

## RAPID FACTS • RIVERSPORT OKC OLYMPIC TRIALS MEDIA GUIDE



### US Olympic Team Trials for Canoe/Kayak Slalom and Kayak Cross

April 26 & 27, 2024

RIVERSPORT • 800 RIVERSPORT Drive, OKC

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#### Overview

RIVERSPORT is hosting 2024 Olympic Team Trials for two disciplines: Canoe/Kayak Slalom and Kayak Cross. 50-100 athletes from across the US will vie for the opportunity to compete at the Paris Games in July.

#### Canoe or Kayak?

“Canoe/Kayak” designates the two types of boats used in their respective events. Athletes kneel in a canoe and use a single-bladed paddle. Kayakers sit in their boats and use a double-bladed paddle.

**Slalom racing** takes paddlers down the channels through a series of gates; green gates are downstream and red gates require the athlete to paddle upstream. Athletes compete for time, and penalties are levied if a gate is missed or touched.

**Kayak Cross** is new to the Olympic Games and will debut in Paris. Athletes launch their boats from a platform 10 feet above the water, side-by-side with three other competitors. They splash into the water and jostle for position down the channel as they paddle through gates and complete a 360 degree roll. Unlike other paddlesports, contact is allowed.

#### Best Time to Come – Saturday

9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Canoe/Slalom Finals
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Kayak Cross Competition & Finals
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Live Music, Jeremy Rowe Band • Team USA Announcement (8:15 p.m.) Fireworks

#### Additional Activities

RIVERSPORT Opening Day	Passes are available for rafting, surfing and adventures Open Saturday, 11a to 6p
Big Water Grill	Burgers, beer, full bar
Olympic Experience	Interactive experience featuring rowing, kayaking, climbing, esports and more! Open Friday, 10a to 1p • Saturday, 11a to 6p

#### Admission

Admission	Free admission for viewing; parking is \$10
Prime Viewing, \$20	Free for passholders and RIVERSPORT members
VIP Hospitality, \$40	Includes Prime Viewing plus covered seating and complimentary beverage <i>Purchase online or in person</i>

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#### RIVERSPORT Whitewater Center

- Opened May 2016 • \$45.2M project
- Built with a one-cent sales tax as part of the city's MAPS 3 (Metropolitan Area Projects) initiative. Other MAPS projects in the city include...

#### RIVERSPORT Course Design & Stats

- Designed by Scott Shipley, S2O Design – 5x Kayak Slalom World Champion
- Construction • 15 months to complete
- Competition Channel is 1,300 feet • Recreation Channel is 1,600 feet
- 8 million gallons of water • 6 recirculating pumps create Class II-IV rapids
- Each pump circulates 82,000 gallons per minute – a total of 492,000 gallons per minute. With these pumps, it would take 80 seconds to fill an Olympic size swimming pool
- 11-acre course features the world's highest-volume pumped channel, running at 1,200 to 1,400 cubic feet per second at full capacity

#### About RIVERSPORT

- 501c3 nonprofit offering Olympic & adventure sports
- Developed and operates the Boathouse District, 100+ acres and \$100M+ in boathouses and adventure sports adjacent to the Oklahoma River in downtown OKC
- US Olympic & Paralympic Training Site for both rowing and paddlesports
- OKC National High Performance Center is headquartered in the Oklahoma City University Devon Boathouse
- Hosts national and international championships in both sports and will host the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships in 2026.
- Sports and adventures include rowing, kayaking, surfing, dragon boating, whitewater rafting, tubing, indoor skiing, climbing, cycling, adventure courses, high speed slides, and zip lining.
- Only permanently lighted sprint racecourse in the world on the Oklahoma River

#### Boathouse District Architecture

- Designed by award winning Oklahoma City architect Rand Elliott. Each building is designed to reflect the idea of racing shell on the water as they face the Oklahoma River.



**U.S. OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC  
TRAINING SITE**  
RIVERSPORT OKLAHOMA CITY