

DRAFT British Canoeing 2024 Junior & U23 Great Britain Canoe Slalom Team Selection Policy

The IP shares this draft policy for consultation and welcomes all feedback to help the development of the 2024 policies. The policies represent the decision to base the disciplines of Canoe Slalom and Kayak cross on their own selection process in order to select the strongest team. Understanding the costs involved and volunteer time, a two venue Canoe Slalom process is combined with kayak Cross selection.

Please feedback on the policy [HERE](#) by Midday on Monday 13th November 2023.

Or at:

https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/canoe_slalom_selection_consultation

Thank you in advance

There are a number of specific changes proposed which in particular include:

- Junior Eligibility based on a set number on National ranking (rather than requiring a specific ranking in premier division.*
- An 'age range' Junior Performance standard introduced*

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 Canoe Slalom selection policy is to establish the selection process for the 2024 GBR Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom Teams for all international events named within this policy. This policy runs in conjunction with the separate [2024 Senior Team](#) policy published on 28th March 2023.

2. Principles

- 2.1. The primary focus of 2024 Junior & U23 Team Selection will be to optimise performance at international competitions in priority order of World Championships, European Championships.
- 2.2. The Junior & U23 team will be selected objectively based on the outcome of the selection series and is subject to an assessment of performance standards.
- 2.3. The Selection Policy and timing of selection seeks to select the best athletes in a transparent way that prioritises optimal preparation time for achievement of international success.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. Where athletes compete in more than one eligible selection event, the policy will be applied in isolation for each specific event.

SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND COMMITMENTS

3. Eligibility: To be eligible for selection, athletes must meet the following:

- 3.1. U23 Selection: All athletes must be ranked in premier division or top 40 of the 2023 ICF Canoe Slalom World Rankings at 1st Jan 2024.
- 3.2. Junior Selection: Athletes ranked inside the numbers of 2024 season eligible juniors stated below from the final end of season 2023 National ranking are eligible to compete:

MK1	MC1	WK1	WC1
25	15	25	15

- 3.3. All athletes meeting the eligibility criteria stated in 3.1 and/or 3.2 above wishing to be considered for selection to a 2024 Great Britain team should register for selection in order to confirm eligibility. The registration process can be completed [here](#) and should be finalised by 12pm on Wednesday 14th February 2024. Following the general selection registration process detailed above, athletes remain responsible for entering the appropriate race(s) before entry limits are reached. Entering the race is not registration.
- 3.4. comply with eligibility criteria in accordance with competition rules laid down by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) and the European Canoe Association (ECA) and the British Canoeing Eligibility Policy;

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- 3.5. meet the age criteria for competition (the first year a junior can compete at World and European Senior/U23/Junior Championships and Olympic Games is the year of their 15th birthday and the last year a junior or U23 can compete is the year of their 18th or 23rd birthday respectively);
- 3.6. be a full member of British Canoeing or Home Nation Association that enables participation in competition; and
- 3.7. hold a valid passport with a minimum of 6 months unexpired validity and hold a valid European Health Insurance Card or a valid Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). Details to apply for a free GHIC card can be found [here](#).

4. Performance Standards and Commitments

- 4.1. Subject to contingency, all athletes will be required to meet a performance standard to be selected under this Policy ('Performance Standard'), the assessment of which will be in accordance with the detail outlined in **Appendix A** and is enforced to ensure athletes are of the appropriate level for the competition they are being considered for.
- 4.2. The IP reserves the right not to nominate, or to de-select an athlete for any international event on the following grounds:
 - 4.2.1. Medical grounds – i.e., when an injury/illness may, in the reasonable opinion of the IP and a suitable medical professional, inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance and/or mean the athlete cannot reasonably be considered fit to travel; or
 - 4.2.2. Disciplinary grounds – where any athlete has been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under British Canoeing/BOA/ICF rules. This includes doping offences.
 - 4.2.3. 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).
- 4.3. Any decisions taken in accordance with 4.2.1, will only be made following consultation with the athlete, appropriate BC coaches and/or medical reports and in the case of 4.2.3. include reference to applicable performance standards.

SECTION C: GREAT BRITAIN 2024 JUNIOR & U23 CANOE SLALOM TEAM SELECTION

5. 2024 Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom Team Selection will take place in the following events:

Female		Male	
Canoe Single (WC1)	Kayak Single (WK1)	Canoe Single (MC1)	Kayak Single (MK1)

- 5.1. Selection for all events will be based on:
 - 5.1.1. **Stage 1 – Pre-Selection** - Any athlete who qualifies to the 2024 Senior Canoe Slalom Team in the top 3 who remains eligible for the 2024 U23 and/or Junior Teams will be pre-selected to those teams that they remain eligible for as top boat. If there are more than one athlete pre-selected in the same event under this clause, athletes will be pre-selected in the order of 2024 senior selection overall positions (see section 14 of the [2024 Senior Team policy](#)).

