

Bratislava 2021

World championships media guide



ICF canoe, extreme slalom and wildwater world championships

September 22-26, 2021

CANOE SLALOM – A BEGINNER’S GUIDE

The course contains 18–25 gates, each gate comprised of two hanging poles. The downstream gates are coloured green and the upstream gates are red. Competitors must navigate their boat down the course without touching the gate.

As a guide, there will be either six or eight upstream gates.

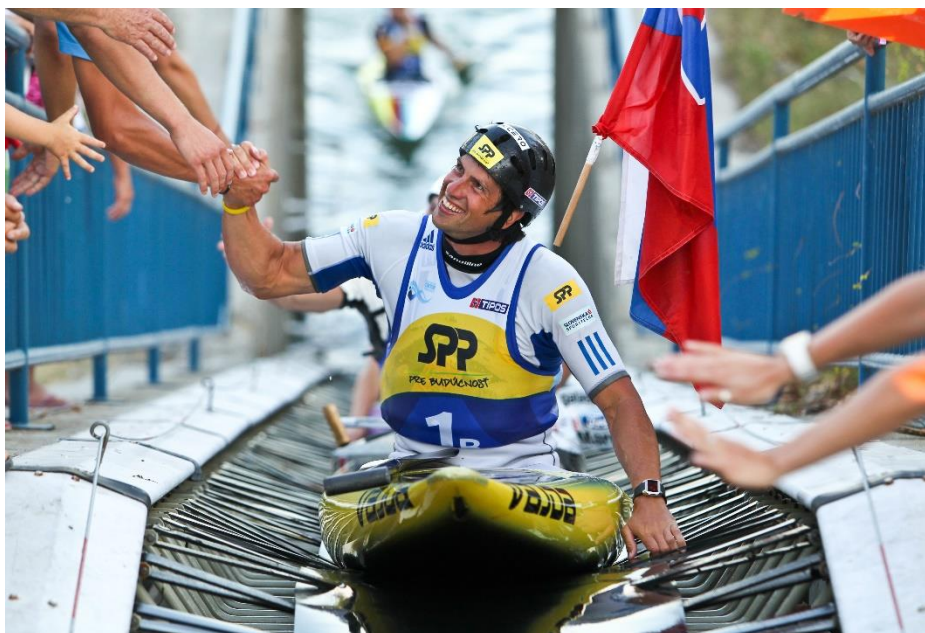
If the competitor's boat, paddle or body touches either pole of the gate, a time penalty of **two seconds** is added. If the competitor misses a gate, a **50-second** penalty is given. The penalty seconds are then added to the time it took the competitor to complete the course to provide an overall time.

In **kayak**, the competitor is seated and uses a double-bladed paddle, paddling on alternate sides. In **canoe**, the competitor uses a single-bladed paddle and sits with legs bent at the knees and tucked under the body, paddling on either the left or right side.

At a world championships athletes have two opportunities to qualify for the semi-finals. On the first qualifying run 30 athletes from men’s kayak and 20 each from women’s kayak and men’s and women’s canoe progress straight to the semi-finals.

The remaining athletes will have a second run, where the top ten finishes in each race will progress to the semis.

The **ten fastest** semi-finalists will compete in the final, and the ranking and the medallists will be determined based on their finals run alone.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ICF Media and Communications Manager **Ross Solly**

Phone +44 770 999 8 400 E-mail ross.solly@canoeicf.com Website canoeicf.com

EXTREME SLALOM – A BEGINNER’S GUIDE

Extreme slalom first appeared on the ICF’s World Cup program in 2015, and since then the growth has been phenomenal. Athlete numbers have been increasing every season, more and more tv networks are showing the races live, and the sport will make its Olympic debut in Paris in 2024.

Extreme slalom is a combination of all canoeing’s white water disciplines, with competitors racing in identical plastic creek boats. The excitement begins from the very start, with four competitors sliding off a ramp more than two metres above the water and splashing onto the course as one. From there it’s a race to the first buoy, and it really is a case of anything goes as each paddler tries to steal an advantage over their opponents. Athletes need to negotiate both downstream and upstream buoys, and contact is allowed – adding to the thrills and spills and excitement for spectators and athletes alike.

