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**2023**

**Canoe Slalom**

**Selection Policy**

**U23 & Senior**

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# 0.List of abbreviations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| CI | Canoeing Ireland |
| DNF | Did not finish |
| ECA | European Canoe Association |
| HPU | High Performance Unit |
| ICF | International Canoe Federation |
| ICSC  CSIC | Irish Canoe Slalom Committee  Canoe Sprint Ireland Committee |
| NGB | National Governing Body |
| ODR | Olympic Discipline Representative |
| PD | Performance Director |
| SP | Selection Panel |
| K1 | Kayak class |
| C1 | Canoe class |
| CSL/CSLX | Canoe Slalom/ Extreme Slalom |

# 1 Introduction

## **Purpose**

The Purpose of this selection policy is to outline the processes which will lead to the selection of the best athletes to represent Ireland at senior & U23 international canoe slalom competitions in 2023. The selection policy is designed to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances at the World Championships which is an Olympic qualification event in 2023, the European Championships and World Cups.

The 2023 canoe slalom selection policy will support optimal performance delivery at international events through a robust system that athletes can benchmark their progress on. This 2023 canoe slalom selection policy has been developed by the Canoe Slalom Performance Working Group which is chaired by the Canoeing Ireland Performance Director (PD).It has been ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO, HPU and the Board of Directors.

## **1.1 Canoeing Ireland Strategic Performance Objectives – 2028**

By 2028, Canoeing Ireland will have a world-class high-performance system. This system will foster our full potential of being fully represented in canoe slalom at the highest level of international competition (Olympic Games, World Championships, European Championships) in all classes (K1W, K1M, C1W, C1M) and in all age categories (Senior, U23, U18) whilst delivering finals and podium performances.

Canoeing Ireland is targeting Olympic Qualification in all canoe slalom classes in 2023.

## **1.2 Olympic Qualification**

In 2023, the senior World Championships will act as the global qualifier for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The process for nominating athletes to the Olympic Federation of Ireland for selection to Team Ireland will be explained in a separate nomination policy later in Q4. The Olympic Federation of Ireland are the sole authority for all Team Ireland selection decisions.

# 2. Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible to compete for Ireland, athletes must meet and maintain for the duration of the 2023 competition season the following athlete eligibility criteria:

1. Be a current registered member of Canoeing Ireland who is eligible to represent Ireland at ICF canoe slalom events in accordance with ICF rules and have no outstanding debt to Canoeing Ireland or any of its technical committees.
2. Hold an Irish passport or be eligible to hold an Irish passport.
3. Is not under a doping violation investigation or serving a suspension/sanction for a doping violation.
4. Has attended a Canoeing Ireland Anti-Doping education course prior to team selection events.
5. Is fit to perform to the best of their ability.
6. Has signed the athlete agreement and the subsequent athlete contract.

# 3. The Key Stakeholders and process outline

The Performance Director (PD) is responsible for the development of selection policies. The PD will be advised by a CSL Performance Working Group (PWG).

## **Consultation**

Athletes will be consulted, and their input sought on the first and final draft of the selection policy prior to publishing.

## **Oversight**

The CEO, HPU and the CI Board will all have oversight of the CSL Selection Policy for 2023. The Board will have ultimate authority in approving the CSL Selection Policy for publication.

The CSL Selection Policy for 2023 will be released in Q4 of 2022.

# 4. 2023 Irish Canoe Slalom Team Selection Policy Terms & Conditions

4.0 Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this 2023 selection policy.

4.1 No athlete can be considered for selection for the 2023 Irish canoe slalom team if they do not meet and maintain the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2 above.

4.2 An athlete who for any reason, fails to maintain eligibility may be removed from the 2023 Irish canoe slalom team. Eligibility issues will be communicated in the first instance by the PD. Any athlete who has been removed from the 2023 Irish canoe slalom team will be replaced by the next ranked athlete.

4.3 Athletes for all major international events must comply with International Canoe Federation (ICF) Rules and European Canoe Association (ECA) Rules. Entry to ICF and ECA events is restricted to members of the National Governing Bodies affiliated to the ICF and the ECA. In Ireland, the affiliated National Governing Body is Canoeing Ireland.

