u

**2024**

**Ocean Racing Ireland**

**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 |
| ORCI | Ocean Racing Committee |
| NGB | National Governing Body |
| NODR | Non-Olympic Discipline Representative |
| PD | Performance Director |
| SP | Selection Panel |
| K1 | Kayak class |
| C1 | Canoe class |
| OR | Ocean Racing |

# Introduction

## **1.1 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 the ICF Ocean Racing European Championships, Azore, from 8 - 14 April 2024 and ICF Ocean Racing World Championships, Portugal, from 30 September – 6 October 2024, Junior Development Race, Fishguard BOR 13 - 14 July 2024. The selection policy is designed to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances at the World Championships, the European Championships and other international events.

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 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.

# 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 events.
5. Is fit to perform to the best of their ability.
6. Has signed the athlete agreement and the subsequent athlete contract.
7. Athletes must be aged between 16 – 18 years of age at the time of the Junior Development Race.

# 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**

Athletes will be 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 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.

4.3 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

Deadlines for expressions of interest for being selected for ICF Ocean Racing European Championships is 15 April 2024, for the ICF Ocean Racing World Championships is 31 August 2024 and for the Fishguard Ocean Race is 31 May 2024 and should be sent to: orcichairperson@gmail.com with their DOB, Parent or Guardian Consent (U18), CI number, Intended Event and Class.

Nominated Athletes must compete in one of the events set out in section 8 for the ORCI to assess performance. If there is direct competition for places, which there has not been before, the committee will produce additional criteria with adequate notice as per CI guidelines. Athletes will only be selected if they have demonstrated the ability to perform at the standard required to represent their country, which for Irish national events is a top 3 finish. Given the timing of the European Championships, performances in Irish national events during 2023 will be used to select the team to represent Ireland.

The selection panel reserves the right to exercise discretion when selecting the team to represent Ireland at the competitions listed in section 1 in the event of extenuating circumstances.

**Extenuating circumstances**

Extenuating circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable, and unforeseen including medically certified injuries and illness and other extenuating circumstances.

If an athlete is unable to contest selection, the ORCI reserves the right to provide further opportunities to the athlete to compete at international competitions and championships subject to further conditions. Only athletes who have made a superior performance in the previous season (2023) including at the team selection event, such as securing the top qualifier position or a top 60% finish in the European or World championships, can apply for selection under extenuating circumstances (below).

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

The Irish Team for both Championships will be announced at least two months before the event date.

# 6. Determining the results of the selection process

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

* The OCRI committee will create a ranking list of results
* The selection panel will be convened
* The final ranking list for the participant athletes will be 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 will be 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.

# 7. 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

**7.1 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)

**7.2 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.

# 8. Key Competition Dates

**Irish and UK races**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Domestic Races** |
| May 25th | Malahide Race |
| June 8th | O2C, Cork |
| July 6/7th | Tramore race |
| Jul 13/14 | Cahore Classic |
| Oct 12/13 | Killary Fjord Race |
|  | **International Races**: |
| Apr 8-14th | Canoe Europe Ocean Racing Champs, The Azore islands |
| July 15 – 16th | Fishguard Ocean Race, Wales |
| Sept 30 - Oct 6 | Ocean Racing World Champs, Madeira |

# 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/>

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