



# PARACANOE

## SELECTION POLICY 2017

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*Challenging Best*

## SECTION 1 – SELECTION POLICY OBJECTIVES AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The purpose of this document is to outline the 2017 policy for selection onto British Canoeing (B.C.) Paracanoe National Teams.

### 1.1 2017 Selection Policy Objectives

The 2017 Selection Policy and Team selection will be based upon the following B.C. priorities:-

Priority Order

1. Supply an opportunity for race practice and development as per the Programme 4 year strategic plan
2. To challenge for medals and focus on medal delivery at World Championships
3. Confirm maximal athlete international classifications
4. Support Non-Paralympic Events at World Championships 2017 in order to support the ICF Proposal to include Va'a at the 2020 Paralympic Games

### 1.2 Basic Eligibility Criteria

Any athlete wishing to be considered for selection must be a full member of British Canoeing (BC). In addition, upon selection they must sign the B.C. Athlete Agreement and must comply with BC and International Canoe Federation (I.C.F) rules on nationality.

NOTE: An athlete is not allowed to race for two Nations in the same year. Athletes who are not British passport holders must have been released from their own National Federation.

Subject to any Mitigating Circumstances they must:

- Attend the Paracanoe assessment day - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Race at National selection events- 1/2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017
- Must have reached a performance standard (see Fig 1- Paracanoe performance standards)
- In addition, athletes must hold a National Classification in their given event to be eligible for selection in that event. For Paralympic selection, athletes must hold a Confirmed International Classification status or a Classification status under review but with a review date post September 2020 to be eligible for selection.
- For 2017 entry into July Regatta for Va'a will be open to facilitate competition in these events and to allow the opportunity for maximal entries in these events at World Championships. Athletes should register their interest to compete in these events to [steve.train@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:steve.train@britishcanoeing.org.uk) no later than 3 weeks prior to the event.

Selection to represent GB at International Paracanoe events will be based on the ICF disability classifications and classes.

The current classes raced internationally are 200m K1 Men, V1 Men (KL1,KL2,KL3) K1 Women, V1 Women (KL1,KL2,KL3)

The current Paralympic events are:

K1 Men KL1	K1 Women KL1
K1 Men KL2	K1 Women KL2
K1 Men KL3	K1 Women KL3

The current Non-Paralympic events are:

V1 Men VL1	V1 Women VL1
V1 Men VL2	V1 Women VL2
V1 Men VL3	V1 Women VL3

**Please note** that all events are currently subject to review by the ICF and IPC. These Paralympic Events are based on the *ICF Paracanoe Rules and Regulations* and any rule changes imposed by the ICF/IPC supersede this document.

### **Paralympic Classifications**

**L3** – Legs, Trunk, Arms: Athletes who have use of their legs, trunk and arms. Eligible athletes may typically be: amputee, neurological impairment equivalent to lesion at S1, cerebral palsy class 8 (CPISRA)

**L2** – Trunk, Arms: Athletes who have some trunk movement but are not able to propel the boat through hip rotation due to significant weakened function of the lower limbs.

Eligible athletes may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following: Bilateral around knee amputation, or significantly impaired quadriceps, or neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3, or an incomplete lesion at L1, or combination of the above such as one leg with the around knee amputation and one leg with significant quadriceps impairment; or classification by CPISRA as eligible to be in class 5.

**L1** – Arms: Athletes who have no trunk function, or those who have shoulder function only.

Eligible athletes will be able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders and is likely to have poor sitting balance.

Eligible athletes may typically have a disability equivalent to at least one of the following: Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CPISRA), Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10

These Paralympic Classifications are based on the *ICF Paracanoe Classification Rules and Regulations* and any rule changes imposed by the ICF supersede this document.

## **SECTION 2 - SELECTION PROCESS**

The selection process incorporates 3 phases:

Stage 1:	Entry criteria for Paracanoe Selection Regatta
Stage 2:	Paracanoe Selection Regatta
Stage 2b:	Race-Off Competition- To separate a tie situation in selection for International competition

### **2.1 Entry criteria for July Paracanoe Selection Regatta**

Entry routes to compete at July Paracanoe Selection Regatta

1. Achieve the required standard at 4<sup>th</sup> March Athlete Assessment Day
2. Achieve the required standard in Paddle-ability races at National Regattas
3. Talent Programme athlete with evidenced competitive 200m training data
4. Athlete with Mitigating Circumstances with a proven track record of performance
5. For 2017 entry into July Regatta for Va'a will be open to facilitate competition in these events and to allow the opportunity for maximal entries in these events at World Championships. Athletes should register their interest to compete in these events to [steve.train@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:steve.train@britishcanoeing.org.uk) no later than 3 weeks prior to the event.