4.4 The selection of an athlete for inclusion on the 2023 Irish canoe slalom team shall be confirmed to that athlete in writing by the PD within 7 days of the official team being agreed on and all appeals, if any, have concluded.

4.5 If an athlete's selection is made subject to that athlete meeting further conditions, such further conditions will be communicated as soon as possible to the athlete.

4.6 All entries of Irish canoe slalom athletes to events must be made through the Canoeing Ireland office following the selection of athletes pursuant to the 2023 selection policy.

4.7 Proposals to amend this 2023 selection policy may be put forward if amendments are necessary and such amendments are determined to be in the best interest of athletes and Canoeing Ireland. Proposals to amend this 2023 policy will be submitted to the PD. All proposed amendments must be ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO in the first instance and approved by the HPU and CI Board. All final amendments will be clearly identified and will be binding on all athletes.

4.8 Canoeing Ireland reserves the right to deselect or suspend an athlete who is under investigation for disciplinary offences under Canoeing Ireland /ICF rules. Any athlete who is serving an active sanction arising from a disciplinary matter will not be eligible for team membership. This includes doping offences.

# 5. The Selection Process

## **5.1 Pre-Selection**

Any athlete that has achieved a semi-final in the previous season (2022) in a senior World or

European Championships or World Cup will be pre-selected for the 2023 senior European

championships and World cup 1, and 2. These paddlers will also be selected for the 2023

senior World championships and World cup 3, 4 and 5, should no under 23 paddlers meet

the selection criteria, as detailed in section 5.3.

Nominated pre-selected athletes:

* Noel Hendrick K1M
* Ali McCreery K1M
* Sam Curtis K1M
* Liam Jegou C1M
* Robert Hendrick C1M
* Jake Cochrane C1M
* Michaela Corcoran C1W

Senior paddlers who attain a top 20 place at European championships, World cup 1 or World cup 2 will secure their place for the senior World championships, World cup 3, 4 and 5.

The senior paddlers who race European championships, World cup, 1 and 2 will record performance percentages (Q1, Q2, Semi-final and final). These will be ranked. The lowest placed boats will be open to being replaced for World cup 3, should under 23 athletes records senior performance percentages at their selection race (see 5.3.1).

If no U23 athletes record senior percentages at under 23 selection, the senior paddlers named in the 2023 team will race at World cup 3, 4 & 5 and the senior World championships.

## **5.2 Performance Selection**

The 2023 selection race for all u23 classes and available senior places in the women’s K1 and C1 classes will take place at La Seu D’Urgell (Pyrenees cup) , on the weekend of 25th – 26th March 2023 (may be subject to change within the ICF calendar). The selection ranking list for each class will be based on the cumulative results of the race (Final, Semi-final, Q2 results). Back up races will be nominated if required.

A performance percentage, based on the fastest competition race total on the course (at Q1 +

Q2 stage and at SF + F stage), can be recorded on each run.

The performance standards for selection are listed below in Table 1 and are benchmarked off the fastest international boat at the selection event. The purpose behind these percentages is to identify athletes that can race and compete for semi-finals and finals at senior and under 23 international events in 2023 and the future.

**Table1 . Senior, Under 23 and Under 20 Performance percentages**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | K1 Men | K1 Women | C1 Men | C1 Women |
| Senior | 107% | 124% | 115% | 135% |
| Under 23 | 114% | 129% | 120% | 140% |
| \*U20’s | 117% | 133% | 123% | 143% |
| **Best run of each day counts towards selection ranking, based on two results from the weekend.**  \*Used as a developmental tool to assist in identifying u19/u20 paddlers of an ability to gain experience. | | | | |

Competitors run time (raw time plus penalties) / fastest international time (raw time plus penalties) for the run being scored) \*100

* The result will be rounded to 2 decimal places (100th of a second / .00 of a percent)
* Run time in all cases is the raw time plus penalties for the particular run being scored.
* Paddlers will be automatically selected for under 23 team, if they attain age group (under 20 and 23) performance percentages.
* U23 Paddlers recording a raw time within the performance percentage standard, where no 50 second penalty has been incurred will be considered for a discretionary place on the u23 European championships team.

**5.3 Under 23 paddlers attaining senior percentages at Under 23 selection races.**

Under 23 paddler/s who attain a senior performance percentage (Table 2) at u23 selection 2023 will race at the senior World Cup 3, replacing the lowest ranked senior paddler/s who will be ranked on their performances at World cup 1, 2 and European championships.

