

# 2024 CANOE SPRINT OLYMPIC SELECTION POLICY

## Including selection to the 2024 Continental Qualification Event

All athletes wishing to be considered for Olympic Team selection during 2024 should complete the online registration document by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 [here](#) or link: [https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/pre\\_registration\\_form](https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/pre_registration_form) *(This will be available from January 2024)*

**Athletes wishing to contact the IP in relation to the relevant provisions in this policy should do so via email to [enquiries.internationalpanel@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.internationalpanel@britishcanoeing.org.uk)**

### SECTION A: PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Paris 2024 Canoe Sprint Olympic Selection Policy ('Policy') is to clearly outline the process for nomination of GBR Canoe Sprint Team members to the British Olympic Association (the 'BOA') for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

#### 2. Principles

- 2.1. The primary focus of this Policy is to select the strongest team to target medal and final performances at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- 2.2. Nominations under this Policy will be based on results in up to five races as set out in this Policy, and where stated will also be subject to an assessment of performance standards.
- 2.3. This Policy is guided by the process for the qualification of boat quota places for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games as set out by the International Canoe Federation ('ICF') and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the [Olympic Qualification System](#) (OQS). The OQS sets out strict rules on which athletes are eligible to compete in qualification events, particularly in subsequent rounds once initial place(s) are qualified.
- 2.4. This Policy reflects a focus on completing selection early to ensure optimal preparation for the Continental Qualifier and for those events where a quota place was qualified in 2023 to enable optimal preparation for Games.
- 2.5. All eligible athletes will be considered equally for selection against the stated selection criteria regardless of club, training location, age, Home Nation and programme status.
- 2.6. The composition of crew boats entering the qualification races set out in this Policy will be determined by the World Class Programme. The process for this will be communicated to athletes by 1st October 2023.

## SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY

### 3. Eligibility – To be eligible for nomination, athletes must:

- 3.1. be a full member of British Canoeing or Home Nation Association that enables participation in competition;
- 3.2. meet the minimum age criteria for competition. The first year a junior can compete at World and European Senior/U23/Junior Championships and Olympic Games is the year of their 15th birthday.
- 3.3. not to be subject to any live sanction issued by British Canoeing, UK Anti-Doping or the ICF;
- 3.4. agree to comply with the ICF and UK Anti-Doping rules and anti-doping blood/urine testing policies, and, provided that an athlete coming out of retirement has notified UK Anti-Doping in accordance with its rules, secured dispensation to participate in the sport. Those notified athletes on the National and/or International testing pools agree to comply with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standard for Testing with regard to ADAMS and whereabouts information. Agreement shall be assumed by the acceptance of the offer of a place at any of the events within the scope of this Policy;
- 3.5. not be serving a ban from participation in the sport for any reason (including but not limited to, as a result of being found guilty of a doping offence or being found guilty of an offence relating to betting, manipulation of results, corrupt conduct, inside information) at the time of nomination and/or at the time of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games; and
- 3.6. comply with any other eligibility criteria as set out by the BOA, International Olympic Committee (the 'IOC') and/or the ICF from time to time.
- 3.7. Any athlete selected under this Policy must:
  - 3.7.1. sign a BOA Team Members Agreement
  - 3.7.2. hold a valid passport with a minimum of 6 months unexpired validity from the date of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and hold a valid European Health Insurance Card or a valid Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC).

## SECTION C: SELECTION PANEL AND NOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. The IP is appointed by and reports to the Board of British Canoeing. It is responsible for all aspects of developing, approving and managing the implementation of this policy. The Terms of Reference can be found [here](#).
5. The IP comprises the following voting members: Barney Wainwright (Chair & Independent Member), Mally Johnson (Independent Member), Andy Maddock (British Canoeing Head of Performance Operations), Tim Scott (Sprint Committee Representative), Chris Furber (British Canoeing Performance Director), James Train (Senior Podium Technical Coach). A member of the British Canoeing Governance Team and an external representative will attend IP meetings as independent observers. In the event of a tie in voting, the chair will have the casting vote.
6. Athletes should refer to the British Canoeing website to view the dates of all IP Meetings determining nominations under this policy.
7. Nomination to the BOA does not guarantee selection for the Paris Olympics 2024. The BOA must ratify all nominations made by British Canoeing before the selection is confirmed.

