



INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION

Media Service

International Canoe Federation Media Release

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ICF backs Shunyi sprint course, praises organisation of the flatwater events

Beijing - As we approach the final two days of Olympic flatwater racing competition at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park, the International Canoe Federation (ICF) can reflect very positively on the high level of organizational efficiency and excellent standard of competition that has been evident over the first four days of competition.

The Shunyi flatwater facility matches the best in the world, and is a magnificent asset that must be used to further develop and nurture flatwater racing in China and the entire Asian region.

The construction of the watercourse has ensured that the water remain calm, free of refraction, offering the athletes optimal racing conditions.

The BOCOG team has ensured that the transitions from rowing and marathon swimming to flatwater racing has been timeous and efficient, again reflecting on the dedication and commitment of the BOCOG staff at the venue.

The vegetation growth at the venue has also been kept under good control. In warm weather, clear water and strong sunshine, the plant growth is approximately 30 cm per day.

This has necessitated daily cutting of the plantgrowth, followed by the thorough cleaning of the entire competition channel, to ensure that hinderance to athletes is eliminated as far as possible.

248 athletes from 51 different nations, representing all five continents took part in the Olympic Games flatwater racing programme at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park. This compares very favorably with the 44 nations that took part in the Athens Olympic Games flatwater competition.

Number of participating nations Athens Olympic Games to Beijing Olympic Games:

Continent	2004	2008
Europe	27	27
America	7	7
Asia	6	6
Africa	2	7
Oceania	2	4

Number of qualified National Olympic Committees and number of Athlete quotas per continent:





Continent	NOC	Quota
Europe	27	154
America	7	33
Asia	6	31
Africa	7	13
Oceania	4	17

In the six finals scheduled for today (Friday) 24 different nations are represented from four continents, while in the six final schedule for Saturday 26 different nations are represented from three different continents reflecting not only the growth of flatwater racing worldwide, but also the significant rise in competitiveness of athletes from Africa, America and Oceania.

Released by:
The International Canoe Federation

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<i>Photo</i>	<i>Caption</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Click to download the hi-res pic</i>
	<p>International Canoe Federation president Ulrich Feldhoff at Friday's media conference where the federation expressed its gratitude for the success of the flatwater racing competition at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park.</p>	<p>Pic:Balint Vekassy / ICF</p>	
	<p>ICF Flatwater committee chairperson Istvan Vaskuti at Friday's media conference.</p>	<p>Pic:Erika Riedl/ ICF</p>	

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