



2010 USA WHITEWATER SLALOM NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

The USA Whitewater Slalom National Team will be selected at the 2010 USA Whitewater Slalom National Team Trials ("Team Trials") in Wausau, WI, from April 30th through May 2, 2010.

I. Eligibility to Compete in the 2010 Team Trials

A. Affiliation:

1. Only USA Canoe/Kayak members, in good standing, who are eligible to compete for the United States in international competition according to current ICF rules, are eligible to qualify for the US National Team.

B. Qualification:

1. There shall be no pre-qualification to enter the 2010 Team Trials. The event shall be open to all eligible competitors.

II. Rules Governing the 2010 National Team Trials

A. Team Trials Selection Race Dates:

1. Team Trials is scheduled to consist of six individual runs over three days in Wausau, WI from April 30th through May 2nd, 2010. Team Trials will be formatted in the following way:
 - a) Three Day Team Trial Race: Two runs are completed on each day of competition over three different courses.
 - Race runs 1 and 2 are completed on the first day on course 1.
 - Race runs 3 and 4 are completed on the second day on course 2.
 - Race runs 5 and 6 are completed on the third day on course 3.
2. In the event that one or more of the six individual runs shall be canceled for any reason, the USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom National Team Staff (Silvan Poberaj, Cathy Hearn, William Irving) along with the Chief Judge shall designate additional runs to replace the canceled run(s). Any replacement run(s) shall be held as soon as possible after the completion of the final scheduled run.
 - a) Team selection shall be based on a minimum of 4 out of 6 individual runs.

b) The best run of each day plus the athlete's best result of the three remaining runs will be used towards the athlete's overall ranking.

3. In the event that the USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom National Team Staff along with the Chief Judge determine that no alternative race sites and dates are reasonably available, the National Team selection process shall be modified as follows:

a) In the event that one race run is canceled, the racer's best 3 out of the 5 race runs will be used to determine Team selection.

b) In the event that two race runs are canceled, the racer's best 3 out of the 4 race runs will be used to determine Team selection.

*If less than 3 runs are conducted, an alternate race to complete the remaining runs will be proposed. A minimum of at least 4 runs must be conducted to constitute the 2010 U.S. National Team trials.

B. Rules and Procedures for National Team Trials Selection Races:

1. The U.S. National Team Trials will be governed by the current International Canoe Federation (ICF) Racing Rules and Article 3 of the USA Canoe/Kayak Racing Rules.

2. The same class order will be used each day. All classes will be run back to back in the following order: C1W, C1, K1, K1W, C2.

3. The Team Trials start order for each class shall be determined first by the ranking of the top 100 from the Final 2009 ICF World Ranking. If the athlete is not ranked in the top 100 from the 2009 ICF World Ranking then they will be ranked after the Top 100 by the 2009 U.S. National Team Trials final results. If still not ranked, the athlete will be ranked by random draw after all participating boats from the 2009 Trials have been ranked. Boats with 2009 results substantially below their 2008 results due to injury may petition the USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom National Team Staff and the Chief Judge to run at the front of their class. Petitions must be received no later than April 10, 2010. Petitions will be granted only in cases where race results demonstrate that the boat is likely to be competitive for the National Team.

4. As per the ICF Racing Rules, any boat may petition the Chief Judge to allow additional time between themselves and another boat beyond the scheduled time. The Chief Judge will grant the petition in cases where the boat has been interfered with by a slower boat or has overtaken a slower boat during a previous 2010 Team Trials race run, or otherwise demonstrates concrete evidence of disadvantage. C1W class will be run at 2' start intervals between boats.

5. The Course:

- a) The course must be designed by a three-member Course Commission approved by the USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom National Team Staff.
- b) After the course is erected, with all gates in position, a demonstration run must be made by at least one non-competitor. This should, if possible, include all boat types: C1, C1W, K1W, C2, and K1. The race shall not commence until the course has been approved. Course will be approved by the Chief Judge and Course Design Commission per the ICF Racing Rules.

III. 2010 World Cup, ICF Ranking Races and World Championship National Team Selection

A. Selection of Competitors for the 2010 World Cup Team:

1. The Team selection procedures will be the same for all boat classes, with the exception of C1-Women.
2. The maximum number of boat entries that have been allocated to the U.S. from the International Canoe Federation for the 2010 ICF World Cup races is as follows: 4 K1, 3 K1-W, 3 C1, 3 C1-W, 2 C2.
3. The results of the 2010 USA Whitewater Slalom Team Trials shall be used to determine athlete eligibility for the 2010 World Cup races, access to National Team Coaching, USA Canoe/Kayak athlete funding and other benefits provided by USOC and USA Canoe/Kayak. All types of the aforementioned eligibility and benefits apply to athletes from the completion of the 2010 National Team Trials until the completion of the 2011 National Team Trials.
4. An athlete's results at the 2010 World Cups, 2010 World Championships and/or 2010 ICF Ranking Races, may be used to select a subset of eligible athletes to receive specific racing, training, or funding benefits, as determined by the USA Canoe/Kayak or the USOC.
5. Athletes must confirm intention to participate in each of the 2010 ICF World Cups by May 7, 2010.
 - World Cup #1 (June 18-20) Prague, CZE
 - World Cup #2 (June 26-27) Seu, ESP
 - World Cup #3 (July 3-4) Augsburg, GER

If a boat fails to confirm by the designated date, the next best ranked boat from the 2010 Team Trials will be eligible for the ICF World Cup races.

