

Introduction

For 2023 the focus is to qualify Paralympic quota places at the World Championships in Duisburg, while also providing racing opportunities for developing athletes across the classification categories. There are two selection points this year. The April regatta will be used for selection to the first World Cup, and the June regatta for selection to both the World Championships and the European Championships and World Cup 3. This approach enables those athletes focused on qualifying Paralympic quota places to prepare with fewer constraints.

All athletes wishing to be considered for Paracanoe Team selection during 2023 should complete the online registration document by 16th March 2023 <u>here</u> or link:

https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/para registration form

Athletes wishing to contact the IP in relation to the relevant provisions in this policy should do so via email to enquiries.internationalpanel@britishcanoeing.org.uk

SECTION A: PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Paracanoe selection policy is to clearly outline the processes which will lead to the selection of the GBR Paracanoe Teams for all 2023 international events named within this policy. It also aims to support the longer-term goals of the Paracanoe strategy to 2024 and 2028.

2. Principles

- 2.1. The primary focus of National Team Selection will be to optimise performance in Paralympic events in particular seeking to maximise qualification of 2024 Paris Paralympic Games quota places and K1/Va'a doubling up opportunities as laid out in 8.5.1.
- 2.2. The Selection Policy seeks to select the best athletes in a transparent way that prioritises optimal preparation time for achievement of international success.
- 2.3. Selection will support and encourage choice for athletes.
- 2.4. The Selection Policy provides opportunities to use places for development and international classification opportunities.
- 2.5. All eligible athletes will be considered equally for selection against the stated selection criteria regardless of club, training location, age, Home Nation and programme status.

SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

3. Paracanoe Regatta Eligibility

3.1. Regatta qualification 2023

Subject to receiving Special Dispensation (see Section 3.2.2) to compete at National Regattas including Paracanoe Selection Regattas athletes must:

- 3.1.1. hold a National Classification (to book a classification slot, athletes should contact macauley.allen@britishcanoeing.org.uk) in the sport class they wish to be selected for or be no more than 2 points over the defined cluster score for one test (leg, trunk or on-water) and also be within the correct cluster scores for the other tests for the sport class they wish to compete in (see classification overview for details of scores, clusters and sport classes).
- 3.1.2. have achieved the 2023 Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time (see Table 3- Paracanoe Performance Standards) in a <u>Paracanoe specification boat</u> at any of the below:
 - 3.1.2.1. A UK National or International Regatta (World Championship, European Championship or World Cup) in the 12 months prior to the relevant 2023 selection regattas (April 15th/16th, June 3rd/4th).
 - 3.1.2.2. Paracanoe assessment events For details, please contact (attila.herbent@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

OR

3.1.2.3. Be a Paracanoe Talent Academy Athlete with evidenced 200m training data in the 12 months prior to the relevant 2023 selection regattas (April 15th/16th, June 3rd/4th).



3.2. Assessment Events & Special Dispensation to compete at National Regattas

- 3.2.1. Athletes who have not achieved the Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time in the 12 months prior at an official competition should attend a Paracanoe assessment by contacting (attila.herbent@britishcanoeing.org.uk). If an athlete achieves 2023 Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time at an assessment event they will be eligible to enter the Paracanoe selection competitions on April 15th/16th and June 3rd/4th.
- 3.2.2. Athletes with a proven track record of performance within the past 24 months (Paralympic Games, World Championships, European Championships, and World Cup) who have achieved the Regatta Qualification Time for their event outside of 2022/2023 Official Regattas may be entered into selection competitions by receiving Special Dispensation by the Paracanoe IP. Athletes wishing to apply for Special Dispensation to enter selection events must do so, in writing, up to 2 weeks prior to the regatta race start time by notifying the Paracanoe Lead (or their designee) stating the grounds for the application and providing supporting evidence. The Paracanoe Lead (or their designee) will then submit an application to the Paracanoe IP who will consider along with evidence of performance based on the criteria in Table 3 of Appendix A.
- 3.3. A list of athletes who have achieved the regatta qualification time and performance standards will be published on the BC website at least 1 month before the selection event (by 14th March 2023).

