



ACA Slalom Olympic & National Team Trials (in 2021)

COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

As information changes, this document will be updated.

Reviewed and approved by the USOPC: 02/16/2021

1. Introduction

The ACA plans to hold the USA Slalom Olympic and National Team Trials (in 2021) (“Trials”) – Competition 1 at the US National Whitewater Center, Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 12-14, 2021. North Carolina and Mecklenburg County Health Guidelines will dictate whether the event may run on those dates. While there are no current travel restrictions or quarantine requirements for North Carolina, the ACA closely monitors the state’s ever-evolving situation.

1.1. Chief Medical Officer and other key contact information

- Dr. Keith Anderson will serve as the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the event. He or his assistant will be at the venue during the event and will coordinate any necessary response. Dr. Anderson will also review all COVID-19 preparations on site, along with a designated ACA staff member, COVID Officers, and the LOC representatives. Dr. Anderson can be reached via email at keith.anderson@novanthealth.org.
- Tamara Adelberg (acanationalevents@gmail.com), Volunteer 2, and Volunteer 3 will serve as the COVID Officers for this event. They will coordinate any necessary contact tracing and are the primary contacts for all COVID -related questions. The COVID Officers will report to the CMO.
- Stacy Hepp is the Trials contact person and can be reached for general competition information at stacey@heppcreativesolutions.com.
- (tbd) is the Chief Official and can be reached at _____.
- Rok Sribar, GM, High-Performance Programs is the Competition Director. He can be reached via email at rsribar@americancanoe.org.

2. Definitions

- **A-1 Participants** are athletes, coaches and other event participants that have direct contact with athletes or have access to athlete areas during the competition (when athletes/coaches are present).
- **A-X Participants** are all other volunteers and the USNWC staff helping with staging the event. The A-X Participants must always remain separated at a minimum of six (6) feet from A-1 Participants, since more stringent COVID countermeasures are in place for the A-1 Participants. All COVID-19 countermeasure applicable to the A-X Participants are also applicable to the A-1 Participants.

- **Covid Dispute Resolution Committee** consisting of a designated ACA staff member, Chief Medical Officer, and the ACA Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) representative or alternate will hear and decide on complaints regarding violations of COVID-19 countermeasures defined in this document. The Covid Dispute Resolution Committee may exclude the A-X Participant from the competition.

3. General Measures

3.1. Symptom Survey (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Upon arrival at the event venue, A-1 and A-X Participants will be required to complete daily wellness (symptom) survey. This survey will be sent by automated email twice daily through the event. Failure to complete the wellness survey may result in disqualification from the event.
- Vaccinated A-1 and A-X Participants are not excluded from surveillance testing and are subject to the same testing, masking, and social distancing guidelines as all other participants.

3.2. Pre-event testing (A-1 Participants)

1.1.1 All cost associated with the COVID-19 testing are responsibility of the A-1 Participant.

1.1.2 Pre-travel testing (A-1 Participants)

- All A-1 Participants arriving at the competition venue on **March 22, 2021** or later must submit a negative PCR COVID-19 test obtained not longer than 72 hours before arrival in Charlotte. The submission portal for this test will be available on the ACA website the week of **March 22, 2021**.
- Anyone testing positive shall NOT travel to the event. If you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, please contact Rok Sribar, ACA GM High-Performance Programs, for clearance, and see below:
 - The A-1 Participants who tested Positive for COVID since January 9, 2021, do not need to be tested unless they are currently experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19, in which case they will need to complete the standard pre-travel and pre-event tests. However, they need to provide evidence of a clearance to return to training from the ACA or USOPC approved doctor.
- The A-1 Participants who reside in the community should get a COVID-19 test on **April 6**, i.e., 72 hours before second testing conducted at the accreditation time. The A-1 Participants that arrive at the venue between **March 22 and April 6** will also need to be re-tested on April 6, 2021 and at the accreditation time.

1.1.3 Testing at the time of accreditation (A-1 Participants)

- Currently, the ACA plans to test all A-1 Participants for COVID-19 with a PCR test on **April 9**. The A-1 Participants will need to be in Charlotte by this COVID test date. The A-1 Participant who tests positive or misses the test on the accreditation date will be excluded from the event by the Competition Director.
 - The A-1 Participants who test positive shall have an opportunity to confirm the positive test with two subsequent confirmatory PCR tests. If either confirmatory test is positive, the individual is considered positive and will remain excluded from the competition and must follow applicable local and state guidelines.
 - Two negative confirmatory PCR test will be required for an individual to continue to participate.

3.3. Accreditation of the event participants (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- **Accreditation will occur on April 9, 2021** after the preliminary COVID-19 testing. The ACA will communicate details of the test and accreditation locations a week before the event.
 - All A-1 Participants will be accredited at this time and accreditation will also open for the A-X Participants.
 - Subsequent accreditation of A-X Participants will be done in coordination with the event staff.

3.4. Venue Access (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Only accredited participants will be allowed to access restricted area on the left side of the course at the venue.
- Access to the venue will only be available at specified times.

3.5. Facemask requirement (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Facemasks covering both the mouth and nose are always required for all participants at the venue. Surgical masks (N95/KN95) are preferred. Neck gaiters are not acceptable.
- Athletes must wear a facemask until after launching and before landing at the take-out.
- Please refer to the CDC guidance on facemasks.

3.6. Temperature checks (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- All participants entering the event venue will have their temperature checked at the entrance. Anyone who registers a temperature above **100.4 degrees** will have a temperature evaluated by the COVID Officer or CMO at medical station. If the second temperature check shows an elevated temperature, the participant will not be allowed to enter the venue.
- Anyone experiencing a temperature above **100.4 degrees** will be referred to the local Urgent Care facility and may need a negative, rapid COVID-19 test to be allowed on the venue.