Then there’s the compulsory kayak roll. Athletes only have a short window of opportunity to successfully roll their kayaks, and they need to do a complete 360 degree flip. There are a variety of ways to get disqualified – breaking the start, missing a buoy, dangerous paddling, and failing to complete the kayak roll within the allocated area.

One of the major attractions of extreme slalom is the diversity of countries taking part. Athletes from regions where canoe slalom is still in its infancy are embracing extreme events, and the results have been very exciting.



WILDWATER CANOEING – A BEGINNER’S GUIDE

Wildwater canoeing is a timed event consisting of two forms of racing, classic and sprint. When the sport began only the longer-distance format (now known as classic) was in use until a shorter sprint version was also later introduced. Wildwater courses can contain class two to class four whitewater, with classic courses varying from three to six miles in length (10 to 60 minutes) and sprint courses between 200 and 600 metres (one minute). Some paddlers specialise between the two formats, but the majority compete in both.

Wildwater canoeing is contested by two types of boat, canoe (C) and kayak (K). Men and women compete in singles in both canoe (C1, C1W) and kayak (K1, K1W), and also doubles in canoe (C2, C2W) with individual and team events held. Teams are made up of three competitors in the same class. Wildwater canoes and kayaks are long and narrow with a rounded hull, which makes them fast but also unstable and hard to turn, so paddlers tilt the boat to one side rather than using wide sweep strokes.

The first world championships in wildwater canoeing were held in 1959 in Treignac, France, and have been held every two years since (except 1995 and 1996, when there was only a one-year gap as the event switched from odd to even years). They featured only the classic format until 2002 when sprint events were introduced for the first time. In 2011 the first sprint only world championships took place, and they are also held every two years, resulting in sprint having a world championships every year whereas classic remains biannual.



BRATISLAVA 2021 CANOE SLALOM, EXTREME SLALOM AND WILDWATER SCHEDULE

Wednesday 22 September	
CANOE SLALOM - TEAM EVENTS	
09:00:00	Women's Kayak Team
09:27:30	Men's Kayak Team
10:20:00	Women's Canoe Team
10:47:30	Men's Canoe Team
WILDWATER CANOEING - TEAM EVENTS	
13:15:00	Men's Canoe Team
13:31:00	Women's Kayak Team
13:47:00	Men's Kayak Team
14:09:00	Women's Canoe Team
14:19:00	Men's Canoe Double Team
Start	Thursday 23 September
CANOE SLALOM - GROUP 1 - Heats run 1	
09:00:00	Women's Kayak - Heats run 1
10:05:00	Men's Kayak - Heats run 1
CANOE SLALOM - GROUP 1 - Heats run 2	
11:50:00	Women's Kayak - Heats run 2
12:35:00	Men's Kayak - Heats run 2
CANOE SLALOM - GROUP 2 - Heats run 1	
15:00:00	Women's Canoe - Heats run 1
15:47:00	Men's Canoe - Heats run 1
CANOE SLALOM - GROUP 2 - Heats run 2	
17:00:00	Women's Canoe - Heats run 2
17:27:00	Men's Canoe - Heats run 2
Start	Friday 24 September
WILDWATER CANOEING - HEATS GROUP 1 - RUN 1	
08:30:00	Women's Kayak - 1st run
08:48:00	Men's Kayak - 1st run
09:06:00	Women's Canoe - 1st run
09:31:30	Men's Canoe - 1st run
WILDWATER CANOEING - HEATS GROUP 1 - RUN 2	
10:00:00	Women's Kayak - 2nd run
10:15:30	Men's Kayak - 2nd run
10:31:00	Women's Canoe - 2nd run
10:54:00	Men's Canoe - 2nd run

