



**Continental Cup of the Americas  
Edmonton, Canada  
Rundle Park, Aug7, 2009**

Report on the Continental Cup of the Americas 2009.

This event was held in Edmonton, Canada at the Training Venue of the 2008 Worlds in Rundle Park on Aug 7, 2009, preceding the Canadian National Championships which were held on the weekend of Aug 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>. The 2009 CC was sanctioned by the COPAC Board of Directors at the request of the incoming Chairman of the COPAC Canoe Polo Committee, Darryl O'Brien who took office in mid-July. Unfortunately although the event was scheduled very early in the year by Canada Canoe Polo, no activity from the previous COPAC Canoe Polo Committee prevented earlier action on this issue. It is the intention of the present COPAC Canoe Polo Committee to address competition dates and venues for Continental Cup events earlier than its predecessors which will hopefully improve overall participation in the Americas.

Obtaining the sanction of COPAC for this event and therefore making it the official selection event for countries (teams) wishing to attend the next world championship in 2010 was important in garnering the attendance at the event. The event was attended by the USA (mens and women senior teams) and Canada with mens and womens senior teams as well as U21 mens and womens teams from Canada.

Travel always plays a role in attendance in the Americas where the travel distances are great and for teams to go from South America to Canada or the US or in the reverse is an expensive undertaking, essentially equivalent to hosting the European Championships in South Africa. Boat travel compounds the logistics of the situation. In order to minimize boat logistics for this event in 2009, the Host Organizing Committee agreed to provide boats of similar quality to those used by Canadian squads for all visiting teams. These boats were provided by the Edmonton Whitewater Paddlers Club (the Host Organizing Committee) and OBECO Whitewater Products, from rental boats constructed for the 2008 Worlds. This provided, at least in regards to boats, a level playing field for all teams.

The competition venue was located on a small pond, known as the polo pond, in Rundle Park since the City of Edmonton allows floating nets to be kept on this pond for the entire summer paddling season. These facilities were augmented for the Continental Cup to include a pitch, fully enclosed by wharf sections similar to the 2008 Worlds. A second venue was set up on an adjacent pond for teams to warm up or practice prior to and during the event. A weather-proof (just in case) event control area was set up on one side of the pitch with an electronic score board that tracked the time and score visible from a portable grandstand set up on the opposite side of the play pitch. A boat storage compound was set up adjacent to the event to keep boats from being randomly deposited



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around the pitch. The whole set up was very compact and allowed for a very efficient running of the event which was essentially on time to the minute. The results are provided in a separate Excel file.

Since COPAC does not have a paddling logo, and uses the ICF Flag at major paddling events, the Host Organizing Committee, decided to fly the new ICF Flag over this event to represent the official sanction of COPAC. This was kindly “provided” by the ICF Headquarters and sent over to us in a most timely manner. The award ceremonies for this event were conducted under this Flag. Two Cups, provided by the Host Organizing Committee, were awarded to the 2009 Continental Cup Champions in each senior division. These Cups will be brought by the winning teams to the next Continental Cup more than likely to be held somewhere to the south of Canada and passed to the next winners. Hopefully this will become a tradition of this event.

Canada’s U21 Teams, men and women were the only entries in 2009 Continental Cup and as such were declared as qualified to attend the 2010 Worlds. It was later noted that attendance of U21 Women at the 2010 Worlds will be decided by invitation from the ICF Canoe Polo Committee.

From COPACs perspective, the Continental Cup of 2009 was a well-run event with all attending teams happy with the organization of the event, the boats provided and the concluding banquet which was host right in Rundle Park at facility of the Park. The University of Alberta was also most cooperative to allow visiting teams to book accommodation in the Residences that were used for the 2008 Worlds thereby providing relatively inexpensive accommodation with superb amenities. Weather was great.



The trusty Inukshuk of the 2008 Worlds was on hand to greet paddlers at the 2009 CC in Rundle Park. On the right, the playing pitch is shown during the course of a game. The grandstand can be seen behind the pitch, the boat compound was to the left and the scoring area to the right.