8. The formal announcement of the Paris 2024 Olympic team will be made in conjunction with the BOA following confirmation by BOA of acceptance of the IP nominations.
9. Athletes are obliged to keep any notifications of nomination or non-nomination in respect of the Paris 2024 Olympic Team strictly confidential until authorised by the British Canoeing Performance Director.

## SECTION D: 2024 OLYMPIC TEAM NOMINATION

10. The IP will determine nominations to Team GB in accordance with this Policy, alongside the rules set out in [OQS and the quota places qualified by GBR](#). The OQS permits a team size of up to 6 athletes in kayak events and up to 3 athletes in canoe events for each gender across the events specified below ('Olympic Events'):

Women		Men	
200m	500m	500m	1000m
WC1	WC2 WK1 WK2 WK4	MK2 MK4 MC2	MK1 MC1

11. The Canoe Sprint Team nomination process in the Olympic Events will take place at up to 5 races identified below:
  - Race Zero - 2023 World Championships ('2023 Global Qualification Event')
  - Race 1 - April Regatta - Saturday 13th April 2024 and/or Sunday 14th April 2024
  - Race 2 - April Regatta - Saturday 13th April 2024 and/or Sunday 14th April 2024
  - Race 3 - April Regatta - Monday 15th April 2024
  - Continental Qualification Event - Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th May 2024 in Szeged, Hungary
12. All nominations set out within the process at section 13 - 18 are subject to the IP's consideration of any exceptional circumstances requests at Section E (19-22) and the IP's decision on nomination and entry of multiple events at 17.
13. **Stage 1: Race Zero - 2023 World Championships:**
  - 13.1. All athletes/crew selected to the 2023 Global Qualification Event in the Olympic Events have the opportunity to qualify Olympic quota places. If an athlete or crew qualifies a quota place then this will be recognised as outlined in section 14 below.
14. **Stage 2: Events where a boat quota place has been qualified at the 2023 Global Qualification event prior to the April Regatta:**
  - 14.1. In any event where British Canoeing has received written confirmation from the ICF on or before 31st January 2024 of a boat quota place having been qualified at the 2023 Global Qualification Event, the athlete or crew will be deemed to have one race win in that event from Race Zero. If that athlete or crew wins Race 1 at the April selection in that event, they will be nominated to the BOA for selection to Team GB. If there is a different winner of Race 1 then Race 2 will be contested between the winner of Race Zero and the winner of Race 1. The winner of Race 2 will be nominated to the BOA for selection to Team GB.

