



2023 ICF CANOE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

COLUMBUS, GA | PHENIX CITY, AL

October 9 – 14, 2023



Bulletin #1

Updated April 13, 2023



Welcome!

On behalf of the Host Organizing Committee, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome athletes, competitors, supporters, and friends old and new alike to RushSouth Whitewater Park for the International Canoe Federation 2023 Freestyle World Championship. Columbus, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, have an amazing story to tell about our venue and communities. The 325,000+ residents of the metro area are especially eager to show-off our famous southern charm and hospitality.

The mighty Chattahoochee River will be the site for the competition. Our world-class venue will be celebrating its ten-year anniversary since the removal of two industrial dams and the opening of the whitewater course.

This audacious effort has transformed Uptown Columbus into an outdoor recreation center with ziplining, biking, rafting, disc golf, along with a Riverwalk, splash pad and playground for all to enjoy. These combined attractions form the heart of RushSouth Whitewater Park.

Best yet, these facilities are literally steps away from a thriving, 24-hour center city district hotels, pubs, restaurants, shops, homes, and family entertainment. This mash-up of urban and whitewater is unlike any venue on the planet!

We look forward to welcoming the world's best paddlers to the Chattahoochee Valley. Please come and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Wolverson

Edwin J. Wolverson
Uptown Columbus Inc.

GENERAL INFORMATION: 2023 ICF Freestyle World Cup

Organizers

International Canoe Federation
American Canoe Association
Uptown Columbus, Inc.
RushSouth Whitewater Park

Key Contacts

Uptown Columbus Inc. (Host Organization)
Ed Wolverton, President
25 W. 10th Street, Suite 4
Columbus, GA 31901 United States
706.596.0111

Whitewater Express
Dan Gilbert
1000 Bay Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901 United States

ON-LINE FOOTPRINT:

Official website

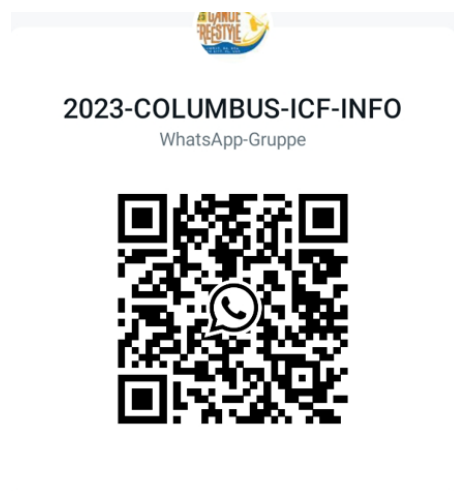
<https://www.canoeicf.com/canoe-freestyle-world-championships/columbus-georgia-2023>

Competition Facebook Page:

Search: ICF World Championship Columbus GA

Whatsapp for official information:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/luWipg1zKnWJsrp3mtBsYN>



SCHEDULE OUTLINE:

Please note the schedule is provisional and subject to change.

Training and Competition:

October 4th – 8th Official Training
October 9th – October 14th Competition

Athlete Events:

Saturday, October 7th Team Leader Meeting
The Powerhouse 9:00-10:30 am

Opening Ceremonies: Start time 6:00 pm
Phenix City Amphitheater

Sunday, October 8th Athlete Dinner and Social
Historic District Promenade from 6:00-8:00 pm

Tuesday, October 10th Athlete Dinner and Social
The Wintering Grounds, time TBD

Thursday, October 12th Athlete Dinner and Social
Home of Dan and Jill Gilbert, time TBD

Saturday, October 14th Closing Ceremonies, Athlete Dinner and Social
The Powerhouse, time TBD

The Chattahoochee Valley

The famous Chattahoochee River is a magnificent waterway with headwaters located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. The river flows 430 miles (690 km), eventually emptying into the Gulf of Mexico. While many communities about the tributary, two cities with a unique bond forge a dynamic setting with rich histories.

Columbus, Georgia

As the second largest city in the State of Georgia, the community boasts a fantastic quality of life along with a rich history of leadership and innovation. Columbus was founded in 1828 and the soft drink Coca Cola was first mixed here. Credit card processing was pioneered in Columbus in the 1950's and AFLAC insurance company started and is headquartered here. The City is home to Fort Benning, an army base with more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, retirees, and civilian employees. Columbus hosted the 1996 Olympic Softball tournament and is located 75 miles south of Atlanta, Georgia.



