



Message to Trials participants regarding the Continental Qualifier – Pan American Canoe Sprint Championships (in 2021):

First, we want to thank everyone for your patience through the process of finalizing the registration for the ACA Sprint Olympic & National Team Trials (in 2021) (“Trials”). Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this was a laborious effort that included many USOPC legal and medical staff and ACA staff members.

A special thanks to the ACA Sprint Events Committee, led by Jackie Nipper and Tamara Adelberg, for their tireless efforts to coordinate this event. Thanks also to Chief Officials Charles Luckman and Suzanne Britt for their efforts to prepare for this regatta. Last but not least, many thanks to the staff at Nathan Benderson Park for their generosity in hosting our Trials and funding a substantial portion of that effort.

The COVID situation remains fluid in the United States, Brazil, Japan, Europe, and worldwide. We must operate within the parameters set by the National Governments, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), the International Canoe Federation (ICF), and the ACA. When we travel to compete at the Continental Qualification Competition – the Pan American Canoe Sprint Championships (in 2021) (“CQ”), we need to respect the Pan American Canoe Federation (COPAC) and the Brazilian National Canoe Federation requirements.

IMPORTANT CQ FEE PAYMENT REQUIREMENT AND DEADLINE

Suppose you wish to race at the CQ in Brazil from April 8-11. In that case, you need to pay the CQ fee during the Trials Registration Process. The CQ fee includes registration, accommodations, boat rental, and transportation on the ground in Curitiba, Brazil. Athletes will need to purchase their round-trip airline transportation to Curitiba, Brazil, and back home, arriving in Brazil on April 4 and departing on April 12.

1. Refund of the CQ fee

The ACA will refund the CQ fee only to those who do not qualify for the CQ Team.

1.1. If the CQ is canceled

While the ICF and COPAC have expressed determination to hold the CQ, there is some risk that the ICF may cancel the CQ regatta due to pandemic safety and travel restrictions. If that occurs, the ACA will make every effort to recover your payment and return it to you.

1.2. Non-refunding of the CQ fee

- The ACA will not refund the CQ fee if an athlete is removed as a nominee to the CQ Team or from the CQ Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, ICF, USADA, and USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and ACA SafeSport policies, as applicable.
- The ACA will not refund the CQ fee for voluntary withdrawal or withdrawal due to injury or illness.

If an athlete chooses to participate in the optional pre-CQ training camp, s/he will need to pay the camp fee, which the ACA will announce once details are finalized.

Schedule – Trials and CQ:

- [Reference the ACA Sprint Olympic & National Team Trials \(in 2021\) COVID-19 Mitigation Plan](#) (“COVID Mitigation Plan”)

The ACA will conduct at least one pre-Trials information session via Zoom on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 8 pm Eastern, 5 pm Pacific time. Logistics will be communicated via email and posted on the ACA Sprint page a day ahead of the meeting. We may schedule another pre-Trials information session if needed.

If you plan to be an A-1 participant (see the COVID Mitigation Plan for definition), plan to arrive in Sarasota by mid-day on Tuesday, March 16, for mandatory pre-Trials PCR COVID-19 testing and accreditation.

Training will be allowed on the venue every day, and we will hold starting gate practice during scheduled times that will be available at the time of accreditation or earlier.

Thursday evening, March 18, starting at 5:00 – Team Leader meeting for final instructions. We may hold a virtual Team Leader meeting unless conditions on the ground allow for an in-person meeting. Reference COVID Mitigation Plan for applicable restrictions.

Preliminary Trials Schedule:

- Friday, March 19, starting at 10:00:
 - 200m Heats, Semis and Finals
 - 1000m Heats
- Saturday, March 20, starting at 9:00:
 - 500m Heats, Semis and Finals
 - 1000m Semis and Finals
- Sunday, March 21, starting at 9:00:
 - Spare day for potential weather delays
 - Announcement of the ACA Teams for the Continental Qualifications, the ICF World Cup 1, and the ICF World Cup 2.

Optional Pan American Team training camp at Lanier

March 22 - April 2	Lanier
April 3 - 4	Travel to Curitiba, Brazil
April 5 - 7	Training in Curitiba, Brazil
April 8 - 11	Continental Qualifier, Brazil
April 12	Travel home

Currently, the U.S. Government requires all travelers returning from Brazil to be COVID-19 PCR tested 72 hours before arriving in the U.S. and quarantine for two (2) weeks upon returning to the U.S.

We need to respect and self-regulate compliance with all applicable COVID-19 Protocols and all other applicable rules and regulations. We ask that we all work together to make these Sprint Olympic Trials a safe and healthy event.

Thank you very much,

The ACA Staff