- 14.2.** Where a crew boat quota place has been qualified at the 2023 Global Qualification Event but the crew boat composition has changed for Race 1 then the win for Race Zero will be disregarded and the nomination process will be determined by 14.3 below.
- 14.3.** Where a boat quota place has been qualified at the 2023 Global Qualification Event but this was not confirmed in writing by the ICF until after 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, the result at this event will be disregarded and any athlete or crew winning Race 1 and Race 2 at the April Regatta will be nominated to the BOA for selection to Team GB. In the case of a different winner in Race 1 and Race 2, Race 3 will be run between the two first placed athletes/crews from Race 1 and Race 2. The winner of Race 3 will be nominated to the BOA for selection to Team GB.
- 15. Stage 3: Selection for the Continental Qualification Event (where a boat quota place has not been qualified prior to the April Regatta).**
- 15.1.** The Continental Qualification Event provides athletes/crews a final opportunity to qualify quota places for Olympic Events. Where a boat quota place has not been qualified prior to the April Regatta, results from the April Regatta will be used to determine selection for the Continental Qualification Event. Athletes/crew who have already qualified quota places will not be eligible for selection for this event. Selection will be based on the identification of the highest ranking *eligible* athlete/crew and will be conditional upon meeting the performance standard at 15.2.
- 15.2.** The IP will apply a minimum performance standard for all selections for the Continental Qualification Event to ensure there is a realistic prospect of the athlete/crew qualifying a quota place at the Continental Qualification Event. This performance standard will assess performances relative to World Leading Times and conditions at the April Regatta as well as considering the anticipated strength and depth of the field at the Continental Qualification Event.
- 15.3.** Any athlete or crew winning Race 1 and Race 2 will be deemed the highest ranked boat in that event. In the case of a different winner in Race 1 and Race 2, there will be a third race (Race 3) in that event between the two first placed boats from Races 1 and 2 to confirm the highest and second ranked boat in that event. A ranking for 3rd place onwards will be determined from the results of Race 1 and Race 2 by adding the two positions achieved by each athlete/crew to organise athletes/crews into their final selection position. Race position is equated to points (e.g., 3rd place = 3 points) with the lowest total equating to the higher ranking. In the event of a tie in points/ranking, the athlete/crew with the closest combined percentage time to the winner across Race 1 and Race 2 will be deemed the higher ranking athlete/crew. Athletes/crews not starting in either race 1 or race 2 will score 10 points for ranking purposes.
- 15.4.** The highest ranked eligible athlete/crew meeting the performance standard at 15.2 in each Olympic Event where a quota place has not been qualified will be selected to compete in the Continental Qualification Event.
- 15.5.** Where athletes have qualified for selection to the Continental Qualification Event under this Policy in more than one event, the IP will have sole discretion to determine whether that athlete may compete in more than one event and/or will only be entered for the event or events the IP considers the priority. The athlete and their nominated coach will be consulted on this decision and their views will be considered together with performance intelligence data and the primary aims of this Policy. If the IP determines an athlete cannot enter an event other than the determined priority event(s) then the IP reserves the right to select the next highest ranking athlete(s) in the non-priority event(s).

**16. Stage 4: Nomination following the Continental Qualification Event:**

- 16.1.** Section D.3.3.7 of the [OQS](#) defines that an National Olympic Committee ('NOC') can only qualify an additional two athlete quota places in each of the Kayak Men, Kayak Women, Canoe Men and Canoe Women categories at the Continental Qualification Event (and only NOC's that have not obtained quota places in an event at the 2023 World Championships can participate in the relevant event). In the situation that GBR athletes qualify more quota places than permitted by the OQS at the Continental Qualification Event, the IP will determine which quota places to accept in line with the principles in 2.1 of this Policy.
- 16.2.** Subject to the provisions in 16.1 any athlete/crew who qualifies a quota place at the Continental Qualification Event will be nominated to the BOA for selection to Team GB in that event if:
- 16.2.1. they were also the winner of the selection process at section 15.3; or
  - 16.2.2. they placed in the top 2 of the team selection process at 15.3 behind one athlete/crew already selected to the Games in a different event.
  - 16.2.3. If the athlete/crew who qualified a quota place at the Continental Qualification Event does not meet the requirements of 16.2.1 or 16.2.2 then the athlete nominated to the BOA will be the winner of the selection process at 15.3.

**17. Stage 5: Nomination of athletes in multiple events:**

- 17.1.** Following completion of Stages 1-4, the IP will consider the athletes qualifying for nomination to the BOA for selection to Team GB under this Policy.
- 17.2.** Should an athlete qualify for nomination to the BOA for selection to Team GB under the provisions of this Policy, they will only be guaranteed nomination in the event deemed by the IP to be their priority event. (*Athletes and their coaches should have been involved in discussions with the World Class Programme in advance of the April Regatta and their priority event identified*). The IP may, at their discretion, nominate the athlete in further events they have qualified for under this Policy if it would further the aims of 2.1 of this Policy, taking into account the scheduling of events at the Olympic Games and the athlete's medal and final profile and /or be required as part of the OQS.
- 17.3.** If the IP determines that an athlete qualifying for nomination for multiple events under this Policy should not be nominated for multiple events within the provisions of 17.2, it may at its discretion nominate the next highest placed athlete in the relevant selection process from Stages 1-4.
- 17.4.** The OQS permits NOC's to enter up to two athletes/crew per event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The IP will consider nominating those athletes already nominated in an Olympic Event for entry in further events at its absolute discretion. The IP reserves the right not to use a qualified quota place, in recognition of nominated athletes' ability to double up and limits on the number of entries permitted per event or the outcome of the nomination process.
- 17.5.** **The IP has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final and not subject to appeal.**