4. General Eligibility

- 4.1. To be eligible for selection to any 2023 GBR Team, athletes must meet the following conditions (full detail can be found in British Canoeing's <u>Eligibility Policy</u>):
 - 4.1.1. Meet age, classification and nationality criteria for international competitions as outlined below
 - 4.1.2. Be a full member of British Canoeing or Home Nation Association that enables participation in competition
 - 4.1.3. Athletes on a funded programme need to have signed their Programme Athlete Agreement. Athletes outside Programme funding will also be expected to sign up to the British Canoeing Great Britain Team participation agreement on accepting selection at least two weeks before travelling to the first competition.
- 4.2. Selection will be based on results in selection races and subject to achievement of the relevant performance standard at a UK National or International Regatta (World Championship, European Championship or World Cup) in the 12 months prior to the relevant 2023 selection regattas (April 15th/16th, June 3rd /4th).
- 4.3. Where athletes compete in more than one eligible selection event, the policy will be applied in isolation for each specific event.
- 4.4. British Canoeing reserves the right to deselect an athlete who has been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under British Canoeing/ICF rules. This includes doping offences.

5. International Eligibility

- 5.1. Selection will be subject to eligibility in accordance with competition rules laid down by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) and the European Canoe Association (ECA).
- 5.2. The first year an athlete can compete at level 1-3 ICF competitions is the year of their 15th birthday.

SECTION C: GREAT BRITAIN PARACANOE TEAM SELECTION 2023

6. Paracanoe Team Selection Overview

- 6.1. Athletes may choose to compete in the April regatta (15th/16th April) for a place at World Cup 1 or alternatively may focus just on selection for the World and European Championships and World Cup 3 selection Regatta on 3rd/4th June at Holme Pierrepont.
- 6.2. The stand-alone selection point for the World and European Championships and World Cup 3 allows athletes to prepare for this without the constraints of a multi-point selection.
- 6.3. Selection for all events will be based on performances in the identified selection regattas and subject to meeting the performance standards in section 3 and Table 3 in **Appendix A**.
- 6.4. Selection to represent Great Britain at International Paracanoe competitions will be based on the ICF sport events. The current events raced internationally are 200m K1 Men, V1 Men, K1 Women, and V1 Women:



Table 1	Paracano Men's Ev	e Events ents	Women's Events		
Paralympic Events	K1 KL1 V1 VL2 K1 KL2 V1 VL3 K1 KL3		K1 KL1 K1 KL2 K1 KL3	V1 VL2 V1 VL3	
Non-Paralympic Events		V1 VL1		V1 VL1	

7. 2023 Paracanoe International Competitions and Selection Announcements

Announcements by the IP of selections made at identified selection regattas will be as per Table 2

î.	Table 2									
Event Type	Competition/Regatta	Venue	Date	Date of IP Selection Announcement						
Selection	Paracanoe World Cup 1 Team Selection	Holme Pierrepont, GBR	15 th /16 th April 2023	On www.britishcanoeing.org.uk by 5pm Friday 21 st April 2023						
International	Paracanoe World Cup 1	Szeged, HUN	11 th -14 th May 2023	N/A						
Selection	World and European Championship and World Cup 3 Team Selection	Holme Pierrepont, GBR	3 rd /4 th June 2023	On www.britishcanoeing.org.uk by 5pm Friday 9th June 2023						
International	Paracanoe European Championships	Montemor O Velho POR	27 th -30 th July 2023	N/A						
International	Paracanoe World Championships	Duisburg, GER	23 rd -27 th Aug 2023	N/A						
International	Paracanoe World Cup 3	Paris, FRA	30 th Aug – 1 st Sept 23	N/A						

8. Selections

- 8.1. Selections are considered on a first past the post system as described in section 9.
- 8.2. Selections are subject to achievement of the relevant Performance Standards as described in 2.3 and shown in Appendix 1.
- 8.3. Up to 2 boats per sport class in Paralympic events can be selected for all competitions.
- 8.4. **World Cup Szeged (HUN).** The World Cup Szeged is designated as a senior team event. Subject to 8.1 to 8.3 and achievement of the Senior performance standard, Up to 2 athletes will be selected per sport class in Paralympic events. Where a space has not been filled, the IP at its sole discretion may consider selections based on classification, development needs, and athlete trajectory, in line with the Paracanoe strategic aims for Paris 2024 and LA 2028.
- 8.5. World Championships Duisburg (GER) is designated as a senior team event. Subject to 8.1 to 8.3 and 8.5.1. and achievement of the Senior performance standard, Up to 2 athletes will be selected per sport class in Paralympic events.
 - 8.5.1. As the 2023 World Championships is also the 2024 Paralympic qualification event, an athlete can only secure one IPC quota slot per nation despite racing in multiple sport classes. If an athlete obtains a qualifying slot in both K1 and Va'a the nation quota slot will be awarded in Va'a and the K1 slot handed back. In certain sport classes this scenario can limit the potential for doubling up opportunities in Paris 2024. Therefore for the 2023 World Championships, where an athlete has been selected for 2 events at the domestic selection the IP reserves the right to prioritise, or not select one event for the athlete, in order to maximise the number of NPC quota slots obtained for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, and to position GBR Paracanoe Team to achieve the maximum number of medal opportunities, through doubling up, at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games in line with the primary principle of the policy outlined in point 2.
- 8.6. **European Championships Montemor O Velho (POR)** is a designated development event for which the IP will consider selections based on classification, development needs, and athlete trajectory, in line with the Paracanoe strategic aims for Paris 2024 and LA 2028. This provides a race opportunity for



