



British Canoeing - Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe International Panel Statement

Monday 17th May 2021

Following an exciting week of racing at the Szeged World Cup, the purpose of this statement is to provide an update on the process of Olympic and Paralympic qualification in accordance with the published policies.

Paralympic Qualification

Subject to confirmation from the ICF, Great Britain will be awarded a further Paralympic quota place in the KL2 M event for the Tokyo Games.

In line with the selection policy, subject to BPA approval the following athlete will be nominated for the Tokyo Games following the second round qualification process:

Event	Nominated Athlete
KL2 Men	Dave Phillipson

In addition from the April selection race subject to BPA approval the following nominations will be made for the Tokyo Games in events already qualified through the first round qualification:

	Men	Women
KL1	Ian Marsden	Jeanette Chippington
KL2	Dave Phillipson (as above)	Charlotte Henshaw
KL3	Rob Oliver	Laura Sugar
VL2	No Quota Qualified	Emma Wiggs
VL3	Stuart Wood	

Note – Doubling Up is permitted once at the Games subject to meeting classification requirements

Olympic Qualification

Following round 2 of the Sprint Olympic Qualification System (OQS) GBR is in the following position:

Qualified from 2019 World Championships:

Event	Selected Athlete	Reserve Nomination
MK1 200m	Liam Heath	Lewis Fletcher

Qualified from Re-allocated place from 2019 World Championships:

GBR were awarded a 'count back' place from the 2019 World Championships in the WK1 500m on Monday 10th May. In line with 5.5.3 in the policy, the following nomination will be made in line with the results from the 2021 April selection regatta:

Event	Nominated Athlete
WK1 500m	Deborah Kerr

Note – the Tokyo Games permits an athlete to compete in additional events at the Tokyo Games e.g. WK1 200m

Qualified from Round 2 Continental Qualification, Szeged, HUN:

Event	Nominated Athlete
WK1 200m	Emily Lewis

Note – the Tokyo Games permits an athlete to compete in additional events at the Tokyo Games e.g. WK1 500m

Nominated reserve for Women's events: (selected in line with 1.1 selection principles and the closest performer to the winning athlete (expressed in %):

Event	Nominated Athlete
Women's Reserve	Emma Russell

All nominations are subject to appeal and acceptance by the British Olympic Association to Team GB.

A summary of the process and the links to the policy wording is contained in appendix 1

There will be two entries to the Barnaul World Cup 2 and final qualification opportunity:

Event	Nominated Athlete
WC1 200m	Katie Reid
MK1 1000m	Charlie Smith

Selection to the 2021 World Championships

In line with the published selection policy any boat finishing in the top 5 and within the top 20% of the field and/or being the top ranked boat at April regatta and selected to Tokyo Games is selected to the World Championships:

Event	Men	Event	Women
K1 200m	Liam Heath	K1 200m	Deborah Kerr
		K1 500m	Deborah Kerr

Canoe Sprint Senior European Championships

As outlined in the statement of 30th April 2021, the European Canoe Association confirmed the staging of the Senior European Championships in Poznan, POL. Those athletes selected/nominated to the Tokyo Games will be eligible to attend.

Paracanoe will not attend the European Championships as announced on 30th April.

Questions?

The International panel recognises that the selection policy can seem a complicated process and in the situation that you have a question about the application of the policy or wish to simply discuss an aspect of the selection process then we would welcome the opportunity to assist. If you have any questions, please contact the chair of the IP, Paul Dimmock - email paul.dimmock2016@gmail.com

Appeals

The British Canoeing selection policy has a clear appeal process as outlined in the policy and can be found [here](#). **Please remember that any appeal must be submitted within 48 hours of the publication of this statement** to the chair of the IP paul.dimmock2016@gmail.com and andy.maddock@britishcanoeing.org.uk

International Panel

17th May 2021

Appendix 1 - Canoe Sprint Olympic Selection Process Explained.

