





***Canoe/Kayak Freestyle***

***Selection Policy***

***Junior & Senior***

***2024***

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# Introduction

The Purpose of this selection policy is to outline the procedures for the selection of the best athletes to represent Ireland at the ECA European Freestyle Championships in 2024. The selection policy is designed to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances.

This selection policy will outline a robust system that athletes can benchmark their progress on. This 2024 selection policy has been developed by the Canoeing Ireland Performance Director with input from the relevant sub-committee. It has been ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO and the Board of Directors.

# 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:

1. Be a current member of Canoeing Ireland who is eligible to represent Ireland at international events in accordance with ICF/ECA 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

# The Key Stakeholders and process outline

The Performance Director (PD), consulting with the relevant sub-committee, is responsible for the development of selection policies.

## 3.1 Consultation

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

## 3.2 Oversight

The CEO and the CI Board will all have oversight of this Selection Policy for 2024. The Board will have ultimate authority in approving all Selection Policies for publication.

#  2024 Selection Policy Terms & Conditions

* 1. Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this 2024 selection policy.
	2. No athlete can be considered for selection for any Canoeing Ireland team if they do not meet and maintain the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2 above.
	3. An athlete who for any reason fails to maintain eligibility may be removed from the 2024 team. Eligibility issues will be communicated in the first instance by the PD. Any athlete who has been removed from the 2024 team will be replaced by the next ranked athlete, if applicable.
	4. 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.
	5. The selection of an athlete for inclusion on the 2024 team shall be confirmed to that athlete in writing by the PD or the relevant sub-committee within 7 days of the official team being agreed on and all appeals, if any, have concluded.
	6. 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.
	7. All entries of Irish canoe athletes to events must be made through the Canoeing Ireland office following the selection of athletes pursuant to the 2024 selection policy.
	8. 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 CI Board. All final amendments will be clearly identified and will be binding on all athletes.
	9. 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.

# The Selection Process

To decide which Athlete/s will be selected to compete at the 2024 European Championships, a selection competition shall be used. This competition is scheduled for February 2024 in Tuam, Co. Galway, subject to suitable water levels and favourable tides. If this event is cancelled, the Freestyle Committee shall organise a selection event at an alternative venue and date.

Athletes may achieve performance selection to the places available on the senior and junior teams in ranking order.

## Table 1 Selection Qualification Criteria

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Performance Criteria**  |
| Senior – K1 Men’s | Top 5 in selection competition |
| Senior -K1 Women’s | Top 5 in selection competition |
| Junior – K1 Men’s | Top 5 in selection competition |
| Junior – K1 Women’s | Top 5 in selection competition |
| C1 Men’s | Top 5 in selection competition |
| C1 Women’s | Top 5 in selection competition |

In the event of two or more athletes finishing a selection event with equal points their overall positions (and selection points) will be determined using the following criteria. These criteria reflect the current ICF rules. These rules will be applied in the order that they are written.

1. The highest score at the selection competition.
2. The highest scoring move performed in any of the 3 rides, scored by at least 1 judge.
3. The highest number of different moves scored in a single ride.

If this still does not break the tie, both competitors will receive the same selection points. The athlete ranked immediately below will be awarded a position two places lower.

If this still does not break the tie, and it is deemed by the selection panel that the tie needs to be broken i.e., it would be the difference between a team place and reserve place, both athletes will compete in another selection competition.

# Discretionary Selection

Discretionary selection may be exercised; however, discretionary selection will only take place after team places have been decided by the performance selection process, but before the selection panel meets to ratify the selection results

The selection panel may, following the completion of the selection process, consider written submissions from athletes who were unable to complete the selection process because of extenuating circumstances such as illness, injury, etc.

The selection panel will only consider submission for discretionary selection from athletes who have achieved as a minimum a semi-final placing in European or World Championships from the previous season.

# 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 will be convened.
3. The final ranking list for the participant athletes will be presented to the SP by PD
4. The SP will review the results and select the team (provisional subject to appeals)
5. All participants will be 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).

# 8 The Selection Panel

The Selection Panel (SP) will, after reviewing 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.

## Construct of Selection Panel

The SP will be convened. The Canoeing Ireland CEO will ratify the selection panel. The SP will consist of the following 3 members:

1. Member appointed by the Board of Canoeing Ireland with the relevant expertise.
2. The Performance Director
3. One independent member\*

\*Independent member can be from another sub-committee/NGB or a retired canoe sport athlete from any discipline who understands the process of team selection.

## 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.

# Key Competition Dates

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| European Freestyle Championships 26th – 31st August – Venue TBC |

# Selection Appeal Procedures –

The Canoeing Ireland Athlete Appeals Process can be found on the Canoeing Ireland website link: https://[www.canoe.ie/governance-documents/](http://www.canoe.ie/governance-documents/)

Revision history:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Amended by** | **Reason** | **Date of revision** |
| 1.1 | Performance Directory/CEO | Increase in team places available in C1 and junior categories from 3 to 5 | 17/01/2023 |

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