

ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

20  
23

CANOE  
FREESTYLE



COLUMBUS, GA, USA  
PHENIX CITY, AL, USA

## Bulletin #2

Updated August 2023

## Introduction

We are in the final stages of planning for this fall's 2023 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships. It is exciting to see so many athletes are taking the opportunity to train on our rapids. You hopefully see that we have started to increase our communication efforts around the event through the [Columbus World Championships Facebook page](#) and have recently created an [Instagram page](#). If you are training or visiting our park or posting about the event on social media, please tag us - @ICFWORLDCHAMPIONSHIPSCOLUMBUSGA

We look forward to seeing you on the Chattahoochee River soon!

## ICF WhatsApp Group

Following the success of using the one-way WhatsApp group to disseminate information at previous events, the same group will be used by the ICF and HOC to provide information in advance and during the 2023 World Championships.

To register for the WhatsApp group please use the following link:  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/luWipg1zKnWJsrp3mtBsYN>  
or scan the QR code.

During the event, information will also be posted on the bulletin boards at the RV Campground and the Sport Information Office. Announcers will also share information at the venue.



## Team Leaders Meeting

This mandatory session will occur at the Powerhouse on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The session will begin at 09:00am. The address is 1205 Front Avenue Columbus, GA 31901. Each National Federation is required to have 1 (one) Team Leader present and if that leader is not fluent in speaking English than you are allowed to bring a second representative to the meeting.

## Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 (18:30) at The Phenix City Amphitheater (508 Dillingham Street Phenix City, AL 36867). Teams are asked to assemble and be ready at 7:00 (19:00) to parade. We are excited for each team to represent their country. More information will be shared with teams in the final bulletin issued just before the event.

## ICF Development Camp

Receiving a huge help from the organizing committee, the ICF is running a development camp during the official team trainings and the competitions of this 2023 Canoe Freestyle World Championships. The purpose of this camp is to help athletes from emerging white water canoeing federations to join and enjoy this event, to improve their freestyle abilities by receiving tips from top experienced coaches and ensuring them that they are part of an exceptional worldwide paddling family.

For more information about the camp, please contact: [@Ciaran Maguire](#) and [thomas.rosset@canoeicf.sport](mailto:thomas.rosset@canoeicf.sport)

## ICF Appointments

The ICF has made the following appointments to the Championships.

### **Jury**

The following ICF Board members are appointed as the Jury for the event:

- Chair: Lluís Rabaneda (ESP)
- Member: Ruud Heijnselaar (NED)
- Member: Terry Best (GBR)

### **Chief Judge, Paul Shepard**



Paul (Shep) started competing in freestyle events in 1998 and started judging when he was managing the white-water course in Nottingham. He has judged at almost every world championship since 2011 and was the chief judge in Sort 2019 and Nottingham in 2022. He judged at the Columbus World Cups and is excited to see the development in wave paddling that will be showcased at this year's Worlds.

### **International Judges Appointments**

The following international judges have been appointed by the ICF (subject to ICF Board approval):

- Paul Sheperd
- Nina Csonkova
- Chelsie Poffenberger
- Peter Harmer
- Alec Voorhes
- Charlie Brackpool
- Dan Daley
- Yagi Tatshya
- Gregory Didier
- Trevor Lheureux

### **DANNY O BRIEN**

It is with great sadness that I must report the passing of Danny O'Brien. Danny was the chief judge at last year's ICF World Cups in Columbus and part of the judging team for this year's Worlds. Danny was a very special person, his enthusiasm and commitment touched everybody. Once met, never forgotten, a unique individual. Time spent with Danny was always memorable, he was funny, kind, and principled, a rare combination. Everyone that knew Danny was touched by his spirit. Danny managed to pack so many lifetimes into his 33 years and was living his dream as always! His loss will leave a huge hole in our community. He will never be forgotten.

Our hearts go out to his family at this sad time

### **Judges Fee**

As the ICF regulations require there will be a fee towards the judges of the competition to cover some expenses. The ICF Committee will announce in the final bulletin the price per athlete. ICF will invoice each National Federation for the Judge's fee and then the National Federation will choose to invoice the athletes at their own discretion.

## ICF ONLINE ENTRIES & ACCREDITATION SYSTEM – SDP

### Principles

Entries and accreditation requests must be made by the National Federation using the ICF's online entries system (SDP): <https://icf.msl.es/icf/icf.jsp>

For detailed instructions on how to submit entries, please read the SDP user guide. Any questions or issues relating to entries or accreditation should be sent to [sdp@canoeicf.com](mailto:sdp@canoeicf.com) prior to the respective deadline.