The International Panel in making these nominations has been to apply the published selection policy which can be found [here](#). The timeline of events is critical in the application of the policy. It is also important to understand that the rules at Games have changed since previous Games, in particular the ability once a quota place is accepted for a country to have more than one athlete on the start line of an event. The process to nominate athletes in line with the published policy are:

Round 1 Olympic Qualification (2019)

Qualified from 2019 World Championships:

The 2019 selection policy determined how nominations can be achieved by winning Gold at the 2019 World Championships. This only applied to 1 athlete as below:

Event	Selected Athlete	Reserve Nomination
MK1 200m	Liam Heath	Lewis Fletcher

MK1 200m Reserve – Given the ongoing covid risk which has an increased risk of athlete substitution, following the 2021 April regatta the 2nd boat was named as reserve – Lewis Fletcher.

Qualified from Re-allocated place from 2019 World Championships:

GBR were awarded a 'count back' place from the 2019 World Championships in the WK1 500m on Monday 10th May which was before the start of the 2nd round Olympic qualifier. In line with 5.5.3 in the policy, the following nomination was made in line with the results from the 2021 April regatta:

Event	Nominated Athlete
WK1 500m	Deborah Kerr

Note – the Tokyo Games permits an athlete to compete in additional events at the Tokyo Games e.g. WK1 200m

It is important to recognise the difference between the two athlete quota places secured from the 2019 World Championships:

1. The MK1 200m event was qualified outright by Liam Heath winning the Gold medal and GBR were awarded a quota place alongside 4 other Nations. This was in line with the highlighted statement of 21st March 2019:

Subject to eligibility for Team GB, during the 2019 season there are only two opportunities that contribute to 2020 Tokyo Team GB Olympic team nomination:

1. Any GBR single or crew boat winning a gold medal in an Olympic event at the 2019 World Championships will secure a nomination to the British Olympic Association for selection to Team GB at Tokyo 2020 and the 2020 Senior World Cup & European Championships Team in that event.
2. Any GBR boat which qualifies an Olympic boat quota place for Great Britain at the 2019 World Championships will secure the equivalent of a race win in the envisaged 2020 Olympic Team three race selection process. In double boats the crew must remain the same crew and in K4's the 4 athletes must consist of at least 3 athletes who qualified the quota place at the 2019 World Championships.
 2. The WK1 500m event was not awarded to GBR until 10th May 2021 which is critical to the application of the policy. The IP recognise that the 7th place performance of Rebeka Simon in 2019 secured the quota place but at the time it was outside of the top 5 nation requirement. It is worthy of record that Head Coach Scott Simon spoke with Rebeka Simon to explain this process. Rebeka's 7th place finish in the 2019 World Championships qualified the place for GBR on handback, but as she then finished 4th in the 2021 April selection regatta she will not be nominated to Team GB. Whilst this process did follow ICF and British Canoeing policies precisely, we are of course aware of the impact of these decisions on athletes We know that Rebeka will understandably very disappointed not to be going to the Olympic Games in Tokyo. In applying the policy whilst acknowledging the statement in point 2 above, this was superseded by the statement below in the 2021 selection policy:

5.5.3 Important Note: In the event of Great Britain being re-allocated any Olympic quota place(s) after the 1st January 2020 that refer back to the 2019 Senior World Championships & Global qualification, subject to 5.5.3.1, the International panel in consultation with the BOA will at its absolute discretion determine if and how nominations are made. Any decisions will be made in line with the order from the original April 2021 selection regatta and this policy supersedes all aspects of the published 2019 and 2020 Senior Team Selection Policy including the announcement of 21st March 2019 as the opportunity for pre-qualification will be deemed to have expired.

The last minute nature of the confirmation of a re-allocated place required a quick turn around in order to provide the nominated athlete with the clarity of their position. A formal letter was issued to Deborah Kerr offering the WK1 500m nomination on Tuesday 11th May as the winner of the 2021 April selection regatta which enabled confirmation of the final team for the continental qualifier (2pm on 11th May was the team leader meeting at which entries are finalised). This was then published in an IP statement that was released on the afternoon of the 11th May to be transparent about the process ahead of racing starting on the 12th.

The re-allocation of the WK1 500m place was made in line with the published policy – specifically 5.5.3 and 5.5.3.2 below:

5.5.3 Important Note: In the event of Great Britain being re-allocated any Olympic quota place(s) after the 1st January 2020 that refer back to the 2019 Senior World Championships & Global qualification, subject to 5.5.3.1, the International panel in consultation with the BOA will at its absolute discretion determine if and how nominations are made. Any decisions will be made in line with the order from the original April 2021 selection regatta and this policy supersedes all aspects of the published 2019 and 2020 Senior Team Selection Policy including the announcement of 21st March 2019 as the opportunity for pre-qualification will be deemed to have expired.