IP Note for consultation: the final policy 5.1.1 will clarify exactly who this applies to & in which event(s).

- 5.1.2. **Stage 2 – Selection** - In line with the selection process in clauses 6 to 10.

6. 2024 Great Britain Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom Team Selection Trials:

- 6.1. Subject to section 12 there will be one, 3-day competition over two separate weekends for Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom team selection, comprising of up to 6 races. Each day of racing will provide 2 runs in each event with both runs independently awarded points resulting in 6 sets of results.
- 6.2. All registered athletes to the selection process will be eligible to compete in the 6 single run races:

Races 1&2	Saturday 30th March 2024	Lee Valley
Races 3&4	Saturday 13th April 2024	Holme Pierrepont
Races 5&6	Sunday 14th April 2024	Holme Pierrepont,

- 6.3. The start order for all 2024 selection races will be the reverse order of 2024 National Divisional Ranking
- 6.4. The Back-up for this series would be dealt with within the dates above through the contingency outlined in section 11.
- 6.5. Equipment rules will be in accordance with the 2024 UK Canoe Slalom rules. The IP has provided further guidance in this area on its statement of August 2023.
- 6.6. For the selection races, the course designers will be drawn in accordance with the provisions detailed in **Appendix C**.

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7. **International Competitions Junior & U23 Teams 2024**

7.1. Subject to exceptional circumstances, the Great Britain 2024 Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom Team will compete in the following races:

Junior & U23 World Championships	Liptovsky Mikulas, SVK	2-7 July 2024
Junior & U23 European Championships	Krakow, POL	15-18 August 2024

8. **Calculating the overall 2024 Junior & U23 Selection results:**

- 8.1. For each event, results for each of the races in section 6.2 will be combined into a table (Final Selection Ranking Table) which will be ranked in descending order of total points achieved. There will be one table for U23 athletes and a separate table for Juniors.
- 8.2. Where an athlete who has been pre-selected to the 2024 Junior and/or U23 team in accordance with clause 5.1.1 chooses to race in any of the selection races, their results will be omitted from any event in which they are pre-selected and they will not be allocated any points in those event(s).
- 8.3. Points will be based on the finishing order of each race.
- 8.4. The points system used for each of the races is:
30pts 1st place, 27pts 2nd place, 25pts 3rd place, 23pts 4th place, 22pts 5th place, 21pts 6th place with point allocation reducing by one point for each subsequent placing down to zero points for any athlete placing in position 27 or lower.
- 8.5. The individual boat's best points scores from the six races (as specified in **Appendix B**) are combined to give their overall selection ranking points score as below:
 - 8.5.1. 2024 GBR Junior Team – The best 3 points scores from up to 6 races are used for overall rank.
 - 8.5.2. 2024 GBR U23 Team – The best 4 points scores from up to 6 races are used for overall rank.
- 8.6. Athletes are not required to compete in all six races of selection but should be aware that the final tie break does involve the final race of the series.
- 8.7. Where two or more athletes have the same overall selection ranking points score, their final position in the ranking table will be resolved by comparing individual races results in the following order:
 - 8.7.1. Best single result from the series (points)
 - 8.7.2. Second best single result from the series (points)
 - 8.7.3. Third best single result from the series (points)
 - 8.7.4. The lowest average percentage of counting results as calculated in accordance with section A.3 and A.4 of Appendix A.
 - 8.7.5. Best result in the final (last) race of the series (points)
- 8.8. Any juniors also registering for U23 team Canoe Slalom selection will appear in both (U23 and Junior) final selection ranking tables and their result each day will determine the points received in each table (which most likely will be different)

9. **2024 Junior & U23 Team Selection & Reserves**

- 9.1. Athletes & reserves will be selected in descending order of the Final Selection Ranking Table providing they have achieved the minimum Performance Standard. Those athletes who have not achieved the minimum performance standard (even when finishing higher in the Final Selection Ranking Table) will not be eligible. See **Appendix B** for an example final selection ranking table.
- 9.2. Subject to 9.1 and any Exceptional Circumstances or pre-selection through section 5.1.1., the top three boats in each event will be selected.
- 9.3. Named reserve boats outside the top three are non-travelling reserves that will travel only in case of withdrawal of an entry

10. **Selection meeting and announcement of 2024 Great Britain Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom Team:**

Following a meeting of the International Panel, 2024 Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom team selections will be announced on www.britishcanoeing.org.uk by 5pm on Tuesday 16th April 2024.

