



INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

## Media Service

**International Canoe Federation Media Release**

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### **Slalom Men's C2 semi-final report and photographs**

Beijing - A heavy thunder and lightning storm over Shunyi forced the postponement of the semi-final and final of the Olympic women's K1 slalom competition, and the final of the men's C2 competition.

Minutes after the completion of the semi-final of the men's C2 competition, which was held in steady rain, the arrival of local lightning forced the officials to initiate two successive thirty minute delays in the hope that the lightning would move away.

However the lightning persisted, and after close consultation with climatological experts, it was agreed to postpone the rest of the days programme to Friday, starting with the women's K1 semi-final at 3pm, and the men's C2 final at 4:17pm.

The dramatic events will not offer any consolation to the four crews eliminated in the men's C2 semi final, which was completed shortly before the onset of the lightning.

In that semi-final, the twins Peter and Pavol Hochschorner from Slovakia who have been virtually unbeatable in world C2 racing for the past four years, were shaded by the fired-up German crew of Felix Michel and Sebastian Piersig, whose 94 second clear run saw them win the semi-final, and take a decided advantage into Friday decider, where the scores of the semi-final are added to the final scores.

The Hochschorners picked up a two second penalty for a fleeting touch on gate seven that cost them two seconds and the top seeding for the final, placing them in the unusual position of having to make up time in the final instead of exerting the pressure on the other competitors.

The French duo of Cedric Forgit and Martin Braud picked up two touches in their semi-final that cost them two places in the semi-final, and four seconds of penalties that will make their bid for a medal in tomorrow's final a lot tougher.

The high flying Chinese crew of Minghai Hu and Junrong Shu was dramatically eliminated from the final when they capsized at the big drop below gate four. They righted their boat impressively in difficult circumstances, but had passed beneath the gate five, resulting in a fifty second penalty.

The challenge of the Australian crew of Mark Bellefiore and Lachlan Milne ended in a disastrous flurry of three successive gate pole touches at eleven, twelve and thirteen.





"We knew as soon as we came off the water that it wasn't good enough," said Bellefiore. "It was just one of those bad touches."

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

### MEN'S C2 SEMI-FINAL

- 1.Felix Michel/Sebastian Piersig GER 94.38
- 2.Peter Hochschorner/Pavel Hochschorner SVK 94.88
- 3.Jarolsav Volf/Ondrej Stepanek CZE 95.33
- 4.Mikhail Kusnetskoy/Dmitry Larionov RUS 98.57
- 5.Cedric Forgit/Martin Braud FRA 102.76
- 6.Andrea Benetti/Erik Masoero ITA 103.64
- 7.Mark Bellefiore/Lachlan Milne AUS 104.17 DNQ
- 8.Pawel Sarna/Marcin Pochwala POL 105.32 DNQ
- 9.Masatoshi Samma/Hiroyuki Nagao JPN 110.10 DNQ
- 10.Minghai Hu/Junrong Shu CHN 164.08 DNQ

ENDS

<b>Photo</b>	<b>Caption</b>	<b>Photographer</b>	<b>Click to download the hi-res pic</b>
	Slovakian twins Pavol (left) and Peter Hochschorner in action in the men's C2 semi final at the Shunyi Olympic Canoeing Park white water course.	Pic:Balint Vekassy / ICF	<a href="#">HERE</a>
	Germans Felix Michel (right) and Sebastian Piersig won the semi-final of the men's C2 competition at the Shunyi Olympic Canoeing Park.	Pic:Balint Vekassy/ ICF	<a href="#">HERE</a>
	Australia's Mark Bellofiore (right) and Lachlan Milne were eliminated in the semi-final of the men's Olympic C2 competition.	Pic:Balint Vekassy/ ICF	<a href="#">HERE</a>
	The Russian C2 crew of Mikhail Kusnetskoy (left) and Dmitry Larionov in action in the Olympic men's C2 semi-final.	Pic:Balint Vekassy/ ICF	<a href="#">HERE</a>

For further images please contact Ana-Marija Garcevic at [anamarija.garcevic@canoeicf.com](mailto:anamarija.garcevic@canoeicf.com)

For any further information, or if you cannot access these images, please contact:

Dave Macleod

ICF Media Officer

[dave@gameplanmedia.co.za](mailto:dave@gameplanmedia.co.za)

Mobile 086 135 22187252