



PADDLE EUROPE MONTHLY

June 2026 Edition

The European season moves into full speed



The season is fully underway

June marked one of the busiest months of the Paddle Europe season. European titles were awarded in Freestyle, Sprint, Paracanoe, Masters and Marathon, bringing together athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers across Finland, Portugal and Romania.

Beyond the sporting performances, the month also highlighted Paddle Europe's commitment to innovation, sustainability, digital transformation and athlete engagement, reflecting the organisation's wider vision for the future of European paddlesport.

This edition brings together the key highlights, updates and opportunities shaping the summer ahead.

2026 Paddle Europe Freestyle Championships conclude in Finland

The 2026 Paddle Europe Freestyle Championships brought together Europe's best freestyle paddlers in Lieksa, Finland, for a week of spectacular competition on one of the continent's most versatile whitewater features.

Throughout the week, the championships showcased an exciting blend of established champions and emerging young talent. Junior categories delivered exceptional performances, confirming the bright future of European freestyle, while senior finals featured world-class routines and thrilling battles for continental titles.

The host nation celebrated a memorable gold medal through Taru Terni in Women's K1, while Poland's Tomasz Czaplicki successfully defended his European title in Men's K1. France's Tom Dolle was the only athlete to claim two medals during the championships.

Germany, France and Great Britain finished as the most successful nations with four medals each, followed by Poland, Ireland and Finland, underlining the continued growth and competitiveness of freestyle kayaking across Europe.

Sprint, Paracanoe & Masters: a landmark championship in Montemor-o-Velho

Montemor-o-Velho hosted one of the most significant editions of the European Championships in recent years, bringing together Sprint, Paracanoe and, for the first time, the Paddle Europe Masters Championships within a single event.

The integration of Masters into the main championship programme created a unique atmosphere, allowing athletes from every generation to compete on the same international stage.

On the water, Europe once again witnessed outstanding performances. Hungary topped the overall medal table with 14 medals, ahead of Ukraine and Spain, while Olympic events produced memorable races. Portugal's Fernando Pimenta thrilled the

home crowd by winning the Men's K1 5000m title, and Great Britain's Charlotte Henshaw confirmed her dominance by securing two European Paracanoe titles.

The championships also showcased Paddle Europe's commitment to inclusion and innovation. For the third consecutive year, the **II Races**, organised in partnership with **Special Olympics Europe Eurasia**, formed part of the championship programme, once again demonstrating how major international events can create opportunities for athletes of all abilities.

Montemor-o-Velho also hosted an **experimental KL3 K2 event**, promoted by the International Canoe Federation as part of the ongoing development of Paracanoe, providing valuable experience for athletes and contributing to the future evolution of the discipline.

The championships also featured personalised medal engraving for medallists, creating a lasting keepsake of each achievement.

Montemor-o-Velho marked the first large-scale implementation of Paddle Europe's new visual identity, with the PEU image integrated across venue branding, ceremonies, television graphics and digital communication.

Leaving a Legacy Beyond the Finish Line

One of the most meaningful initiatives introduced during the 2026 Paddle Europe Sprint, Paracanoe and Masters European Championships was the **Planting a Tree** project.

Every European Champion crowned in Montemor-o-Velho was invited to plant a tree, creating a living legacy that extends beyond medals and podiums. Each tree symbolises not only sporting excellence but also Paddle Europe's commitment to environmental responsibility and the sustainable development of our sport.

More than a symbolic gesture, the initiative connects every championship title with a positive contribution to future generations, reinforcing the idea that major sporting events can leave a lasting impact both on people and on the environment.

**One European Champion
One Tree Planted**

Discover the Sustainability Project

Athletes at the Heart of Paddle Europe

One of the most visible moments during the European Championships was the active participation of members of the **Paddle Europe Athletes' Committee**, who alternated between competing at the highest level and presenting medals during official ceremonies.

Their presence reflected the Committee's growing role within Paddle Europe, ensuring that athletes remain directly involved in the development and governance of the organisation.

Mission

The Athletes' Committee represents the interests and voice of paddle athletes on the Paddle Europe Board, ensuring athletes are heard while contributing to the long-term development of the sport across all disciplines.

Strategic priorities

- Bringing different paddle disciplines closer together through joint activities and competitions.
- Promoting education through seminars and workshops for athletes, coaches and officials.
- Encouraging collaboration across the paddlesport community while strengthening relationships between athletes, organisers and commercial partners.

These initiatives aim to reinforce Paddle Europe as one unified organisation while creating new opportunities for knowledge sharing, innovation and athlete development.

**2026 Paddle Europe Marathon Championships
conclude in Romania**

The **2026 Paddle Europe Marathon Championships** brought another memorable week of racing to **Bascov–Pitești, Romania**, welcoming Masters, Paracanoe, Junior, Under 23 and Senior athletes from across Europe to compete for continental titles.

The championships opened with a successful Masters programme before the action moved into the Short Race, Long Distance and crew boat events, delivering spectacular racing and showcasing the strength and diversity of European canoe marathon.

