

Canoeing *Ireland*



*Kayak Cross
Selection Policy
Global Olympic Qualification Event
Prague 2024*

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Introduction

This policy will explain the selection procedures for any Irish applicant who wishes to be selected to attend the Olympic global qualification event (GQE) for Kayak Cross (KX) in Prague, Czech Republic (World Cup 2) in June 2024 in both men's (MX1) and women's (WX1) categories.

The GQE will act as a standalone event that will have one Olympic quota place available per nation. Three paddlers per gender, per nation can attend the GQE.

Purpose

The purpose of these selection procedures are to ensure the very best competitive boats in KX are selected to attend the GQE in 2024 with the intention of qualifying quota places for the Paris Olympic Games. This policy is performance focused.

Excerpt from the ICF qualification guidelines:

D.1.6. Kayak Cross Events - Global Qualification Competition

D.1.6.1 A Kayak Cross Global Qualification Competition will be organised by the ICF in 2024.

D.1.6.2 Only athletes who have not yet qualified an athlete quota place in any event in Canoe and Kayak are entitled to enter the Kayak Cross events at the Global Qualification Competition.

D.1.6.3 Each NOC can enter three (3) athletes per gender in the Kayak Cross qualifying events.

D.1.6.4 The highest three (3) ranked eligible NOCs in each Kayak Cross event will be awarded a quota place.

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in this selection process and to compete at the GQE, applicants must meet and maintain for the duration of the 2024 competition season the following applicant eligibility criteria:

- a) Be a current registered member of Canoeing Ireland unbroken since January 2023 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.
- b) Hold an Irish passport
- c) Is not under a doping violation investigation or serving a suspension/sanction for a doping violation.
- d) Has attended a Canoeing Ireland Anti-Doping education course prior to team selection events.
- e) Is fit to perform to the best of their ability.
- f) Has signed the applicant agreement and the subsequent applicant contract.

Terms and Conditions

- a) Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this policy.
- b) No athlete can be considered for selection if they do not meet and maintain the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2 above.
- c) An athlete who for any reason, fails to maintain eligibility may be removed from the 2024 Irish canoe slalom/KX team. Eligibility issues will be communicated in the first instance by the PD. Any athlete who has been removed from the 2024 Irish canoe slalom team/KX team will be replaced by the next ranked athlete, if applicable.
- d) 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.
- e) The selection of an athlete 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.
- f) 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.
- g) All entries of Irish canoe slalom/KX athletes to events must be made through the Canoeing Ireland office following the selection of athletes pursuant to this selection policy.
- h) Proposals to amend this 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 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 Board. All final amendments will be clearly identified and will be binding on all athletes.
- i) 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.
- j) There will be an entry fee of €25 p/p made payable through the Eventmaster online system

Competency requirements

To be eligible to enter into in the selection process all applicants must have the following competencies in place.

1. Have a minimum L3 Canoeing Ireland kayak skills award
2. Be able to demonstrate a successful roll in a dynamic environment
3. Be able to demonstrate efficient self-rescue (safe egress with all equipment)
4. Be capable of navigating the kayak efficiently in a dynamic environment

Those who do not possess a Canoeing Ireland L3 skills award but have gained suitable paddling experience nationally or internationally will be invited to submit evidence of same. This evidence may be submitted in video or written format.

During the practice run, if the selection panel deems a paddler not to be at a suitable standard, making a decision purely based on the safety of the paddler, the paddler will not be allowed to proceed to the time trial event. This decision will be final.

Oversight process

The CEO, HPU and the CI Board will all have oversight of all selection policies. The Board will have ultimate authority in approving this KX Selection Policy for publication.

Available Boats Spaces

As per the ICF rules, only three boats (not already qualified for the Olympic Games) will be eligible to race at the GQE, World Cup 2 in 2024. For clarity, this means that two spaces are available in the men's KX (one of the three is already pre-selected) and three spaces available in the women's KX at the GQE.

Selection Procedures

All selection stages will be overseen by the PD and the Canoeing Ireland Selection Panel.

Pre-selection

Irish KX athletes ranked 1-40 globally are automatically selected for the 2024 GQE.

For clarity – Alistair McCreery is deemed selected having obtained a global ranking position of 34 at the end of the 2023 season.

Performance Selection

A time trial (TT) event will be staged at Sluice, Lucan (Dublin) in March 2024 (date TBC).

A benchmark time will be established by a member of the men's international canoe slalom team (K1). As a minimum standard to be nominated to the selection panel, boats will achieve 109% (MKX) or less and 124% (WKX) or less, of this benchmark time. All boats will have one practice run (times not measured) and two race runs with the option to keep their best run as their preferred result. Boats tied after two runs will race again in the same format, if boats remain tied the tie will be broken using their previously discarded run. Times will be measured to the tenth of a second, ex *44.6 seconds*. Boats who have recorded a % closest to or less than the stated performance criteria within this policy ($\leq 109\%$ senior men, $\leq 124\%$ senior women) will be deemed successful and will be ranked accordingly prior to nomination to the selection panel (fastest boat ranked #1, etc).