WILDWATER CANOEING - HEATS GROUP 2 - RUN 1	
12:00:00	Men's Canoe Double - 1st run
WILDWATER CANOEING - HEATS GROUP 2 - RUN 2	
12:30:00	Men's Canoe Double - 2nd run
EXTREME CANOE SLALOM - TIME TRIALS	
13:45:00	Women's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Time trials
14:29:00	Men's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Time trials
Start	Saturday 25 September
Canoe Slalom - Group 1 - Semi finals	
09:03:00	Women's Kayak - Semi final
10:08:00	Men's Kayak - Semi final
Canoe Slalom - Group 1 - Finals & Medals	
12:03:00	Women's Kayak
12:40:00	Men's Kayak
WILDWATER CANOEING - FINALS	
14:00:00	Women's Kayak - Final
14:26:30	Men's Canoe - Final
14:48:30	Men's Kayak - Final
15:15:00	Women's Canoe - Final
15:37:00	Men's Canoe Double - Final
Start	Sunday 26 September
Canoe Slalom - Group 2 - Semi finals	
09:03:00	Women's Canoe Semi final
10:08:00	Men's Canoe Semi final
Canoe Slalom - Group 2 - Finals & Medals	
11:33:00	Women's Canoe Final
12:10:00	Men's Canoe Final
EXTREME CANOE SLALOM - HEATS PHASE	
15:30:00	Women's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Heats
15:54:00	Men's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Heats
EXTREME CANOE SLALOM - FINAL PHASES	
16:33:00	Women's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Quarterfinal
16:51:00	Men's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Quarterfinal
17:09:00	Women's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Semi final
17:18:00	Men's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Semi final
17:29:00	Women's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Final
17:35:30	Men's Extreme Canoe Slalom - Final

For the most up to date schedule, please refer to the [ICF website](#)

THE BRATISLAVA VENUE

The **Čunovo Water Sports Centre** is an artificial whitewater slalom course on an island in the Danube river, 14 km southeast of Bratislava. The centre is located near the village of Cunovo. It is powered by flow diversion from the Cunova Dam.

The venue has been hosting major canoe slalom events since 1997. It regularly hosts ICF world cup events, has hosted two European championships and the 2011 ICF world championships.

The Bratislava venue, already considered one of the toughest in the world, has recently undergone renovation and is now ready for the world's best paddlers. Local athletes have described the new course as being even more difficult.

The competition course is 280 metres long, with a six metre course drop. The official course name is Areal Divoka Voda – Cunovo.





WILDWATER CANOE NUMBERS – AT A GLANCE

- There will be 28 countries and more than 100 athletes competing in Bratislava, the first time this venue has hosted a wildwater world championships.
- The Czech Republic, with 20 athletes, will have the biggest team at the world championships.
- Six countries, including Australia, Morocco and Malaysia, will have just one athlete in Bratislava.
- The first ICF wildwater world championships was held in 1959. The titles were held every two years until 2010, and have been held annually since then.
- In odd number years, including this year, only sprint events are contested. Since 2017 the wildwater world championships have been held in conjunction with the slalom world titles.
- Currently five athletes share the record for most number of world championship medals – 11. Three of those athletes – Slovenia’s Nejc Znidarcic, France’s Stephane Santamaria, and the Czech Republic’s Ondrej Rolenc – will be competing this week.
- Znidarcic will be chasing his fifth men’s kayak sprint title. He won in 2011 and 2012, and then again in 2018 and 2019. He also has five silver medals.
- France has won all three of the past women’s kayak sprint, each time a different athlete. Phenicia Dupras is the defending champion in Bratislava.
- Czech Martina Satkova has not missed a canoe sprint medal at the past five world championships. She won in 2016 and is the defending world champion.
- France has won the past five C2 sprint titles.



SLALOM AND EXTREME CANOE NUMBERS – AT A GLANCE

- More than 200 athletes from 45 federations and five continents will compete in these world championships.
- The most popular event will be the men's extreme slalom, with 85 athletes from 33 countries entered.
- There will be 10 world champion titles contested – eight in slalom, two in extreme slalom.
- The Czech Republic and host-nation Slovakia will have the biggest teams in Bratislava, with 30 athletes competing across canoe, extreme and wildwater events.
- Twelve countries will have just one athlete competing at these world championships.
- This will be the 41st ICF canoe slalom world championships. The first titles were held in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1949. It's just the second world championships in Bratislava.
- Australia's Jessica Fox is the most successful female slalom paddler ever, with 10 gold medals and 15 medals overall. In Bratislava she will contest three events – C1, K1 and extreme.
- France is the most successful nation in history, with 57 gold and 150 medals overall. However the combined tally of Germany, East Germany and West Germany is 102 gold and 282 medals.
- 25 nations have won medals in the 40-year history of the championships.