Denmark's Mads Pedersen completed an outstanding double by winning both the Senior Men's K1 Short Race and Long Distance titles, while **Norway's Anna Sletsjøe** secured the Senior Women's K1 Long Distance crown after already winning the Short Race. Hungary impressed with multiple Under 23 titles, while Spain claimed both official Paracanoe European titles in KL2 Men and KL3 Men.

Bascov 2026 also produced historic milestones. Moldova celebrated its first-ever European Canoe Marathon medals, Ireland's Caoilin Caffrey became the first Irish woman to reach a European Marathon podium.



Historic Milestone

The **1000th medal** in the history of the Paddle Europe Canoe Marathon Championships was awarded in Bascov–Pitești.

Stay Connected with Paddle Europe

Paddle Europe has officially launched its **WhatsApp Channel**, providing a faster and more direct way to stay informed about everything happening across our organisation.

The channel will share championship news, organisational updates, governance information, event announcements and other important Paddle Europe activities, becoming one of our primary communication channels for National Federations and the wider European paddlesport community.

It complements — rather than replaces — the existing discipline-specific communication channels, offering one central place to follow Paddle Europe throughout the season.

[Join our WhatsApp Channel](#)

SUP Championships – Official Bulletin Available

Preparations are gathering pace for the **2026 Paddle Europe Stand Up Paddling Championships**, which will take place in **Agios Nikolaos, Crete (Greece)**, from **18 to 23 September 2026**.

Organised by the Hellenic Canoe, Kayak, SUP & Surf Federation, in partnership with Paddle Europe, the International Canoe Federation, the Municipality of Agios Nikolaos and the Region of Crete, the event will once again bring together Europe's leading SUP athletes while welcoming paddlers of all levels.

The championships will be held alongside the **ICF SUP World Cup**, creating one of the largest international Stand Up Paddling festivals of the season and offering athletes the opportunity to compete on both the European and world stage at the same venue.

The crystal-clear waters of Agios Nikolaos and the unique setting of Crete will once again provide the perfect backdrop for one of Europe's premier Stand Up Paddling events.

The Official Bulletin is now available, providing essential information on the competition programme, venue, accommodation, entries and event services. Registration is now open through Paddle Europe's new **Individual Entry System (IES)**.

[Download the Official Bulletin](#)

[Register through IES](#)

Building the Digital Future of Paddle Europe

As part of its ongoing digital transformation, Paddle Europe is continuing to develop new technological solutions to support organisers, National Federations and athletes.

One of the latest developments is the **Individual Entry System (IES)**, created in partnership with **Memosoft**, Paddle Europe's official technology partner. The platform has been specifically designed for competitions where athletes enter individually, such as Masters, Stand Up Paddling and Ocean Racing, addressing a long-standing operational need within these disciplines.

Currently being tested during the 2026 season, IES has been built around the competition rules and organisational requirements of Paddle Europe events. The platform can be fully customised for each organiser and integrates online entries, payment processing, accommodation bookings and airport transfer management into a single system.

IES	NFS
Masters, SUP & Ocean Racing	Sprint & Marathon
Individual entries	National Federation entries
Payments	Preliminary entries
Accommodation	Accommodation
Airport transfers	Airport transfers

Alongside IES, Paddle Europe is also developing the **National Federation System (NFS)**, dedicated to Sprint and Marathon championships. Following successful implementation during the 2026 Paddle Europe Sprint European Championships in Portugal and the 2026 Paddle Europe Marathon European Championships in Romania, NFS has already demonstrated its reliability and operational value.

Together, IES and NFS represent an important milestone in Paddle Europe's long-term digital strategy, delivering modern, integrated and efficient solutions that simplify event management while improving the experience for organisers, National Federations and athletes alike.

Looking Ahead to July

While several European titles have already been decided, the 2026 Paddle Europe season continues with two major championships taking centre stage in July.

2026 Paddle Europe Slalom Masters Championships

St. Ruprecht ob Murau, Austria

10–11 July 2026

2026 Paddle Europe Junior & U23 Sprint Championships

Szeged, Hungary

23–26 July 2026

Full July Calendar

View the Full 2026 Calendar

Join the Movement – #IPaddleForEurope

Every championship tells hundreds of stories — from unforgettable victories and personal bests to the people who make our sport possible behind the scenes.

To help bring those stories together, Paddle Europe invites athletes, National Federations, organisers, volunteers, coaches and fans to use the official **#IPaddleForEurope** hashtag when sharing content from Paddle Europe events and activities.

Whether it is a race, a training session, a medal ceremony, a volunteer moment or simply the atmosphere around our championships, every post helps showcase the strength, diversity and passion of the European paddlesport community.

Share your story. Inspire others. #IPaddleForEurope

As the 2026 season continues, Paddle Europe remains focused on supporting athletes, organisers, National Federations and the wider paddlesport community across every discipline.

Whether on the water, behind the scenes or online, every athlete, volunteer, organiser and federation contributes to making Paddle Europe stronger. Thank you for being part of the journey.

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