6. After the completion of each race run at Team Trials, the boats in each class will be ranked according to the lowest score using the calculated percentage off the leader in that class.

Example: The percentage off the leader is calculated as follows:

Athlete A wins the race with a 95.7. Athlete B is in second place with a 97.2.

$((97.2s \times 100\%) / 95.7s) - 100 = 1.57\%$

First boat = 0.00%

Second boat = 1.57%

7. If, after completion of the Team Trials, an athlete is ranked in the top three in two classes, the athlete must confirm with the National Teams Director whether they will compete in both or only one of the classes at the 2010 ICF World Cup races within one hour of posting of the official results.

8. For selection to the 2010 World Cup Team at the 2010 Team Trials, boats must finish within an overall class adjusted percentage of 25.00% or better, except for C1-W where there is no minimum class adjusted percentage. The overall class adjusted percentage is the average of a boat's counting 2010 Team Trials runs class adjusted percentages. Each boat's race run Class Adjusted Percentage (CAP) is determined by dividing that run's final race score by a factor based on the boat's class: K1, 100%; C1, 104.27%; C2, 111.76%; and K1W, 113.16% . This adjusted score is then compared to the best adjusted score for that race run class adjusted percentage. This is calculated as 100% times the boat's class-adjusted time, divided by the fastest class-adjusted time for any boat in any of the four competitive classes, minus 100%. *(Note: the percentage factors are based on comparing international slalom results between classes for highly attended international races)*

9. At the conclusion of the 2010 Team Trials, if any boat fails to prove ICF eligibility for World Cup participation, that boat is ineligible to compete and will be replaced on the Team by the next highest qualified boat from the 2010 Team Trials.

B. Selection of Competitors for the 2010 ICF Ranking Races:

1. The ICF Ranking Races will allow 6 boats per class, per country to be entered.
2. The top six ranked athletes after the completion of the 2010 Team Trials will have first priority to participate in the ICF Ranking Races (see III.A).
3. Athletes need to confirm participation in the ICF Ranking Races with the National Teams Director by the dates designated in the table below (See III. B. 6.). If an athlete fails to confirm by the dates designated in the table above, the next ranked athlete from the 2010 Team Trials will be eligible to be entered.
4. If an athlete is not able to compete at the Team Trials due to a documented medical or family emergency the athlete will be ranked after the final athlete from the 2010 Team Trials.
5. If an athlete confirms to attend an ICF Ranking Race and later pulls out without a documented medical or family emergency, that athlete will have their name

dropped to the bottom of the priority list of all eligible athletes until the 2011 Team Trials.

6. According to the table below, athletes must confirm intention to participate in the 2010 ICF Ranking Races by the following dates.

- May 2, 2010 at the conclusion of the Team Trials at Team Processing: Mikulas + Tacen + Argentiere + Bourg + Merano + Merkleberg
 - July 10, 2010: Bratislava Pre-Worlds
 - Sept 1, 2010: Alpe Adria Klagenfurt, British Open Teeside
- *As ICF Ranking Races are added to the ICF Calendar athletes will be expected to confirm their intention to compete at least 45 days in advance of the competition.

C. Selection of Competitors for the 2010 World Championship Team

1. The maximum number of boats that may participate in the individual 2010 World Championship race will be 3 boats in each class, per ICF rules.

- a.) If in any class there are no boats who make the class adjusted percentage cut off, (except C1-W) then one boat in that class will be eligible to compete in the World Championships. The boat that will compete at the 2010 World Championships will be selected through the ICF Ranking Races using the same method of selection as listed in Section III. C. 2. #4 below.
- b.) The C1-W World Championships team will be selected through the ICF Ranking Races and the ICF World Cups as it is described in Section III. C. 2. #4 below.

2. Selection of the 2010 World Championship Team is determined by the following:

1. Athletes that place in the top 3 at 2010 National Team Trials are pre-qualified to race in the 2010 World Championship if they are ranked top 20 in the final 2009 ICF Ranking.

2. In the event that there are still remaining 2010 World Championship spot(s) that were not awarded under number 2. 1., directly above, the spots will be awarded to World Cup athletes that have one top 10 finish in a final at one of the three World Cups in 2010. The three 2010 World Cup races are Prague, Seu and Augsburg.