5.5.3.2 Process for any additional places reallocated from the 2019 World Championships

In the event of GBR being reallocated any K1/C1 or K2/C2 quota places from the 2019 World Championships the highest placed boat at the April Selection regatta would be selected to Team GB

Round 2 Olympic Qualification – continental qualification (May 2021)

Following round 2 of the Sprint Olympic Qualification System (OQS) GBR ended with Deborah Kerr qualifying a WK1 200m quota spot by winning the WK1 200m event.

The Tokyo Olympic rules allow an athlete once selected in one event to enter additional events as long as they start in the event in which they are selected. Deborah as the WK1 500m nominated athlete will definitely start in the WK1 500m. The decision on whether Deborah will start in the WK1 200m event will only be made if it is determined as appropriate.

As the WK1 500m nomination had already been defined, the nomination of the WK1 200m event was made based on the published policy, specifically:

5.5.1 Continental Qualification: (stage 2)

- If GBR qualifies more quota places than the maximum permitted by the Olympic Qualification System (OQS) in the Continental Qualification event, in determining which quota place(s) to retain, the decision will be made with reference to the objectives of the GBR team not necessarily to specific athletes. At the Continental Qualification event each NOC can qualify a maximum of 2 Athlete quota spots and a maximum of one K1/C1 boat in each category.
 - In the situation that GBR qualifies a single boat(s) and a double boat in the same category (3/4 quota places) the double boat quota will be accepted to optimise Team GB's athlete quota spots and to reflect that one further opportunity exists to qualify further places at the Global Qualification event in the single boat events.
 - In the situation that more than one single boat quota place is qualified, in line with the OQS, GBR will be awarded and accept the place in the longer distance.
 - The athlete placing highest at the April regatta would be nominated to Team GB in any qualified event.

The order of the April selection regatta is referenced and with Deborah Kerr already qualified, Emily Lewis is next in line as the second placed finisher.

Event	Nominated Athlete
WK1 200m	Emily Lewis

Note – the Tokyo Games permits an athlete to compete in additional events at the Tokyo Games e.g. WK1 500m

The nomination of the Women's reserve boat is not explicitly stated in the policy and given that any selected athlete may 'double up' at the Games, the panel referenced back the principles for the policy:

1.1 Canoe Sprint Olympic strategy Tokyo 2021 through to 2028

The first round of Global qualification for the Tokyo Olympic Games took place at the 2019 World Championships where Great Britain qualified one Olympic Boat quota place in the Men's K1 200m event. This policy focuses on aligning performance delivery with the remaining rounds of the Olympic Qualification System and performance at the Olympic Games.

The target agreed with UK Sport is for British Canoeing to win one medal and an additional 'A' finalist at the Tokyo Olympic Games and to demonstrate a stronger base for targeting more medal success in Paris 2024.

The Junior & U23 Selection policy will also support the optimal performance delivery in Tokyo 2021 Olympic events and U23 athletes selected for the Olympic team will be required to prioritise Olympic team activity.

The task of the IP was to determine between Lucy Lee Smith (3rd place finisher in WK1 200m (106.81% from winner)) and Emma Russell (2nd place finisher in WK1 500m (101.19% from winner)).

Therefore the nominated reserve for Women's events: (selected in line with 1.1 selection principles and the closest performer to the winning athlete (expressed in %):

Event	Nominated Athlete
Women's Reserve	Emma Russell

Round 3 Olympic Qualification –global qualification round (May 2021)

There will be two entries to the Barnaul World Cup 2 and final qualification opportunity:

Event	Nominated Athlete
WC1 200m	Katie Reid
MK1 1000m	Charlie Smith

As both entries were also the winner of the April selection event, the situation is clear that if they qualify a quota place, the athlete qualifying that place will be nominated to Team GB in line with the policy extract below:

5.5.2 Global Qualification (stage 3)

- The Athlete placing highest at the April regatta in any qualified quota spot at the Global Qualification event will be nominated to Team GB.

All nominations are subject to appeal and acceptance by the British Olympic Association to Team GB.