**18. Stage 6: Late reallocated quota places:**

- 18.1.** After 30th June 2024 any further quota places received will be subject to acceptance by the BOA and if accepted, also by the IP. If accepted by the BOA and the IP, the IP will nominate in line with the process outlined in section 15.3. The BOA's general policy is that it will not accept

reallocated places unless it considers (in its absolute discretion) that there is a compelling reason to do so.

## SECTION E: EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

19. Should an athlete or crew who reached the A final or placed in the top 3 in the B final in an Olympic Event at the 2023 World Championships be unable to race in that event at any Races at the April Regatta due to illness, injury or any other exceptional circumstance, they may ask the IP to provide them with a further opportunity to compete for selection. For the purposes of this clause, any other exceptional circumstances are considered to be those that are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and/or unforeseen.
20. The athlete or crew wishing for their exceptional circumstances to be considered must:
  - 20.1. make a request for exceptional circumstances in writing to the IP via email at [enquiries.internationalpanel@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.internationalpanel@britishcanoeing.org.uk) as soon as they are reasonably aware of the circumstances that prevent(ed) them from competing in the relevant event(s) at the April Regatta and in any event no later than 12 hours after the last race at the April Regatta;
  - 20.2. include in their request for exceptional circumstances certificated (where possible) evidence of illness or injury, or other significant exceptional circumstance, the event or events that they wish the exceptional circumstance to be considered for and evidence of their ability to contest a further race(s) before 1st June 2024.
21. Should the IP be satisfied that the eligible athlete/crew has evidenced exceptional circumstances preventing them from competing at the April Regatta, the IP may provide that athlete/crew with an opportunity to compete for nomination to the BOA for selection to Team GB. The IP may elect to provide this opportunity through, not exclusively:
  - 21.1. delaying the selection in the relevant event(s); or
  - 21.2. ordering a 'race off' in the relevant event(s) between the athlete or crew qualifying under the provisions of this Policy and the athlete/crew with exceptional circumstances request granted; or
  - 21.3. in the case of exceptional circumstances being accepted in relation to a crew boat member(s), directing the World Class Programme to implement a process to identify the strongest crew composition for the relevant event(s).
22. **The IP has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final and not subject to appeal.**

## SECTION F: DE-SELECTION AND FITNESS TO COMPETE

23. At any stage of the selection process prior to the date of the Delegation Registration Meeting in early July 2024 (provisional deadline is 23:00 UK time on 8th July 2024) ("DRM"), the IP reserves the right not to nominate, or to de-select, any individual or crew athlete or reserve on the following grounds:
  - 23.1. Medical grounds – i.e., when an injury/illness may, in the reasonable opinion of the IP, inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance; or

- 23.2.** Suitability as a team member, where for example (but not limited to) an athlete's behaviour or attitude leads the IP to determine in its reasonable opinion that the selection of such athlete would be inappropriate; or
- 23.3.** Poor form – i.e. when an athlete's form in events and/or training has decreased to a level which, in the reasonable opinion of the IP, would inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance.
- 23.4.** The Panel will provide any de-selected athlete with written grounds for its decision. Decisions on these grounds shall not be open to appeal.
- 24.** Following the DRM, athlete de-selections and replacements are to be only allowed in accordance with the IOC's "Late Athlete Replacement Policy". This primarily provides for replacement in the case of injury and/or illness. In the event of there being a query over this, the following procedure will be adhered to:
- 24.1.** The Team GB's Chief Medical Officer can require an athlete to undergo a medical examination to determine his/her fitness to participate. This examination will be carried out by the Team GB Chief Medical Officer or another doctor delegated by him/her. If the athlete fails the medical examination, he/she will be withdrawn from the Team and British Canoeing may (if appropriate) nominate a replacement athlete in accordance with this Policy.
- 24.2.** If the athlete passes the medical examination carried out in accordance with 24.1 above but British Canoeing and/or the BOA still have concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to a level which would ordinarily have been expected of the athlete due to the underlying injury or illness, the Chef de Mission (in consultation with British Canoeing) can require the athlete to undergo a set of pre-determined sports specific performance tests. The tests will be conducted under the guidance of the sport's Team Leader (or their delegate e.g. team physiotherapist) and a BOA representative or delegate will be present (if possible/available). If the athlete fails the test (which can be undertaken on more than one occasion and within a short time frame if appropriate), they will be withdrawn from the Team on medical grounds and, if appropriate, a replacement can be nominated by British Canoeing in accordance with the criteria set out in this Policy.

