

2021 Olympic Hopes Regatta Program

June 11, 2021

The 2021 ACA's Olympic Hopes Regatta (OHR) program represents an opportunity for 15-to 17-year-old athletes to enter the thrilling world of International Canoe/Kayak Sprint Racing. Consider this program if you train diligently and want to take an opportunity to compete with the world's best athletes in the same age group.

What

- The program allows athletes and coaches to gain international racing experience. The program is designed to serve athletes who find canoe/kayak racing enjoyable and are focused on refining skills.
- Team boat focus. We will conduct a team-boat-focused program during the training camp.
- Selection strategy. Athletes will be evaluated by the selection committee and included if they are engaged in serious training. Additionally, the ACA wants to award one OHR stipend to an underprivileged athlete who has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship, dedication to the sport, and performance improvement in 2020/21 (details TBD).

Who

- Athletes born in 2004, 2005, and 2006 are encouraged to apply to be selected to the OHR Team in 2021.
- Athletes must be ACA individual competition members in good standing. Additional requirements include, but are not limited to, a passport with an expiration date six months after the competition end date, completed USADA Anti-Doping 101, and an e-signed ACA code of conduct.
- Coaches, parents/volunteers must be ACA competition members in good standing and in addition need to purchase the Competition License. This additional license fees are used to cover expenses associated with the SafeSport and NCSI background checks.

When/Where *(Tentative schedule, do not purchase tickets yet!)*

The OHR Team will travel to Europe immediately after the 2021 USA National Championships and arrive in Račice, Czech Republic, on August 26. The arrival date will allow the team sufficient time to acclimatize to change in the time zones, settle in, and ensure that athletes are equipped with suitable boats at the start of the training camp.

- Aug 21-24 2021 USA Sprint National Championships, OKC
- Aug 25 OHR Team travels to Račice, Czech Republic
- Aug 26-Sep 9 Pre-Worlds camp, at the OHR venue
- Sep 10-12 2021 Olympic Hopes Regatta, Račice, Czech Republic
- Sep 13 Return home (Please do not purchase plane tickets yet!)

Costs

The total estimated costs of this 18-day OHR program are \$5,700 per athlete (subject to change due to uncertain air travel costs). Expenses include air travel to Europe, living (accommodations and meals), boat rental, training/coaching, ACA podium uniform, and competition fees.

Selection to Olympic Hopes Team

1. Athletes will need to:
 - a) Complete an athlete survey (to be published in June),
 - b) Pay an online deposit of \$500 on the ACA website. The deadline to complete and submit the survey and payment and become eligible for the 2021 Olympic Hopes Regatta Team is June 20, 2021.
2. Depending on the number of applicants, the ACA selection committee may administer the selection.
3. Note about deposit – if an athlete is not selected to the team - the deposit will be refunded minus a 3% admin fee. If the athlete is selected and confirms, the deposit will be applied to the balance and final payment. If an athlete is selected and later decides not to go without a documented medical or family emergency, the deposit is forfeited.
4. Once an athlete is selected to the team, the ACA will send the athlete a link to make the final payment, which the athlete must pay within 96 hours of the link transmission to guarantee a place on the team.

Coaching Staff & Support Team (a.k.a. parents)

- Dan Henderson will lead the team. Additionally, the planning committee will choose the remaining coaching staff depending on the team size and composition. The ACA will require a participation commitment from Aug 25th through September 13, 2021.
- Requirements include but are not limited to ACA individual competition membership with the paid competition license fee, a completed NCSI background check, current SafeSport requirements, and a passport with an expiration date six months after the competition end date.

Coaches interested in supporting the 2021 OHR program as an assistant coach, please send an email expressing your interest and background to Dan Henderson at dhenderson@americancanoe.org and Cc: Tamara Adelberg at tadelberg@americancanoe.org by June 27.

Program Planning Committee Members

- If you are a parent or coach and would like to assist with planning or other work supporting the team this year - please email dhenderson@americancanoe.org.
- Current members of the Planning Committee are Aaron Huston – GHCKRT, Shelly Oates - Ikaika, Susan Starbird - RTR, and Dan Henderson – Cascade.