

Paracanoe Selection Policy 2025

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The International Panel (IP) shares this draft policy for consultation which has been developed in conjunction with the Paracanoe staffing team and welcomes all feedback to help the development of the 2025 policies.

Please feedback on the policy [HERE](#) by Midnight on Tuesday 26th November 2024 or at:

<https://forms.paddleuk.org.uk/live/form/Paracanoe2025SelectionPolicy/formperma/HkqSe6dKbNn9MytzmvE27a-od-xfiPYe5uflrFdfuCl>

Please take time to tell us what you like about the policy as well as dislikes, errors or omissions as if you don't tell us that you like it, we may change aspects in response to feedback. The policies have been derived from feedback on previous policies and a further evolution of how best to support the Sprint & Paracanoe Performance strategy. Thank you in advance for reading and providing feedback.

The key points and objectives of the draft policy are summarised below:

- There are 2 selection points proposed to allow individual athlete choice to either race early in the season for selection to the World Cup and European Championships or focus only on the World Championship selection in July.
- The draft policy looks to maximise international competition experience for athletes and staff in order to create an environment where developing athletes and staff can work alongside experienced senior athletes and staff to learn, understand and apply best practice at a world level.
- The draft policy allows the IP flexibility on performance standard for selection to the World Cup and European Championships by only having to consider achievement of a minimum development standard (115%) for all athletes, which allows the main consideration to be athlete development needs.
- The draft policy puts greater focus on team development than medal outcomes at the World Cup and European Championships in order that we can build a stronger and wider pool of high performing athletes as we start to build towards LA and beyond.
- The focus on team development at the World Cup and European Championships provides greater opportunity for new athletes to gain international classification and international race experience early in the cycle.
- The draft policy allows the IP to select athletes for either one or both of the World Cup and European Championships depending on consideration of individual athlete development needs.
- Based on finishing in the top 2 at April selection the policy allows current World and Paralympic Champions the choice to attend the European Championship "to do the triple". We believe that this is important for athlete motivation and maintaining a high profile for the athlete and the programme.
- The draft selection policy focuses on medal results for the 2025 World Championships in order to enable senior athletes to build on their previous success and to maintain our position as the world leading team.
- The draft policy allows flexibility to select athletes in the non-paralympic VL1 sports class at any of the 2025 international events in order that we can best support ICF efforts to bring this sport class into the Paralympic programme in LA.

----- Start of Draft Policy -----

All athletes wishing to be considered for Paracanoe Team selection during 2025 should complete the online registration document by Sunday 16th March 2025 [here](#) or link: *(This will be available from January 2025)*

Athletes wishing to contact the IP in relation to the relevant provisions in this policy should do so via email to enquiries.internationalpanel@paddleuk.org.uk

SECTION A: PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Paracanoe selection policy is to clearly outline the processes which will lead to the selection of the GBR Paracanoe Teams for all 2025 international events named within this policy. It also aims to support the longer-term goals of the Paracanoe strategy to 2028.

2. Principles

- 2.1. The primary focus of National Team Selection will be to optimise performance in targeted Paralympic events, in particular seeking to maximise qualification of quota places and performance at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.
- 2.2. The Selection Policy seeks to select the best athletes in a transparent way that prioritises optimal preparation time for achievement of international success, primarily on a first past the post basis.
- 2.3. Selection will be based on results in identified selection races and/or performance assessment together with, and subject to, an assessment of performance standards and 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.
- 2.4. Selections will be made in alignment to, and in support of, targeted events and boat priorities of the World Class Programme (WCP) in 2025.
- 2.5. Nominations for each event will only be based upon performances in that event.

SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. To be eligible to be selected to any 2025 GBR Team, athletes must meet the following conditions (full detail can be found in Paddle UK's [Eligibility Policy](#)):
 - 3.1.1. Hold a National Classification (to book a classification slot, athletes should contact macauley.allen@paddleuk.org.uk) in the sport class they wish to be selected for or be no more than 2 points over the defined cluster score for one test (leg, trunk or on-water) and also be within the correct cluster scores for the other tests for the sport class they wish to compete in (see classification overview ([here](#)) for details of scores, clusters and sport classes).
 - 3.1.2. Have achieved the 2025 Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time (**Appendix1**) in a [Paracanoe specification boat](#) at a UK National or International Regatta (Paralympic Games, World Championship, European Championship or World Cup) in the 24 months prior to the relevant 2025 selection event.
 - 3.1.3. Be a Paracanoe Talent Academy Athlete with evidenced 200m training data in the 24 months prior to the relevant 2025 selection regatta.
 - 3.1.4. Athletes who have not achieved the Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time in the 24 months prior at an official competition should attend a Paracanoe assessment event by contacting (attila.herbert@britishcanoeing.org.uk). If an athlete achieves a 2025 Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time at an official assessment event they will be eligible to enter the Paracanoe selection regattas.
 - 3.1.5. Meet age and nationality criteria for international competitions as outlined below
 - 3.1.6. Be a full member of Paddle UK or Home Nation Association that enables participation in competition
 - 3.1.7. Athletes on a funded programme need to have signed their Programme Athlete Agreement. Athletes outside Programme funding will also be expected to sign up to the Paddle UK Great Britain Team participation agreement on accepting selection at least two weeks before travelling to the first competition as well as settling any outstanding payments prior to travel.
- 3.2. Where athletes compete in more than one eligible selection event, the policy will be applied in isolation for each specific event.

- 3.3. Paddle UK reserves the right to deselect an athlete who has been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under Paddle UK/ICF rules. This includes doping offences.

A list of athletes who have achieved the regatta qualification time and performance standards will be published on the Paddle UK website by 1st March 2025.

4. International Eligibility

- 4.1. Selection will be subject to eligibility in accordance with competition rules laid down by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) and the European Canoe Association (ECA).
- 4.2. The first year an athlete can compete at World and European Senior/U23/Junior Championships is the year of their 15th birthday.

5. Performance Standards

- 5.1. The International Panel (IP), will apply a performance standard for all selections under this policy to ensure athletes are of the appropriate level for the competition they are being considered for. The details of the application of performance standards can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The performance standard should have been attained at a UK National or International Regatta (Paralympic Games, World Championship, European Championship or World Cup) in the 24 months prior to the relevant 2025 selection event.

SECTION C: GREAT BRITAIN PARACANOE TEAM SELECTION 2025

6. Paracanoe Team Selection Overview

- 6.1. Selection for the World Cup and European Championships will prioritise but is not limited to, providing international race experience, developing the athlete pool, providing international classification opportunities.
- 6.2. Selection is determined by the ranking system as described in section 10 and subject to attainment of the relevant performance standard.
- 6.3. Selection for the World Championships will prioritise maximising medal winning opportunities.
- 6.4. There are two separate selection points in 2025. The April regatta will be selection for the Paracanoe World Cup and the Paracanoe European Championships. The July regatta will be selection for the Paracanoe World Championships.
- 6.5. Up to 2 athletes per sport class will be selected for all competitions, where the selection criteria within this policy is met.
- 6.6. Selection for Non-Paralympic events will be at the sole discretion of the IP, based on but not limited to sport class development needs, classification, and athlete trajectory.

7. 2025 Paracanoe International Competitions and Selection Announcements

Announcements by the IP of selections made at identified selection regattas will be as per Table 1:

Table 1

Event Type	Competition/Regatta	Venue	Date	Date of IP Announcement
Selection	Confirm Paracanoe World Cup & European Championships Teams	Holme Pierrepont	12 th /13 th April 2025	On www.paddleuk.org.uk by 5pm Friday 18 th April 2025
International	Paracanoe World Cup	Poznan, POL	22nd-25th May 2025	N/A
International	Paracanoe European Championships	Racice, CZE	19th-22nd June 2025	N/A
Selection	Paracanoe World Championships Team Selection	Holme Pierrepont	12 th /13 th July 2025	On www.paddleuk.org.uk by 5pm Friday 18 th July 2025
International	Paracanoe World Championships	Milan, ITA	20th-24th Aug 2025	

8. Paracanoe World Cup & European Championship Team Selection

- 8.1. The World Cup and European Championship teams will be selected based on races at the April Regatta.
- 8.2. All athletes that have met the eligibility criteria will be considered for selection to the World Cup and /or the European Championships.
- 8.3. Rather than “first past the post” the IP will consider selection based on but not limited to athlete development need, sports class development need, classification need, athlete trajectory
- 8.4. Athletes will be considered for selection in the events shown in Table 2.

