



IRF WORLD RAFTING CHAMPIONSHIP 2007

Naerinchon river, Korea

27 June – 2 July

Update

There will be a pre-event held by the WRC organisers April 3-6, 2007 as the pre-event planned for 2006 was postponed due to severe flooding in the area. This event will be held as a Korean National Championships and mostly domestic teams will be competing on a small scale. Other teams wishing to participate may do so by paying an inscription fee of USD 300 per team which covers competition entry and local transport only. Meals and accommodation during the competition are NOT included.

Information letter #2

Welcome IRF members.

Korea is pleased to host rafters from around the world for the 2007 IRF World Rafting Championships on our river. We hope to see every national team around the world participating. The following is the latest info available on the event. We will keep you updated through monthly information letters and through the official WRC website www.2007wrc.com, to be opened on Dec 24.

Teams

National federations that are fully paid up members of the IRF may enter one women's and one men's team. The teams of six plus a reserve (optional) must be selected through fair and credible national selections in accordance with the IRF Race Rules.

Schedule

June 27 Official practice
June 28 Official practice
June 29 Official practice / Opening Ceremony
June 30 Sprint / Optional practice
July 1 Slalom / Optional practice
July 2 Downriver/ Trophy Presentation/ Closing Party
July 3 Departure

Location

The host town is Inje (www.inje.go.kr), a small, agricultural town, close to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Nature Reserve, and Korea's all-time favourite, Mt. Sorak National Park. Inje is located in the north-eastern part of Korea and is 2 hours from Seoul and 3.5 hours from the Incheon International Airport which is the main airport for Seoul.

Please, refer <http://www.knto.or.kr/main.jsp> for general tourism info of Korea

River

The Naerinchon is a low volume mountain river which swells during the Monsoon season in late-June early-July. Paddle shorts with a rash guard is typically worn but you are still advised to take 3mm wet suit with spray jacket for colder days as the event will be held during the Monsoon season. Air temperature is 20-25 degree C.

Sprint: Begins with a shallow section followed by a sizable wave then a drop into a hole before running out at the bottom.

Slalom: Located 2km downstream from the Sprint section. A long and technical rapid with an abundance of river features.

Downriver: Upper Fork of Naerinchon river. Only navigable at high water. Technical swift water class 2-3 with 7 major drops of class 4, depending on the water level. Drops are spread along the length of the DR course. Total length 13km. Put-in is a 1 hour drive from the Athlete's Village. 40min from the Slalom/Sprint sections.

Getting to Korea

Teams should fly into Incheon International Airport which is the main airport for Seoul. A discount agreement is being negotiated with Korean Airlines. Conditions and instructions for booking discount flights will be available in January.

A partial travel aid will be available by the organisers to assist teams with financial difficulties. The amount for which your team is eligible will be determined by the Organizing Committee and the IRF according to a points system. Please fill in the application form which you can download from the website www.2007wrc.com

Getting to Inje

Buses will transfer participants from Incheon International Airport to Inje on June 26 and 27 and transfer from Inje to the Airport on July 3. Transfers outside these days can be arranged but must be paid for separately.

We will provide a 9-seater mini-van with driver and translator to each team once each team arrives the town of Inje. It is reserved and available exclusively for your team during the official event dates. The driver of the van will be off-duty from 8 PM to 8AM. During the off-duty hours you should arrange local taxis.

If you require the van outside the official event dates i.e arrival before June 27 or departure after July 3, the daily rental cost including gas, driver and insurance is \$200.

Visa information

Korean Visa policy can vary each country. Please, make your inquiry to Korean Consulate in your country (<http://www.mofat.go.kr/me/index.jsp>) well in advance.

Local organizers can issue the proof of registration if it's required to get visa-issued, only after all the registration process is formally complete.

Travel Insurance

All competitors are advised to have their own travel insurance, including medical cover, for the days June 27 – July 2.

Accommodation

We will provide participating teams with accommodation from June 27 – July 2 inclusive. All the teams will be staying together at the Athlete's Village, which is a 30min drive from the river. It is a modern complex and 4-6 team members will share each room.

If you want to arrive earlier for additional practice or an optional tour, you can book either individual pension, hotel/motel or campground near by the river. You can expect to pay 10-20 USD per person per night for the lodging. Full lists of accommodation options with booking info will be posted soon on the website.

Training prior to June 27

The official boat will be available for practice free of charge. Each team will be required to make a returnable "Damage Deposit" in advance. Team members should bring all other necessary personal paddling gear including paddles. It is difficult to find replacement gear outside of Seoul so please be well prepared. Teams are responsible for all their costs prior to the morning of June 27 and after the morning of the 3rd but we can assist in organising transport and accommodation. Approximate costs are listed under the Transport and Accommodation sections of this newsletter. Other approximate costs are meals \$5-10, beer \$1.5

Money

Local organizers advise that it is the best the team members exchange their money at the airport. There are several banks available in town of Inje to exchange as well. ATM's are available at the banks and major convenient stores in town of Inje but their conditions can vary.

All the major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express) are normally accepted in town but small local shops may refuse to accept overseas-issued credit card.

Team sponsors

Branding will be unrestricted on paddles, clothing and at team hotels. Sides of helmets will be available to teams. Front and back of helmets, boats and all spaces at the event sites have been reserved for event sponsors and paid advertisers. If your sponsor is interested in paid advertising on boats and at the race sites please get in touch with us for details. Local organizer will allow your local sponsor's banner at the race site with free of charge under the following conditions:

- No bigger than 1 x 2m up to a total of 2-square metres
- 1 sponsor banner per team
- Must get approval in advance from Local organizer for specific display location. The limited spaces are available on a first come and first served basis.

The 2007 WRC will be televised worldwide. Details on TV broadcasting will be announced soon on the website.

Communications

A cell phone will be provided to each team for use during the 2007 WRC. Each team will be responsible for it's phone bills, damage and loss.

Pay-phones are available at the Athlete Village and local shops.

High-speed internet is available at the Athlete's Village free of charge.

Commercial Internet Cafes are readily available in town at nominal cost (USD 1 for 1 hour).

Inscriptions

The inscription fee for each team (up to 7 competitors including 1 reserve) is USD 500 (USD 800 after Mar 30). The fee for additional delegation members such as coach and manager is USD 150 each.

The fees include accommodation (June 27 thru July 2), transportation (including airport pick-up) and meals.

Inscriptions will be handled by the IRF. Incriptions are now open and close on April 27, 2007. Please contact the IRF General Secretary worldchamps@intraftfed.com for more information.

Website

Further information about the even will be available on the official website www.2007wrc.com which is scheduled to open by Dec 24 2006

Contact

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