



19-24 SEPTEMBER 2023

LEE VALLEY WHITE WATER CENTRE

MEDIA HANDBOOK



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About the World Championships:

The 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships will see around 300 of the world's top athletes head to the [Lee Valley White Water Centre](#) to battle it out across a week of high-octane competition at one of the best venues in the world.

With individual and team events in the men's and women's kayak and canoe events, as well as the dramatic men's and women's kayak cross, there will be something for everyone to enjoy every day.

As well as the coveted World Championship titles on offer, athletes from all nations will also be competing to qualify boats for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Vision, Mission, and Values

The World Championships is not just about the competition on the water though, we want it to make a positive impact in a variety of ways. In order to deliver this we have identified a vision, mission and values for the event which is helping us to plan and deliver all aspects of the event.

VISION

An outstanding World Championships, creating lasting memories for all involved and positive social impact within British Canoeing and surrounding communities.

MISSION

Creating an event that drives elite success, delivers our innovative ambitions, and is an inspiring platform to shape, encourage and celebrate our collective actions and impact on our wider communities.

VALUES

Every person matters – athletes, staff, spectators, volunteers, officials, partners and sponsors. A positive experience for everyone involved in the championships.

Innovative mindset – approach key projects with an ambition to deliver them better than before.

Striving for excellence – using the best slalom venue in the world, we aim for excellence in every aspect of event delivery.

Driven by purpose – use the platform of the championships to create positive environmental and social change.

WELCOME NOTE FROM PROFESSOR JOHN COYNE CBE

Chair of British Canoeing

It is my enormous pleasure to welcome the international paddling community to Lee Valley for the 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships. It is always a significant event: but never more so than in a pre-Olympic Year with quota places for qualification at stake. Over 300 top athletes from over 50 nations will be in action.

Beyond the standard programme, this event will be particularly significant as the first qualification stage for the exciting new Olympic discipline of kayak cross. We have invested in a permanent start facility at Lee Valley to support this new discipline.

We shall use the focal point of the World Championship to engage with our wider community, (local, national and sporting), to explore and promote key issues that paddlers feel passionately about. A social impact and sustainability programme will run alongside the event and beyond. There will be a series of conference sessions engaging key stakeholders and key partners.

This is going to be an elite sporting event of the highest quality with athlete performances to delight and astonish. There will be a real focus on the quality of technical delivery and we are blessed to have such committed ITOs and volunteers. However, it will also be a celebration of all that is good about our sport accompanied by great music, great food, 'have a go' sessions and fun. We want the home crowd to know how much we value their support.

We cannot host such events without the support of the ICF, UK Sport and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority as well as our sponsors – they have all been massively supportive and shared our values and aims for a stunning event. The event team have been incredible in preparing for the event itself which will once again be animated by exceptional volunteers committed to make it special.

Welcome to the 2023 Canoe Slalom World Championships– let's make memories.

Professor John Coyne CBE

WELCOME FROM THOMAS KONIETZKO

President of the ICF

Here we are, less than one year from the Paris 2024 Olympics, and we get the chance to return to one of the most exciting canoe slalom venues of the modern canoe slalom era.

We all still remember the excitement of the action at Lee Valley during the 2012 London Olympics. The crowds were large and enthusiastic, and the athletes responded with thrilling performances.

In 2015 we returned here for a World Championships and Olympic selection event. It was one of our greatest ever competitions as athletes fought for the right to have their country compete at the Rio Olympic Games.

The crowds were big and knowledgeable. The staff and the volunteers helped lay the foundations for a very professional occasion befitting an event of such importance.

There is something very special about competing at an Olympic venue. The athletes, the coaches, the support staff, the volunteers and the fans all get the opportunity to take part and witness an event many say is much tougher than an Olympic Games.

On behalf of the International Canoe Federation I would like to wish British Canoeing and the Lee Valley White Water Centre all the best for this important event. We already know from previous competitions they always put on top class shows.

I would like to also wish all the athletes the best of luck. Everyone will arrive at Lee Valley with dreams of earning their country a ticket for Paris next year. Not everyone will succeed, but the most important goal is for everyone to get an equal opportunity.

Enjoy the 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships and Olympic qualifiers.

PADDLE PARIS

The world's best canoe slalom paddlers are within touching distance of their holy grail – the Olympic Games.

The road to an Olympic Games is long and winding, and laden with potholes. Navigating the journey takes careful planning, because wrong turns can prove extremely costly.

Lee Valley White Water Centre was the home of Canoe Slalom at the London 2012 Olympic Games. In 2015, the venue hosted the ICF world championships, which also doubled as a selection event for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. It also played host to the first of the Canoe Slalom World Cup series in 2019.