SDP user guide [https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/nf\\_userguide\\_v2.2.pdf](https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/nf_userguide_v2.2.pdf)

### Numerical entries

Numerical entries per NF close: August 28, 2023

### Nominal entries

Nominal entries close: September 29, 2023

Each athlete competing must be entered by name.

Team personnel must also be submitted for accreditation at this time. These entries will be used to produce the accreditation cards for all teams.

### Reminder

Entries or accreditation requests sent directly to the committee, or the competition organizer will NOT be accepted.

### Training

In accordance with our risk management policy, the Host Organizing Committee is required to regulate the number of paddlers on the course at any one time. The below procedures have been put in place to balance public access to the course in non-exclusive periods and the desire of the HOC to provide World Championship athletes with the maximum training opportunity. Should any athlete access the course outside of the below procedures, the HOC and ICF have the right to remove accreditation.

#### Prior to Official Training – September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 3<sup>rd</sup>

The HOC knows that several athletes and teams will arrive prior to the Official Training period to train independently.

While athletes are welcome, please note that competition water flows will only be guaranteed during Official Training periods. Also be aware that water safety prior to the official training period will be the responsibility of the paddlers.

As this is a working river, water flows will change throughout each day. While competition water flows may occur at some point, the HOC is unable to guarantee specific water flows during open training.

The HOC will post information about expected water flows times during open training, when available. Please

note that this will likely be on short notice, often less than 12 hours in advance.

#### [Official Training at Worlds Feature - Goodwave – Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>](#)

Official training will take place from 10:00 to 18:00 on October 4 through October 6. Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> official training will take place from 10:30 to 17:20 due to Opening Ceremonies. Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> official training will be from 10:00 – 18:00. Following the close of nominal entries, nations will be allocated approximately a one-hour training slot (depending on final numbers) each day for access to Goodwave. Water safety will be provided.

#### [Official Training at Love Triangle Rapid for Squirt – OPEN](#)

Official training for the squirt boat competition at this rapid is always open prior to the competition. Nations and individuals will not be given allocated training slots. The training period is open with no set training times.

### [Boat Storage](#)

The HOC is providing two options for boat storage. For athletes who are camping, boat storage will be available at the Hospitality Center inside of the Phenix City Whitewater Express office.

For athletes who are using other accommodations, the HOC will have boat storage available at the Athlete's Village, at the Powerhouse.

PowerHouse boat storage will begin September 27<sup>th</sup> and go throughout the entirety of the event. Athletes will be able to access boats from 9:00 am – 18:30.

Both venues will have security. Note that the HOC cannot provide 24-hour, on-demand access to stored boats. The HOC and venue is not responsible for any loss of damage to boats. Access to the boat storage area will only be permitted for accredited athletes.

### [Water Quality](#)

The Chattahoochee River Conservancy collects water quality data at popular swimming, rafting and boating locations in the Middle Chattahoochee Watershed. Chattahoochee River Conservancy utilizes the standardized state criteria of 235 E. coli/100 ml for collecting and analyzing water samples. Test samples are expressed as Most Probable Number (MPN) of E. coli Colony Forming Units (CFU) per 100 mL. Single Samples that read 235 or below are safe for recreational use. Single Samples that read higher than 235 is not recommended for recreational use.

Water samples are collected weekly on Thursdays, with data available Friday mid-morning. Results will be communicated through the Swim Guide app (<https://www.theswimguide.org/get-the-app>) and will be posted on Chattahoochee River Conservancy's social media sites at noon, including Facebook and Instagram. They are also available by calling Chattahoochee River Conservancy at (706) 649-2326. To report an issue, email: [chris@chattriver.org](mailto:chris@chattriver.org).

### [Lodging and Accommodations](#)

#### [Hotels](#)

The river venue is walkable to over 800 hotel rooms. Other hotels are available outside of the center city and will

require personal transportation to reach the river venue.

Uptown Columbus and Downtown Phenix City are served by various hotel brands. Options range from upscale accommodations to budget-friendly properties. Use these links for options:

<https://www.alwaysuptown.com/stay> or <https://rushsouth.com/find-a-hotel-in-alabama.com>

### Campground

The HOC is providing primitive campgrounds space for both RVs and Tents.

Please visit <https://rushsouth.com/campground-registration> to reserve your space.

### Parking

The city offers free public parking in its three decks.

