



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
April 17th, 2015

BELIZE CANOE ASSOCIATION NOW AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF)

The Belize Canoe Association (BCAnoe) has received its Acceptance of Affiliation letter to the International Canoe Federation (ICF) as a provisional member.

According to the ICF's Secretary General, Mr. Simon Toulson, Belize can now participate in ICF International Canoeing Competitions (including Continental Championships and ICF World Championships) for all ICF Canoeing disciplines. With this new affiliation, BCAnoe is eligible to receive support through the ICF Development Programme and IOC Olympic Solidarity. The Federation is more than happy to assist us and have offered their support in developing the sport of canoeing in Belize.

The president of the Belize Canoe Association, Ricardo Salazar, said that *"this is great news, as it has been one of the goals set out to have Belize compete in international canoeing events, which can lead to Olympic participation in several canoeing disciplines. This also changes the structure on how we race and very soon you will be seeing international standard canoe racing in Belize, in preparation for ICF international sporting events."*

Belize has also been invited by the Puerto Rico Canoe Federation to compete in the Olympic Cup in Puerto Rico from June 3-8th, 2015. We hope to be able to send a contingent to participate in our first international appearance representing Belize.

ICF is the International Governing Body of canoeing. A full membership status is subject to 2/3 positive ruling of the ICF Congress to be held in Tunisia – November 2016.

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