**Table 2 – Senior performance percentages**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | K1 Men | K1 Women | C1 Men | C1 Women |
| Senior | 107% | 124% | 115% | 135% |

*If u23 paddlers do not attain the senior percentages, they will not be considered for selection to the senior team in 2023.*

**5.3.1 Qualification to senior World championships and World cup 4 and 5.**

Paddlers will be ranked in each class using their fastest performance percentage, recorded at World cup 1, 2, 3 and Euros (at all stages of competition) and the top 3 ranked boats will race at Worlds cup 4 & 5 and the European championships.

**Figure 1**. Logic diagram of senior and under 23 selection processes to reach World championships, World cup 4 and 5

Senior team (2023)

Under 23 selection (Pau, May 2023)

Race WC1+2

Euros

Attain U23 %

Attain senior %

Under 23 Worlds and Euros

Paddlers race World cup 3 / record performance %

Paddlers ranked on fastest performance percentage from WC1,2 & Euros

Top 20 at Euros, WC1 & 2 secures place

Boats ranked on % from WC1,2,3 & Euros

Top 3 boats race at WC4, WC5 and Worlds

## **5.4 Extenuating circumstances**

Extenuating circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable, and unforeseen. These include external forces, the International and individual effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, medically certified injuries and illness and other extenuating circumstances.

If an athlete is unable to contest selection, Canoeing Ireland reserves the right to provide further opportunities to compete at international competitions and championships subject to further conditions. Only athletes who have made a superior performance in the previous season (2022) including at the team selection event can apply for selection under extenuating circumstances (below).

Applications for selection based on extenuating circumstances, including certificated evidence of illness or other exceptional circumstances must be submitted to the PD no less than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the selection race.

## **5.4.1 Discretionary Selection**

If athletes are unable to attend the selection race due to genuine and verifiable extenuating circumstances they may apply for discretionary team selection. Discretionary selection will only be employed under the following conditions:

1. The class in which the athlete is applying for has available boat spaces .
2. The class is contested at the selection event, but performance percentages have not been achieved by at least one boat.
3. The athlete(s) applying for discretionary selection must have a recorded a semi final result at u23 world or European championships or have shown ability by recording a superior performance at senior level in the previous season

**Note**: A superior performance is defined as gaining a performance standard percentage at senior World cup, World or European championships, based on the winning K1M.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Age | K1 Men | K1 Women | C1 Men | C1 Women |
| Senior | 107% | 124% | 115% | 135% |

# 6. Extreme Slalom CSLX

## **6.1 CSLX Selection Round 1**

Selection to European Championships and World cups 1 & 2 will be offered to all senior team

members. Ranking will be based in the first instance on CSL ranking list, with kayaks,

alternating with canoes in order of their World ranking.

Men

1. Noel Hendrick
2. Liam Jegou
3. Ali McCreery
4. Robert Hendrick
5. Sam Curtis
6. Jake Cochrane

Women

1. Michaela Corcoran

Paddlers should accept or decline places at races before TBC

Any unfilled places will be offered to under 23 paddlers, in order of ranking at the under 23

CSL selection series.

## **6.2 Selection round 2**

Selection for remaining places at the senior World championships, WC4 and WC5 will be based on the individual results from WC1, WC2 and WC3.

Paddlers will be ranked on their progression through rounds at WC1, WC2, WC3.

Example - Where a paddler progresses to semi-final stage (last 8) they will be higher ranked than a paddler who progresses to quarter final stage (last 16).

Where there is a tie, the results of the time trial, using a performance standard based on the fast time recorded in the time trial will be used to differentiate between paddlers. This will be calculated to 2 decimal points.

Only paddlers who progress beyond the round of 32 (i.e., to last 16 of World Cup race 1,2,3) will be considered for automatic selection to World Championships, WC4 and WC5.

Paddlers will then be ranked on their time trial performances to inform an overall ranking list from WC1, WC2 and WC3.

The ranking list for the World Championships, WC4 and WC5 will be ordered as follows.