SECTION D: CONTINGENCY AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

11. Contingency

- 11.1. 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 typically include weather conditions.
- 11.2. The Chief Judge will have the responsibility to assess all circumstances and make necessary decisions relating to the timetabling of the event. The Chief Judge and IP will also have the responsibility to make any adjustments to the timetable following any delays.

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- 11.3. Should weather conditions or other significant issues arise making it inappropriate or impossible to conduct a selection race, then the Chief Judge and IP reserves the right to invoke any of the following non-exclusive alternatives in any way necessary to complete fair racing:
 - 11.3.1. Adjustments to race format/schedule/start or finish lines
 - 11.3.2. Early morning/evening racing under floodlights.
 - 11.3.3. Counting results from runs where a whole event/phase has been completed fairly.
 - 11.3.4. Reducing start intervals.
 - 11.3.5. Not changing the course between races.
 - 11.3.6. Changing order of events.
- 11.4. The minimum number of races that all Canoe Slalom GBR Team Selection series will include is 2.
- 11.5. Where possible, decisions made under 11.3 above will be done in advance of the start of a race(s) or event(s) that may be impacted.
- 11.6. 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.

12. Exceptional circumstances – 2024 U23 Team Only

- 12.1. 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 reserve 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.
- 12.2. 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:
 - 12.2.1. Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant exceptional circumstance.
 - 12.2.2. Any evidence the athlete wishes the IP to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other selected athletes.
- 12.3. To be considered for exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level in the event(s) they are applying for exceptional circumstances to be considered:
 - 12.3.1. For U23 European and/or U23 World Championship events, the athlete must have made a minimum of a canoe slalom and/or Kayak cross final result at the U23 World and/or U23 European Championship or Senior World and/or Senior European Games in the previous 12 months.
- 12.4. When considering whether an athlete meets the criteria outlined above, the IP will consider the following:
 - 12.4.1. The athlete's training and racing profile (from GBR performance analysis data) in the event(s) requested;
 - 12.4.2. ICF World Ranking, Performance at Olympic, Senior & U23 World Championship, Senior & U23 European Championship/Games and/or World Cup races within the previous 24 months.
- 12.5. Where the IP accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the IP reserves the right to:
 - 12.5.1. 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;
 - 12.5.2. Where no athlete has been selected for the relevant event under this policy or a team place remains unfilled, accept the exceptional circumstances and select the athlete;
 - 12.5.3. Substitute the lowest placed selected athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the exceptional circumstances request.
- 12.6. If this situation arises more detail would be provided following the IP meeting immediately after the appropriate Selection race series.
- 12.7. 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.
- 12.8. There is no opportunity for exceptional circumstances for 2024 junior teams.
- 12.9. **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

13. Acceptance of Team Places:

- 13.1. To ensure the most cost effective and efficient planning and to enable the appropriate logistics, selected athletes are required to confirm participation in each International competition as outlined in the team announcement. Any released places will be offered to reserve boat(s) on the understanding that the original selected athlete may apply to the Performance Director up to fourteen days prior to the date of competition commencing requesting re-instatement of their original place(s). The athlete has to satisfactorily demonstrate that circumstances justify the return of the released place from a performance perspective. The Performance Director will evaluate the justification and make the final decision which is not subject to appeal from any interested party.
- 13.2. In the event of a team place becoming available either within 2 days of the team travelling to a camp or competition or after the team have arrived at a camp or competition, then the Performance Director at their absolute discretion may nominate a replacement but the decision will be final.
- 13.3. Selection is conditional upon selected athletes on a funded programme having signed their Programme Athlete Agreement and completed a full medical disclosure and the fit to travel process. 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, completing the full medical disclosure and fitness to travel process and settle any outstanding payments prior to travel.
- 13.4. Once a GBR Team is selected, the Team Manager or Head Coach may optimise team event medal opportunities by filling unallocated team places with athletes selected in other events. This can also occur where injury/illness to a competing athlete happens. This clause is not applicable to individual canoe slalom events.

14. Responsibility

The Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross 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 Slalom & Kayak Cross selection policies. The Terms of Reference can be found [here](#) and the IP comprises the following members: Andy Maddock (Chair), David Spencer, Jim McConnachie, Mark Ratcliffe, Gareth Wilson.

15. 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.

