

**OCEAN RACING
SELECTION POLICY FOR GREAT BRITAIN REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS AT
ICF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP & WORLD CUP EVENTS**

A. Background

British Canoeing is the national governing body for paddlesports in the UK and the National Federation recognised by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) in the UK.

Ocean Racing in the UK is a discipline recognised by British Canoeing. In the absence of an elected Committee formally administering Ocean Racing the below policy outlines the eligibility criteria and selection policy for individuals wishing to represent Great Britain at ICF Ocean Racing World Championships, ICF Ocean Racing World Cup and ICF sanctioned Ocean Racing events.

This policy may be amended or supplemented by British Canoeing at its discretion in order to achieve the organisation's objectives and to cover exceptional circumstances. Every effort will be made to ensure as much notice as possible is given to all persons affected by any change.

A. Eligibility for National Team Selection

1. Must be a Member of British Canoeing.
2. For International Competitions the ICF competition rules will apply*. These are as follows:
 - a. An athlete that has competed internationally at any level in the last 3 years requires authorisation from the ICF and the national federation of the original country in order to change sporting nationality.
 - b. For an athlete to be eligible for a change of sporting nationality they must have lived in that country for the last two years.
 - c. The request of the change of nationality must be made in writing to the ICF no later than 30 November the year before the competitor wants to compete (e.g 30th November 2017 to be eligible to for British Canoeing from 1 January 2018).
 - d. For the Olympic Games the Olympic Charter rules will be applied for nationality issues. For athletes to be eligible for the Olympic and Paralympic Games they must hold citizenship/nationality of the country that they participate for at the time of the qualification event.
 - e. A competitor may not compete for more than one Federation in any calendar year (1 January to 31 December) in canoeing.
3. The same procedure and rules apply, should the Competitor decide he/she wants to change back to compete for his/her Federation of origin:
 - a. The Competitor will not be able to do so if they have already competed internationally at any level in that calendar year and will have to wait until the following year.
 - b. The Competitor will need to obtain a release/approval in writing from the Federation they have been competing for.
 - c. The release/approval will be submitted by British Canoeing to the ICF for its approval (submitted by 30th November) for the Competitor to compete for a new country in the following year.

Additional regulations may apply regarding eligibility to represent Great Britain at specific competitions.

B. Costs

Any athlete wishing to be selected to represent Great Britain at ICF Ocean Racing events will be responsible for meeting all costs of entry including, but not limited to, entry fee, accommodation, transport, equipment, coaching, insurance, medical expenses etc.

C. Policies & Conduct

All athletes and staff must abide by all relevant British Canoeing policies including Anti-Doping Policy and Code of Conduct. All relevant policies can be found on the British Canoeing website.

D. Application for Selection

Each year, the ICF publish an International Calendar from which a programme of International Events open for entry will be available from British Canoeing.

Any athlete who fulfils the above Eligibility Criteria wishing to be considered for selection must contact British Canoeing in writing (email: events@britishcanoeing.org.uk) at least 3 months prior to the respective event providing the below details:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- British Canoeing membership number
- Proof of meeting eligibility criteria
- Name and date of event(s) they wish to enter
- Information regarding paddling experience should include length of time paddling, UK and international Ocean Racing experience and competition results
- A statement confirming they will abide by all relevant British Canoeing policies and understand there are solely responsible for meeting all costs associated with entering the event(s)

Applicants must demonstrate suitable experience of racing over typical World Championship / World Cup racing distances (17-30km) offshore.

E. Selection Application Assessment

British Canoeing will convene a 3 person Selection Panel to review all applications received.

The Selection Panel will first assess applications against the Eligibility Criteria.

Where there is no entry limit for the event, or less applications have been made than the entry limit, the Selection Panel will assess the respective application(s) to determine whether they are at an appropriate level for safe international competition.

Where more applications have been made than there are places available, selection will be made according to level of experience and previous results.

