



PADDLE EUROPE NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Building the future of paddle sports in Europe

President's Message

Since 2023, we have entered a new phase of transformation, focused on modernising governance, increasing transparency, and improving operational efficiency.

A key milestone is the transition from the European Canoe Association to Paddle Europe, effective from January 2026. This change reflects a broader and more modern vision of paddle sports, strengthening unity and visibility across Europe.

At the same time, the legal headquarters has been relocated to Switzerland, reinforcing strategic alignment and institutional stability.

A high-level visit to Baku in March 2026 marked an important step in strengthening cooperation with Azerbaijan and regional sport stakeholders. The visit concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Azerbaijan Water Sports Federation, supporting collaboration in education, competition development, infrastructure, communication, and international partnerships.

For 2026, priorities include the development of a European sustainability framework, strengthened rules on ethics, conflicts of interest and data protection, and the recognition of the contribution of athletes, volunteers and organisers.

The 2026 season will feature **10 European Championships across 9 countries**, complemented by **19 European Cups** in Slalom, Kayak Polo and Wildwater — reflecting the scale and diversity of paddle sports across Europe.

Overall, 2026 marks a defining moment for paddle sports in Europe, driven by modernisation, collaboration and shared ambition.

Season 2026 – Organisational Updates

Organisational developments shaping the new season:

- **New identity:** transition to Paddle Europe, reflecting a broader and more inclusive vision
- **New headquarters:** relocation to Lausanne in Switzerland
- **Modernised governance:** updated Board structure and improved operational organisation
- **Leadership updates:** new Chairs for Sprint and Slalom disciplines

Sport & Development

Key developments across sport and development:

- Updated fee structure to support long-term sustainability
- Sustainability initiatives across events and activities
- Growth of recreational paddling, with increased focus on participation and community engagement

These initiatives aim to support both competitive performance and grassroots development across Europe.

Hosting Paddle Europe Events

Paddle Europe is opening new opportunities for organisers to host official events and contribute to the development of paddle sports across the continent.

The updated bidding process provides a clear framework covering eligibility, submission procedures, timelines, and organisational requirements.

From European Championships to European Cups, hosting an event represents a valuable opportunity for communities to showcase their venues, engage local audiences, and bring top-level competition to their region.

[Detailed information](#)

2026 Season Overview

The 2026 season features a full competition calendar, offering opportunities to connect, compete, and celebrate paddle sports across Europe.

Updated bulletins, schedules, and event information are being structured to ensure greater clarity, accessibility, and consistency for athletes, teams, and organisers.

From key championships to new and returning venues, the season reflects the continued growth of paddle sports across the continent.

[Bulletins available online](#)

Get Involved in the 2026 Season

As we move into the new season, there are several ways to stay engaged and be part of Paddle Europe activities:

- Explore the 2026 competition calendar [here](#)
- Review updated regulations and guidelines [here](#)
- Follow our official channels for the latest updates and stories ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [WhatsApp community](#))
- Get in touch to become a partner or event organiser

Every contribution - whether competing, organising or supporting - plays a role in strengthening our paddle sport community across Europe.

New contacts

Paddle Europe has introduced a new email communication structure. From May onwards, please contact us according to your enquiry:

Office: office@paddle-europe.eu

Events: events@paddle-europe.eu

Media: media@paddle-europe.eu

Your commitment and continued support are at the core of everything we do.

As we move into 2026, we remain focused on building a stronger, more structured and more connected paddle sport community across Europe.

We look forward to the season ahead - and to shaping it together.

Paddle Europe · Monthly Newsletter · May 2026

paddle-europe.eu

[Unsubscribe](#)