Review 2010 CSL Race Season
Review completed by Jean Yves Cheutin (FRA)
Synthesis:

1. Sports observations: calendar, number and level of the races, dates, classes, progression of the courses…

- **Calendar:**
  - Promote races periods according to practicing conditions around the world & development criteria: April / October = north hemisphere, November / March = south hemisphere.
  - Promote from 7 to 10 major competitions (WCups, CCh, WCh) per athlete. Each continent should guarantee 2 world ranking races per year. 2 WC could take place outside Europe (organize round between North America, Asia, Oceania, South America, Africa?).
  - Maintain training periods (no competition).
  - Guarantee the updated calendar (dates & changes).
- **Difficulty standards :**
  - Major events (WCups, WCh) should take place on Olympic standard's difficulty courses. If not, they should be involved in a development circuit outside Europe.
  - Use of the progression of difficulty of courses: from easy to difficult from qualification to final.
- **Trainings:**
  - Training schedules must guarantee the fairness of the races: access & logistic consideration (organizing support for teams).
- **Standardization of races :**
  - Olympic program must be applied during world championships. Team races happen after individual races. WC's program in 3 days (1 day qualification, 2 days semi & final).
  - Quality standard of the races: to obtain a race from 1 year to the other organizer must demonstrate improvement. High expectations can be deterrent to smaller organizations; it can be accepted in "development" logic.
  - Number of athletes in semi final to be discussed (direct access for top 10 or 40 K-1m, 30 C-1m, 30 K-1w, 20 C-2, 20 C-1w?).
  - Awards.

2. General observations: world ranking, rules, video judgment, representation of the coaches at the international level….

- **World ranking:**
  - The comments are that WR is an improvement.
  - Individual ranking: number of races (3 to 5 races? What is the place of the continental championships?), running years (1 or 2?), updates (number or perpetual?), results (% and race penalties or points regarding the place?) has to be discussed.
  What is the race to be done to take the lead? (Exp: in tennis players know how to become n°1.This option would support points linked to the places not with time. Exp: 1st WR = 5th WC).
  Access to different stages of the WC (exp: top 20 accesses to WC, top 10 accesses to semi final).

- Nation ranking: to be improved. Raise the influence of the best boat per nation.
- Define Olympic quotas trough the continental ranking of the nations.
- **Rules :**
  - Participation: at least 1 entrance per class (C1W, K1W, C2M, C1M, K1M) for top 10 countries. At least 4 entrances out of 5 classes for top 20 countries.
  - Simplifying the rules: we need to follow the logic and the strategy of changes.
  - 2 pools' gates seem more understandable for spectators.
  - Consider different numbers of gates as an opportunity to promote new event and to support development of classes (C1W, C2M).
  - Support doubling paddlers: raises the number of starts not the number of athletes.
- **Judgment:**
  - Video judgment: improve technology; define number of angles per gate and procedure of use.
  - Cancel protest. Live inquiries shown to the public (orange "flag"?).
- **Performance advisor:**
  - The general feeling is we need more consultation between slalom committee and coaches. Coaches don't feel involved in improvement of rules and races format.
  - There could be a group of coaches or a representative of coaches bringing technical support / opinion to the decisions (course approval, changing rules, organization, sponsorship, development of international coaching support, professional experience share, river designing …).
  - Meeting with ICF: first WC race of the season.
  - International training camps & Welcome Training Federations (WTF).

3. Development: How to become an attractive "sport product"? How to raise the number of women? ...

- **Welcoming sense: "From spectator to visitors".**
  - Visitors accompanists (specialists of slalom from the host country) included in the price's ticket (visit the place, explain the rules, and share their passion…).
  - "Create" athletes multi medalists super stars.
  - Meeting time with stars from top 10 (presence of athletes offers direct qualification to semi final).
  - Develop shows during times off: demo event (sprint, giant slalom, free style…), places of attraction (podiums, constructor area, "wellness" center: bar, restaurant, wide screen, tourism office, exhibitions, possibility for visitors to try canoeing…).
- **Image:**
  - Support TV coverage: involve meeting with stars.
  - Video system & results online are in progress. We need to keep going forward specially mutualism of the needs.

4. Olympic program: After 2012 Olympic Games, there will be a review of all Olympic sports. How to deal with the IOC's criterions (Universality / Parity / "Feasibility" / Sustainable development)? Which suggestions for 2016-2020 Olympic programs? ...

- **Universality:**

- Often classified by the number of nation participating to an event, it is also representing the diversity a sport can offer through the use of the number of athletes and medals at the Olympics. With 16 medals (6th sport) and 220 athletes canoeing is a major sport at the Olympic Games. With 13 flag holders our sport comes to the 4th position (exp: with 18 medals cycling represents track, road, mountain bike, BMX).
    This means our development needs to represent paddling sports better (look forward slalom and flat water).
  - Distribute Olympic quotas considering 4 continental blocs (Europe / North & South America (NSA), Oceania & Asia (OA) / Africa) + 1 NOC.
  - More events on slalom courses.
- **Parity: "Global parity"**
  - A major IOC's goal is to reach the parity between women and men. This parity is measured by the ratio of the number of women athletes / men athletes as well as the ratio of the number of women medals / men medals. In the IOC's publications, results are classified in women and men event, no matter the symmetry of the disciplines. This offers the opportunity of specific women event. This is a good lever to raise the number of medals in white water.
  - Reaching parity means 2 options: replace C2 men by C1 women or add 2 women events at the Olympics.
    C2 brings universality to slalom (only "team race"), it has his place in the Olympics. The strategy could be:
    Goal 2016: get 5 medals (add C1W, same number of athletes C2M paddlers are K1 & C1 paddlers. 24 C2M places = 16 to women, 8 for men). Allow all doubling paddlers (single to double and double to single).
    Goal 2020: 6 medals (add C2W, paddlers).
    Involve new events: sprint & giant slalom to make easier to double the classes **and** interest new athletes (especially women from wild water and flat water).
- **Feasibility:**
  - Slalom at the Olympics is a 5 days event (3 days of medals); flat water is a 6 days event (3 days of medals). We can improve on the last of the races and on the number of days.
- **Sustainable development:**
  - Increase the use of the infrastructure thanks to the increase of the number of races not the number of athletes (doubling paddlers).
  - Guarantee WC and WCh on Olympic courses.

5. Others: combined event (canoe/slalom & white water/flat water), WCups logistic…
  - We could involve flat water in combined events and "create" athletes multi medalists super stars. This could bring some "cross exposure" to both disciplines.

General comment on the survey:

We could have expected more answers from coaches. Nevertheless, more or less, we find many common considerations in the ideas reflected in the survey.

Maybe questions were too wide and would have deserved more explanation especially because we had to express our opinion in English.

The goal of this survey is to try to join coaches and to support the changes our sport deserves for his growth.

This "free" expression shows coaches need more clearness in the steps of changes. Regular consultations would help to share the vision and make evolutions easier for all.