* Paddlers who secured a place in the rounds at the European championships
* Paddlers who have progressed through rounds at WC1, WC2 and WC3 are ranked on level of progression.
* Paddlers who recorded a time trial at WC1, WC2, WC3, ranked based on performance in time trials.
* Any unfilled places will be offered to the selected slalom team members who are attending the World championships, WC4 and WC5.

The CSLX team for World Championships and WC4 and WC5 will be confirmed in the week commencing 10th July 2023.

## **6.3 CSLX Under 23 and under 18 teams**

Selection to World and European championships

The CSLX team will be based on the combined results of the K1 and C1 ranking list of the under 23 selection event Pau in 2023

Any unfilled places will be offered to eligible paddlers who compete at WC1, WC2 and WC3, ranked in order of the CSLX ranking list following WC3.

# 7. Determining the results of the selection process

On completion of the selection process the following actions will occur:

* PD/PWG will create a ranking list of results
* The selection panel is convened
* The final ranking list for the participant athletes is presented to the SP by PD
* The selection panel will meet and review the results and approve the selection of the team (provisional subject to appeals)
* All participants are informed of the results of the selection meeting
* Any non-selected athletes are permitted to appeal within the defined process
* If appeals are received, they are dealt with through the normal appeals process
* If no appeals are received within the time period allowed the team as selected is confirmed as final.
* The PD will write to all successful athletes and inform them of their selection (provisional pending the signing of the athlete contract).
* The Selection Panel Chairperson will present the minutes of the SP meeting to the CI Board.

# 8. The Selection Panel

The Selection Panel (SP) will, after review of the results of the selection process, ensure that all proposed athletes meet the eligibility criteria prior to official selection confirmation. The SP can only consider an athlete who meets and maintains the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2, and therefore shall have the final determination, acting reasonably, as to whether an athlete meets the eligibility criteria

**8.1 Construct of Selection Panel**

The SP will be convened and chaired by the Canoeing Ireland Olympic Discipline Representative (ODR). The selection panel will be ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO. The SP will consist of the following 5 members:

1. The Olympic Discipline Representative (or another Board appointed member)
2. The Performance Director
3. One member of the CSIC (or another appointed member)
4. One member of the ICSC
5. One independent member\*

\*Independent member can be from another NGB or a retired canoe sport athlete from any discipline.

**8.2 Conflicts of Interest**Any member of the SP 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.

A conflict of interest might occur when, for example:

* A Selection Panel member is a club coach to a particular athlete vying for selection.
* A Selection Panel member is closely aligned to or is a member of a club for which an athlete vying for selection is also a member of.
* A Selection Panel member is a family member or close friend of an athlete vying for selection.

Or any circumstance where a Selection Panel member has a personal relationship with an athlete or athletes vying for selection which could influence his or her decision or stands to gain in any way from the outcome of a selection decision.

# 9 Key Competition Dates – Seniors –

Table 1 key dates for 2023

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Event** | **Location** |
| 25/03/2023 | 26/03/2023 | Selection Race | La Seu D’Urgell |
| 2/06/2023 | 4/06/2023 | World cup 1 | Augsburg, Germany |
| 9/06/2023 | 11/06/2023 | World cup 2 | Prague,Czech Republic |
| 16/06/2023 | 18/06/2023 | World Cup 3 | Tacen, Slovenia |
| 29/06/2023 | 2/07/2023 | European Championships | Krakow, Poland |
| 1/09/2023 | 3/09/2023 | World Cup 4 | La Seu d’Urgell, Spain |
| 19/09/2023 | 24/09/2023 | World Championships | London, UK |
| 5/09/2023 | 8/09/2023 | World Cup 5 | Vaires sur Marne, France |

Please note, these dates may be subject to change on the ICF calendar

# 9.1 Key Competition Dates – u23

Table 2 key dates for 2023

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Start Date** | **End Date** | **Event** | **Location** |
| 18/03/2022 | 19/03/2022 | Selection Race | Pau, France |
| 20/07/2023 | 23/07/2023 | Junior and Under 23 European Championships | Bratislava, Slovakia |
| 15/08/2023 | 20/08/2023 | Junior and Under 23 European Championships | Krakow, Poland |

Please note, these dates may be subject to change on the ICF calendar

# 10. Selection Appeal Procedures –

The Canoeing Ireland Athlete Appeals Process can be found on the Canoeing Ireland website link: <https://www.canoe.ie/governance-documents/>

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