

## Paddle UK - Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe International Panel Statement - 8th July 2026

### 2026 Canoe Sprint Olympic Hopes Team Selection

This announcement reflects the final selection for the Olympic Hopes Team for 2026.

#### Application of Performance standards

Saturday's races were completed in strong headwinds, which at times became a headwind cross with gusts. Sunday's conditions were more consistent with a moderate headwind with gusts. These weather conditions have been taken into account when agreeing the performance standards that have been applied to each event with adjustments being made based on the day and time of racing where required. The process for application of performance standards is explained in Appendix A of the selection policy. As stated in the 3rd June statement, the standard of Olympic Hopes has increased in recent years and this is recognised in its position as tier 5 in the Canoe Sprint Competition pyramid, alongside the JNR European Championships. The IP has used the pyramid to guide its assessment of performance standards and applied to this level when selecting the pool of athletes:

#### Olympic Hopes Selection: 17-20 September 2026

Subject to appeal and following the completion of the selection to the Olympic Hopes Team athlete pool the following additional athletes (**in Bold Italic**) are selected in addition to those already selected to the Olympic Hopes athlete Pool in June: Selection to specific events will be made by the staff team and will predominately be made at the preparation camp in August. If required, races at the National Regatta in September may be used to determine the final selection of a boat in an event. In this instance, athletes will be made aware shortly after the preparation camp.

	Men		Women	
	Kayak	Canoe	Kayak	Canoe
U17	F. Heard (EXE) F. Fowler-Rimell (WOR) A. Hunter-Hopkins (DEV) <b>B. Eskriett (GAI)</b> <b>S. Sparks (RLS)</b>	-	D. De Bilio (ROY)	I. Keane (RIC)
U16/15	<b>J. Morgan (RDG)</b> <b>F. Meredith (ELM)</b> <b>D. Barnett (RDG)</b>	-	I. Field (ELM) M. Burton (ELM) <b>R. Shephard (RDG)</b> <b>A. De Bilio (ROY)</b>	-

We're aware that taking an U13 to an international competition brings additional safeguarding mitigations. The team has spoken with the governance department and the family to discuss these, and will ensure that the appropriate measures are taken.

**All Junior athletes are required to confirm their team place by emailing ([charlie.barwis@paddleuk.org.uk](mailto:charlie.barwis@paddleuk.org.uk)) or whatsapping Charlie (07596553763) by 4pm on Friday 10th July 2026.**

#### Appeals

The Paddle UK selection policy has a clear appeals process as outlined in the policy and can be found [here](#). Please remember that any appeal must be submitted within 2 working days of the publication of this statement to the Head of Governance at: [appeals@paddleuk.org.uk](mailto:appeals@paddleuk.org.uk). Any Appeal would be heard by three members of the Paddle UK Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register (a current list is available [here](#)). If you object to any potential Panel members hearing your Appeal, please detail this in your Notice of Appeal as well as outlining the reasons for the objection.

**ALL selected athletes are reminded that they are required to have a valid [Compete Clean+ certificate](#) to compete internationally. Please ensure yours is up to date, prior to competition.**

#### Questions?

The International panel recognises that the selection policy can seem a complicated process and in the situation that you have a question about the application of the policy or wish to simply discuss an aspect of the selection process then we would welcome the opportunity to assist. If you have any questions, please contact the IP through this email: [enquiries.internationalpanel@paddleuk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.internationalpanel@paddleuk.org.uk) and we are happy to talk you through the process and/or clarify any questions.