



Sprint Program Manager and National Team Coach

Job Summary

The American Canoe Association (ACA) is seeking a Sprint Program Manager who is responsible for the development, training, and performance of elite-level athletes and coaches in the National canoe/kayak program, with the goal of achieving success in international competitions, including the Olympic Games. This role involves designing training plans and competition schedules, overseeing contract and volunteer coaches and athletes, overseeing sport development initiatives, and providing strategic guidance for the Sprint Community as a whole. The manager will work closely and collaboratively with other competition disciplines and support staff to optimize athletes' physical and mental preparation, ensuring a pathway to Olympic podiums.

Key Responsibilities

1. Athlete Coaching, Development and Training

- Oversee high-performance training programs tailored to the needs of Olympic-level canoe/kayak athletes.
- Oversee regular assessments of athletes' physical, technical, and mental capabilities and work with coaches to adjust training plans accordingly.
- Provide individualized feedback on performance, endurance, technique, and strategy to maximize athletes' potential.

2. Competition Strategy

- Develop quadrennial and annual schedules for team competition participation.
- Seek partnerships and innovation projects with equipment suppliers to ensure athletes have the best equipment possible.
- Analyze technology and performance data to continuously refine techniques and strategies.

3. Team Management and Collaboration

- Work closely with sprint coaches, sports scientists, and other third-party experts to provide a holistic approach to athlete development.
- Foster a positive and motivating team environment, promoting a culture of excellence, sportsmanship, respect, and collaboration across paddlesports.
- Lead regular team meetings and ensure effective communication between athletes and support staff.

4. Program Development and Long-Term Planning

- Contribute to the development of a pipeline for new talent, including athlete and coach recruitment and collaboration with clubs.
- Develop and manage a four-year Olympic training cycle, with clear benchmarks and goals to track progress toward Olympic qualifications and medals.
- Assist in creating a sustainable program that supports the growth of sprint paddlers nationally and promotes diversity in the athlete pool.

5. Administrative and Compliance Responsibilities

- Ensure compliance with national and international regulations, including anti-doping policies and SafeSport guidelines.
- Maintain accurate records of athletes' progress, training schedules, and competition results.
- Work with the finance department to manage budgets, equipment, and travel logistics.
- Seek additional sources of revenue to support team initiatives and organizational health

Qualifications

- **Experience:**
 - Minimum of 5 years of coaching experience at the elite or Olympic level, with a proven record of success in competitive canoe/kayak events.
 - Experience with periodization and advanced training techniques specific to canoe/kayak.
- **Education/Certification:**
 - Bachelor's degree in sports science, physical education, or a related field preferred.
- **Skills and Competencies:**
 - Deep knowledge of canoe/kayak technique, training methodologies, and competitive strategy.
 - Ability to inspire and motivate elite athletes, with strong interpersonal and communication skills.
 - Proficiency with performance analysis software and other relevant tools for tracking progress and evaluating competition performance.

Working Conditions

- Requires travel for training camps, competitions, and development events.

- Must be able to work irregular hours, including early mornings, evenings, weekends, and holidays, based on training and competition schedules.
 - Schedule, hours and compensation are negotiable.
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Application Process

Interested candidates should submit a resume/CV, cover letter, and a portfolio of previous coaching/athletic results or certifications by January 20, 2025. Applications may be sent to feedback@americancanoe.org.