- 8.5. To be considered for selection athletes, at a minimum, must have achieved the development (115%) performance standard (see Appendix A).
- 8.6. Current 2024 Paralympic and 2024 World Champions (Emma Wiggs VL2, Charlotte Henshaw VL3 & KL2, Laura Sugar KL3) finishing in the top 2 boats in that event at the April regatta will be given Priority in selection for the European Championships.
- 8.7. Where a place(s) remains vacant in any one of the ICF sport classes (Table 2), the IP may at its sole discretion consider selecting/nominating an athlete based on classification, development needs and athlete trajectory, irrespective of achievement of the performance standard.

TABLE 2

Men		Women	
Kayak	Va'a	Kayak	Va'a
KL3 200m	VL3 200m	KL3 200m	VL3 200m
KL2 200m	VL2 200m	KL2 200m	VL2 200m
KL1 200m	<i>VL1 200m</i>	KL1 200m	<i>VL1 200m</i>

Paralympic events are in **BOLD**

9. 2025 Paracanoe - World Championships Team Selection

- 9.1. 'First past the post selection'. Subject to exceptional circumstances and achievement of the senior performance standard (109%), the first 2 boats in each sports class shown in Table 2 at the July selection regatta will be selected to the World Championship team.
- 9.2. Where a place(s) remains vacant in any one of the ICF sport classes (Table 2), the IP may at its sole discretion consider selecting/nominating an athlete based on classification, development needs and athlete trajectory, irrespective of achievement of the performance standard

10. Calculation of ranking at Paracanoe selection regattas

- 10.1. Ranking is based on the best single position achieved by an athlete from two races.
- 10.2. Where two athletes have an equal ranking for a position after two races, a race-off will take place to determine final placing.
- 10.3. Should the race-off result in a tie, the fastest time recorded in the first two races will decide the ranking.
- 10.4. The winner of the race-off will be awarded the highest placing.
- 10.5. To be eligible to race off for a position, an athlete must have finished in that position or higher in the first two races.

Examples of the ranking calculation can be seen in **Appendix B**

11. General Provisions

- 11.1. The IP reserves the right not to nominate, or to de-select for any international event, any individual athlete or reserve on the following grounds:
 - 11.1.1. Medical grounds – i.e. when an injury/illness may, in the reasonable opinion of the IP, inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance and/ or mean the athlete cannot reasonably be considered fit to travel; or
 - 11.1.2. 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
 - 11.1.3. Poor form – i.e., when an athlete's form in events and/or training has decreased to such a level that, in the reasonable opinion of the IP, they would no longer be able to achieve the required level of performance to be competitive at the applicable competition(s).
- 11.2. Any decisions taken in accordance with 11.1 will only be made following consultation with the athlete, appropriate Paddle UK coaches and/or medical reports and in the case of 11.1.3. include reference to applicable performance standards.
- 11.3. A non-travelling reserve may be named in each individual event based solely on position in the identified selection race where performance standards have been achieved. In order of selection, named reserves will only travel in the event of injury or illness to a selected athlete or where a place(s) is declined.

12. 2025-2026 Advanced Information

- 12.1. **2026 Selection Policies** - The IP will publish the 2026 Selection Policy by 31st December 2025.

