

ICU Recommendations

That the ICU board and executive officers acknowledge our huge drop in numbers of the past several years and offer an explanation for this drop and what they intend to do about the drop in numbers. Membership fell by more than 1,000 over 4 years, from 4,110 in 2002, to 3,100 in 2006. This is a compound loss, meaning that the ICU has lost lots more than 1000 members in that period.

That all ICU board members are listed on the ICU website. If possible with an appropriate @canoe.ie email address to contact them on i.e. listing the names of the committee members online and a contact email for each.

That the minimum age of a delegate is changed to 18, to reflect the fact that this may be an issue for college students. (the current minimum age is 21)

To begin an annual ICU University Training weekend, an exact copy of what the BCU runs annually.

That a comprehensive list of all clubs is placed on the website (currently 66, whereas according to documents belonging to the ICU there are 92 clubs affiliated)

That all jobs vacancies part time or full time are advertised in advance on the ICU website.

That qualified kayak instructors are given detailed written information about the current ICU insurance policy, and ICU insurance procedure. That this information is posted ASAP to them and in the future accompanies any qualification certification papers.

That information regarding ICU insurance is included on the curriculum for instructor trainees.

That the running, strategic value and importance of the annual Liffey Descent from an ICU strategic standpoint be discussed.

Transparency and sharing information with ICU members should be ICU policy. It's impossible for members to show any interest or give any valid input into the running of the ICU if they can't make informed input.

That strategic goals for each province be created.

That the financial accounts contain as much details as possible. Ins and outs of specific subcommittees are not accounted for. Salaries are lumped together. Individual athletes carding grants are lumped together. This level of detail used to be the norm for ICU financial accounts in the past. This level of detail would serve to improve transparency and also would be beneficial for any strategic financial analysis of the ICU. The ISC raised the issue of sub committee's accounts in the past and it was said that sub committees submitted annual reports. However the same situation has arisen in the years after this letter from the ISC.

Publication of an annual report to all members, which focuses on the strategic objectives of the Union, past and future, and their progress. Much like the format of the ISC grant applications. This would not take the form of an essay, more so facts and figures.

That the day to day office duties of the ICU are analysed and improved. (emails not being replied to, letters not be responded to, calls not being returned, in effect basic office duties)

When members are renewing their membership or becoming members, they should identify which areas of kayaking they partake in. As people have to renew regularly this would give an accurate and up-to-date picture of kayaking in Ireland. This should include disciplines that the ICU doesn't currently support like Boatercross or any other emerging disciplines.

That the Union re-examines and discusses with its members to the level the ICU is willing to facilitate kayaking and canoeing activities and competitions, not being run by the ICU.

That real movement and lobbying are made on the legislation regarding kayaking and kayaking qualifications.
That the ICU makes movement and advocates on issues that affect members (e.g. disclaimers, etc.)

Set of safety standards and outlines for clubs. Including insurance recommendations (ICU Uni standards)
The timing of the AGM should be moved forward to suit the needs of students.

That the ICU promotes voluntarism. For financial reasons alone this makes sense. The annual cost of the ICU website is Massive; many club websites are run by students for a fraction of the cost. Also, if members were taking care of the site it would promote a feeling of ownership of the ICU by its members and save lots of money. This is only one example; there are many areas where this can happen.

Define and give clarification of what is required to be a member of the ICU. (Do we have to pay individual membership to the ICU or are we members if we are members of an affiliated club?) From the 2006 ICU ISC grant application

“Membership Fees only paid by Competitive Members. Fees for Recreational Members covered by annual Club Registration Fee. Club Registration €100 pa and a capitation fee of €10 per senior competitive member and €5 per junior competitive member above a free 50 junior memberships ceiling per club. Registration fees for Recreational Members covered by the Club Registration Fee.” Please clarify this statement.