



16 October 2020

Dear Darko,

It is with great pleasure that I officially confirm your appointment to the IRF's very first Pararafting Committee.

We are delighted with the caliber of people who have stepped forward for this committee (see below list of committee members). This is something that has long been on the to-do list for the IRF, the lack of man-power hours to develop it being all that has been holding it back.

The IRF would like to see a number of Pararafting events being held around the world in 2021 and so the primary aim right now is to get the Rules and Code to a state where event organisers have clear outlines of what needs to be done. At the moment these Rules and Codes are in draft format needing to be given a solid working over by knowledgeable and experienced people to ensure they are realistic and manageable.

The initial aim is to have Pararafting events that are open to as wide a group of people with disabilities as possible so as to be inclusive as possible. Being a team sport we have the advantage to be able to offer this. And as this develops we would then develop a section that would be the one to lead us to pararafting in the Olympics.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JW Jones', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Willis Jones
International Rafting Federation - President
www.internationalrafting.com

Pararafting Committee Members

Saeed Zaroori (Iran) – a journalist and translator with severe Muscular dystrophy. Committee Member IATC (International Adventure Therapy Committee). Founder of Adventure therapy in Iran. Plans adventurous tours for people with disabilities in Iran, such as: rafting, kayaking, paragliding, camping, passing from big deserts of Iran by safari. Creator of “Stick to Your Wheelchair” idea to promote accessibility by doing adventures while sitting on wheelchair to show that we need to be on our wheelchair everywhere, on bus, taxis, subway and etc.

Oleksandr Bakanychev (Ukraine) - worked for Special Olympic Ukraine for 7 years as the Coordinator of National Programs. Lecturer at Ukrainian Sport University (biomechanics, kinesiology and sporting metrology). <https://uni-sport.edu.ua/content/bakanychev-oleksandr-viktorovych>. Worked with disabled Canoe Sprint athletes as a coach. Engaged as organizer in ICF World and European Paracanoe Championships. His athletes won European, World Championships and became prize winners of Olympic Games.

Darko Mitrović (Serbia) - professor at the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education of the University of Belgrade. Coach of various rowing clubs. Vice President of the Board of Directors of 1 rowing club. Coordinator for university rowing of the executive board of the Rowing Federation of Serbia; President of the Academic Sports Association; <http://www.dif.bg.ac.rs/sr/nastavnici-saradnici/466-darko-mitrovic>

Julie Gray (UK) - British Canoeing representative on the ICF Paracanoe Committee, also been very involved with the IDBF and their para work and classification categories and running events. ICF Paracanoe Committee: Advisor; Paracanoe Head of Classification. ICF Paracanoe Classification Committee: Medical Classifier.

Jeza Williams (NZ) - former New Zealand raft guide and extreme adventurer. Tetraplegic following canyoning accident. Now active wheelchair rugby player and advocate for accessibility rights. Frequently now rafts on G3/4 rivers in a specially designed seat for tetraplegia clients, as well as paraglides. More info: <https://www.makingtrax.co.nz/About-Us/Jeza/>

Victoria Shirokova (Russia) - Chair of Russian Rafting Federation Judges Com and head of their pararrafting.

Kelley Kalafatich (USA) - began rafting as a pioneering female river guide in 1979 and has run hundreds of rivers around the world, including several first descents, participating in river expeditions to Africa (one of first guides working on Zambezi), Costa Rica, Brazil, Siberia, Fiji, Borneo, Ecuador, Chile, and Alaska to name a few. She has had a career in film, being chosen as Meryl Steep’s stunt double in The River Wild , and later producing and filming Three Women, Three Hundred Miles (award-winning river documentary). and was a founding member of the legendary World Champion Amazonskis' USA Women's Raft Team, competing from 1985 -2001. Kelley became paralyzed from the waist down in 2007 after being infected by a waterborne parasite on the first descent of the Blue Nile River. She is based in USA where she does motivational talks on facing one's fears.