SECTION D: CONTINGENCY AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

13. Contingency

- 13.1. The IP retains the right to implement contingency measures where circumstances arise that prevent full, fair and competitive racing and adapt racing to ensure as fair a selection process as possible. This may include circumstances such as weather conditions and Covid-19 implications.
- 13.2. The IP will monitor weather conditions in advance of, and during a selection race, and has a process for communication of real-time information in this regard.
- 13.3. If weather conditions or other significant issues arise rendering it inappropriate or impossible to conduct a selection race during or, in advance of competition, the IP may declare that a race(s) will not be used for selection and invoke one or more of the following non-exclusive alternatives:
 - 13.3.1. Rescheduling of any affected selection race(s) to early morning/ evening racing within the same regatta (if scheduling and weather conditions permit).
 - 13.3.2. Rescheduling of any affected selection races to an alternative competition (if appropriate)
 - 13.3.3. Rescheduling to a reserve date if available and appropriate.
 - 13.3.4. Amending lane draw for direct comparability of performances
 - 13.3.5. Seeding into a straight final to create flexibility to target better conditions.
 - 13.3.6. The IP reserves the right to put 2 or more athletes in adjacent lanes to minimise differences caused by weather conditions.
 - 13.3.7. Using the results of a selection race to determine a top 4 who will then be invited to a race off in better conditions as determined by the IP.
- 13.4. Any decision made under these provisions of the policy will be made by a minimum of two IP Members and where possible, in consultation with the chief official.
- 13.5. All IP announcements relevant to contingencies will be posted on www.paddleuk.org.uk. During competitions, important information will be posted at race control on the live results messaging, on the Paddle UK social media or messaging App.

14. Exceptional circumstances

- 14.1. Should an athlete miss a Selection event due to illness or injury during, or prior to, elements of the 2025 selection process; or have any other exceptional circumstances, the IP reserves the right to provide an opportunity for such a boat to be eligible for selection. For the purposes of this clause, exceptional circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and unforeseen.
- 14.2. Where an athlete wishes to invoke this clause, exceptional circumstances requests should be directed to the IP prior to the commencement of the selection competition via email at enquiries.internationalpanel@paddleuk.org.uk and should provide:
 - 14.2.1. Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant exceptional circumstance.
 - 14.2.2. Any evidence the athlete wishes the IP to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other selected athletes.
- 14.3. To be considered for exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level:
 - 14.3.1. Achieved the A final in a Paralympic Event at the 2024 European Championships, 2024 World Championships or 2024 Paralympic Games. When considering whether an athlete meets the criteria outlined above, the IP will consider the following:
 - 14.3.2. The athlete's training and racing profile (from GBR performance analysis data);
 - 14.3.3. Performance at Paralympic, Senior World Championship, Senior European Championship and/or World Cup races within the previous 24 months.
- 14.4. Where the IP accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the IP reserves the right to:
 - 14.4.1. Identify a single race opportunity whereby the lowest ranked boat that has been selected and the identified athlete(s) would compete for a GBR Team place. If this situation arises more detail would be provided following the IP meeting immediately after the appropriate Selection race series.
 - 14.4.2. Where no athlete has been selected for the relevant event under this policy, accept the exceptional circumstances and select the athlete;
 - 14.4.3. Substitute the selection of the athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the exceptional circumstances request
- 14.5. All decisions under this Clause that relate to injury, illness (including Covid-19) or medical conditions will be determined by the IP members. When assessing if an athlete is fit to race, the decision of the IP is final.

- 14.6. **The IP has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final and not subject to appeal.**

SECTION E: GENERAL INFORMATION

15. Responsibility

The Canoe Sprint IP (IP), which is appointed by and reports to the Board of Paddle Uk, is responsible for all aspects of developing, approving and managing the implementation of the Canoe Sprint selection policies. The Terms of Reference can be found [here](#).

16. Conflicts of Interest

Any member of the IP shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of and any vote in respect of any selection matter in which they have a material conflict of interest. If a person has any queries in this area, they should consult the Paddle Uk Head of Governance.