Phenix City, Alabama

Located near the easternmost point of Alabama, Phenix City is a blossoming community with a shoreline along the Chattahoochee River. Phenix City has a Riverwalk, a unique amphitheater nestled along the riverbank and an emerging Downtown. The population of Phenix City is around 38,000 and the community has been one of the fastest growing counties in Alabama over the last 10 years.

RushSouth Whitewater Park

Set within a 2.5 mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River, RushSouth Whitewater Park in Columbus, Georgia, offers a host of water sports along with a wide range of outdoor activities. From the Riverwalk, people can see whitewater rafters enjoying the big waves, kayakers playing in the many holes and ledges, and others enjoying SUP's. Downstream of the rapids, many enjoy a leisurely paddle in recreational kayaks on flat water.



Directly adjacent to and above the competition venue, people can take multi-state ziplines across the river and through the treetop canopy tour. While some enjoy the challenge of our riverside disc golf course, others ride, walk, and jog the 26-mile (42km) trail network along the Riverwalk and the Dragon Fly trail that flows inland.

RushSouth Whitewater Park is an attraction for Columbus residents and draws thousands regionally each year as their preferred destination for outdoor recreation. The venue is also family-friendly and includes a playground and splash pad for children of all ages along with lawn space for community festivals and events.

RushSouth Whitewater Park is managed by Uptown Columbus LLC. The outfitter for this venue is Whitewater Express who provides options for kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddle, disc golf, zipline recreation, and fly fishing.



Area Population	240,000
Avg High Temp Range for October	75-78 F (23.8 C to 25.5 C)
Record High for October	92 F (33.3 C)
Chance of rain in October	+22%

TRANSPORTATION

Columbus has a regional airport that currently offers three Delta flights each day to Atlanta. Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is in Atlanta, 75 miles north of Columbus. Highway access is from Interstate 85 and then via I-185.

If you are bringing a kayak on a flight, note that each airline may categorize them differently. You may want to call the kayak a “surfboard” as that is a similar size, and more airlines are familiar with the term.

Airport

Columbus, Georgia airport code: CSG

Hartsfield International airport code: ATL

Columbus: Airport to Hotel Transportation

Many local hotels offer shuttle service to the Columbus airport. Please check with your hotel directly for details.

Whitewater Express can also provide transportation for competitors using the Columbus airport. Please call them in advance to make sure they are lined up. 706.321.4720.

Taxi Service

Taxi services are always available at the east end of the Columbus terminal past baggage claim. Average fare to Uptown Columbus from CSG airport is \$15.

Atlanta: Airport Shuttle Service to and from Columbus

Groome Transportation offers a direct commute from ATL to Columbus. Fares range from \$40-\$80 per person with hourly trips for pickup and drop-off for both Domestic and International flights through Atlanta, GA.

As Groome serves other cities, be sure to confirm Columbus GA as the destination. The Local Host Committee strongly advises you to book the ride in advance to ensure availability.

Groome may be willing to arrange a pick-up at the campground. Booking in advance is crucial. Again, if you are travelling with a canoe/kayak, be sure to notify Groome so they have enough space to store the watercraft. <https://groometransportation.com/columbus> **Code: #KAYCOL**

Rental Car

Columbus Airport on-site rental car companies offer convenient services at the terminal. Rental car counters are located on the ground level at the end of the West terminal due to construction. Rental car return is located outside of the terminal on the west side. For a complete list of rental services through the Columbus, GA airport, visit <https://www.flycolumbusga.com/ground-transportation/>

For a complete list of rental services through Hartfield-Jackson International Atlanta, GA airport, visit <https://www.atl.com/ground-transportation>

Ride Share

Columbus and Phenix City have ridesharing options via Uber and Lyft. Apps for both services can be downloaded.

Public Buses

The city operates a bus system that is very affordable but only 1 route comes into the Uptown core district.

Public Parking

The city offers free public parking in its three decks. See the attached map.