Athletes wishing to be entered into the Selection Regatta should enter the 2017 Paracanoe Athlete Assessment day which will take place on 4th March 2017 at HPP. The day will consist of two 200m on water Time Trials (TT), the best time of which will be used to enter athletes into finals for the 2017 National Regattas. The best 3 athletes in each category achieving the performance standard will be entered into finals at the 2017 National Regattas. In the event of unfilled places within a final, other athletes may be considered.

Athletes identified through the Talent Programme or athlete performances in Paddle-ability races may be considered for inclusion into the finals for the 2017 National Regattas even if they have not competed at the Assessment Day.

Athletes with Mitigating Circumstances approved by the I.P. with a proven track record of performing at the required standard to be competitive in their classification at National Regattas may be entered into selection competitions. Athletes wishing to apply for Mitigating Circumstances must do so at least 1 hour prior to their Assessment Day start time by email to the Paralympic Programme Manager stating the grounds for Mitigating Circumstances. The Paralympic Programme Staff team will then consider the application along with evidence of performance based on the criteria in 2.2.2 below. The Paralympic Programme Staff team also has the authority to propose athletes for entry into selection regattas on Mitigating Circumstances. This may be done in the case where athletes are unable to apply for Mitigating Circumstances themselves.

Subject to any Mitigating Circumstances, only athletes successful in meeting these required criteria are able to enter into the July Paracanoe Selection Regatta.

## 2.2 Paracanoe Selection Regatta- 1/2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017, HPP

The July National Regatta will be used for selection to both the 2017 Paracanoe European Championships and 2017 Paracanoe World Championships.

Subject to any mitigating circumstances election for International Competition incorporates a number of elements including:

1. Ranking at July Paracanoe Selection Regatta
2. The consideration of an athlete against the Performance standard
3. The Priorities as set out in 1.1

### 2.2.1 Ranking at July Paracanoe Selection Regatta

Selection will be over 2 races and the finishing position in each race will be recorded. The best position achieved by each athlete will then be taken into account to organise athletes into their final selection position. In the event of a tie in best position the 2<sup>nd</sup> best position result will be used to separate athletes. If athletes are still tied for a selection position, a race off will occur as close to the selection regatta as possible.

Example 1.

Athlete	Result Race 1	Result Race 2	Position in Selection
A	1	1	1 <sup>st</sup>
B	2	3	Race off with Boat C
C	3	2	Race off with Boat B
D	4	4	4 <sup>th</sup>

Example 2.

Athlete	Result Race 1	Result Race 2	Position in Selection
A	1	2	1 <sup>st</sup>
B	2	4	3 <sup>rd</sup>
C	3	3	4 <sup>th</sup>
D	4	1	2 <sup>nd</sup>

## Race-Off Competition

In the event of a tie for a selection position a race-off will be used to differentiate positions. The race-off will be held as soon after the selection regatta as possible to allow time for the athletes to recover (between 1<sup>st</sup>-2nd July). The race-off will consist of a single race with all equally tied athletes. The winner of the race-off will be given the higher selection position.

### 2.2.2 Performance Standard

As part of the overall selection process the G.B. section coaches will assess the overall performance for each nominated athlete using the Paracanoe Performance Standards 2017 Table. This tool enables the assessment of athlete's performance both actual and corrected for environmental conditions. A clear assessment will be made of each athlete's eligibility with reference to a minimum performance standard as a percentage (108% K1, 120% V1) of gold medal time (G.M.T.). Please note that the G.M.T. refers to a Worlds Best International time and not the winning time of the selection regatta.

**For 2017 an amended Performance Time will be used for Va'a events of 120% to enable greater levels of participation at World Championships. These are represented in the table below.**

Subject to any Mitigating Circumstances, to be automatically selected for any International competition, athletes must achieve a time less than or equal to the required **Actual** Performance Standard in their event as well as fulfilling all other selection requirements. **Normalised** times will also be considered for kayak events if conditions are not suitable for Actual Performance Standard times to be met. It is not currently possible to do this for the Va'a category due to the lack of a normalisation model.