17. Policy Changes

- 17.1. The selection policy may be amended at any time by Paddle Uk for one or more of the following circumstances:
- 17.1.1. Any changes in rules governing a particular event;
 - 17.1.2. Any change in ICF eligibility, rules or programme of events;
 - 17.1.3. To give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight
 - 17.1.4. To clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy
 - 17.1.5. Any other reason determined by Paddle Uk at its total discretion that is in the best interest of Paddle Uk and in line with the principles outlined for selection
- 17.2. Any changes will be communicated on www.paddleuk.org.uk

18. Appeals Procedure

- 18.1. 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 Paddle Uk appeals process applies and can be found [here](#).
- 18.2. UK Sport funded World Class Programme athletes who require support and advice can contact the BEAA at support@britishathletes.org. Any athletes who have questions regarding the selection decision may contact the International Panel enquiries.internationalpanel@paddleuk.org.uk. Any athletes who have questions regarding the appeals process may contact appeals@paddleuk.org.uk.

19. Data Protection

- 19.1. Paddle Uk 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 Canoe Sprint 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.
- 19.2. Any personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the Paddle Uk 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.
- 19.3. Further information on Paddle UK's approach to privacy and data protection, including Paddle UK's privacy notices, policies and contact details, can be located in their [Privacy Centre](#). Should an athlete wish any data Paddle UK hold relating to them to be deleted at any point; they should contact Paddle Uk at GDPR@paddleuk.org.uk.

20. Policies

This Selection Policy operates in conjunction with all relevant Paddle UK policies including but not limited to, Equality, Anti-Doping Policy, Pregnancy, Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying Policy, Covid Vaccination Policy and Anti-Bribery Policy.

21. Communications

Paddle Uk 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.

22. Force Majeure

“Force Majeure” means any act, event, omission, cause or circumstance not within the reasonable control of Paddle UK 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 Paddle UK Head of Governance, to make a decision in line with the principles, strategy and mission of this selection policy.

-End of Policy-

Appendix A: Performance Standards

Performance Standards					
		Rolling Average of The top 20 fastest times	Senior Team Selection Time	Development Team Selection Time	Regatta Qualification Time
Class	Classification	World Leading Time (WLT)	Performance Standard (109% WLT)	Performance Standard (115% WLT)	Performance Standard (125% WLT)
Men K1	KL3M	39.31	42.85	45.21	49.14
	KL2M	41.61	45.35	47.85	52.01
	KL1M	46.19	50.35	53.12	57.74
Men V1	VL3M	47.83	52.13	55.00	59.79
	VL2M	51.47	56.10	59.19	64.34
	VL1M	60.95	66.44	70.09	76.19
Women K1	KL3W	47.83	52.13	55.00	59.79
	KL2W	51.47	56.10	59.19	64.34
	KL1W	60.95	66.44	70.09	76.19
Women V1	VL3W	57.56	62.74	66.19	71.95
	VL2W	58.3	63.55	67.05	72.88
	VL1W	78.5	85.57	90.28	98.13

Appendix B: examples for calculation of selection ranking

Example 1: Race off for 1st place only

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	1	4	Joint 1st	Y	2nd	2nd
B	3	1	Joint 1st	Y	1st	1st
C	2	2	3rd	N	n/a	3rd
D	4	3	4th	N	n/a	4th

Example 2: Race off for 2nd place only

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	2	3	Joint 2nd	Yes	2nd	3rd
B	3	2	Joint 2nd	Yes	1st	2nd
C	1	1	1st	No	n/a	1st
D	4	4	4th	No	n/a	4th

Example 3: race off for 1st & 3rd

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	1	4	Joint 1st	Yes for 1 st place with C	3rd	2nd
B	3	2	Joint 3rd	Yes for 3 rd place with D	1st	3rd
C	4	1	Joint 1st	Yes for 1st place with A	2nd	1st
D	2	3	Joint 3rd	Yes for 3 rd place with B	4th	4th

Example 4: Race off for 1st & 3rd with tie in race off for 1st

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	1 40.83	2 41.25	Joint 1st	Yes for 1 st place with D	1 st (tie) 40.45	2nd
B	3	4	Joint 3rd	Yes for 3 rd place with C	4th	4th