

## 2014 World Sprints Event Structure:

It was agreed at the May IVF meeting that this event will see the beginning of the new World Sprints Structure:

World Elite Championships and World Club Championships.

## World Sprints Restructure:

Background - The restructure has been something that we have been pushing for since 2009. NKOA prepared the original proposal in 2009. Once the original proposal was mooted and met with positively, several meetings were held with the Tahitians who also had a proposal for change and we came to a compromise on the 2 proposals.

The NZ/Tahitian model was approved in draft in Calgary in 2011 and we have been working on implementation since, with several modifications taking place as necessary – the goal being Rio 2014.

A draft has been in circulation since last August's IVF meeting.

The final restructured World Sprints programme was agreed to by all countries at the recent May meeting in Rio and new race rules have been put in place to cater for the new model. Following is the new structure of the IVF World Sprint Championships:

### World Elite and World Club Sprint Championships - Overview

#### World Club Championships / World Elite Championships - 2014 and beyond

The event will still take place every 2 years

The first 2-3 days will be for elite selection teams from each IVF Member Country

The following 3 days will be for Club teams. *Club teams are defined by each association as they wish, and they are responsible for policing themselves. Club teams may be defined differently for local versus international competition.*

Essentially there will be 2 events within the 6 day period.

Depending on canoes and resources available there may be a crossover of the 2 events in the middle of the event.

This format of racing is to cater for the growth of the sport and provide a pathway for Elite/top paddlers whilst at the same time catering for the development of the sport and the large club base.

This change has been a 4 year work in progress and was voted unanimously at the meeting 2011 to take effect for the 2014 World Sprints in Rio.

#### Rules:

*All events will adhere to IVF Sprint Rules. IVF Sprint Rules have been modified to accommodate new event structure and rules.*

### World Elite Championships

- Teams will be representing their IVF Member country/region
- Countries may enter 1 team per category.  
Only the following categories will be recognised:
  - Junior 19 team male & female
  - Open team male and female
  - Master (40) team male and female
- Countries may enter 1 V12 team per gender

- Team may be selected from any Elite V6 paddlers and V1 paddlers
- Countries may enter 3 x V1 paddlers per category (all categories J16 to M70) into the World Championship
- Countries can earn up to a maximum of 6 x V1 entries total based on the number of medallists in the previous World Sprints. One medal allows four entries, two medals allow five entries and three medals allow six entries.
- V1 paddlers may compete in V6 teams also.
- At the World Elite Championship uniform should be a national uniform of the Country/Region

### World Club Championship

- The number of entries allowed by each member in the World Club Championship event are as follows:
  - V6 events: 5 entries per category U16 to Master 70
  - V12 events: 2 entries per category U16 to Master 70
- Any Club team V6 must contain no more than 2 paddlers who participated together in the World Elite V6 Championship
- Elite paddlers may participate in both Elite and Club racing
- Any Club team V12 must contain no more than 4 paddlers who participated together in the World Elite V12 Championship
- Each IVF Country/Region must confirm that the club teams entered are in fact members of bonafide clubs within their country. *Club teams are defined at the discretion of the IVF member country.*
- At the World Club Championship uniform should be representative of the IVF member region or club.

### General

Each IVF Country/region is responsible for entering club teams and participants and is to act as the management between the host country and club teams.

Paddlers may paddle in more than 1 age category – however the race programme will not wait or change for paddlers should they be racing back to back. The general race schedule will be determined prior to entries being called for.

There shall be unique medals that identify the World Elite and World Club Championship.

### Scheduling of events

The overall event will be held over 6 days - A draft schedule of events will be made available prior to entries opening. *Depending on entries received the race schedule may change.*

The beginning of the week will be dedicated to World Elite Championship races, the end of the week will be World Club races. Depending on the canoes available there may be an overlap of events in the middle of the week.

### **Changes from the draft structure.**

The major change above from the previous draft document is the reduction of age categories that will be represented in the Elite World Championship. The categories to be included will be: U/19, Open & Master.

This suggestion was made by several country delegates and was favoured by the majority. The rationale for this was that if the Elite World Championships was a stepping stone to the Olympics then it better needed to reflect the age groups that might likely compete at an Olympic standard.

The other change is that the quota for the Club World Championship will now be 5. This is to cater for the growing number of countries and participation at the event.

The V1 quota has been reduced due to the fact that the current quota was too many. The new V1 quota will allow for countries to attain further quota based on performance at the previous world sprints, much like the system we currently use here in New Zealand

For example: Our Open Women V1 quota will be 6 in Rio because we get 3 standard quota plus 1 for each medal won in Calgary (3)

This has been a 4 year project to affect change at the highest level of our sport and it will help to progress the sport globally and also provide better pathways for elite success both within countries and internationally.

At the same time this new event structure provides goals for clubs to strive for and honors the traditions of the sport by ensuring there is still a healthy sharing of cultures and that the base of participation at the club world championship remains strong. Growing the base of our sport and maintaining club strength and aspirations will provide a solid future for many generations to follow and can only make the elite peak even higher.

The World Sprint Championships has been largely unmodified for 28 years. And as we move into the 17<sup>th</sup> World Sprint Championships in Rio we will all be taking part in a new event.

### **Other Race rule changes:**

- Master 70+ will now race their turns race over 500m with one turn. (Reduced from 1000m)
- No seat pads are allowed in canoe
- Entry fees for the World Sprints are going to be \$100 for Elite (per paddler) & \$80 for Club (per paddler) US Dollars
- Protest Fee has increased to \$100 (from \$25) US Dollars