



NOC Hosts Pan American Freestyle Kayaking Championships

The Most Competitive Freestyle Event of the 2014 Season Occurs this September

Bryson City, N.C. (August 15, 2014)— Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) will host the 2014 International Canoe Federation’s Canoe Freestyle Pan American Championships September 4 – 6 on the Nantahala River, near Bryson City, NC. The event will be the premier competitive event of the 2014 freestyle season, featuring athletes from North and South America, including several medalists from last year’s World Championships.

Young paddlers ages 15+ just beginning to break into the sport will also be among the competitors at the 2014 Pan American Championships. The event is an opportunity for young athletes to get their first taste of international competition. Among those athletes registered is Max Haworth of Chattanooga, TN. “For Max, who is 15, the Pan Am Championships provide an opportunity to compete in an international event. Because there is no qualifier, a novice freestyler like Max can throw his hat in the ring and gain valuable competition experience,” said his mom, Mindy Haworth.

In addition to being a good entry into international competition, Pan American Championships are also important because they foster competition in the Americas. Event manager Zuzana Montagne comments, “With much of whitewater sport’s participation based in Europe, developing a healthy competitive base in the Western hemisphere is a key goal of the International Canoe Federation.”

This spectator-friendly event will be hosted at NOC’s all-inclusive adventure resort on the Nantahala River. Preliminary competition will take place on Thursday and Friday, September 4 – 5, with the winners announced following Saturday’s Final. NOC’s proprietary digital scoring system will help spectators navigate the competition, while providing real-time results to help athletes strategize effectively for upcoming runs. In addition, the competition will feature a live DJ and announcer.

Event registration closes on August 24 and costs \$50 for junior and senior athletes. Parking and event entry is free for spectators. Visit noc.com/2014-freestyle-panam to register to compete and for more information.