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Canoe Sprint  
Selection Policy 2024  
**Senior**

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**0.List of abbreviations (in alphabetical order)**

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CI	Canoeing Ireland
DNF	Did not finish
ECA	European Canoe Association
HPU	High Performance Unit
ICF	International Canoe Federation
NGB	National Governing Body
PD	Performance Director
SP	Selection Panel

# **1 Introduction**

## **Purpose**

The Purpose of this selection policy is to outline the processes which will lead to the selection of athletes to represent Ireland at senior international canoe sprint competitions in 2024. The selection policy is designed to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances at World and European Championships, and World Cups in 2024 through a clear and objective selection process.

## **The European Continental Qualifier**

The 2024 continental qualifier for the Paris Olympic Games will take place in Szeged, Hungary on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. Only athletes who have achieved selection criteria for 2024 will be eligible to attend.

Athletes who have been successful in achieving a quota place will be nominated to the Olympic Federation of Ireland for official selection to Team Ireland once all eligibility criteria are in place and all internal appeals have concluded. There will be no race off required.

The Olympic Federation of Ireland are responsible for all selection decisions to Team Ireland.

## **2. Athlete Eligibility**

To be eligible to compete for Ireland, athletes must meet and maintain for the duration of the 2024 competition season the following athlete eligibility criteria:

- I. Be a current registered member of Canoeing Ireland who is eligible to represent Ireland at ICF canoe sprint events in accordance with ICF rules and have no outstanding debt to Canoeing Ireland or any of its technical committees.
- II. Hold or be eligible to hold an Irish passport. For the continental qualifier, all athletes must be in possession of an Irish passport.
- III. Is not the subject of a doping violation investigation or suspension.
- IV. Has attended a Canoeing Ireland Anti-Doping education course prior to team selection events.
- V. Is fit to perform to the best of their ability.
- VI. Has signed the athlete agreement and the subsequent athlete contract.
- VII. Has paid the required deposit by the deadline provided (see 11.1).

## **3. The Key Stakeholders and process outline**

The Performance Director (PD) is responsible for the development of selection policies.

### **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 Selection Policy for 2024. The Board will have ultimate authority in approving the selection policy for publication.

## **4. 2024 Irish Canoe Sprint Team Selection Policy Terms & Conditions**

4.0 Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this 2024 selection policy.

4.1 No athlete can be considered for selection for the 2024 Irish canoe sprint 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 2024 Irish canoe sprint team. Eligibility issues will be communicated in the first instance by the PD. Any athlete who has been removed from the 2024 Irish canoe sprint 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 2024 Irish canoe sprint 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 sprint athletes to canoe sprint events must be made through the Canoeing Ireland office following the selection of athletes pursuant to the 2024 selection policy.

4.7 Proposals to amend this 2024 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 2024 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 an athlete who has been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under Canoeing Ireland /ICF rules. This includes doping offences.

4.9 Athletes must have the required deposit paid by the stated deadline. Failure to adhere to this deadline will render the athlete ineligible.

## **5. The Selection Process**

### **5.1 Pre-selection**

An athlete who has won medals in the 2023 season (World Cups, European Championships, World Championships) is eligible for pre-selection in 2024. Pre-selection will only apply to the distance and age category that the athlete medaled in and will pre-select the athlete for World Cup 1 and 2 only.

There are no pre-selected athletes for 2024.

## 5.2 Performance Selection

Athletes may achieve performance selection at the April Nottingham Regatta (13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> April). At this event athletes will be ranked in accordance with their finished position within the criteria outlined below in Table 1. Local regatta rules will apply. Enquiries and protests must be submitted to the race organisers. Decisions made and upheld by the race organisers will be final.

## 5.3 Senior performance criteria

Table 1 – Senior performance criteria

Category	Performance Criteria – all distances
K1 Men	Top 6 Finish Men's A
K1 Women	Top 6 Finish Women's A
K2 Men	Top 3 Finish Men's A
K2 Women	Top 3 Finish Women's A
C1 Men	Top 6 Finish Men's A
C1 Women	Top 6 Finish Women's A
K4 Men	Top 3 Finish Men's A
K4 Women	Top 3 Finish Women's A

Developmental crew boats may be added to international events post selection at the discretion of the selection panel.

## 5.4 Performance criteria 5000m

The selection event for 5,000m will involve one event and will run as part of the *5K Series* (Appendix A – Key Competition Dates). The times shown in the table below will be used as a guide to assist in the selection of athletes for 5000m events. Athletes who finish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at this event and who meet the expected times will be eligible for selection for World Cup 1 and World Cup 2.

Event	Expected 5km Standard
Senior Men	~22:39
Senior Women	~25:48

## 6. Selection to the European Continental Olympic Qualifier

At the Continental Olympic Qualifier only one athlete per National Federation can race in any one distance per event. Therefore, the athletes eligible to attend the qualifier will be the

fastest of the Irish boats that contend the Nottingham Regatta while also reaching the stated criteria in Table 1 above.

## **7. Selection to European and World Championships-(Non-Olympic Distances)**

At the senior European and World Championships (non-Olympic distances only) only one athlete per National Federation can race in any one distance per event. Therefore, the athlete/s to attend the European and World Championships must be the fastest of the 2 Irish boats at World Cup 1 and World Cup 2 (by finished placing).

If athletes are tied after this process, ranking positions obtained from the Nottingham selection race will decide the winner. The successful athlete/s will be selected for the European Championships and World championships only.

