

DRAFT Paracanoe Selection Policy 2024

All athletes wishing to be considered for Paracanoe Team selection during 2024 should complete the online registration document by 13th March 2024 [here](#) or link: https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/pre_registration_form (This will be available from January 2024)

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 2024 international events named within this policy. It also aims to support the longer-term goals of the Paracanoe Programme to LA 2028 and beyond.

2. Principles

- 2.1 The primary focus of the 2024 Paracanoe Selection Policy is to maximise medal winning opportunities at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, with a secondary focus on providing racing opportunities for athlete development across sport classes and classification categories.
- 2.2 The Selection Policy seeks to select the best athletes in a transparent way that prioritises optimal preparation time for achievement of successful performance at 2024 international competitions.
- 2.3 Selection will be based on results in selection races and subject to achievement of the relevant performance standard (Appendix 1) at a UK National or International Regatta (World Championship, European Championship or World Cup) in the 18 months prior to the relevant 2024 selection regattas, April 13th/14th (15th) and June 7th/8th (9th).
- 2.4 The selection policy is designed to enable athletes to develop individualised training programmes to best suit their competition goals.

SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

3. Paracanoe Regatta Eligibility

3.1 Regatta qualification 2024

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 ([here](#)) for details of scores, clusters and sport classes).
 - 3.1.2. have achieved the 2024 Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time (Appendix1) in a [Paracanoe specification boat](#) at any of the below:
 - 3.1.2.1. A UK National or International Regatta (World Championship, European Championship or World Cup) in the 18 months prior to the relevant 2024 selection regattas, April 13th/14th (15th) and June 7th/8th (9th).
 - 3.1.2.2. Paracanoe assessment events –
For details, please contact attila.herbent@britishcanoeing.org.uk
- OR
- 3.1.3. Be a Paracanoe Talent Academy Athlete with evidenced 200m training data in the 18 months prior to the relevant 2024 selection regattas, April 13th/14th (15th) and June 7th/8th (9th).

3.2 Assessment Events & Special Dispensation to compete at National Regattas

- 3.2.1.1. Athletes who have not achieved the Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time in the 18 months prior at an official competition should attend a Paracanoe assessment event by contacting (attila.herbent@britishcanoeing.org.uk). If an athlete achieves 2024 Paracanoe Regatta Qualification Time at an eligible assessment event they will be eligible to enter the Paracanoe selection regattas, April **13th/14th** (15th) and June **7th/8th** (9th).
- 3.2.2. Athletes with a proven track record of performance within the past 24 months (A Final at World Championships, European Championships, or World Cup) who have achieved the Regatta Qualification Time for their event outside of 2023/2024 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, at least 3 weeks prior to the regatta 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 on Appendix 1.

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 13th March 2024).

4. General Eligibility

- 4.1 To be eligible to be selected to any 2024 GBR Team, athletes must meet the following conditions (full detail can be found in British Canoeing's [Eligibility Policy](#)):
- 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.
 - 4.1.4. 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.

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). In addition, selection for the Paralympic Games will be subject to [British Paralympic Association](#) (BPA) and [International Paralympic Committee](#) (IPC) eligibility criteria.
- 5.2 The first year a junior can compete at World and European Senior Championships is the year of their 15th birthday.
- 5.3 Where athletes compete in more than one eligible selection event, the policy will be applied in isolation for each specific event.
- 5.4 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.

SECTION C: GREAT BRITAIN PARACANOE TEAM SELECTION 2024

There are three selection points in 2024. The selection points differ for events in which GBR Paracanoe have achieved NPC Quota Slots in 2023 and events in which GBR Paracanoe are looking to achieve the NPC Quota Slot at the 2024 World Championship/2nd round qualification (Table 1).