### Transportation

Groome will pick up athletes in Atlanta. Athletes will be able to book in advance with Groome over the phone or online (\$10 discount) by using the code **KAYCOL** (Kayak Columbus).

The Athlete must use the code before making the reservation, otherwise they will not have access to the drop off on Bay Ave. The one-way rate without the code is currently \$57.00. Contact info:

[https://groometransportation.com/columbus/?&sd\\_client\\_id=7fe24760-f4a3-4bf4-ac1a-26e9b753a5d7](https://groometransportation.com/columbus/?&sd_client_id=7fe24760-f4a3-4bf4-ac1a-26e9b753a5d7)

706.324.3939

### Catering

The Host Organizing Committee has arranged for a food truck to be on-site each day of the competition, October 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Each truck will offer a small variety of meal options. Trucks will accept cash (USD) or credit card payments only.

The Host Committee has organized a FREE breakfast at the campground site on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. Please plan accordingly.

### Team Area & Facilities

The Sport Information Office and Accreditation Center will be open as follows:

- PowerHouse
  - September 27 – September 29, 2023, from 10:00 – 16:00
  - October 2 – October 8, 2023, from 9:30 – 17:30
  - October 9 – October 13, 2023, from 8:30 – 17:30
  - October 14, 2023, from 9:30 – 17:00

Subject to payment of accreditation fees, Team Leaders will be able to collect team accreditations and competition bibs. The HOC will also provide welcome gift bags to all registered athletes.

Please note all athletes will be provided a re-usable water bottle and we will have water stations available at all venues. Anyone other than an athlete will need to provide their own water bottle.

The Athlete Lounge will be at the Powerhouse. The Lounge will include complimentary refreshments for athletes, coaches, officials, and other dignitaries. The Lounge will be open from 10:00 to 18:00 throughout the Official Training and competition periods. Campers can also visit the hospitality center inside the Phenix City Whitewater Express facility, across the street from the campground.

### Anti-Doping Education

In line with ICF rules for ICF World Championships, ICF World Cups and ICF Ranking Races and Continental Championships, every athlete, coach and support personnel must pass the relevant anti-doping online course on the Anti-doping Education Learning Platform (ADEL) corresponding to their role: [ICF \(ADEL\) online anti-doping course](#). If someone has already completed the course, they do not have to re-take it. If you are unsure whether you have completed the course, please contact your National Federation.

### Social Events and Festivals

Throughout the training and competition period, the HOC will be producing socials and special events. Athletes, coaches, officials, sponsors, and others are all welcome to attend.

#### World Championship Attendee-Only Social Events

The following events are open to athletes, coaches, sponsors, and VIPs.

- Athlete Social/Dinner
  - o Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>: Welcome Party - Historic District Neighborhood Association
    - Time: 18:00 to 20:00
    - Place: Promenade at 700 Broadway
    - Transportation via Whitewater Express shuttles with pick-up at the roundabout next to Hotel Indigo
  
- Athlete Social/Dinner
  - o Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>: The Wintering Grounds
    - Time: 18:30 to 20:30
    - Place: 1301 Whitewater Avenue Phenix City, AL 36867
  
- Athlete Social/Dinner
  - o Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: Midtown, Home of Dan and Jill Gilbert
    - Place: 1661 Forest Avenue, Columbus, GA 31906
    - Transportation via Whitewater Express shuttles with pick-up at the roundabout next to Hotel Indigo
  
- Athlete Social/Dinner: Closing Ceremonies
  - o Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>
    - Time: 19:00 to 21:00
    - Location: The Powerhouse

#### Community Festivals Open to the Public (including ICF guests)

One of the goals of the Host Organizing Committee is to involve and engage residents in World Championships events. To do this, the Uptown district will be hosting free community festivals and events before, during, and

after the competitions.

The festivals are open to anyone who wants to attend, including ICF guests. For detailed information visit: [www.rushsouth.com](http://www.rushsouth.com). Highlights include:

- September 30<sup>th</sup>: Mogadishu Mile (Army Competition); Music, entertainment, and beverages
- October 6<sup>th</sup>: Free Concert on Broadway
- October 7<sup>th</sup>: Market Days on Broadway from 9 am -12 pm
- October 14<sup>th</sup>: Zen Zone and Vendor Village at Woodruff Park
- October 14<sup>th</sup>: RushSouth Outdoor Music Festival and Outdoor Games (ticket charge)
  - Tickets are available for purchase at [www.rushsouthfest.com](http://www.rushsouthfest.com)