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>

<https://rushsouth.com/find-a-hotel-in-alabama>

Short-term Rentals

A few properties in Uptown are available for short term rental through websites such as VRBO and Air BnB. Consult their websites for additional information. Any property within the map footprint is walkable to the main venues. A property outside of the map area will require a vehicle to reach the venues.

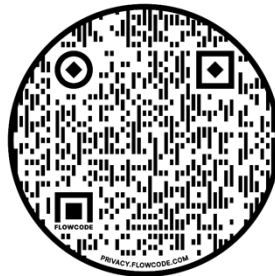
Camping

Whitewater Express manages a small and limited camping area adjacent to the river. The site is best suited for people using campers, RV's, buses, or sleeping trailers. Contact Whitewater Express at 706.321.4720.

The City of Phenix City will have primitive camping sites along the river. The Host Committee will provide periodic updates on the Facebook page at: ICF World Championship Columbus GA

NEARBY SHOPPING, FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

As a vibrant, mixed-use urban district, dozens of shops, restaurants, hotels, and attractions are within an easy walk for Uptown visitors. For an overview of nearby shopping, dining, entertainment, or lodging options, use the QR code below or follow this link: <https://www.alwaysuptown.com/explore>



Downtown Phenix City also offers a variety of delicious restaurants that are convenient to your stay.

<https://business.ealcc.com/list/category/restaurant-5005168>

COMPETITION VENUE

COMPETITION VENUE – Good Wave (GPS coordinates 32.468947, -84.996550)

Minimum river release of 800cfs from North Highlands Dam. Typically, water releases are between 800cfs and 13,000cfs. Rapids range between Class II to Class V on the river. Gradient drop from put-in to take-out is 33 feet (10m) with a 10-foot (3m) gradient drop across the main featured wave, *Good Wave*.

Kayakers can launch from WaveShaper Island, but it is not accessible by car. The island is along the riverwalk but about 25 feet lower than the closest road (Bay Avenue). The nearest free public parking garage is located at 4 12th W. Street. GPS with Apple and Google both pull up an address near Broadway that is incorrect.



Competition #2 Squirt Boat – Love Triangle (GPS coordinates 32.2808, -84.5955)

The Squirt Competition will take place at our world-class seam, The Love Triangle! This high-powered seam will provide competitors the opportunity for long mysteries as well as ample time for surface moves. The large, deep recirculating eddy feeds back into the seam and allows for easy re-entry on 2nd and 3rd mystery moves!

TRAINING

The official training period is October 4 – October 8, 2023, for the ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships. However, athletes will be welcome to visit and train at any time prior to the event.

Training will be organized in groups according to schedule. The official training schedule will be published under:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/event/82097/team-info>

COMPETITION RULES

2023 ICF Canoe Freestyle will be run in accordance with ICF Canoe Freestyle competition rules.

<https://www.canoeicf.com/rules#freestyle>

ACCREDITATION & PARTICIPATION FEE

Accreditation passes (credentials) will be required to access the venue and will be available at the sign-in for registered athletes and coaches. Registration and competition information will be headquartered in the Powerhouse building at RushSouth Whitewater Park.

Participation fee

The participation fee is \$200 USD per Athlete (Aa), Team Leader (AC), Technical Staff (Ao), Medical Staff (Am). Cost includes a commemorative T-shirt, dinners, and social events when competition days are completed.

Each athlete entering the competition must pay one full participation fee. If an athlete enters additional events within the same competition the second and subsequent events will each be charged at 50% of the participation fee.

Each team attending an ICF competition will pay an administration fee (set by the CFRC) to share the travel costs of the nominated ITOs.

The travel costs will be divided over all the athletes equally, based on numerical entries, so that every National Federation pays the same amount per athlete.

Payment

Invoices will be emailed to the Federations at the close of nominal entries. Payment must be received to obtain accreditations.

NIE Waivers for Foreign Athletes and Staff

The previous US waiver process ended on November 8, 2021, when a requirement of full vaccination against COVID-19 came into effect for all foreign nationals entering the US. COVID-19 restrictions will come out in a later publication if needed.

At this time all foreign nationals entering the US are required to present the following:

- Passport.
- Visa or ESTA.
- If you have any questions regarding entry into the U.S., please reach out as soon as possible to bspilman@americancanoe.org

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 prior to the respective deadline.

