

Oklahoma City Named National Adaptive Training Center for Rowing Release Date: March 16, 2011

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – The Oklahoma City National High Performance Center at the Devon Boathouse has been named the U.S. National Adaptive Training Center for Rowing, the organizations announced on Wednesday. Athletes will begin training at the US Olympic and Paralympic Training Site on the Oklahoma River later this month.

Under the direction of U.S. national team adaptive head coach Karen Lewis, more than 20 adaptive athletes will use the Oklahoma City National High Performance Center's (OKCNHPC) world class training facilities in preparation for international competition at the 2011 World Rowing Championships and 2012 Paralympic Games in London.

Adaptive athletes have a range of disabilities that may be physical or intellectual, and include amputations, paralysis, and blindness. Adaptive events were first added to the World Rowing Championships in 2002 and were part of the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China.

“The announcement today represents a unique opportunity for our adaptive athletes to train year-round at a world-class facility with tremendous support from the OKCNHPC staff and community. We see this as just the beginning of the foundation to grow and develop the U.S. adaptive team in the future,” said Matt Imes, USRowing High Performance Director.

“We are thrilled to welcome the U.S. adaptive team to the Oklahoma River. This is another great milestone as we develop the Oklahoma River into one of the top training and racing venues in the world,” said Mike Knopp, executive director of the OKCNHPC.

Headquartered in the Devon Boathouse on the Oklahoma River, OKCNHPC training facilities include 10,000 square feet of strength and conditioning, the world's first dynamic indoor rowing tank, a high altitude training chamber for training up to 12,000 feet, and a propulsion swim take for training and injury rehabilitation.

About Adaptive Rowing

Adaptive rowing is a category of racing for individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities. USRowing selects, trains and manages the adaptive rowing teams that represent the U.S. in international competition including the world championships and Paralympics. Adaptive racing is held over 1,000 meters (rather than the standard 2,000 meters). In mixed events, half the crew must be male and other half female (coxswain may be of either gender and may be able-bodied).

FISA Categories of Adaptive Rowing

LTA - Legs, Trunk, Arms

Use of at least one leg, trunk and arms. Also for those with visual and intellectual impairments. Rowed with standard boats and sliding seats.

TA - Trunk and Arms

Only use of trunk muscles. Boat has fixed seat.

A - Arms only

Limited trunk control. Boat has fixed seat and rower is strapped at upper chest level to only allow shoulder and arm movements.

About USRowing

USRowing is a nonprofit organization recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the governing body for the sport of rowing in the United States. USRowing's official suppliers include Boathouse Sports, Filippi, Croker Oars, Rudy Project, Concept 2, Nielsen Kellerman, Powerhouse Timing and PowerHTV. USRowing also receives generous support from the National Rowing Foundation and its corporate sponsor, ANXeBusiness Corp. For more information, visit www.usrowing.org. USRowing has joined forces with Team Arnstein to help ensure the U.S. team's success leading up to the 2012 Olympic Games under a new corporate sponsorship campaign, The Row to London. For more information, please visit www.teamarnstein.com.