In the event that more athletes qualify under number 2.2., directly above, than there are places available on the 2010 World Championship Team, athletes with the single best individual result qualify. If still tied, the second best results will be compared and the athlete with the best result will qualify.

Example: If athlete A places 8th at Prague World Cup, athlete B places 6th at Augsburg World Cup, and athlete C places 3rd at Seu World Cup, but there is only one 2010 World Championship spot available then athlete C will be awarded the one 2010 World Championship spot.

3. In the event that there are still 2010 World Championship spot(s) that were not awarded under sections 1, 2 and 3, the spots will be awarded to World Cup athletes that have two top 20 finishes at two of the three 2010 World Cups or 1 top 20 at 1 of the three World Cups and 1 Gold Medal performance at the 2010 ICF Junior World Championships. Continental Championship races do not count.

a. In the event that more athletes qualify under Section III than there are places available on the 2010 World Championship Team, the athlete with the single best result in World Cups qualifies for the slot.

b. In the event that athletes are tied after comparing their single best result from the World Cups, the best percent off the leader from the World Cups will be taken from the two athletes' single best result and compared. The athlete with the better percentage will be awarded the slot.

4. In the event that there are still 2010 World Championship spot(s) that were not awarded under numbers 1, 2 and 3, then additional athletes will be selected using the adjusted ICF Ranking formula. An athlete's three best points out of all the eligible ICF Ranking Races are added together. The eligible ICF Ranking Races that can be used to accumulate points are any ICF Ranking Race held in the U.S. in 2010, and any foreign ICF Ranking Race that takes place after 2010 U.S. National Team Trials until and including the Bratislava Pre-World Championships. Athletes with the best points are awarded the remaining 2010 World Championship spot(s). Only one boat per class will earn the opportunity to compete at the 2010 World Championships if no athlete makes the 25% class adjusted time at the Team Trials.

a. In the event that an athlete does not make a semifinal, points will be calculated using the qualification result.

b. In the event that an athlete makes it to the semifinal, points are calculated for both their qualification race and then separately for the semifinal race. Per race, the athlete can only use the best points from either the qualification or semifinal run.

c. In the event that an athlete makes it to the final (ICF Ranking Race Only), points are calculated for their qualification race and then separately for the semifinal race and final race. Per race, the athlete can only use the best points from one run per race, the qualification run, Semifinal run, or Final run.

d. Any athlete who competes at ICF Ranking Races is eligible to gain a position for the World Championships Team under section IV., providing that the athlete is in the top 25% class-adjusted at the 2010 US National Team Trials (except for C1W). If no athlete/s from a class achieves the 25% class adjusted time at the Team Trials only one boat per class will be eligible to compete.

- The tentative list of the 2010 ICF Ranking Races is listed on the following link (<http://www.usack.org/pages/7868>) on the USA Canoe/Kayak website. Please check the ICF website after Jan. 2010 for the most up to date schedule.

- In case of an ICF Ranking tie, the athletes best ranking from the 2010 Team Trials will be used as the tie breaker (see III..A)

5. Boats selected to compete for the United States in the 2010 World Championships must prove World Championships eligibility consistent with the IOC, ICF, and USOC guidelines.

D. Selection of Competitors to the 2010 Pan American Championships

1. In order to be eligible to be selected to the Pan American Championship Team athletes must compete at the 2010 US National Team Trials and at least 2 of the ICF Ranking Races that occur after the 2010 National Team Trials. Athletes/Boats will be ranked based on their performance at the 2010 National Team Trials and their top 2 performances in ICF Ranking Races amongst USA boats by class.

2. Priority will go to the 1st placed athlete at the US National Team Trials per class plus two by rank of finish U23 athletes per class, who did not qualify for World Cup or World Championships. If entry spots remain after the above athletes have been offered slots, they will be filled by athletes of any age by rank of finish at US National Team Trials per class.

3. Boats selected to compete for the United States in the 2010 Pan American Championships must prove eligibility consistent with the IOC, ICF, and USOC guidelines.

E. Selection of the U-23 Team

A U-23 team will be determined by selecting the top three athletes per class who are not on the 2010 National Team and who place within 30% of Class Adjusted % off Leader.

Birth Years: 1987 and above

IV. Athlete Replacement Procedures for World Cup, World Championships and Pan American Championships:

If either member of a C-2 boat resigns or is unable to compete, the entire boat must be replaced.

V. Retraction from 2009 Selection Procedures regarding the Pre- Selection of Competitors for the 2010 World Cup Races:

Due to a change in the selection method from the ICF for the 2010 World Cup nation/boat quotas, athletes did not pre-qualify proprietary spots for 2010 World Cup Races as was originally anticipated. All qualification of US athletes for 2010 World Cup Races will be according to the 2010 USA CANOE/KAYAK Slalom Selection Methods outlined above.