6. Paracanoe Team Selection Overview (Process for events where Quota slots achieved in 2023)

- 6.1. Athletes have the option to compete in the April regatta, April **13th/14th** (15th) for a place at the World Championships and European Championships. Alternatively, athletes may focus just on selection for the Paralympic Games selection Regatta June **7th/8th** (9th) at Holme Pierrepont.
- 6.2. The stand-alone selection point June **7th/8th** (9th) for the Paralympic Games allows athletes the option 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 linked to the performance standards (Appendix 1).
- 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:

7. Paracanoe Team Selection Overview (Process for events where Quota slots not achieved in 2023)

- 7.1. Athletes must compete in the April regatta, April **13th/14th** (15th) for a place at the World Championships/2nd round qualification and European Championships.
- 7.2. Athletes obtaining the NPC quota slot at the World Championship/2nd round qualification will be nominated for Paralympic Games selection. Nominations will be forwarded to the BPA for final approval following the June regatta, June **7th/8th** (9th)
- 7.3. Selection for all events will be based on performances in the identified selection regattas linked to the performance standards (Appendix 1).
- 7.4. Selection to represent Great Britain at International Paracanoe competitions will be based on the ICF sport classes. The current events raced internationally are 200m K1 Men, V1 Men, K1 Women, and V1 Women.

Table 1: Paralympic Quota Slot status	Men's Events		Women's Events	
Paralympic Events	K1 KL1 (not qualified) K1 KL2 (not qualified) K1 KL3 (Qualified)	V1 VL2 (not qualified) V1 VL3 (Qualified)	K1 KL1 (Qualified) K1 KL2 (Qualified) K1 KL3 (Qualified)	V1 VL2 (Qualified) V1 VL3 (Qualified)
Non-Paralympic Events		V1 VL1		V1 VL1

8. 2024 Paracanoe International Competitions and Selection Announcements

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

Table 2				
Event Type	Competition/Regatta	Venue	Date	Date of IP Selection Announcement
Selection	World Championship/2 nd round qualification and European Pool Selection	Holme Pierrepont, GBR	13 th /14 th (15 th) April 2024	On www.britishcanoeing.org.uk by 5pm Friday 21 st April 2024
International (selection for 2024 quota slots)	Paracanoe World Championship/2 nd round qualification	Szeged, HUN	11 th -14 th May 2024	<i>For new quota slot:</i> On www.britishcanoeing.org.uk by 5pm Friday 14 th June 2024
Selection	Paralympic Games	Holme Pierrepont, GBR	7 th /8 th (9 th) June 2024	On www.britishcanoeing.org.uk by Date TBC by Paralympics GB
International	European Championships	Szeged, HUN	13 th -16 th June 2024	N/A
International	Paralympic Games	Paris, FRA	6 th -8 th September 2024	N/A

9. Nominations – World Championships/2nd round qualification Szeged and European Championships

- 9.1. Nominations are considered on a first past the post system as described in section 11.
- 9.2. Nominations are subject to achievement of the relevant Performance Standards as described in 2.3 and shown in Appendix 1.
- 9.3. Nominations can be considered for up to 2 boats per sport class for all competitions.
- 9.4. **World Championships/2nd round qualification – Szeged (HUN).** The World Championships/2nd round qualification – Szeged is designated as a **Senior Team** event. Subject to 9.1 to 9.3 and an assessment of performance standard, up to 2 athletes will be nominated per sport class in Paralympic events.
- 9.5. In line with the selection policy, the IP at its sole discretion may consider factors such as, but not limited to (% from winning boat, primary event in line with the primary focus of the selection policy, maximising reserve athlete options) to nominate an athlete finishing outside of the top 2 positions in order that they can meet the eligibility criteria to compete at the Paralympic Games.
- 9.6. **European Championships – Szeged (HUN)** is designated as a mixed **Senior** and **Development Team** event. Consideration will be given to athletes who have previously competed internationally (**Senior Team**) and athletes without previous international start line experience or with classification needs (**Development Team**) that have met the relevant performance standard (Appendix 1).
- 9.7. All athletes racing at the April **13th/14th** (15th) selection event that meet the relevant Senior or Development Team performance standard (Appendix 1) will be nominated to the European Championship pool and a ranking order established (Appendix 2) by the first past the post system as described in section 11. Athletes will be required to accept the nomination for European Championships pool by Friday 21st April.
- 9.8. Following the Paralympic selection event, June **7th/8th** (9th) athletes nominated for Paralympic Games will be removed from the European Championships pool and up to 2 boats per sport class (in April regatta ranking (Appendix 2) order) will be named as the European Championship team.
- 9.9. Where no athlete has been selected to any one of the ICF sport classes (see 7.4), the IP may at its sole discretion consider nominating an athlete based on classification, development needs and athlete trajectory, irrespective of achievement of the performance standard.