## **8. Determining the results of the selection process**

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

1. PD will create a ranking list of results.
2. The selection panel is convened.
3. The final ranking list for the participant athletes is presented to the SP by PD
4. The SP review the results and select the team (provisional subject to appeals)
5. All participants are informed of the results of the selection meeting.
6. Any non-selected athletes are permitted to appeal within the defined process.
7. If appeals are received, they are dealt with through the normal appeals process.
8. If no appeals are received within the time period allowed the team as selected is confirmed as final.
9. The PD will write to all successful athletes and inform them of their selection (provisional pending the signing of the athlete contract).

## **9. Extenuating Circumstances**

Extenuating circumstances are serious, unforeseen circumstances beyond an athlete's control (i.e., illness, injury, family bereavement, etc) which genuinely prevent them from competing at the selection event.

If an athlete misses the selection event due to extenuating circumstances and that athlete has recognised international experience and is deemed to be of a suitable performance standard, the following protocols may be activated.

- a. The slowest ranked boat in the class/distance being contested may be required to race a head-to-head with the athlete(s) who could not make the selection event. This head-to-head will take place at Lough Rynn or another suitable site that allows for head-to-head racing within 10 days of the selection event. The winner of this head-to-head will be ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> boat for WC1 and WC2.
- b. If the class/distance remains uncontested (there is only one athlete selected) an athlete may be selected as the 2<sup>nd</sup> boat by discretion if that athlete has recognised international experience and deemed to be of a suitable performance standard. If

more than 1 athlete has applied under extenuating circumstances a head-to-head race off will take place.

**NOTE:** In the case of injury or illness, it is the athletes' responsibility to submit a letter from their medical practitioner (GP) a minimum of 2 days prior to the scheduled event. In all cases submissions shall be made to the PD. DNF's will not be eligible to apply for selection under extenuating circumstance however, circumstances where verifiable and obvious equipment failure occur during the selection event, these will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

## **10. 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.

The SP will be convened and chaired by a member of the board of Canoeing Ireland. The selection panel will be ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO. The SP will consist of the following 3 members:

- I. Member appointed by the Board of Canoeing Ireland with the relevant expertise.
- II. The Performance Director
- III. One independent member\*

\*Independent member can be from another NGB or canoeing discipline with relevant experience.

### **10.1 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.

## **11. Funding Process 2024**

For 2024, retrospective funding process will be in place. A tiered system has been developed which aims to support athletes who have achieved a specified result at World Cups and World



Championships.

### **Tier 1**

Athletes who finish top 5 in an A-final at World Cup 1 and 2, European Championships or World Championships will receive 100% funding (items covered are listed below). This is applicable to the Olympic distances/categories **only** (200m, 500m, 1000m) and includes crew boats.

Funding will be allocated retrospectively and will cover:

- Accommodation  
Official Transfers  
Accreditation  
Boat Hire

\*Flights and carriage of paddles will not be funded

### **Tier 2**

Athletes who finish 6-9 in an A Final or 1-4 in a B Final at World Cup 1, World Cup 2, European and World Championships will achieve 50% funding. This is applicable to Olympic distances/categories only (200m, 500m, 1000m) and will include crew boats.

Funding will be allocated retrospectively and will cover:

- Accommodation  
Official Transfers  
Accreditation  
Boat Hire

\*Flights and carriage of paddles will not be funded

### **Tier 3**

25% funding will be allocated retrospectively for athletes who finish 5-9 in a B Final and progress no further. This is applicable to Olympic distances/categories only (200m, 500m, 1000m) and will include crew boats.

As above, funding will cover:

- Accommodation  
Official Transfers  
Accreditation  
Boat Hire

\*Flights and carriage of paddles will not be funded

**Athletes who do not meet the specified results attached to Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 will receive no funding.**

## **11.1 Payment deadlines and costs**

To conclude the selection process and in line with eligibility criteria, athletes must have all competition fees paid prior to each competition see payment **dates in Table 2** below. Failure to meet this payment deadline will result in the athlete becoming ineligible for selection. All payment details and information will be dealt with in the first instance by the Team Manager.

**Table 2. Payment deadline dates**

Event	Payment Deadline
World Cup 1	April 19 <sup>th</sup>
World Cup 2	April 26 <sup>th</sup>
European Championships	May 29 <sup>th</sup>
World Championships	July 22 <sup>nd</sup>

For guidance, an approximate breakdown of competition fees is supplied below in Table 3. The cost includes airport transfers, boat hire, accreditation, and accommodation. Athletes who wish to stay outside of the designated ICF accommodation can do so but must organise and book this accommodation themselves and organise transfers separately, regardless all payments must be made through the NGB, and all deadlines must be respected.

**Table 3. Competition Fees - Approximate costs**

Event	Approx. Cost
World Cup 1	€890
World Cup 2	€890
World Championships	€1450

## 12. Ongoing Assessment

It is important that athletes understand that performances will be reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout the season. For the 2024 season, an athlete may be de-selected if sufficient evidence is available that the athlete is in breach of the Athlete's Code of Conduct, the Terms of Selection including eligibility, or the Athlete's Contract. The PD will engage with any athlete who is found to be in breach of any of the above.

## 13. Selection Appeals Process

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Location</b>
2nd March	Canoeing Ireland 5k Series- selection for 5k	Salmon Leap CC
13th/14 <sup>th</sup> April	Senior selection/British Sprint National Regatta	Nottingham
8th/9th May	European Continental Qualifier	Szeged, Hungary
10th/12th May	ICF Sprint World Cup 1	Szeged, Hungary
24th/26 <sup>th</sup> May	ICF Sprint World Cup 2	Poznan, Poland
13th/16 <sup>th</sup> June	European Championships	Szeged, Hungary
6 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> August	Olympic Games	Paris, France
21 <sup>st</sup> /25 <sup>th</sup> August	World Championships for Non-Olympic distances	Uzbekistan

#### **14. Appendix A – Key competition dates**

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