Athletes that do not achieve the Performance Standard may be selected at the discretion of British Canoeing and the I.P only under Mitigating Circumstances where an athlete has a Tokyo profile. Athletes must have an established consistent track record in training and racing performance that demonstrates the potential to achieve a top 6 World Championships result and/or have potential to medal at Paralympic Games. This will be judged on the following criteria:

- Performance analysis of 200m training data and evidence of ability to achieve performance times.
- Past Race performances- potential to achieve top 6 World Championship result
- Performance trajectories against the performance funnels and WITTW
- Race components analysis will be used to assist in confirming potential performance.

In the case of selection for the European Championships, different performance standards will be applied for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boat selection. These will be based upon the Green RAG rating on the Paralympic Programme Performance Funnels and will apply to development athletes with no international experience.

**Table 1- G.B. Paracanoe Performance Standards 2017**

Class	Classification	Actual		Normalised	
		Performance Time (K1 108%GMT, V1 120%GMT)	Gold Medal Time (GMT)	Performance Time (108%GMT)	Gold Medal Time (GMT)
MEN K1	KL3	41.54	38.461	41.97	38.86
	KL2	44.05	40.79	44.38	41.09
	KL1	53.15	49.209	53.45	49.49
MEN V1	VL3	59.27	49.391		
	VL2	58.32	48.596		
	VL1	65.93	54.944		
WOMEN K1	KL3	53.68	49.7	53.44	49.48
	KL2	53.69	49.71	55.36	51.26
	KL1	58.85	54.49	60.93	56.42
WOMEN V1	VL3	69.54	57.948		
	VL2	71.53	59.61		
	VL1	72.02	60.016		

\*Normalised times are only accurate with winds up to 3ms<sup>-1</sup>

## 2.3 Mitigating Circumstances

In the event of injury or illness, an athlete who is demonstrating a positive performance trajectory towards gold medal time and cannot compete at the July Regatta for World Championships selection may apply for Mitigating Circumstances. .

## 2.4 Selection to 2017 European Championships- Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Selection for 2017 European Championships will be based upon results at July Paracanoe Selection Regatta.

### Programme rationale for racing at European Championships:

Selection subject to mitigating circumstances.

#### Priority Order

1. Supply an opportunity for race practice and development as per the Programme 4 year strategic plan
2. To challenge for medals and focus on medal delivery at European Championships
3. Confirm maximal athlete international classifications

### Selection-

1<sup>st</sup> Boat in all Paralympic events. Athletes will not be selected for Non-Paralympic events. A second boat may be selected as a development opportunity for athletes without international competition experience with a green RAG rating on the Paralympic Programme performance funnels. In the situation that no development boat is selected for the second slot, in its absolute discretion, 2<sup>nd</sup> place athletes with international experience may be selected by the I.P. in Paralympic events.

Athletes already attending the European Championships in kayak and that have gained selection for Va'a at the World Championships will be able to compete in Va'a at the European Championships.

## 2.5 Selection to 2017 World Championships- Racice, Czech Republic

The ICF rules currently allow up to 2 entries per event at World Championships. Selection for World Championships will be based upon results at July Paracanoe Selection Regatta.

### Programme rationale for racing at World Championships:

Selection subject to any mitigating circumstances

#### Priority Order

1. Supply an opportunity for race practice and development as per the Programme 4 year strategic plan
2. To challenge for medals and focus on medal delivery at World Championships
3. Confirm maximal athlete international classifications
4. Support Non-Paralympic Events at World Championships 2017

### Selection-

1<sup>st</sup> Boat in all events (Paralympic and non-Paralympic).  
2<sup>nd</sup> Boat in all events (Paralympic and non-Paralympic).

## 2.6 Nomination for Selection

The Paralympic Programme Staff team will meet immediately post-racing at the Paracanoe Selection Regatta to decide the most appropriate team for nomination to the I.P. by the Paralympic Programme Manager (or appointed representative).

The I.P. will accept athlete nominations from the British Canoeing Paralympic Programme Manager along with any other relevant supporting evidence (see 2.2.2 and 2.3 above). Performance times and tabled results for Paracanoe competitions will be used as evidence to support nomination for G.B. Paracanoe Team selection.

### 2.6.1 The 2017 International Panel (Selection Committee)

Since January 2005, the BC Board has been responsible for Great Britain (GBR) canoeing team selection through the formation of an International Panel (IP) for Paracanoe disciplines.

The IP is a separate entity to the Performance Department.