- Five different nations have won the men's C1 in the past five world championships.
- France's Denis Gargaud Chanut won his only C1 world title in Bratislava in 2011.
- Slovakia has won the past nine C1 team events, each time with Matej Benus, Michal Martikan and Alexander Slafkovsky. This year Marko Mirgorodsky will replace Martikan.
- Czech paddlers have won four of the past six men's K1 titles.
- The Czech Republic has won medals in the past five men's K1 team events, including gold in 2015 and 2017.
- Australia has won four of the seven women's C1 team events, and Great Britain has won two. The Czech Republic won in 2014 and have only missed a medal on two occasions.
- Seven countries have shared the nine medals on offer in the women's K1 team events at the past three world championships.
- Australia's Jessica Fox has won four of the nine women's C1 world titles contested. She has only missed the medals twice – including in Bratislava in 2011.
- Fox has won three of the past five women's K1 titles. She also won silver in 2019.
- Three different nations have won the three women's extreme slalom world titles contested. Brazil is most successful with a gold and silver, both to Ana Satila.
- Three different nations have won the three men's extreme slalom world titles contested. Eight different countries have won the nine medals on offer.



ATHLETES TO WATCH

MEN'S KAYAK

PRSKAVEC, Jiri (CZE) – Gold medalist from Tokyo, bronze medalist from Rio Olympics, he won the world championships in 2015 and 2019 – both Olympic selection events.

CLARKE, Joe (GBR) – Gold medalist from Rio 2016 who missed selection for Tokyo and is determined to climb back to the top.

KAUZER, Peter (SLO) – Won silver in Rio and was world champion in 2009 and 2011. Tokyo was his fourth Olympic Games.

AIGNER, Hannes (GER) – won the bronze medal in Tokyo this year and in London in 2012 and was world champion in 2018

GRIGAR, Jakub (SVK) – Won bronze in Tokyo, finished fifth in Rio, a two-time U23 and two-time junior world champion.

PRINDIS, Vit (CZE) – The form paddler of 2021, crowned overall world cup winner and triumphing in both La Seu and Pau.



WOMEN'S KAYAK

FOX, Jessica (AUS) – Olympic bronze medalist in Tokyo and Rio, silver medalist in London, overall world cup winner this season, three-time ICF K1 world champion

FUNK, Ricarda (GER) – Gold medalist from Tokyo, narrowly missed selection for Rio, was the overall ICF world cup winner in 2016 and 2017.

TERCELJ, Eva (SLO) – ICF world champion from 2019, competed at the Tokyo and London Olympics

KUHNLE, Corinna (AUT) – World champion in 2010 and again in Bratislava in 2011. Missed selection for Tokyo, after finishing fifth in Rio in 2016.

JONES, Luuka (NZL) – Competed at her fourth Olympic Games in Tokyo, finishing sixth. Jones won silver in Rio in 2016 and bronze at the 2019 ICF world championships

FRANKLIN, Mallory (GBR) – Silver medalist from 2018 world championships.

ZWOLINSKA, Klaudia (POL) – Finished fifth at the Tokyo Olympics, where two gate touches robbed her of a podium finish.

LEIBFARTH, Evy (USA) – American teenager made her Olympic debut, won the K1 junior world title on the eve of the Tokyo Olympics

SATILA, Ana (BRA) – made her Olympic debut as a teenager in London, Tokyo was her third Olympics.



MEN'S CANOE

SAVSEK, Benjamin (SLO) – Tokyo Olympic gold medalist, finished 6th in 2016 and 8th in 2012. ICF world champion from 2017 and European champion in 2020

BENUS, Matej (SVK) – Silver medalist at the Rio Olympics, he is a three-time overall ICF world cup winner, the latest in 2019. Comes from a powerful canoeing nation

TASIADIS, Sideris (GER) – Bronze medalist in Tokyo, silver medalist at the London Olympics, finished fifth in Rio in 2016. Overall ICF C1 world cup winner in 2013 and 2017

ROHAN, Lukas (CZE) – Silver medalist at Tokyo, silver medalist at 2020 European championships, held that form with an ICF world cup win at his final race before Tokyo

GARGAUD CHANUT, Denis (FRA) – Rio 2016 gold medalist who missed selection for the Tokyo Olympics, but is the overall world cup winner for this year.