The world's best slalom athletes love competing at the world's best venues, and there is no doubt Lee Valley White Water Centre is among the very best. While there are no individual Olympic places up for grabs here, athletes will be jostling for their country's quota places for the Olympic Games in Paris 2024.

So if the racing in Lee Valley looks a little fiercer than usual, if you detect more determination in the athletes, remember the journey they've all been on, and the fork-in-the-road to Paris that is rapidly approaching.

ABOUT CANOE SLALOM

The key things to know about Canoe Slalom are:

- Paddlers race in four categories: C1M, C1W, K1M, K1W.
- C stands for canoe and K for kayak. M stands for male and W for women. Some athletes will compete in both canoe and kayak.
- C1 are single person canoes. The rules state paddlers kneel in the boat and use a single-bladed paddle to navigate the course.
- K1 are single person kayaks – where paddlers sit in the boat and use a double bladed paddle to navigate a course.
- To win, competitors must navigate the course from the start line to the finish line in the fastest time possible.
- There are between 18 and 25 green and red gates to navigate between the start and the finish line.
- The colour of the gates indicates the way paddlers should navigate it. Green gates are downstream gates and red gates are upstream gates. In a nutshell, you go down through the green and up through the red.
- If you touch or miss a gate you get a time penalty. If you touch a gate, 2 seconds will be added to your time. If you miss a gate, 50 seconds will be added to your time.
- The gates must be navigated in numerical order. The numbers are shown above the gates.
- Courses are no longer than 300m in length and paddlers should be aiming to complete the course in between 90-110 seconds.
- To reach the final and be in with a chance of winning a medal, the paddlers must first qualify through heats and semi-finals. There are 10 athletes in each final.

KAYAK CROSS

Visitors to this year's ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in Lee Valley will have the added bonus of watching a brand new Olympic discipline.

Kayak cross sees 4 paddlers race against each other on the course at the same time. The key things to know are:

- All entrants take part in an individual time trial in which they seek to complete the course as quickly as possible whilst navigating the gates.
- The top 20 paddlers qualify through to heats, with the next fastest 12 paddlers qualifying if their nation isn't already represented within the top 20. They are then seeded for the head to head racing based on their time-trial results
- Four paddlers take part in each heat, with the first two across the line, who have successfully completed the course, progressing through to the next round.
- The rounds then progress through to a final where the top 4 compete for 3 medals.
- In the races, each paddler will wear a coloured bib which denotes their seeding from the time trial – red is the fastest then green, blue and yellow. The same order is also used to decide their starting position on the ramp with the fastest paddler getting to choose their position first.
- Racing begins with 4 boats on a ramp above the course. Paddlers will be given a warning to be "READY" and then the start signal will sound at any time in the next 10 seconds.
- The gates for kayak cross are different to regular slalom in that they are inflatable buoys to be navigated. There will be a maximum of 6 downstream (green) gates and 2 upstream (red) gates on the course. Each upstream gate will actually have 2 buoys, one on each side of the course, and paddlers can choose which to navigate.
- The course also contains a roll zone where paddlers must complete a roll under the water
- Paddlers will be disqualified if they do not successfully negotiate a gate, not execute a roll in the roll zone, capsize before the finish or do not comply with safety measures.

ACCREDITATION

Please find below the opening times for the accreditation centre where you will pick up your media accreditation.

Date	Time open	Time close	Location
Monday 18 th Sept	07:15	18:00	Accreditation Centre
Tuesday 19 th Sept	08:00	17:00	Accreditation Centre
Wednesday 20 th Sept	08:00	16:30	Accreditation Centre
Thursday 21 st Sept	07:00	17:00	Accreditation Centre
Friday 22 nd June	06:45	17:30	Accreditation Centre
Saturday 23 rd June	07:00	17:30	Accreditation Centre
Sunday 24 th June	07:00	16:00	Accreditation Centre

MEDIA CENTRE TIMINGS

Photographers will be allocated with a bib and buoyancy aid to allow them access to the photography positions from the media centre.

You will be required to sign out the bibs and buoyancy aids and return them at the end of each day. The bibs are not transferable.

The media centre will be open from Monday 18th September with the below times.

On the competition days the media centre will open approximately an hour before the racing starts and will close approximately two hours afterwards.

A limited number of desks will be available with power points and internet.

Please note the days marked with * may be subject to change

Date	Time open	Time close	Location
Monday 18 th Sept	10:00	16:00	Media Centre
Tuesday 19 th Sept	09:30	16:00	Media Centre
Wednesday 20 th Sept	09:30	17:00	Media Centre
Thursday 21 st Sept	08:00	17:00	Media Centre
Friday 22 nd September	09:00	17:00	Media Centre
Saturday 23 rd September	09:00	17:00	Media Centre
Sunday 24 th September	08:00	17:00	Media Centre

KEY CONTACTS

There will be a group of core staff dedicated to the media which includes volunteers and staff.

