u

**Irish Wildwater Racing**

**Selection Policy**

**Junior, U23 & Senior**

**2024**

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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 |
| IWWR | Irish Wildwater Racing |
| NGB | National Governing Body |
| NODR | Non-Olympic Discipline Representative |
| PD | Performance Director |
| SP | Selection Panel |
| K1 | Kayak class |
| C1 | Canoe class |
| C2 | Canoe Doubles class |
| WWR | Wildwater Racing |

# 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 international events 2024, refer to Table 1 Table of races. The selection policy is designed to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances at the World Championships, the European Championships and World Cups.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2024 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Cup 1 & 2 | 14-16 June | Sprint & Classic | Veles North Macedonia |
| 2024 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Cup 3 & 4 | 20-22 June | Sprint & Classic | Mezzana, Italy |
| 2024 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships | 14-18 August | Classic | Sabero, Spain |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2024 ECA JUNIOR AND U23 Wildwater Canoeing European Championships | 3-6 July | Sprint & Classic | Engelberger Aa, Switzerland |

**Table 1 2024 International Races**

This selection policy will support optimal performance delivery at international events through a robust system that athletes can benchmark their progress on. This 2024 selection policy has been overseen 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.

# 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:

1. Be a current registered 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 event(s).
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), liaising with the relevant sub-committee, is responsible for the development of selection policies.

## **Consultation**

If timelines allow, athletes maybe consulted, and their input sought on the first and final draft of the selection policy prior to publishing.

## **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.

# 4. 2024 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 any Canoeing Ireland 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 2024team. 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.

4.3 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 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.

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 athletes to 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 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

The selection criteria for the National Teams are as follows.

**5.1 Senior Team: World Championships**

Team Composition:

Up to four competitors per class (Men's K1 and C1, Women's K1 and C1, Men’s and Women’s C2).

Selection Event:

Classic race, Inny 1, April 7th, 2024.

Points System for Selection:

* + 1st place: 9 points
  + 2nd place: 7 points
  + 3rd place: 6 points
  + 4th place: 5 points
  + 5th place: 4 points
  + 6th place: 3 points
  + 7th place: 2 points
  + 8th place: 1 point
  + 9th place and below: 0 points

Selection Process:

Points are totalled to create a ranking list for team selection. Points awarded only to participants in the selection event.

Special Note for C2 Crews:

* Eligibility for selection if they compete in four national ranking races.
* An individual competitor can pair with another selected competitor in C2 with the committee's discretion.
* Application for selection via email to the secretary and chairperson by April 1st, 2024.

**5.2 World Cup Races**

Team Composition: Up to six paddlers per class.

Selection Criteria:

Same as for the World Championships, but with more slots per category.

Selection Event:

Same as for the World Championships.

**5.3 Under 23 European Championship**

Team Composition: Up to four paddlers per class (Men's K1 and C1, Women's K1 and C1, Men’s and Women’s C2).

Selection Event:

Classic race, Inny 1, April 7th, 2024.

Points System and Selection Process: Same as Senior Team World Championships.

Special Note for C2 Crews:

* Same as Senior Team World Championships.

**5.4 Junior Team: Junior European Championship**

Team Composition: Up to four paddlers per class (Men's K1 and C1, Women's K1 and C1, Men’s and Women’s C2).

Selection Event:

Classic race, Inny 1, April 7th, 2024.

Points System and Selection Process: Same as Senior Team World Championships.

Special Note for Junior C2 Crews:

* Junior competitors can pair in C2 with the committee's discretion.
* Application for selection follows the same process as other categories.

**5.5 Masters competitions**

Since the entry is not restricted in master’s competitions, master’s paddlers are responsible for securing their own entries, but must inform the Wildwater Racing Committee in writing prior to travelling. Master’s competitors must also be individual members of Canoeing Ireland.

**6. Extenuating circumstances and Discretionary selection**

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, discretionary selection may be considered by the selection panel if there are available places on the team i.e. the place on the team is not already occupied by a selected athlete.

# 7. Determining the results of the selection process

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

* The committee 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 and
* 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 and/or sub-committee 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 a 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 CI High performance Unit (HPU)

**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. Selection Appeal Procedures

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

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