



PADDLE EUROPE MONTHLY · JULY 2026 EDITION



Paddle Europe is entering a new phase, defined by higher standards, greater ambition and a stronger commitment to serving the European paddlesport community.

Throughout 2026, our priority has been to create the foundations for a more mature, efficient and effective organisation in 2027 and beyond. This work includes strengthening our institutional structures, improving the services available to National Federations and developing new opportunities for cooperation, communication and sustainable growth.

Our relationship with the International Canoe Federation has also entered a new stage. The establishment of Paddle Europe's headquarters within the ICF offices in Lausanne has enabled closer day-to-day cooperation, supported the development of joint initiatives and created new opportunities for the future. The work of the Continental Associations is receiving greater recognition, alongside increased financial support planned for the coming years.

Europe remains at the heart of world paddlesport. Paddle Europe will continue working to support every National Federation, strengthen activity across all disciplines and ensure that the continent remains a global reference for sporting excellence, innovation and development.

Thank you to our National Federations, organisers, athletes, officials, volunteers and partners for continuing to build this future together.

July Championships

2026 Paddle Europe Slalom Masters Championships

St. Ruprecht ob Murau, Austria, welcomed the European Masters slalom community for a celebration of competition, experience and lifelong participation in paddlesport. Several titles were decided through closely contested races, while the programme also included the first-ever Paddle Europe Masters Kayak Cross titles.

The championships once again demonstrated Paddle Europe's commitment to providing meaningful competition opportunities for athletes of all ages and to recognising the important role of the Masters community across Europe.



[View Results](#)

2026 Junior & Under 23 Sprint Championships

Szeged hosted one of the largest youth sprint championships ever organised, bringing together 759 athletes from 38 National Federations across 42 medal events. The event also marked the 30th anniversary of the first Junior European Championships, held in 1996, and recorded one of the highest numbers of participating nations in the championship's history.

Hungary led the official National Federation medal table. The AIN-A and AIN-B delegations, competing under neutral status, also produced a significant sporting performance, collecting 42 medals in total. Ivan Nekrasov was among the standout athletes, winning both the Junior Men's K1 1000 m and K1 500 m and setting a European Best Time.

The Technical Drone Project was once again available throughout the championships. National Federations can access all race video recordings through the Results Centre alongside the official PDF results.



Championships at a Glance

30 years since the first Junior European Championships • One of the highest numbers of participating nations

[**Explore the Results Centre**](#)

Europe leads World Championships across disciplines



July confirmed once again the strength and depth of European paddlesport across four major ICF competitions, from junior development pathways to senior elite performance.

European athletes led the way at the Junior & Under 23 Canoe Slalom World Championships, before continuing that dominance at the same age group in Sprint.

At the Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe World Cup in Montreal, European nations underlined the continent's strength across both Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.

The Senior Canoe Slalom World Championships in Oklahoma City followed, where European athletes won 26 of the 30 medals available in the Olympic events. Further success followed in Kayak Cross, with Czechia finishing at the top of the overall medal table.

Across every level of competition, Europe continues to define excellence in world paddlesport — from the development of the next generation to the highest level of senior international racing.

Europe leads — July at a Glance

- Four major ICF events • 26 of 30 medals in Olympic slalom events • 64 medals in Montreal
- European dominance at both Junior & Under 23 World Championships

Growing Together

PaddleWorldwide – What Does It Mean for Europe?

The launch of **PaddleWorldwide** marks the beginning of a new era for the international paddlesport community. More than a new name and visual identity, it

represents a global strategy to strengthen collaboration, improve communication and bring all paddle disciplines together under one modern and recognisable brand.

For Paddle Europe and its National Federations, this evolution creates exciting new opportunities. Working within a shared vision will allow both organisations to develop common projects, improve digital services and offer a more connected experience for athletes, organisers, officials and fans across Europe.

One of the first visible outcomes of this new approach will be the launch of **Paddle Europe's completely redesigned institutional website**, scheduled for the coming weeks. Developed in close alignment with PaddleWorldwide's new digital identity, the platform will provide easier access to news, events, governance documents, results, education resources and the growing range of digital services available to the European paddlesport community.

The new website is only the first step. Additional digital tools and services are already under development and will be introduced progressively over the coming months.