3.7. Hand sanitizing

- Hand sanitizers will be located at all building entrances and throughout the venue. It is required to use them upon entering or exiting a bathroom, building, or touching surface someone else may have touched.

3.8. Distancing

- It is essential to maintain physical/social distance from other people. Please always keep a minimum of six (6) feet of physical/social distance.
- Areas of high traffic will be controlled with traffic flow diagrams to prevent bunching.

3.9. Acknowledgment and Reporting of symptoms (A-1 and A-X Participants)

- Should any participant experience COVID-19 related symptoms, they shall contact the ACA staff and the medical team as soon as possible. Event medical staff will evaluate the participant and determine appropriate next steps for treatment. Based on the participant's evaluation, the event medical staff will decide whether the participant will be excluded from the competition. Failure to report symptoms will result in exclusion from the event and may result in other disciplinary actions.

3.10. Symptomatic A-1 and A-X Participants

- **Should any participant develop signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they shall not attend training, competition, or travel to the venue.**

- Anyone participating in the event while developing any of these signs or symptoms shall notify the ACA staff and Medical event staff immediately. The ACA will make arrangements to have the participant evaluated by the event medical staff.
- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 include:
 - Fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, congestion, runny nose, loss of taste or smell, headache, diarrhea, sore throat, nausea, and vomiting.
- Please refer to the CDC guidance on symptoms.
- Symptomatic participants will be evaluated by the CMO and may be required to provide a negative PCR COVID-19 test before being allowed to participate.
- Symptomatic participants experiencing a temperature above 100.4 degrees will be referred to the local Urgent Care facility and may be required to provide a negative PCR COVID-19 test before being allowed to participate.

3.11. Isolation of sick A-1 and A-X Participants

- Any participant who becomes ill while in the venue will be asked to isolate in the medical area until the event medical staff can evaluate him/her.
- Upon evaluation, the participant may need a COVID-19 test.
- If the COVID-19 test is positive, the participant will need to isolate and follow all applicable local and state guidelines.
- The person who tests positive will be asked to assist with contact tracing.

3.12. Contact Tracing

- Any participant who had close, sustained contact with individual testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow state and local guidance on quarantine procedures.
- The CDC currently defines Close Contact as:
 “Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over 24 hours starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”
 - Close Contact participants will be excluded from continued participation in the event, with the following exception:
 - Any participant identified through contact tracing as a high-risk contact who remains symptom-free and has completed COVID-19 vaccination or tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of that exposure and can produce the relevant negative test result will be allowed to continue in the event.

3.13. Spectators

- Spectators will not be allowed to the left side of the channel at the venue; however, they may watch the competition from the right side of the competition channel. Signage will be posted encouraging social distancing for all spectators on that side of the venue.

3.14. Testing and Tracing Specific Dispute Resolution

- Disputes arising from contact tracing and test findings will be heard by the COVID Dispute Resolution Committee.

4. Venue

4.1. Bathrooms/Porta Johns

- Toilets dedicated to the competition will be marked, cleaned, and disinfected every two hours.
- Hand sanitizer will be positioned adjacent to toilets and must be used before and following toilet use.

4.2. Other Notes (A-1 and A-X Participants):

- The participants are responsible for providing his/her PPE. Please bring extras. If needed due to lost, damaged, or poorly fitting PPE, some will be offered on-site.
- Athlete eating and drinking-related to sports performance is permitted. However, it is recommended that extra measures are taken when removing masks to ensure sufficient social distancing from other participants. We recommend 12 feet (2x 6 feet) distance while eating or removing covers to drink.

4.3. Competition Area

1.1.4 Launches

- Disinfectant wipes will be in the boat launch area.
- Wearing a mask is always mandatory for officials.

1.1.5 Starter's Area

- The starter's area will have disinfectant wipes available.
- The starter will disinfect the starting system before and after its use.
- All people in the starting area will wear masks.

1.1.6 Timing:

- All members of the timing team will be masked and maintain social distance while in position.
- The timing team will sanitize any contactable timing devices between uses by differing team members.

1.1.7 Media (if any)

- Only accredited media will be allowed at the venue.
- Media will take part in the wellness (symptom) checks and temperature checks on their participation days.
- Interview zones will be set up with appropriate social distancing. All interviews will be conducted with masked participants.
- Any photos without masks must be taken with appropriate social distancing – the minimum of twelve (12) feet.
- No on-water media launches permitted.
- Media members must fill out the Credential Request Form and submit it to the ACA for approval. This form will be available on the ACA website the week of **March 1, 2021**.
- Our requirements state that all "A-1 participant" needs to follow the same protocol, including testing. This requirement would include Media unless Media is always masked and kept at least twelve (12)

feet away from A-1 participants. In that case, the Media is considered an A-X participant, and the A-X protocol applies to the Media.

4.4. Social Celebrations/gatherings

- There will be no social gatherings at the venue. The A-X Participants shall refrain from all person-to-person contact, including handshakes, “high five,” fist bumps, etc.

4.5. Announcers/Broadcast crew (if any)

- Announcers will wear masks when not actively commenting on a race.
- To increase audibility, the commentators may remove the mouth/nose protection while commentating.

4.6. Media Inquiries Regarding COVID-19

- The ACA’s communications staff will work with the Trials event staff and medical team and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee to provide relevant information regarding COVID-19-related procedures or questions.
- All inquiries should be directed to Aaron Mann, Communications Manager, or Rok Sribar, ACA GM High-Performance Programs. All official communications regarding the Trials related to COVID-19 will come from ACA’s official communications channels.