia Cup 2008	Bratislava*	SVK
May 17	May 18	Olympic Qualification - Asia	Nakhon Nayok*	THA
Jun 7	Jun 8	53rd International Race Merano	Merano	ITA
Jun 21	Jun 22	WORLD CUP RACE 1	Prague	CZE
Jun 28	Jun 29	WORLD CUP RACE 2	Tacen	SLO
Jul 5	Jul 6	WORLD CUP RACE 3	Augsburg	GER
Jul 11	Jul 13	Pre-World Championships	La Seu de Urgell	ESP
Aug 11	Aug 14	OLYMPIC GAMES	Beijing	CHN
Aug 29	Aug 31	Danubia Cup	Bratislava*	SVK

* indicates that the NOC must still demonstrate the minimum requirements to qualify. In particular, the Organiser must provide a compatible excel file of the results for World ranking calculation by the ICF service provider

In order to qualify for the 2009 SLR World Ranking event list an International Competition must meet a set of minimum requirements. These requirements are as follows:

- i) Provide results to ICF headquarters in the appropriate format within 48 hours of the end of the competition.
- ii) The Chief Judge must be ICF IJSL and additional Officials must be qualified according to Article 8.2 in the ICF Slalom Rulebook.
- iii) The Organiser must apply for ICF World Ranking Status no later than August 1st of the previous year.
- iv) The competition must be open to participation by all Nations.

The goal of expanding the pool of competitions counting for the ICF World Ranking is to increase opportunities for athletes to compete in high-level

international races. Also, by using the World Ranking to determine the number of entries per country in the WCS, the overall quality of the WCS is increased.

2. WC, WCS and Olympic Games Format

New Event: Extreme Slalom: Defined as having a minimum of 6 gates and a maximum of 10 gates. There are no restrictions on the number of upstream gates or length of the course. There are no changes in scoring.

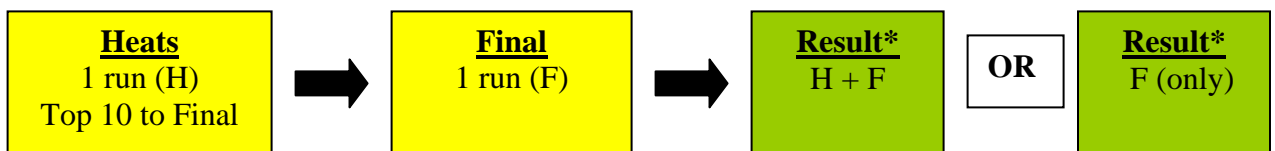
Format Change:

World Cup

1 day Format for all classes with 2 competitions in one weekend

Format: Day 1 is Slalom, Day 2 is Extreme Slalom

Progression



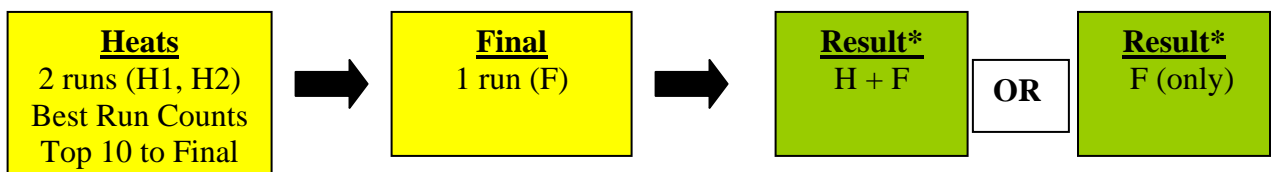
*boats not qualified for final will be ranked according to heats result
Result of the Final could be calculated starting from scratch after heats

World Championships

1 day Format with 2 competitions in a 5 day World Championships Program

Format: Day 1 & 2 are Slalom, Day 3 is Team Event (1 run Heats, 50% with a minimum of 5 teams go to Final) and Short Course Demo, Day 4 & 5 are Extreme Slalom

Progression



*boats not qualified for final will be ranked according to heats result
Result of the Final could be calculated starting from scratch after heats

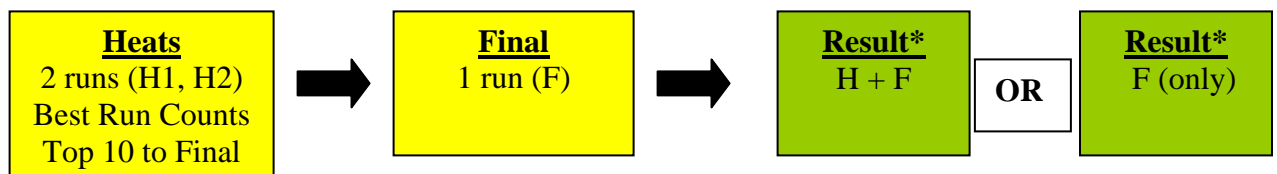
Awards will be given in Slalom, Extreme Slalom and Combined. It would be possible to run all Classes and Team Events in a 5 day format provided Team Events are reduced to a single run

Olympic Games

2 or 1 day Format (for Slalom and Extreme Slalom, respectively) with 2 competitions in a 5 day Olympic Program

Format: Day 1 & 2 are Slalom Qualification, Day 3 is Slalom Final, Day 4 & 5 are extreme Slalom

Progression



*boats not qualified for final will be ranked according to heats result
Result of the Final could be calculated starting from scratch after heats

Awards will be given in Combined only (Number of medals, 4, could not be increased)

3. Penalties and Gates

Rule Change:

29.2

1 penalty-second: Correct negotiation of the gate, but with a touch of one or both poles

Currently, a two-second penalty seems to be too severe considering the closeness of many international competitions. Reducing this to one second also reduces the effect of judging on the outcome of the competition. Furthermore, it is the goal to remove the touch-penalty altogether when the appropriate gate technology is achieved. This will significantly simplify the judging process and, in the view of the SLC, make a competition fairer and also easier in terms of organisation.

Current rules do not specify how the poles must be suspended above the river. As such, a rigid gate design is within the existing rules provided the poles follow the design specifications in Section 27 of the ICF Slalom Rules. Once a gate design is sufficiently designed such that an athlete does not gain significantly by

touching a pole, this gate design would be certified by the ICF and be usable in ICF events. Coaches, Athletes and Organisers are encouraged to experiment with such a design and report back to the ICF SLC.

Introduction of the Single Pole Gate:

Since the challenge inherent in the majority of gates in a competition is primarily dictated by a single pole, the other pole may be removed with several benefits.

- i) With a single pole, the possible touch-penalties are reduced by 50%, simplifying the judging process. Also reduces confusion in television coverage if a gate is touched by the stern and not shown in the field of view.
- ii) With a single pole, there is no gate line, removing the somewhat difficult 50-second penalty call when an athlete, in the process of going upstream through a gate, floats back down through the gate line. The standard 50-second penalty would still apply if a Competitor passes to the incorrect side of the pole.
- iii) Reduced cost and time for setting a slalom course

The existing double-pole gate could still be used to provide a tighter tolerance of trajectory in the course.

4. C1W in the World Championships

Rule Change:

41.2 PARTICIPATION [TR]

Individual Events	Women	K1
	Men	K1
	Men	C1
	Men	C2
	Women	C1
Team Events	Women	3xK1
	Men	3xK1
	Men	3xC1
	Men	3xC2

In order to advance gender equity in the sport of slalom, as a first step, C1W will be added to the World Championship Program in 2010. Female Athletes will be able to compete in both K1W and C1W so as not to dilute the existing

participation. Furthermore, it is hoped that the addition of a class will allow attract more Female Athletes at the National and International level.