



July 16 - Slalom

Teams scouting the slalom course before the start had multiple choices of lines and many decisions to make in regards to the lines they wanted to take. The course had 2 major sections that tested their abilities and wits. The top section gates 1, 2 and 3, where a combination of going upstream from river right, surfing to the left and negotiating a downriver gate and the cutting back to the right using the slack water created by the island in the middle. The major challenge from a risk perspective was gates 8 and 9. Coming into the mother, the biggest rapid on the course you dropped into the hole drove the raft to river left came back upstream through the gate 8 and surfed across the river to the upstream gate on river right. Most teams made it upright, some had some surfing lessons and a few ended up swimming. You can see video of the event on you tube. Search for videos from the [worldraftingchamps](#) We are loading more video each day.

Some teams managed to negotiate the course and obstacles with only a 5 second penalty while others had over 6 minutes worth. For all it was a hard day of racing with lots of intensity and passion. To see the best of the teams in the height of competition go to the [Teva Benelux Flickr Website](#).

The women's competition was a great race with many teams improving on the second run including the top 6 places. In 3rd place was Czech Republic, 2nd place New Zealand and in 1st Slovakia with a time of 4.13:80 (an improvement of over 2 minutes 45 seconds from the first run)

The men's competition saw Brazil in 3rd, Japan 2nd and the Czech Republic 1st with almost 8 seconds to spare even with a broken paddle in gate 10. All the top 3 teams had their best time in the second run.

After the Sprint, Head to Head and Slalom the standings are:

- Women – Slovakia (1), New Zealand (2), Great Britain (3)
- Men – Japan (1), Brazil (2), Czech (3)

For complete results go to the [Official WRC site](#).

Tomorrow is the final day of the Teva World Rafting Champs. The downriver race is going to be a hard grueling race for many teams. The transition from running, to paddling whitewater then flat water will take its toll on the teams. Check back tomorrow for the downriver results and overall winners of the Teva World Rafting Champs.