Key contacts for you are:

- Mary Fitzhenry – Media Centre Manager / 07946 545 084
- Ruth Norfolk – Media Team Leader / 07594 087 857
- Jack Carnell – Press Officer British Canoe Slalom Team / 07809 205413
- Robert Knott – Director of Communications and Marketing / 07702 569335

STARTSHEETS AND RESULTS

Starts sheets and results can be found online here: [2023 ICF CANOE SLALOM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS](#)

We encourage people to be paperless where possible however there will be a limited number of printed start sheets and results will be provided in the media centre. Please see the whiteboard or speak to a member of the media team for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Unlike domestic canoe slalom events, there may be designated photography positions during the World Championships.

The photography positions may only be determined once the slalom gates have been set on the course. Please note that the photography positions have been designated taking into account the best views of the racing with minimal impact on the gate judges, other officials and the spectators.

Photographers should remain at least one metre from the water's edge at all times for safety reasons.

LOCKERS

A limited number of lockers will be available on site free of charge, please see the Media Centre Manager for details on arrival.

HOW TO GET THERE – AND PARKING

Lee Valley White Water Centre, Station Road, Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire, EN9 1AB

DIRECTIONS

By Train

The closest train station is Waltham Cross which is around 15 minutes walk from the venue. There will be a walking route signposted and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday a free shuttle bus will be provided between the station and the venue. This will begin 75 minutes before the start of competition and finish 45 minutes after the end of competition.

There are a number of other bus routes and train stations close to the venue. If you'd like to plan your journey by bus or train, [get started with Transport for London's journey planner](#). If you're coming by train check out [National Rail](#) for detailed train information.

Cycling

There will be bike parking available at both spectator entrances to the venue.

By car

You can find the centre on Google Maps [here](#).

From junction 26 of the M25:

Follow the A121 towards Waltham Abbey.

Continue forward over each roundabout.

At T-junction (facing Royal Gunpowder Mills) turn left towards Waltham Cross along Highbridge Street.

The entrance to the centre is after approximately 100m on the right.

From junction 25 of the M25:

Join the A10 towards Hertford.

At the first roundabout turn right onto the B198 for Waltham Cross.

Turn right at the next roundabout and left at a further roundabout to join Eleanor Cross Road / Station Road for one mile.

The entrance to the centre is on the left, opposite Jewson's.

Please note that for the event, car Parking will be available at Lee Valley Showground, adjacent to the venue. There will be no car parking available for spectators directly at the Venue.

FOOD & DRINK

Tea and coffee will be provided in the media centre.

There are a number of catering outlets in the expo zone where food and other refreshments will be available.

CASH MACHINES

Unfortunately, there are no cash machines at the venue. The nearest cash machine is Waltham Cross Shopping Centre (approx. 25 minute walk away). Some food outlets and the merchandise stands will accept debit/credit cards.

VOLUNTEERS

As with many major sporting events, our volunteers are playing an essential role in the successful delivery of the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships.

They are one of our greatest assets and it is important that we give the utmost respect during the event.

Please remember that they are here to make your lives easier and to assist in enabling the event to run as smoothly and efficiently for everyone.

MEDIA PROTOCOL

Media Access to the British team

The media protocol has been designed to help achieve an understanding between all media and British Canoeing. It aims to create opportunities for the media as well as appreciate the commitments of athletes and staff and will be used during all international competitions.

We understand that everybody is present at a major competition to do a job – whether they are athletes, coaching staff or the media. Each group experiences its own pressure to deliver, however, consideration of each other's circumstances, roles and responsibilities will help ensure everybody has a successful and productive experience.

Requests for interviews with athletes or team coaching staff must go through Jack Carnell – Press Officer British Canoe Slalom Team / 07809 205413

ACCESS TO OTHER ATHLETES DURING COMPETITION

During competition, access to athletes and coaches will be limited to the official mixed zone, press conferences or through prior arrangements made via the Press Officer or the Media Centre. All athletes will be encouraged to speak to the media, however, due to the need to

recover immediately after an event, time in the mixed zone will be limited and it is envisaged the media will collect at a good vantage point to be informed as a group rather than as individuals.

When an athlete has finished their final event they will be free to consider additional media requests made via the Press Officer or the Media Centre Manager. Whereas media deadlines will always be considered, these interviews will be arranged at a time the athlete or coach can be made available. This is obviously due to the demands of the competition on time.

PHOTOGRAPHY

If photographers require access to members of the squad for non-action shots away from the competition then all requests should be made through the Press Officer or via the Media Centre.

SCHEDULE

The full schedule of activities can be found here;

<https://britishcanoeingeevents.org.uk/slalom2023/schedule/>