10. Nominations - Paralympic Games – Paris (FRA)

- 10.1. **Paralympic Games – Paris (FRA)** is designated as a **Senior Team** event. Subject to 9.1 to 9.3 and an assessment of performance standard, one athlete will be nominated per sport class. Nominations will be considered in line with the primary focus of the policy as described in 2.1
- 10.2. Where an athlete has met the nomination criteria and is able to double up in K1 and Va'a, the IP will nominate the athlete for a primary event in line with the primary focus of the selection policy (2.1).
- 10.3. Nominations for double up events are subject to achievement of all other eligibility and performance standards in that event.
- 10.4. All Paralympic nominations will be forwarded to the BPA for final approval following the June regatta, June 7th/8th (9th).

11. Calculation of ranking at Paracanoe selection regattas

- 11.1 Ranking is based on the best single position achieved by an athlete from 2 races.
- 11.2 Where 2 athletes have an equal ranking for a position after 2 races, a race off will take place to determine final placing.
- 11.3 Should the race off result in a tie, the fastest time recorded in the first 2 races will decide the ranking.
- 11.4 The winner of the race off will be awarded the highest placing.
- 11.5 To be eligible to race off for a position, an athlete must have finished in that position or higher in the first 2 races.
- 11.6 At the April regatta, April 13th/14th (15th) all athletes that have achieved their relevant performance standard (**Senior 109% or Development 115%**) and subject to 2.3 of the selection will be given a ranking.
- 11.7 At the June regatta, June 7th/8th (9th) every athlete that has achieved the **Senior Team** performance standard (109%) and subject to 2.3 of the selection policy will be given a ranking.

See Appendix 3 for examples of the ranking calculation process

12. General Provisions

- 12.1. The IP reserves the right not to nominate, or to de-select for any of the 2024 international events revered to in this selection policy, any athlete or reserve on the following grounds:
 - 12.1.1. Medical grounds – i.e., when an injury/illness may, in the reasonable opinion of the IP, inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance.
 - 12.1.2. 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
 - 12.1.3. Poor form – i.e., when an athlete's form in events and/or training has decreased to a level which, in the opinion of the IP, would inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance.
- 12.2. Such decisions will only be taken following consultation with the athlete, appropriate BC coaches and/or medical reports. For the Paralympic Games, Paralympics GB will also be included in the consultation.
- 12.3. A non-travelling reserve may be named in each individual event based solely on ranking 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. Reserves will be considered up until the final entry and registration deadlines published by the ICF and IPC (dates tbc)

SECTION D: CONTINGENCY AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

13. Contingency

13.1 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 conditions and Covid-19 implications.

13.2 The IP will monitor weather conditions in advance of, and during a selection race, and has a process for communication of real-time information in this regard.

13.3 If weather conditions or other significant issues arise rendering 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.

13.3.1 Rescheduling of any affected selection race(s) to early morning/ evening racing within the same regatta (if scheduling and weather conditions permit)

13.3.2 Rescheduling of any affected selection races to an alternative competition (if appropriate)

13.3.3 Rescheduling to a reserve date if available and appropriate. Amending lane draw for direct comparability of performances

13.3.4 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.

13.2 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.

14. Exceptional circumstances,

Should an athlete miss a Selection event due to illness or injury during, or prior to, elements of the 2024 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

14.1 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

14.2 Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant exceptional circumstance.

14.3 Any evidence the athlete wishes the IP to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other selected athletes.

14.4 To be considered for an exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level:

14.5 Achieved the A final or placed in the top 3 in the B final in a Paralympic Event at the 2023 World Championships. When considering whether an athlete meets the criteria outlined above, the IP will consider the following:

14.6 The athlete's training and racing profile (from GBR performance analysis data);

14.7 ICF World Ranking, Performance at Paralympic, Senior World Championship, Senior European Championship and/or World Cup races within the previous 24 months.