SDP user guide 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.

MINORS, JUNIORS, AND NON-ADULTS

Almost all ICF events feature competitions for juniors or minors. The Host Committee will welcome one chaperon to accompany a minor competing in the events for all competitions and social activities. If a minor is unaccompanied, please notify to Local Organizing Committee to make accommodations.

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.

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.

ON WATER SAFETY

Please note that personal floatation devices and helmets are to be always worn by anyone on or inside the course.

DEVELOPMENT CAMP

The ICF Freestyle Committee are delighted to invite applications for the 2023 Development camp, which is taking place at the World Championships in Columbus. The camp is open to all paddlers, with priority given to athletes from developing and emerging nations. Qualified coaches and international athletes will deliver the camp. The programme will be a mix of on the water sessions and classroom sessions. It will look at all elements of paddling freestyle like the moves, techniques, fitness, safety, scores and judging.

Schools Programme

Schools programme (for World Championships). For the promotion and engagement of youth in our sport. The ICF will liaise with the HOC and the participating athletes to organise some visits within the local schools to speak about our sport and their sporting life. The ICF and the HOC will agree a special programme to host these children to one of the competition days to watch the competition and interact with the athletes.

Judges/ITO Seminar

An ICF freestyle judging seminar and certification will be held prior to the event. This course is designed to certify experienced freestyle judges in North America to be eligible to judge in the 2025 Freestyle World Championships. Official dates and more information will be released by the ICF in the upcoming months. If you are interested in participating or have any immediate questions, please contact Rowan Stuart rowan.stuart@canoeicf.com and Alex Conte alexandre.conte@canoeicf.com.

HEALTH AND SANITARY MEASURES

RushSouth and the ACA will be following local health and sanitary measures designed to reduce the risk of exposure to

COVID-19. This will include hand sanitizer stations, voluntary masks, and social distancing.

ANTI-DOPING EDUCATION PROGRAM

All athletes, coaches, and support personnel must have completed the relevant anti-doping online course on the WADA Anti-Doping Education Learning platform (ADEL) corresponding to their role.

The certificates showing completion should be sent by each National Federation to ICF. Previous certificates are still valid for this season. There is no need to repeat the program unless the persons role changes (e.g., athlete becoming coach) Accreditations will not be issued until the certificates are marked off. More information at: <https://www.canoeicf.com/anti-doping-education>. Link to access ADEL platform: <https://adel.wada-ama.org>

MEDICAL SERVICES

During the event period (10/4/2023-10/14/2023) we will provide a first aid service. Please note that this medical service will cover only emergency cases and that all participants are responsible to arrange, at their cost, their own medical insurance policy.

SPECTATORS

Admission to the competitions will be free. Parking in City-owned decks will be free.

PRESS AND MEDIA INFORMATION

To apply for a media accreditation, please contact Tracey Green, tracey@uptowncolumbusga.com and include your full name, telephone number, the name of your media outlet, and your arrival and departure dates. You will receive a confirmation email once your information has been received.

All media will be required to follow Covid-19 requirements as published here. The event hosts and the ICF have the right to remove the accreditation of any media refusing to follow these guidelines.

All applicants requesting accreditation will be added to the ICF's media mailing list to receive ICF media releases. The Media Area on-site is situated near to the finish line and island.

ICF Media and Communication Manager

Ross Solly

ross.solly@canoeicf.sport

ICF Digital Media Manager

Adam Collins

email: adam.collins@canoeicf.sport

Local Media Officer

Tracey Green

email: tracey@uptowncolumbusga.com

ACA Media Officer

Beth Spilman

email: bspilman@americancanoe.org

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Throughout the training and competition schedule, the Local Organizing Committee will be staging community-oriented festivals and special events. The competitions and social events will be free for credentialed competitors. The RushSouth Outdoor Festival will have a charge for athletes wishing to attend.



- September 30, 2023: Mogadishu Mile; Music, Entertainment, Beverages
- October 6, 2023: Free Concert on Broadway
- October 7, 2023: Market Days on Broadway
- October 14-15, 2023: RushSouth Music Fest and Outdoor Games (ticket charge)

RushSouth Whitewater Park Core Area – Columbus GA and Phenix City AL

