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Knopp Named Sprint Director on USA Canoe/Kayak Board of Directors

OKLAHOMA CITY – March 22, 2011 Mike Knopp, the Executive Director of the Oklahoma City Boathouse Foundation, was named to USA Canoe/Kayak’s Board of Directors as a Sprint Sport director. The position, which is elected by those USA Canoe/Kayak members affiliated with the Sprint discipline, became vacant at the end of December 2010.

Knopp was instrumental in hosting the USA Canoe/Kayak Olympic Trials for Sprint in Oklahoma City in 2008, as well as USA Canoe/Kayak Sprint National Championships in 2008 and 2010. His vision also helped establish the nation’s first varsity canoe/kayak sprint program at Oklahoma City University.

“The USA Canoe/Kayak community is fortunate to gain Mike’s leadership, vision, and passion for the benefit of the sport on our board of directors. From on the water to the board room, Mike’s progressive ideas, influence and collaborative spirit have fundamentally changed the way we present the sport of canoe/kayak,” said USA Canoe/Kayak Executive Director Joe Jacobi.

“There’s tremendous opportunity for growth in the sport of sprint kayaking, and I’m both excited and honored to have the opportunity to be involved in the future of the sport,” Knopp said. “It’s an adrenaline-fueled sport that is as exciting for spectators as it is for the competitors. We just need to bring it to the forefront in this country.”

As the Sprint Sport Director on the USA Canoe/Kayak Board of Directors, Knopp will serve with four other Sport Directors (including two Athlete Representatives) and four Independent Directors. Learn more at usack.org.

The OKC Boathouse Foundation promotes the use and development of the Oklahoma River as a world-class urban aquatic venue and provides access to rowing, kayaking and fitness programs for people of all ages and abilities. OKCBF programs pursue the highest goals of sports and embrace the principles of the Olympic spirit which inspire athletes to work toward personal excellence, embrace the power of teamwork, and practice respect for all people and the environment. To learn more or get involved, call (405) 552-4040 or visit okcbf.org.

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