



## PRESS RELEASE

### European Canoe Slalom Championships and final Rio Olympic qualification

This week the town of Liptovský Mikuláš, in the Tatra Mountains on the Váh River in northern Slovakia, will host the [2016 European Canoe Slalom Championships](#). The event will not only be important as the continental championships but also as the final European Olympic Qualifier. Those European nations who did not earn a spot for the Olympic Games at the 2015 Canoe Slalom World Championships will now have a second and final chance to win a place at the biggest sporting event of the year next August. Only one boat per category will be allocated to the top European nation not yet qualified from the 2015 World Championships.

The timetable for the event is as follows (all times GMT):

#### 13 MAY 2016 - FRIDAY - HEATS

08:00 - HEATS C1M, K1M, / 1ST AND 2ND RUN

13:30 - HEATS K1W, C2M / 1ST AND 2ND RUN

#### 14 MAY 2016 - SATURDAY - FINAL

07:02 - SEMI-FINAL C1M, K1M

12:37 - FINAL C1M, K1M

#### 15 MAY 2016 - SUNDAY - FINAL

07:35 - SEMI-FINAL K1W

10:37 - FINAL K1W

A five-boat Irish team will compete for places at the event:

C1 Men: Liam Jegou and Jake Cochrane

K1 Men: Ciaran Hurteau and Elliott Davidson

K1 Women: Hannah Craig

Based on the results of the 2015 World Championships:

- Our top-ranked **C1M** was Liam Jegou who was 5<sup>th</sup> European nation not qualified. Liam faces tough opposition for the final European spot from the strong 3-man teams from both Spain (including the 4<sup>th</sup> placed paddler from London 2012) and Italy who were both surprising non-qualifiers at that event.
- In **K1M** our top ranked paddler from the 2015 Worlds, Cade Ryan, was 9<sup>th</sup> European nation not qualified. Cade is out of action this season due to exam pressures and our hopes rest on Ciaran Hurteau who is struggling to regain form this season due to a year out in 2015 with an anterior cruciate ligament injury which required extensive surgery and rehabilitation following a pre-season skiing injury.
- Our best chance of qualification is in the **K1W** with our 2012 Olympic finalist, Hannah Craig, who was 3<sup>rd</sup> European nation not qualified at the 2015 Worlds behind paddlers from Ukraine and the Netherlands.

In what promises to be an exciting and high-pressure event, all three will need to at the top of their game to secure that vital final place on the Olympic start line.

Start List / Live results / Video Stream will be available for the event on <http://canoliveresults.com/>.

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