Building Stronger Partnerships



As Paddle Europe continues to grow, developing meaningful partnerships has become an increasingly important part of the organisation's long-term strategy. The objective is not simply to welcome new sponsors, but to build collaborations that actively contribute to the development of European paddlesport through innovation, new projects and added value for National Federations, athletes and event organisers.

Paddle Europe has welcomed HODY as its newest Official Partner. Recognised for its expertise in the design and manufacture of canoe and kayak equipment, HODY brings not only technical

knowledge but also a shared ambition to support the future growth of the sport across Europe.

2026 renewed and new partnerships represent the beginning of a broader vision for cooperation between Paddle Europe and its partners. Beyond traditional sponsorship, future collaborations will focus on creating new initiatives, supporting participation and development programmes, promoting innovation and strengthening the overall experience offered to the European paddlesport community.

As Paddle Europe looks ahead, partnerships will continue to play an essential role in delivering new opportunities and ensuring the sustainable growth of the organisation and its member National Federations.

Digital Update – A New Era for Event Management

Following the introduction of the Individual Entry System (IES) and the National Federations System (NFS) earlier this year, Paddle Europe continues to expand its digital ecosystem with the development of the new Paddle Europe Events App.

Designed to modernise the management of European Championships, the platform represents an important step towards replacing traditional paper-based procedures with a faster, more efficient and secure digital environment for National Federations, organisers and competition officials.

The first module of the application was officially introduced during the 2026 Paddle Europe Junior & U23 Sprint Championships, where it was used to digitally validate the age eligibility of participating athletes. This marked the first operational step of a much broader project that will progressively transform the management of Paddle Europe Championships.

Development continues throughout the remainder of 2026. The platform will also be introduced internally across Paddle Europe's disciplines, providing Discipline Chairs with a dedicated digital workspace for the preparation and submission of official competition reports, further streamlining communication and governance within the organisation.

Throughout 2027, the Paddle Europe Events App is expected to incorporate a wide range of competition services, including Late Entries, Crew Changes, protest submissions, online payments and other administrative procedures, allowing National Federations to complete these processes digitally, in real time and from a single platform.

The Paddle Europe Events App is another important milestone in the organisation's long-term digital strategy, creating a modern, integrated ecosystem that simplifies event management while improving efficiency, transparency and the overall experience for everyone involved.

Looking Ahead

Following an action-packed July, the European paddlesport calendar continues at full speed with three more Paddle Europe Championships taking place throughout August, bringing together hundreds of Europe's most promising young athletes alongside the continent's leading specialists in Slalom, Wildwater Canoeing and Ocean Racing.

2026 Paddle Europe Juniors & Under 23 Slalom Championships

Épinal, France | 6–9 August

The first stop will be the **2026 Paddle Europe Juniors & Under 23 Slalom Championships**, hosted in Épinal, France. The championships have attracted **350 confirmed athletes** representing **29 National Federations**, together with **AIN** competitors, while more than **450 accreditations** have already been issued.

Across Slalom and Kayak Cross, athletes will contest the European titles through an impressive programme featuring **more than 820 nominal entries**, promising four days of high-level competition at one of Europe's most recognised slalom venues.

[View event information](#)

2026 Paddle Europe Junior & Under 23 Wildwater Championships

Grandtully, Scotland (GBR) | 12–15 August

Attention will then turn to **Grandtully, Scotland**, where the next generation of Wildwater athletes will compete for the European Junior and Under 23 titles.

One of the sport's most iconic venues will once again provide the stage for four days of exciting racing in both the Classic and Sprint disciplines.

Entries close on 2 August via SDP. National Federations that have not yet completed their entries are kindly reminded to do so before the deadline.

2026 Paddle Europe Ocean Racing Championships

Brest, France | 24–30 August

The month concludes on the Atlantic coast with the 2026 Paddle Europe Ocean Racing Championships in Brest, France. Set against one of Europe's premier ocean paddling locations, the championships will bring together the continent's best ocean racing specialists.

Registrations are still open at [IES.memosoftware.com](https://ies.memosoftware.com). For more information about these championships, visit paddle-europe.eu.

August promises another outstanding month for European paddlesport, and Paddle Europe will once again provide comprehensive coverage of all three championships across its digital platforms.

With three more Paddle Europe Championships taking place throughout August, the European season continues at full speed. Follow all the action across Paddle Europe's digital platforms.

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