

## Canoe Slalom Camp Report

**Pucón – Chile, from March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup> / 2015**

**ICF**

**Chilean Canoe Federation**

**Pucón Whitewater Club**

**Puelche Panguipulli Club**



The camp took place on the city of Pucón, Chile at the Trancura River. Pucón is located about 700km south from the capital Santiago. It is a strategic place to develop canoe slalom, because there are four other canoe clubs at the region.

- Panguipulli, Club Nautico Puelche: 60 km.
- San Martin de los Andes, Club Belgrano: 170 km.
- Junin de los Andes, Club Junin: 140 km.
- Aluminé, Club Andino Aluminé: 200 km

The last three ones are in Argentina, just crossing the border.

Pucón has also an intense activity of whitewater sports as rafting and recreational kayaking.

This venue is located 10km from downtown Pucón and has easy access by car, by bus or just walking if you are staying close it.

The gates were already in place since the National Championships two weeks earlier.

The course is about 200 meters long, class II. At the end of it, there is a flat-water pool.

The place is often used to host national races. In 2012, the South American Championships were here.

Unfortunately, the gates could not be in place all year long because in the winter period the water levels are too high.

The attendants were from Pucón, Panguipulli and Los Angeles as the table below:

	City	Family name	Name	Birth year
1	Pucón	Cortes	Nina	1990
2	Pucón	Gajardo	Maritza	1992
3	Pucón	Hernandez	Paula	1988
4	Panguipulli	Cariqueo	Pablo	2001
5	Panguipulli	Rodriguez	José	2001
6	Panguipulli	Sandoval	Darko	2000
7	Panguipulli	Estay	Fernando	2000
8	Los Angeles	Henriquez	Manuel	2000
9	Pucón	Gallego	Alejandro	1991
10	Pucón	Echeverria	Marko	1991
11	Pucón	Soto	José	1987
12	Panguipulli	Hiriart	Mauricio	1974

Sandoval, Estay and Henriquez will attend the World Junior Championships - Brazil in the next two weeks. Maritza Gajardo will attend the 2015 Pan American Games on Toronto – Canada, later this year.

The Chilean Federation and the local canoe clubs borrowed equipment for some athletes, other have their own equipment.

Guto Merkle, from Brazil and Pablo McCandless, from Chile coached the group.

Christian Huenchuleo, Alex Olguin, Nina Cortes, some athletes or their families and club members supported the logistic as transport and lodge.

The water sections were mornings and afternoons.

Most of the workouts had technical objectives, including some flat-water sections in order to improve basic and advanced paddle skills.

One simulated race were included.

The camp were valuable and productive, not only as a preparation camp for those who will race internationally this year, but also to spread and develop the canoe slalom discipline among local paddlers.

Some of these athletes attended also the Los Andes training camp, two months ago and their progress were superb since then.

Special thanks to ICF, to the Canoeing Federation of Chile and to the local canoeing community and families who made this camp possible.

Follow some images:





photo c. huenchuleo

Luiz Merkle (Guto)  
Coach  
April, 2015