16. Policy Changes

- 16.1. The selection policy may be amended at any time by British Canoeing for one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 16.1.1. Any changes in rules governing a particular event;
 - 16.1.2. Any change in ICF eligibility, rules or programme of events;
 - 16.1.3. To give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight
 - 16.1.4. To clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy
 - 16.1.5. 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
- 16.2. Any changes will be communicated and publicised on www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

17. Appeals Procedure

- 17.1. 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](#).
- 17.2. 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.

18. 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,

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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.

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 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, Pregnancy, Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying Anti-Bribery Policy and relevance disciplinary policies.

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/carers.

-End of Policy-

Appendix A: 2024 Canoe Slalom Performance Standards:

Calculation of Race Performance Standard

- A.1. The Race Performance Standard is based upon the Best Single Run Score (BSRS) achieved by the event **winner** in a given race. The athlete posting the BSRS must have entered the race (e.g. demos do not count but a pre-selected boat who has entered the race would count). Performance Standards in all events are worked on scores (accuracy 0.01 seconds) as a % of the BSRS achieved on each race.

Example percentage calculation on single run

Class BSRS - K1W = 94.44 secs total; 5th place K1W: score = 105.93 secs total, thus 5th place K1W percentage: 112.20%. As this result is less than 113.0% the Performance Standard has been achieved.

Calculation of Average Performance Standard

- A.2. Performance Standards can be achieved on any race in the up to 6 race series.
 A.3. The table below details the number of race runs that will be used to calculate an athlete's average Performance Standard.

Team	Number of race runs to calculate performance standard (rounded up to nearest whole number if fewer races completed)
U23 Team	Best 3 from up to 6
Junior Team	Best 2 from up to 6

- A.4. The tiered system accounts for development at junior level to performance at senior level.
Example average performance standard calculation

U23 - $(102.74\% + 101.11\% + 102.04\%) / 3 = 101.96\%$

Junior - $(105.34\% + 101.75\%) / 2 = 103.55\%$

Performance Standards for 2024 Great Britain Canoe Slalom Teams:

- A.5. Subject to contingency, Performance Standards will be strictly applied as outlined below. If an athlete achieves the minimum average Performance Standard from up to 6 opportunities, they are deemed to have met the Performance Standard. Performance Standards can be achieved on any run in the race series.

	MK1	WK1	MC1	WC1
U23 Team	<109%	<117%	<112%	<119%
JUNIOR U18	<116%	<127%	<124%	<144%
JUNIOR U17	<118%	<129%	<126%	<146%

IP Note ref Performance standards: The IP proposes the introduction of a second tier of performance standards for those who are not in their last year as a junior. This provides an opportunity for younger athletes to be selected if they make the specified standard.

Canoe Slalom Performance Standard Methodology and Ongoing Review

- A.6. The percentage performance criteria have been adjusted based upon data from the period 2009-2019 and 2021-2023 and have been re-assessed for 2024. The Performance Standards do not reference the 2020 season due to International data not being fully representative. The senior age range percentages are based upon a top 20 placing at senior world cups and world championships (rounded up to the next round number) relative to the class winner. These standards are based on a three year rolling average with the exception of the C1W class which is based on a 2 year rolling average to reflect the continued development of the class. The U23 and Junior percentages are calculated from these percentages relative to the percentages which existed in the 2023 policies.

Appendix B: 2024 Canoe Slalom Final Ranking Table & Application of Performance Standards

This table will be updated for the final policy

Appendix C: 2024 Junior & U23 Course Design

Course Design Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom Team Selection Races

- C.1. For the races outlined in section 6.2, the course designers for all selection races detailed in this Policy will be drawn as follows:
 - C.1.1. Races 1 & 2 - on Friday 29th March 2024.
 - C.1.2. Races 3,4, 5 & 6 – on Friday 12th April 2024
- C.2. Two coaches are responsible for the course design for each phase of selection racing: Races 1 & 2, Races 3 & 4 and races 5 & 6 and they will be drawn as follows:
 - C.2.1. Draw 1 contains technical coaches from the UK Academy Programme or substitute approved in advance by the IP.
 - C.2.2. Draw 2 contains employed coaches from Scotland (1), Wales (1) England Talent (2)
- C.3. The appointed Chief Judge will be involved directly in the course design proposals. Following the course design draw, course designs are to be submitted to the Chief Judge. Course approval takes place immediately following demonstration runs. Final pole adjustments are made by the course designers (or delegated to the Performance Director) in consultation with the Chief Judge.
- C.4. Subject to contingency and changes for safety reasons, course configurations will be set and will remain in place from 14 January 2024 for Lee Valley. Course design will reflect 2024 ICF rules and 2023 start and finish lines in Lee Valley.