14.8 Where the IP accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the IP reserves the right to:

14.8.1 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. Where no athlete has been selected for the relevant event under this policy, accept the exceptional circumstances and select the athlete;

- 14.8.2 Substitute the selection of the athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the exceptional circumstances request
- 13.2. 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.
- 13.3. **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

15. 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 & Paracanoe selection policies. The Terms of Reference can be found [here](#).

16. 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 Head of Governance.

17. Policy Changes

- 17.1 The selection policy may be amended at any time by British Canoeing for one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 14.8.1 Any changes in rules governing a particular event;
 - 14.8.2 Any change in ICF eligibility, rules or programme of events;
 - 14.8.3 To give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight
 - 14.8.4 To clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy
 - 14.8.5 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
 - 14.8.6 Circumstances arising from Covid-19 restrictions
- 17.2 Any changes will be communicated on www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

18. Appeals Procedure

- 18.1. The British Canoeing Appeals process applies to all decisions made under this policy and can be found [here](#).
- 18.2. Impartial guidance is available from the British Canoeing Performance Wellbeing Coach (TBC). UK Sport funded World Class Programme athletes who require support and advice can also contact the BEAA at support@britishathletes.org.

19. Data Protection

- 19.1 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 Paracanoe 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.
- 19.2 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.
- 19.3 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.

20. 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 and Anti-Bribery Policy.

21. 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.

22. 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 Head of Governance, to make a decision in line with the principles, strategy and mission of this selection policy.

-End of Policy-

Appendix 1: Performance Standards

Performance Standards					
		Rolling Average of The top 20 fastest times	Senior Team Selection Time	Development Team Selection Time	Regatta Qualification Time
Class	Classification	World Leading Time (WLT)	Performance Standard (109% WLT)	Performance Standard (115% WLT)	Performance Standard (125% WLT)
Men K1	KL3M	39.31	42.85	45.21	49.14
	KL2M	41.65	45.40	47.90	52.06
	KL1M	46.50	50.69	53.48	58.13
Men V1	VL3M	48.10	52.43	55.32	60.13
	VL2M	51.96	56.64	59.75	64.95
	VL1M	60.95	66.44	70.09	76.19
Women K1	KL3W	47.39	51.66	54.50	59.24
	KL2W	48.90	53.30	56.24	61.13
	KL1W	53.13	57.91	61.10	66.41
Women V1	VL3W	58.53	63.80	67.31	73.16
	VL2W	58.45	63.71	67.22	73.06
	VL1W	78.71	85.79	90.52	98.39

Appendix 2: examples for calculation of selection ranking

Example 1: Race off for 1st place only

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	1	4	Joint 1st	Y	2nd	2nd
B	3	1	Joint 1st	Y	1st	1st
C	2	2	3rd	N	n/a	3rd
D	4	3	4th	N	n/a	4th

Example 2: Race off for 2nd place only

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	2	3	Joint 2nd	Yes	2nd	3rd
B	3	2	Joint 2nd	Yes	1st	2nd
C	1	1	1st	No	n/a	1st
D	4	4	4th	No	n/a	4th

Example 3: race off for 1st & 3rd

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	1	4	Joint 1st	Yes for 1 st place with C	3rd	2nd
B	3	2	Joint 3rd	Yes for 3 rd place with D	1st	3rd
C	4	1	Joint 1st	Yes for 1st place with A	2nd	1st
D	2	3	Joint 3rd	Yes for 3 rd place with B	4th	4th

Example 4: Race off for 1st & 3rd with tie in race off for 1st

Athlete	Race 1 Result	Race 2 Result	Position after race 1&2	Race off (Yes/No)	Position in Race Off	Position in Selection Ranking
A	1 40.83	2 41.25	Joint 1st	Yes for 1 st place with D	1 st (tie) 40.45	2nd
B	3	4	Joint 3rd	Yes for 3 rd place with C	4th	4th
C	4	3	Joint 3rd	Yes for 3 rd place with B	3rd	3rd
D	2 41.50	1 40.79	Joint 1st	Yes for 1 st place with A	1 st (tie) 40.45	1st Fastest time in first 2 races