## SECTION G: APPEAL PROCEDURE

- 25.** Certain decisions made throughout this Policy are not subject to appeal and where this is the case, specific reference will be made to the decision being final. For other selection decisions made under this Policy, the British Canoeing Appeals process applies and this procedure can be found [here](#).
- 26.** In the event that the BOA refuses to ratify a nomination by the IP, the athlete may appeal that decision through the BOA's appeals process.
- 27.** Guidance for athletes is available from the British Canoeing Performance Wellbeing Coach, [zofia.campbell@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:zofia.campbell@britishcanoeing.org.uk). UK Sport funded World Class Programme athletes can also contact the BEAA at [support@britishathletes.org](mailto:support@britishathletes.org) for support and advice.

## SECTION H: GENERAL PROVISION:

### 28. Policy Changes

- 28.1.** The selection policy may be amended at any time by British Canoeing for one or more of the following circumstances:
- 28.1.1. any changes in rules governing a particular event;



- 28.1.2. any change in ICF/IOC eligibility, rules or programme of events;
- 28.1.3. to give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight
- 28.1.4. to clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy
- 28.1.5. any other reason determined by British Canoeing at its total discretion that is in the best interest of British Canoeing and in line with the principles outlined for selection

**28.2.** Any changes will be communicated and publicised on [www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk)

## **29. Data Protection**

**29.1.** British Canoeing is a privacy conscious organisation and is strongly committed to an individual's right to privacy. All data gathered during the selection process will only be utilised for the purposes of an athlete's participation in a GBR Team. This may include administering their event/race entry and certain information may be published as part of the results and rankings of the event/race.

**29.2.** Any personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the British Canoeing Data Protection Policy and in accordance with all applicable Data Protection laws in effect at the time of publication of this Selection Policy, including but not limited to, the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

**29.3.** Further information on British Canoeing's approach to privacy and data protection, including British Canoeing's privacy notices, policies and contact details, can be located in their Privacy Centre (<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/privacy-centre>). Should an athlete wish any data British Canoeing hold relating to them to be deleted at any point; they should contact British Canoeing at [GDPR@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:GDPR@britishcanoeing.org.uk).

## **30. Policies**

This Selection Policy operates in conjunction with all relevant British Canoeing policies including but not limited to, Equality, Anti-Doping, Pregnancy, Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying Anti-Bribery Policy and relevance disciplinary policies.

## **31. Communication**

British Canoeing is committed to providing open and informative communication in relation to selection. All athletes will receive formal confirmation of the selection and for those athletes who wish to discuss the outcome of decision made by the IP, the Chair of the IP will be available to speak informally to athletes and in the case of minors, parents/carers.

## **32. Force Majeure**

"Force Majeure" means any act, event, omission, cause or circumstance not within the reasonable control of British Canoeing or the race organisers, including but not limited to any strike, lockout or other industrial action, any civil commotion or disorder, riot, invasion, war or terrorist activity or threat of war or terrorist activity, any action taken by a governmental or public authority of any kind (including, without limitation, not granting a consent, exemption, approval or clearance), any fire, explosion, storm, flood, earthquake, subsidence, epidemic or other natural physical disaster. In the event of such Force Majeure affecting the application of the policy, the IP shall have the sole discretion, in consultation with the British Canoeing Director of Governance, to make a decision in line with the principles, strategy and mission of this selection policy.

- End of Policy -