

USA Canoe/Kayak
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March 31, 2016

Dear Members,

The last couple of weeks have been quite tumultuous. Throughout this period, our board has been working intensely to ensure the best possible service for our members and high performance athletes. While we appreciate the American Canoe Association's (ACA) interest in acquiring the USA Canoe/Kayak's status as the NGB for sprint, slalom and Para canoe and membership in the ICF, this is not the right time or circumstance to continue this discussion. We know some of our members are concerned about the financial viability of our organization, and its ability to support our Olympians in Rio this summer. We are singularly focused on providing the best support for our members and athletes. To that end, we would like to announce the following changes in our organization to ensure first class service and support:

1. We are working with the USOC to provide substantial additional funding, which will include an interim CEO, high performance director, and second slalom coach.
2. We are working with the OKC Boathouse Foundation to provide substantial multi-year funding.
3. We are working on and will complete USA C/K's 2014/15 external and USOC audit.
4. We are investigating with US Rowing a partnership to provide joint support services, such as membership and insurance.
5. We are working with the USOC to provide interns.
6. We will explore ways to work with the ACA on the RacerQuest Program and other areas of mutual interest. As some of you or may or may not know, USA C/K did financially support the Racer Program in 2015 with the US Olympic Foundation money.
7. We have re-formed our slalom and sprint committees to support our athletes and competition venues. Next steps are to institutionalize these committees into our by-laws.
8. We will re-start our efforts to seek additional sources of funding, leveraging the new world class paddlesports assets at our headquarters along with the exposure our sport will receive with the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games.

There's a lot to be done but for the time being, you can rest assured that our organization is in good hands and focused on Rio. Go Team USA!

Sincerely,

Bob Lally

USA Canoe/Kayak Board of Directors