

Canoeing Ireland



**Canoe/Kayak Freestyle
Selection Policy
Junior & Senior
2025**

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1. Introduction

The Purpose of this selection policy is to outline the procedures for the selection of the best athletes to represent Ireland at the ICF World Freestyle Championships in 2025 for juniors and seniors. 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 2025 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 2025 competition season the following athlete eligibility criteria:

Eligible athletes must;

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. Not be under a doping violation investigation or serving a suspension/sanction for a doping violation.
4. Attend a Canoeing Ireland Anti-Doping education course prior to team selection events.
5. Be fit to perform to the best of their ability
6. Sign the athlete agreement and any subsequent athlete contract

3. 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 2025. The Board will have ultimate authority in approving all Selection Policies for publication.

4. 2025 Selection Policy Terms & Conditions

4.0 Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this 2025 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 2025 team. Eligibility issues will be communicated in the first instance by the PD. Any athlete who has been removed from the 2025 team will be replaced by the next ranked athlete, if applicable.

4.3 Athletes for all major international events must comply with the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Rules 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 2025 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 2025 selection policy.

4.7 Proposals to amend this 2025 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 2025 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

To decide which Athletes will be selected to compete at the 2025 World Championships, a selection competition shall be used. This competition is scheduled for 26th and 27th October 2024 in Tuam, Co. Galway, subject to suitable water levels. If suitable water levels are not in place for the October event an alternative date will be used. This date is the 9th and 10th November 2024.

The competition will be held over two consecutive days. If water levels are too low or too high on the second day, the results from day one will determine the selection, and vice versa.

Selection points will be awarded for each athlete based on finishing order of the combined score of their two top scoring rides:

- a. 1st place 50pts
- b. 2nd 47pts
- c. 3rd 45pts
- d. 4th 43pts
- e. Then 42pts, 41pts, 40pts etc.

Selection points will not be awarded when the combined score is zero.

The selection competition results will be decided by the total number of points from the two selection events. However, if water levels are too low or too high on either one of the days, the results from the alternative day will determine the selection.

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

Registration

A process for online registration will be developed. This registration will be published on social media and on the Canoeing Ireland website. It is the athlete's responsibility to inform themselves of the registration process and the closing date. Only athletes who register on or before the closing date will be allowed to compete in the selection event. No late entries will be accepted. If the selection event is rescheduled the registration process will not reopen.

A separate squirt trial will be scheduled once entry numbers are confirmed. An expression of interest should be issued to determine this. Only squirt boats will be allowed to enter.

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 3 in selection competition
Junior – K1 Women's	Top 3 in selection competition
C1 Men's	Top 3 in selection competition
C1 Women's	Top 3 in selection competition
OC1 Men's	Top 2 in selection competition
Squirt Men's	Top 3 in selection competition
Squirt Women's	Top 3 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.

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

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.

6. Discretionary Selection

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

Athletes must have registered for the selection competition to be considered for discretionary selection

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. Athletes who are unable to compete at the selection event must inform the Irish Freestyle Chairperson and the High Performance Pathway Representative no less than 24 hours prior to the selection event starting. Applications for discretionary selection will not be accepted otherwise.

Emails:

jamesoconnor@canoe.ie (High Performance Pathway Rep.)

freestylechair@canoe.ie

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 only.

7. Determining the results of the selection process

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

1. The Irish Freestyle Chairperson will create a ranking list of results.
2. The High Performance Pathway Representative will convene the selection panel (SP)
3. The final ranking list for the participant athletes will be presented to the SP
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 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. High Performance Pathway Representative (Board member)

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 their decision or stands to gain in any way from the outcome of a selection decision.

Key Competition Dates

World Freestyle Championships 16th – 21st June 2025 – Venue Plattling, Germany

Selection Appeal Procedures –

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

Revision history:

Version	Amended by	Reason	Date of revision
1.0	J. O'Connor	Draft – 2 event selection	22/08/2024
1.1	Jon Mackey	Draft amended	16/09/2024
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1.3	Jon Mackey	Draft amended	11/10/2024
1.4	Moira Aston	Amendments suggested	14/10/2024
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