Boats not meeting the required performance criteria will not be considered for selection. The process for qualifying to attend the GQE is not an experiential one.

Determining the results of the selection process

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

- The PD will create a ranking list of results
- The selection panel will be convened
- The final ranking list for the participants is presented to the SP by PD
- The SP will meet and review the results and approve the provisional selection of the boats
- All participants will be informed of the results of the selection meeting
- Any non-selected boats will be permitted to appeal within the defined process
- If appeals are received, they will be dealt with through the normal appeals process
- If no appeals are received within the time period allowed the boat selection is confirmed as final.

- The PD will write to successful participants and inform them of their selection (provisional pending the signing of the athlete contract).

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 and therefore shall have the final determination, acting reasonably, as to whether an athlete meets the eligibility criteria

Construct of Selection Panel

The SP will be convened and chaired by the Board appointed member with the relevant experience. The selection panel will be ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO. The SP will consist of the following 3 members:

1. A Board appointed chairperson
2. The Performance Director
3. One member of the Canoeing Ireland High performance Unit (HPU)

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.

Selection Appeal Procedures

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

Appendices

Appendix 1

Allocation of boat spaces to the European Championships, World Cup 1 & 3.

European Championships

Three boats per gender, per nation can race in the KX event at the European Championships (see appendix 2). To allow adequate preparation opportunities for boats already pre-selected for the KX GQE and boats already qualified for the Olympic Games, the team to compete at the European Championships will be:

- MKX – 1. The pre-selected MKX athlete (Alistair McCreery)
2. The MK1 Olympic Boat (Noel Hendrick)
3. The MC1 Olympic Boat (TBC)

- WKX – 1. The WK1 Olympic Boat (Madison Corcoran)
2. The first WKX boat from the Irish selection process that achieves selection criteria
3. The second WKX boat from the Irish selection process that achieves selection criteria

World Cup 1 – Augsburg

Four boats per gender, per nation can race in the KX event at World Cup 1. These boat spaces will be filled by:

- MKX – 1. The pre-selected MKX athlete (Alistair McCreery)
2. The MK1 Olympic boat **or** the MC1 Olympic boat (Noel Hendrick or MC1 TBD*)
3. The first MKX boat from Irish selection process that achieves selection criteria
4. The second MKX boat from the Irish selection process that achieves selection criteria

* Decided by who is the best ranked boat from the KX European championships.

- WKX – 1. The WK1 Olympic boat (Madison Corcoran)
2. The first KX boat from the Irish selection process that achieves selection criteria
3. The second WKX boat from the Irish selection process that achieves selection criteria
4. The third WKX boat from the Irish selection process that achieves selection criteria

World Cup 3 - Krakow

Four boats per gender per, nation can race in the KX event at World Cup 3. These boat spaces will be filled by:

- MKX – 1. The MKX boat who wins the Olympic boat quota place at the GQE*
2. The MK1 Olympic boat (Noel Hendrick)
3. The MC1 Olympic Boat (TBC)
4. A boat from the Irish selection process (discretion applied)

- WKX – 1. The WKX boat who wins the Olympic boat quota place at the GQE
2. The WK1 Olympic boat (Madison Corcoran)
3. The third WKX boat from the Irish selection process that achieves the selection criteria
4. A boat from the Irish selection process (discretion applied)

*If no Olympic boat quota places are won at the GQE, this boat will be the pre-selected MKX athlete, Alistair McCreery.

World cup 4 & 5

Qualified CSL Olympic boats will be selected automatically for these two events. The remaining team composition will be based on performances at European championships and World cups 1 – 3. Paddlers will be ranked on their respective placings at any of the four events. Example: A paddler ranked 14th at European championships will be ranked higher than a paddler ranked 16th at World cup 1. In the event of a tie, the time trials will be used, with

paddlers being ranked on their respective placing in the time trial at any of the four events. In the event of a further tie, paddlers will be ranked on their performance percentage, measured against the class winner, at any of the four events (European championships / World cups 1 - 3).

Appendix 2

Under 23 World and European championships

Representation at under 23 level, will mirror selection of the CSL team. Any vacant places will be available to eligible paddlers, based on the final ranking at the KX selection race, who gain performance percentages at that race.

U23 performance percentages

MKX	WKX
114%	129%

Ongoing Assessment

The Canoeing Ireland selection panel, prior to the GQE reserve the right to de-select any boat that has not shown a suitable performance and/or safety standard on international white water.

Appendix 3 – Dates of Events

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
TBD (March)	TBD	Selection Race	Sluice, Lucan.
15/05/2024	19/05/2024	European Championships	Tacen, Slovenia
30/05/2024	2/06/2024	World Cup 1	Augsburg, Germany
6/06/2024	9/06/2024	World Cup 2 (GQE)	Prague, Czech Republic
13/06/2024	16/06/2024	World Cup 3	Krakow, Poland
27/07/2024	05/08/2024	Olympic Games	Paris, France
12/09/2024	15/09/2024	World cup 4	Ivrea, Italy
19/09/2024	22/09/2024	World cup 5	Seu, Spain

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