New Athletes (previously not selected in the event) or Existing Athletes that have not been selected in an event (e.g., 3rd boat) for the 2023 World Championships in Duisburg (GER). To be considered for selection New Athletes should have achieved the Development Performance Standard (115%) and Existing Athletes achieved the Senior Performance Standard (109%). In addition athletes should have evidenced progression which puts them on a Paris 2024 and/or LA 2028 profile and/or a requirement for international classification in the event for which they are being nominated. The IP will assess athlete profile against the Paracanoe strategic aims for Paris 2024 and LA 2028. Factors considered include but are not limited to, achievement of performance standards, performance relative to standard of sport class internationally, strength and depth of sport class in the UK.

8.7. Selections in Non-Paralympic sports classes will be considered in line with Paracanoe strategic aims for LA 2028.

9. Calculation of ranking at Paracanoe selection regattas

Selection will consist of 3 races with the position in each race providing the final score awarded to each athlete. The best 2 positions achieved by each athlete will be taken into account to organise athletes into their final selection position. In the event of a tie in best position from 2 races an athlete's 3rd result will then be taken into account to award the higher placing to the athletes who achieved the best position in their 3rd race. In the event of a tie in position after the process above, an athlete's selection position will be decided by adding the 3 race times together and the higher place will be allocated to the athlete with the lowest aggregate time. Athletes must race in a minimum of two races to count in the rankings. In the event of a tie in position (exactly the same time in a race), then all athletes on the same time will receive the points for the highest place. In the event of a tie in aggregated time, a tie will be settled with the best single first result (time), then the second, until resolved.

Examples of the calculation of selection ranking:

Example 1:

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 1 Time	Race 2 Result	Race 2 Time	Race 3 Result	Race 3 Time	Best 2 positions added together	Position in Selection
Α	1	39.797	2	40.808	1	39.875	2	1 st
В	2	40.874	4	42.080	3	40.525	5	3 rd
С	3	41.274	3	41.675	4	41.777	6	4 th
D	4	42.413	1	40.025	2	40.125	3	2 nd

Example 2:

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 1 Time	Race 2 Result	Race 2 Time	Race 3 Result	Race 3 Time	Best 2 Positions added together	Position in Selection
Α	2	39.823	4	42.110	3	40.887	5	4 th
В	1	39.500	3	41.565	1	39.999	2	1 st
С	3	40.002	1	39.675	4	41.455	4	2 nd (121.132)
D	4	41.334	2	40.025	2	40.475	4	3 rd (121.834)

Example 3:

Athlete	Race 1	Race 1	Race 2	Race 2	Race 3	Race 3	Best 2 positions	Position in
	Result	Time	Result	Time	Result	Time	added together	Selection
Α	4	41.297	2	39.888	1	39.235	3	2 nd
В	2	40.325	3	41.220	3	40.378	5	3 rd
С	3	41.233	1	39.455	2	39.668	3	1 st *
D	1	39.413	4	41.565	4	40.675	5	4 th

^{*}In example 3 there is a tie for 1st place based on best 2 positions therefore boat c is awarded the win based on best 3rd (non-counting) race position



10. General Provisions

- 10.1. The IP reserves the right not to nominate, or to de-select for the World Championships or any international event, any athlete or reserve on the following grounds:
 - 10.1.1. Medical grounds i.e. when an injury/illness may, in the reasonable opinion of the IP, inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance and/ or mean the athlete cannot reasonably be considered fit to travel; or
 - 10.1.2. Suitability as a team member, where for example (but not limited to) an athlete's behaviour or attitude leads the IP to determine in its opinion that the selection of such athlete would be inappropriate; or
 - 10.1.3. Poor form i.e. when an athlete's form in events and/or training has decreased to such a level that, in the opinion of the IP, they would no longer be able to achieve the required level of performance to be competitive at the applicable competition(s).
- 10.2. Any decisions taken in accordance with 10.1, will only be made following consultation with the athlete, appropriate BC coaches and/or medical reports and in the case of 10.1.3 include reference to applicable performance standards.
- 10.3. A non-travelling reserve may be named in each individual event based solely on position in the identified selection race where performance standards have been achieved. In order of selection, named reserves will only travel in the event of injury or illness to a selected athlete or where a place(s) is declined.