ANTON, Franz (GER) – 2018 ICF world champion, missed out on selection for Tokyo Olympics.

SLAFKOVSKY, Alexander (SVK) – In possibly his last world cup appearance, looking to break through for first world title after two silver medals

BURGESS, Adam (GBR) – Finished fourth at Tokyo Olympics, 2018 European silver medalist and former U23 world champion

FLORENCE, David (GBR) – Another who missed Tokyo selection, has been world champion in 2013 and 2015, and won silver at the 2008 Olympics



WOMEN'S CANOE

FOX, Jessica (AUS) – Has dominated this event, winning Tokyo Olympic gold and the ICF world title on four occasions. Finished second at the 2019 world titles

HERZOG, Andrea (GER) – Reigning ICF C1 world champion, won bronze in Tokyo and a silver and gold at the only two ICF world cups contested this year

FRANKLIN, Mallory (GBR) – Tokyo Olympic silver medalist, 2017 ICF world champion and 2019 European champion. Has also won three world championship silver medals

FISEROVA, Tereza (CZE) – 2021 overall world cup winner, sixth at Tokyo Olympics, silver medal at 2017 world championship, bronze in 2018, three-time silver medalist at European championships, including in 2021

VILARRUBLA, Nuria (ESP) – Eighth at the Tokyo Olympics, bronze medalist at 2015 world championships

SATILA, Ana (BRA) – 2019 U23 ICF world champion, was also ICF junior world champion in 2014.

LEIBFARTH, Evy (USA) – 17-year-old will be the youngest canoe slalom competitor in Tokyo





MEN'S K1

RECENT OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

2020 – TOKYO, JAPAN

Gold – PRSKAVEC, Jiri (CZE)

Silver – GRIGAR Jakub (SVK)

Bronze – AIGNER Hannes (GER)

2016 – RIO, BRAZIL

Gold – CLARKE Joseph (GBR)

Silver – KAUZER Peter (SLO)

Bronze – PRSKAVEC Jiri (CZE)

2012 – LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN

Gold – MOLMENTI Daniele (ITA)

Silver – HRADILEK Vavrinec (CZE)

Bronze – AIGNER Hannes (GER)

MEN'S K1 – RECENT WORLD CHAMPIONS

2019 – LA SEU, SPAIN

Gold – PRSKAVEC Jiri (CZE)

Silver – LLORENTE David (ESP)

Bronze – CRESPO Joan (ESP)

2018 – RIO, BRAZIL

Gold – AIGNER Hannes (GER)

Silver – PRSKAVEC Jiri (CZE)

Bronze – EIGEL Pavel (RUS)

2017 – PAU, FRANCE

Gold – TUNKA Ondrej (CZE)

Silver – PRINDIS Vit (CZE)

Bronze – KAUZER Peter (SLO)

2015 – LEE VALLEY, UNITED KINGDOM

Gold – PRSKAVEC Jiri (CZE)

Silver – POLACZYK Mateusz (POL)

Bronze – SMOLEN Michal (USA)

2014 – DEEP CREEK, USA

Gold – NEVEU Boris (FRA)

Silver – COMBOT Sebastien (FRA)

Bronze – BIAZZO Mathieu (FRA)

2013 – PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Gold – HRADILEK Vavrinec (CZE)

Silver – PRSKAVEC Jiri (CZE)

Bronze – POLACZYK Mateusz (POL)



WOMEN'S K1

RECENT OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

2020 – TOKYO, JAPAN

Gold – FUNK Ricarda (GER)

Silver – CHOURRAUT Maialen (ESP)

Bronze – FOX Jessica (AUS)

2016 – RIO, BRAZIL

Gold – CHOURRAUT Maialen (ESP)

Silver – JONES Luuka (NZL)