F. APPEALS

If there is dissatisfaction with a decision of the Selection Panel/Selection Committee (this process applies to all British Canoeing selections) this two stage process will apply:

1. REVIEW:

- 1.1 A written request for a formal review is submitted in the first instance to the Chair of the Selection Panel who will carry out a review with the Selection Panel.
- 1.2 This must be done within 48 hours of the selection being announced or communicated to the athlete whichever is later.
- 1.3 Within 24 hours the Chair of the Selection Panel will advise in writing the outcome of the review and the Selection Panel decision.

2. APPEAL

- 2.1 If following the review the athlete wishes to formally appeal the decision then a written notice of appeal must be submitted to British Canoeing Head of Governance within 48 hours of receiving the outcome of the review.

3. NOTICE OF APPEAL

- 3.1 The Notice of Appeal will set out the ground of the appeal and will include full details of the basis of the appeal including the precise manner in which the appellant alleges the selection criteria have not been followed. The Notice of Appeal should be as full as possible as it will form the basis of the remainder of this procedure.

4. GROUND OF APPEAL

- 4.1 The sole grounds of appeal against the decision of any selection panel will be that there has been a failure to follow the applicable selection criteria or that the selection panel reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact. This Appeals process is provided on these limited grounds only and must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the selection panel where they have followed the proper procedure.
- 4.2 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published selection criteria and therefore against the actions of the selection panel, provided they follow the selection criteria.

5. APPEAL PANEL

- 5.1 The Head of Governance and Compliance will convene a three person Panel to determine the appeal.
- 5.2 The Appeal Panel shall contact the Chairman of the Selection Panel to inform him of the Appeal, provide him with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Chairman provides any response which he wishes to make on behalf of the Selection Panel within 24 hours of receiving the notification.
- 5.3 The Appeal Panel will determine based on the written submissions of the athlete and the Selection Panel/Committee without a hearing or the calling of witnesses or the giving of oral evidence. It will seek to reach its conclusion within 5 working days of receipt of the Notice, and will inform all interested parties in writing.
- 5.4 The Appeal Panel will be entitled to rescind the decision of the selection Panel and confirm the selection of the Athlete only in clear cases where the Selection Policy has not been followed and it is plain that had it been followed the Athlete would have been selected.
- 5.5 The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to confirm the decision of the Selection panel and reject the Appeal.
- 5.6 The Appeal Panel may also quash the selection decision and remit the matter back to the Selection Panel identifying the errors they have identified in the conduct of the Selection process and requesting that a new decision is made within one week.

5.7 At its discretion the Appeal Panel may also make an award for appeal costs up to a maximum of £200

6. FINAL AND BINDING

6.1 This is intended to be an accelerated process to enable any challenge to be resolved as quickly as is reasonably possible. Due to the nature of selection for events, decisions often need to be taken shortly before the events to which the selection relates. Furthermore, there is a considerable potential for 'knock on' to athlete preparation related to the outcome of the appeal.

6.2 The aim of this process is to return a decision on appeal in a timely manner. If the athlete fails to adhere to the time limits set out in this process he or she will have lost their right of appeal under this procedure, save in wholly exceptional circumstances which will be judged by the CEO of British Canoeing in their absolute discretion.

6.3 Further this process is intended to be conclusive and therefore any athlete who enters into this appeal process accepts that the decision will be final and binding.

G. Conflicts of Interest

British Canoeing is committed to upholding high standards of integrity and as such any person who sits on the selection committee/panel shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of and any vote in respect of any selection matter in which they have a conflict of interest. If a person is unsure whether they have a conflict or potential conflict they should consult the Head of Governance and Compliance.

H. Data Protection

British Canoeing is a privacy conscious organisation and is strongly committed to your right to privacy. That is why we have drafted a Privacy and Data Protection Statement, which follows guidelines set out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and which can be found on our website:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/privacy-statement/>

Please note that any data gathered in the course of selection will be used in accordance with this Statement and in particular will not be shared with any third party without your consent.

I. Policies

For the avoidance of doubt this selection policy operates in conjunction with all relevant British Canoeing policies including but not limited to Equality Policy, Anti-Doping Policy, Anti Bullying Policy and Anti Bribery Policy.

J. 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 Selection Panel/Committee the Chair of the Selection Panel/Committee will be available to speak informally to athletes and in the case of minors, parents.