2009 USA WHITEWATER SLALOM NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

The USA Whitewater Slalom National Team will be selected at the 2009 USA Whitewater Slalom National Team Trials ("Team Trials") in Durango, CO on May 15-18, 2009.

USA Whitewater Slalom ("USAWS") is the Slalom Sports Division of USA Canoe/Kayak ("USACK").

I. Eligibility to Compete in the 2009 Team Trails

A. Affiliation:

1. Only registered USACK members who are able 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 2009 Team Trials. The event shall be open to all eligible competitors.

II. Rules Governing the 2009 National Team Trials

A. Team Trials Selection Race Dates:

1. Team Trials is scheduled to consist of six individual runs over three days in Durango, CO on May 15-17. Team Trials will be structured in the fallowing way.

   a) Three Day Team Trial Race: Two runs are completed on each day of competition over three different courses.

      (1) Race runs 1 and 2 are completed on the first day on course 1.

      (2) Race runs 3 and 4 are completed on the second day on course 2.

      (3) 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 USAWS Executive Committee shall designate additional runs to replace the canceled run(s). Any replacement run shall be held as soon as possible after the completion of the final scheduled team selection run. In the event that the USAWS Executive Committee determines that no alternative race sites and dates are reasonably available, the National Team selection process shall be modified as follows:

   a) Team selection shall be based on a minimum of 4 out of 6 individual run.

   b) In the event that one race run is canceled, the racers best 4 out of the 5 race runs will be used to determine Team selection.

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

d) In the event that three race runs are canceled, 3rd Boat will be decided with the best 2 out of 3 race runs. 1st and 2nd Boat will be decided from 2008 Team Trials. If the first or second boat from 2008 is not competing, then the best 2 out of 3 runs will also decide the first or second boat in 2009.

e) In the unlikely event that less than three runs can be completed due to extenuating circumstances out of our control and the USAWS Executive Committee determines that no alternative race sites and dates are possible, then results from the previous years Team Trials will be used to select boats.

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

1. The Trials will be governed by current International Canoe Federation (ICF) Racing Rules. With the exception of rules: II.B.3, B.4, and B.6.a

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

3. The Team Trials start order for each class shall be determined based on results from the 2008 competitive season. Boats with 2008 results substantially below their 2007 results due to injury may petition the Team Support Committee to run at the front of their class. Petitions must be received by the Team Support Committee no later than two weeks prior to the start of Team Trials (May 1, 2009). Petitions will be granted only in cases where race results demonstrate that the boat is likely to be competitive for the National Team.

4. 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 2009 Team Trials race run, or otherwise demonstrates concrete evidence of disadvantage.

5. Athletes choosing to compete in two classes are required to participate in both classes to the best of their abilities. Any athlete not taking all runs in each class in the six Team Trial race runs will be disqualified in both classes except in cases of injury or medical emergency. If injury or medical emergency prevent the athlete from completing all required races, the race jury will decide if the athlete's results will be valid or disqualified.

6. The Course:

a) The course must be designed by a three-member Course Commission appointed by the USAWS Board.

b) The courses for Team Trials should be challenging to top international competitors, and should, to the extent possible, resemble in nature and difficulty the courses expected to be found at the international races for which Team Trials are being held.

c) After the course is erected, with all gates in position, a demonstration run must be made by at least one non-competitor. These should, if possible, include all boat types: C1, C1W, K1W, C2, and K1. The race shall not commence until the course has been approved.

III. 2009 World Cup, World Ranking Races and World Championship National Team Selection

A. Selection of Competitors for the 2009 World Cup Team:

1. The Team selection procedures will be the same for all boat classes, with the exception of the C1-Women.

2. The maximum number of boats that may participate in the 2009 World Cup races will be three boats per each class, per ICF rules.

3. The results of the 2009 USA Whitewater Slalom Team Trials shall be used to determine athlete eligibility for the 2009 World Cup races, National Team Coaching, USACK athlete funding and other benefits provided by USOC, USACK and USAWS. All types of the aforementioned eligibility and benefits apply to athletes from the completion of the 2009 National Team Trials until the completion of the 2010 Team Trials.

4. An athlete's results at the 2009 World Cups, 2009 World Championships and/or 2009 World Ranking Races, may be used to select a subset of eligible athletes to receive specific racing, training, or funding benefits, as determined by the Team Support Committee, USACK or the USOC.