11. 2024 Paralympic & GB Team Selection

11.1. As during 2023 in order to optimise qualification of Paralympic quota places may mean athletes are not selected to all eligible event(s), for clarity, no performances in 2023 will count towards any aspect of selection for the 2024 season. The IP will publish the 2024 Paralympic Selection Policy by 31st December 2023.

SECTION D: CONTINGENCY, AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

12. Contingency

- 12.1. The IP retains the right to implement contingency measures where circumstances arise that prevent full, fair and competitive racing and adapt racing to ensure as fair a selection process as possible. This may include circumstances such as weather condition and covid-19 implications.
- 12.2. The IP will monitor weather conditions ahead of a selection race, during the race and has a process for communication of real-time information.
- 12.3. If weather conditions or other significant issues arise making it inappropriate or impossible to conduct a selection race during or, in advance of competition, the IP may declare that a race(s) will not be used for selection and invoke one or more of the following non-exclusive alternatives:
 - 12.3.1. Rescheduling of any affected selection race(s) to early morning/ evening racing within the same regatta (if scheduling and weather conditions permit).
 - 12.3.2. Rescheduling of any affected selection races to an alternative competition (if appropriate)
 - 12.3.3. Rescheduling to a reserve date if available and appropriate.
 - 12.3.4. Amending lane draw for direct comparability of performances
- 12.4. Any decision made under these provisions of the policy will be made by a minimum of two IP Members and where possible, in consultation with the chief official.
- 12.5. All IP announcements relevant to contingencies will be posted on www.britishcanoeing.org.uk. During competitions, important information will be posted at race control on the live results messaging, on the British Canoeing social media or messaging App.

13. Exceptional circumstances

- 13.1. Should an athlete miss a Selection event due to illness or injury during, or prior to, elements of the 2023 selection process; or have any other exceptional circumstances, the IP reserves the right to provide an opportunity for such a boat to be eligible for selection. For the purposes of this clause, exceptional circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and unforeseen.
- 13.2. Where an athlete wishes to invoke this clause, exceptional circumstances requests should be directed to the IP prior to the commencement of the selection competition via email at enquiries.internationalpanel@britishcanoeing.org.uk and should provide:
 - 13.2.1. Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant exceptional circumstance.
 - 13.2.2. Any evidence the athlete wishes the IP to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other selected athletes.



- 13.3. To be considered for an exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level:
 - 13.3.1. For Senior Teams selection, the athlete should have made a final in that event at the Paralympic Games, Senior World and/or Senior European Championship in the previous 24 months.
- 13.4. When considering whether an athlete meets the criteria outlined above, the IP will consider the following:
 - 13.4.1. The athlete's training and racing profile (from GBR performance analysis data);
 - 13.4.2. ICF World Ranking, Performance at Paralympic, Senior World Championship, Senior European Championship and/or World Cup races within the previous 24 months.
- 13.5. Where the IP accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the IP reserves the right to:
 - 13.5.1. Identify a single race opportunity whereby the lowest ranked boat that has been selected and the identified athlete(s) would compete for a GBR Team place. If this situation arises more detail would be provided following the IP meeting immediately after the appropriate Selection race series.
 - 13.5.2. Where no athlete has been selected for the relevant event under this policy, accept the exceptional circumstances and select the athlete;
 - 13.5.3. Substitute the selection of the athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the exceptional circumstances request
- 13.6. All decisions under this Clause that relate to injury, illness (including Covid-19) or medical conditions will be determined by the IP members. When assessing if an athlete is fit to race, the decision of the IP is final.
- 13.7. The IP has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final and not subject to appeal.

SECTION E: GENERAL INFORMATION

12. Responsibility

The Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe IP (IP), which is appointed by and reports to the Board of British Canoeing, is responsible for all aspects of developing, approving and managing the implementation of the Canoe Sprint selection policies. The Terms of Reference can be found here.

13. Conflicts of Interest

Any member of the IP 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. If a person has any queries in this area, they should consult the British Canoeing Director of Governance.