Bronze – FOX Jessica (AUS)

2012 LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Gold – FER Emilie (FRA)

Silver – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Bronze – CHOURRAUT Maialen (ESP)

WOMEN'S K1 – RECENT WORLD CHAMPIONS

2019 – LA SEU, SPAIN

Gold – TERCELJ Eva (SLO)

Silver – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Bronze – JONES Luuka (NZL)

2018 – RIO, BRAZIL

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – FRANKLIN Mallory (GBR)

Bronze – FUNK Ricarda (GER)

2017 – PAU, FRANCE

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – DUKATOVA Jana (SVK)

Bronze – FUNK Ricarda (GER)

2015 – LEE VALLEY, UNITED KINGDOM

Gold – KUDEJOVA Katerina (CZE)

Silver – FUNK Ricarda (GER)

Bronze – PFEIFER Melanie (GER)

2014 – DEEP CREEK, USA

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – PENNIE Fiona (GBR)

Bronze – PFEIFER Melanie (GER)

2013 – PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Gold – FER Emilie (FRA)

Silver – NEWMAN Nouria (FRA)

Bronze – SCHORNBERG Jasmin (GER)



MEN'S C1

RECENT OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

2020 – TOKYO, JAPAN

Gold – SAVSEK Benjamin (SLO)

Silver – ROHAN Lukas (CZE)

Bronze – TASIADIS Sideris (GER)

2016 – RIO, BRAZIL

Gold – GARGAUD CHANUT Denis (FRA)

Silver – BENUS Matej (SVK)

Bronze – HANEDA Takuya (JPN)

2012 – LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN

Gold – ESTANGUET Tony (FRA)

Silver – TASIADIS Sideris (GER)

Bronze – MARTIKAN Michal (SVK)

MEN'S C1 – RECENT WORLD CHAMPIONS

2019 – LA SEU, SPAIN

Gold – JOLY Cedric (FRA)

Silver – ELOSEGI Ander (ESP)

Bronze – BOZIC Luka (SLO)

2018 – RIO, BRAZIL

Gold – ANTON Franz (GER)

Silver – WESTLEY Ryan (GBR)

Bronze – TASIADIS Sideris (GER)

2017 – PAU, FRANCE

Gold – SAVSEK Benjamin (SLO)

Silver – SLAFKOVSKY Alexander (SVK)

Bronze – MARTIKAN Michal (SVK)

2015 – LEE VALLEY, UNITED KINGDOM

Gold – FLORENCE David (GBR)

Silver – SAVSEK Benjamin (SLO)

Bronze – WESTLEY Ryan (GBR)

2014 – DEEP CREEK, USA

Gold – LEFEVRE Fabien (USA)

Silver – SAVSEK Benjamin (SLO)

Bronze – ANTON Franz (GER)

2013 – PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Gold – FLORENCE David (GBR)

Silver – SLAFKOVSKY Alexander (SVK)

Bronze – SAVSEK Benjamin (SLO)



WOMEN'S C1 – RECENT OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

2020 – TOKYO, JAPAN

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – FRANKLIN Mallory (GBR)

Bronze – HERZOG Andrea (GER)

WOMEN'S C1 – RECENT WORLD CHAMPIONS

2019 – LA SEU, SPAIN

Gold – HERZOG Andrea (GER)

Silver – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Bronze – WERATSCHNIG Nadine (AUT)

2018 – RIO, BRAZIL

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – FRANKLIN Mallory (GBR)

Bronze – FISEROVA Tereza (CZE)

2017 – PAU, FRANCE

Gold – FRANKLIN Mallory (GBR)

Silver – FISEROVA Tereza (CZE)

Bronze – SATILA Ana (BRA)

2015 – LEE VALLEY, UNITED KINGDOM

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – HOSKOVA Katerina (CZE)

Bronze – VILLARRUBLA Nuria (ESP)

2014 – DEEP CREEK, USA

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – FRANKLIN Mallory (GBR)

Bronze – REBOURS Oriane (FRA)

2013 – PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Gold – FOX Jessica (AUS)

Silver – FRANKLIN Mallory (GBR)

Bronze – LOIR Caroline (FRA)