5. By May 24, 2009 boats eligible for the 2009 World Cup Team, based on the below criteria, must confirm participation in the 2009 World Cup races. If a boat fails to confirm by May 24, 2009, the next best ranked boat from the 2009 Team Trials may serve as a replacement for the World Cup races.

6. After completion each race run at Team Trials, the boats in each class will be ranked on the following basis:

a) Boats will be awarded points in each of the six individual race runs as follows:

1st Place receives 30 points
2nd Place receives 28 points
3rd Place receives 27 points
4th Place receives 26 points
5th Place receives 25 points
6th Place receives 24 points
7th Place receives 23 points
8th Place receives 22 points
9th Place receives 21 points
10th Place receives 20 points
11th Place receives 19 points
12th Place receives 18 points

13th Place receives 17 points
14th Place receives 16 points
15th Place receives 15 points
16th Place receives 14 points
17th Place receives 13 points
18th Place receives 12 points
19th Place receives 11 points
20th Place receives 10 points
21st Place receives 9 points
22nd Place receives 8 points
23rd Place receives 7 points
24th Place receives 6 points
25th Place receives 5 points
26th Place receives 4 points
27th Place receives 3 points
28th Place receives 2 points
29th Place receives 1 point
30th Place receives 0 points

b) The total number of points accumulated from the athletes best four out of six race runs will be used to determine the World Cup Team.

c) The boat with the most points from his/her best four runs will be the highest ranked boat.

d) The boat with the second highest points from his/her best four runs will be the second highest ranked boat.

e) The boat with the third highest points from his/her best four runs will be the third highest ranked boat.

f) The boat with the fourth highest points from his/her best four runs will be the fourth highest ranked boat.

g) The fifth and sixth ranked boats, and lower ranked boats will be determined in the same manner.

h) In the event of a tie between two or more boats the boat with the highest point individual run wins the tie. If there is still a tie, the boat with the next highest individual run wins the tie. For example: Boat A has a 1st place, 2nd place, and two 3rd places = 112 points. Boat B has two 1st places, one 3rd place, and one 5th place = 112 points. In the first tie Boat A and B stay tied because they both have a 1st place. In the second tie breaker Boat B wins because Boat B has an additional 1st place. If the tie is still not resolved after comparing all four race runs the tie will be decided by the best percentage off the leader on the four runs used to calculate the racers points.

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 Team Leader whether they will compete in both or only one of the classes at the 2009 World Cup races within one hour of posting the official results.

8. For selection to the 2009 World Cup Team at the 2009 Team Trials, boats must finish within an overall class adjusted percentage of 25.00% or better, except for C1W where there is not minimum class adjusted percentages. The overall class adjusted percentage, is the average of a boat's highest 4 point runs class adjusted percentages. Each boat's race run class adjusted percentage is determined by dividing that run's final race score by a factor based on the boat's class: K1, 100%; C1, 104.45%; C2, 112.24%; and K1W, 111.63%. 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. Boats selected to compete for the United States in the 2009 World Cups must prove World Cup eligibility consistent with the IOC, ICF, and USOC guidelines.

10. At the conclusion of the 2009 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 ranked boat from the 2009 Team Trails.

B. Selection of Competitors for the 2009 World Ranking Races:

1. The World Ranking Races will allow 6 boats per class, per country to be entered.

2. The top six ranked athletes after the completion of the 2009 Team Trials will be selected to participate in the World Ranking Races (see III.A).

3. Athletes need to confirm participation in the World Ranking Races with the National Team Leader by May 24, 2009. If an athlete fails to confirm by May 24, 2009 the next ranked athlete from the 2009 Team Trials will be eligible to be entered.

C. Selection of Competitors for the 2009 World Championship Team

1. The maximum number of boats that may participate in the individual 2009 World Championship race will be three boats per each class, per ICF rules.

2. Selection of the 2009 World Championship Team is determined by the following performance eligibility standards:

a) The 2009 World Championship Team will first be filled with athletes that have earned a spot on the 2009 World Cup Team (see III.A) <u>and</u> have a top 20 2008 ICF World Ranking.

b) If there are remaining World Championship Team openings, the openings will be rewarded to the athletes with the highest ICF World Ranking at the completion of the Tacen World Ranking Race.

1. Athletes that make the 2009 National Team are pre-qualified to race in the 2009 World Championship if they are ranked top 20 in 2008 ICF World Ranking.