14. Policy Changes

- 14.1. The selection policy may be amended at any time by British Canoeing for one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 14.1.1. Any changes in rules governing a particular event;
 - 14.1.2. Any change in ICF eligibility, rules or programme of events;
 - 14.1.3. To give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight
 - 14.1.4. To clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy
 - 14.1.5. Any other reason determined by British Canoeing at its total discretion that is in the best interest of British Canoeing and in line with the principles outlined for selection
 - 14.1.6. Circumstances arising from Covid-19
- 14.2. Any changes will be communicated on www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

15. Appeals Procedure

- 15.1. Certain decisions made throughout this Policy are not subject to appeal and where this is the case, specific reference will be made to the decision being final. For other selection decisions made under this Policy, the British Canoeing Appeals process applies and this procedure can be found here.
- 15.2. Guidance is available from the British Canoeing Performance Wellbeing Coach, zofia.campbell@britishcanoeing.org.uk. UK Sport funded World Class Programme athletes who require support and advice can also contact the BEAA at support@britishathletes.org.



16. Data Protection

- 16.1. British Canoeing is a privacy conscious organisation and is strongly committed to an individual's right to privacy. All data gathered during the selection process will only be utilised for the purposes of an athlete's participation in a GBR Canoe Sprint Team. This may include administering their event/race entry and certain information may be published as part of the results and rankings of the event/race.
- 16.2. Any personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the British Canoeing Data Protection Policy and in accordance with all applicable Data Protection laws in effect at the time of publication of this Selection Policy, including but not limited to, the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.
- 16.3. Further information on British Canoeing's approach to privacy and data protection, including British Canoeing's privacy notices, policies and contact details, can be located in their Privacy Centre (https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/privacy-centre). Should an athlete wish any data British Canoeing hold relating to them to be deleted at any point; they should contact British Canoeing at GDPR@britishcanoeing.org.uk.

17. Policies

This Selection Policy operates in conjunction with all relevant British Canoeing policies including but not limited to, Equality, Anti-Doping Policy, Pregnancy, Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying Policy, Covid Vaccination Policy and Anti-Bribery Policy.

18. Communications

British Canoeing is committed to providing open and informative communication in relation to selection. All athletes will receive formal confirmation of the selection and for those athletes who wish to discuss the outcome of decision made by the IP, the Chair of the IP will be available to speak informally to athletes and in the case of minors, parents.

19. Force Majeure

"Force Majeure" means any act, event, omission, cause or circumstance not within the reasonable control of British Canoeing or the race organisers, including but not limited to any strike, lockout or other industrial action, any civil commotion or disorder, riot, invasion, war or terrorist activity or threat of war or terrorist activity, any action taken by a governmental or public authority of any kind (including, without limitation, not granting a consent, exemption, approval or clearance), any fire, explosion, storm, flood, earthquake, subsidence, epidemic or other natural physical disaster. In the event of such Force Majeure affecting the application of the policy, the IP shall have the sole discretion, in consultation with the British Canoeing Director of Governance, to make a decision in line with the principles, strategy and mission of this selection policy.

-End of Policy-



Appendix A: Performance Standards

A Note on Performance Standards

Previous Paracanoe policies have used GMT (best time ever recorded) as the baseline for percentage performance standards. The 2023 Paracanoe Selection Policy is using an average of the top 10 world leading times (WL time) on record as the baseline. This method helps to smooth the data and eliminate any skewed results. In changing to this method, we do not wish to drop our selection standards for major senior competitions, and therefore the performance standard for these events will be 109% of WL time to align with the previous 112% GMT. We do however want to create more opportunity for new and developing athletes, and therefore will keep the 125% regatta entry and 115% development standard in relation to the new WL times

Selection will be subject to achievement of the performance standard set out below at a UK National or International Regatta (World Championship, European Championship or World Cup) in the 12 months prior to the relevant 2023 selection regattas (April $15^{th}/16^{th}$, June $3^{rd}/4^{th}$):

Table 3: Performance Standards								
		Rolling average of the top 10 fastest times	Team Selection time	Development Team Selection time	Regatta Qualification time			
Class	Classification	World Leading time (WLT)	Performance Standard (109% WL)	Performance Standard (115% WL)	Performance Standard (125% WL)			
Men K1	KL3	39.04	42.55	44.89	48.80			
	KL2	41.78	45.54	48.05	52.23			
	KL1	46.38	50.55	53.33	57.97			
Men V1	VL3	47.76	52.05	54.92	59.70			
	VL2	52.52	57.25	60.40	65.65			
	VL1	67.78	73.88	77.95	84.73			
Women K1	KL3	47.36	51.63	54.47	59.20			
	KL2	48.56	52.93	55.84	60.70			
	KL1	53.15	57.94	61.13	66.44			
Women V1	VL3	58.73	64.02	67.54	73.41			
	VL2	57.77	62.97	66.44	72.21			
	VL1	83.86	91.4	96.43	104.82			