2. In the event that there are still remaining 2009 World Championship spot(s) that were not awarded under section I, 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 2009. The three 2009 World Cups are Pau France, Augsburg Germany, and Bratislava Slovakia. The Continental Championships do not count.
   1. In the event that more athletes qualify under section II than there are places available on the 2009 World Championship Team, athletes with the best individual result qualify.
      1. Example: If athlete A places 8th at Pau World Cup, athlete B places 6th at Augsburg World Cup, and athlete C places 3rd at Bratislava World Cup, but there is only one 2009 World Championship spot available then athlete C will be awarded the one 2009 World Championship spot.
3. In the event that there are still 2009 World Championship spot(s) that were not awarded under section I and II, the spots will be awarded to World Cup athletes that have two top 20 finishes at two of the three 2009 World Cups. Continental Championship races do not count.
   1. In the event that more athletes qualify under section III than there are places available on the 2009 World Championship Team, athletes with the best individual result qualify.
      1. Example: If athlete A places 19th at Pau World Cup and athlete B places 17th at Bratislava World Cup, but there is only one 2009 World Championship spot available then athlete B will be awarded the spot.
4. In the event that there are still 2009 World Championship spot(s) that were not awarded under section I, II, and III then additional athletes will be selected using the ICF World Ranking formula. Athletes' three best points, out of all the World Ranking Races are added together. The World Ranking Races that can be used to accumulate points are any World Ranking Race that takes place after 2009 U.S. National Team Trails and before, but including the Tacen Pre-World Championships. Athletes with the best points are awarded the remaining 2009 World Championship spot(s).
   1. In the event that an athlete does not make a semifinal, points will be calculated using the qualification result.
   2. 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.
   3. In the event that an athlete makes it to the final (World 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.
      1. The purpose behind this rule is to not penalize an athlete if they had a great qualification result, but a poor semifinal or final result.
   4. Any athlete who competes at World Ranking Races is eligible to gain position for the Worlds Team under section IV., not just top three athletes from 2009 U.S. National Team Trial. Providing the athletes are in the top 25% adjusted, except for C1W.

c) A list of the 2009 World Ranking Races are as follows:

(1) Solkan International, 4/4/09, Solkan, SLO
(2) African Championships Seniors, 4/11/09, Bethleem, RSA
(3) 61st International Tatra Slalom, 5/8/09, Liptovsky Mikulas, SVK
(4) European Championships Seniors, 5/28/09, Nottingham, GBR
(5) International Slalom Merano, 6/6/09, Merano, ITA
(6) International Slalom Foix, 6/12/09, Foix, FRA
(7) Trojan Horse Price 2009, 6/20/09, Prague, CZE
(8) World Cup Race 1, 6/27/09, Pau, FRA
(9) World Cup Race 2, 7/4/09, Bratislava, SVK
(10) World Cup Race 3, 7/11/09, Augsburg, GER
(11) Panam Slalom Championships, 8/1/09, Kananaski-Alberta, CAN
(12) German Open 2009, 8/8/09, Markkleebery, GER
(13) Slovak Open 2009 (to be confirmed by NF), 8/15/09, Bratislava, SVK
(14) Slovenian Open 2009 – Pre-World, 8/22/09, Tacen, SLO

d) In the result of an ICF World Ranking tie, the best ranking from the 2009 Team Trials will be used as the tie breaker (see III.A)

e) There must be a minimum of 3 World Ranking Races between 2009 Team Trials and the entry deadline before the 2009 World Championships, excluding the World Cups.

(1) In the event that there are not 3 or more World Ranking Races between 2009 Team Trials and the entry deadline before the 2009 World Championships, excluding the World Cups, ranking established at the 2009 Team Trials will be used to select the World Championship Team (see III.A).

3. Boats selected to compete for the United States in the 2009 World Championships must prove World Championships eligibility consistent with the IOC, ICF, and USOC guidelines.

IV. Athlete Replacement Procedures for both the World Cup and World Championships:

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

V. Selection of Competitors for the 2010 World Cup Races:

A. Athletes that qualify a USA spot to the 2010 World Cups based on their 2009 World Ranking are pre-selected to race in the 2010 World Cup Races.

1. Any pre-selected athlete to the 2010 World Cup Races that declined their spot at any of the 2010 World Cup Races will be replaced, per declined World Cup Race, according to ranking at the 2010 Team Trials.

B. In addition to (Sec A.), the one pre-allotted boat that each country can enter to the World Cups will be selected at the 2010 Team Trials.