The Paracanoe IP is appointed and governed by the BC Board as outlined in BC committee regulations which also defines its remit.

#### IP Responsibilities include:

- a) Agreeing the selection policy for all GB Canoe Sprint and Para-canoe Teams;
- b) Conducting IP meetings to select GB Canoe Sprint and Para-canoe international teams in accordance with the selection process set out in the relevant selection policy;
- c) Communicating selection decisions.

All members of the IP have voting rights at IP meetings where selection policy is reviewed. IP members with voting rights for each section are shown on the right of Table 1 below. In the event of a tied vote the Chair of the IP has the casting vote. For the 2017 season the IP members are:

Role	Voting Rights		
		Sprint (Senior/U23/Junior) Teams	Paracanoe Teams
Chair of the International Panel	Paul Dimmock	Yes	Yes
BC Performance Director	Paul Ratcliffe	Yes	Yes
BC Performance Manager – Canoe Sprint	Heather Williams	Yes	No
BC Paracanoe Programme Manager	Steve Harris	No	Yes
BC Sprint Technical Coach	Ian Wynne	Yes	No
BC Paracanoe Technical Coach	Colin Radmore	No	Yes
Sprint Racing Committee Member	Roland Lawler	Yes	Yes
Independent Member	Barney Wainwright	Yes	Yes

Table 1

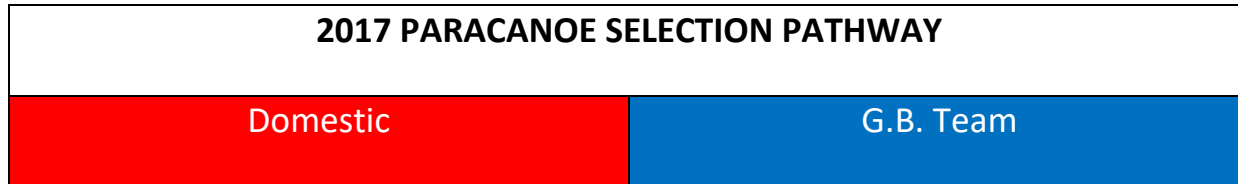
The Chair of the Sprint Racing Committee (SRC) may attend IP meetings as a non-voting observer.

Additional persons with specific knowledge to a class and BC performance staff can be invited by the IP to attend IP meetings in order to advise and provide relevant evidence on performance with reference to the published policy. These invitees will have no voting rights. The schedule of IP meetings will be published in January 2017.

All IP members and any persons asked to advise and provide evidence on athlete performance must promptly declare in writing to the IP if they have an interest (e.g. family connection or coaching involvement) with any athlete being considered for selection.

## 2.6.2 Notification of Selection

Notification of selection will be carried out as soon as possible after the I.P. finalise their decision. 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 IP will be available to speak informally to athletes and in the case of minors, parents.



2.7  
Further

### Important Points to the Selection Process

A draft list of events will be published in the Racing Yearbook. Additional information will also be published on the British Canoeing website. [www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk)

British Canoeing recognises that the ICF as well as the IPC may alter the selection process and/or rules over the next 4 years. This selection policy is subject to these conditions and may need to be modified to adapt for these changes.

## 2.8 2017 Guide to Selection

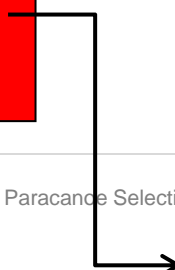
Assessment Day  
Date: 4 March 2017  
Venue: HPP

April Regatta – All athletes  
Date: 8-9 April 2017  
Venue: HPP

May Regatta – All athletes  
Date: 6-7 May 2017  
Venue: HPP

June Regatta – All athletes  
Date: 3-4 June 2017  
Venue: HPP

July Regatta- All athletes  
Selection  
Date: 1-2 July 2017  
Venue: HPP





Race-Off between 1-2  
July 2017



2017 European Championships  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Venue: Plovdiv, Bulgaria

2017 World Championships  
Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> August 2017  
Venue: Racice, Czech Republic

September Regatta- All athletes (National  
Championships)  
Date:1- 2-3 September 2017  
Venue: HPP

## **SECTION 3 - GENERAL INFORMATION – APPLICABLE TO ALL G.B. TEAMS**

### **3.1 De-selection**

The International Panel reserve the right to de-select athletes from identified race(s) on the basis of injury/illness, lack of commitment to training and/or lack of form. Such decisions will only be taken following consultation with appropriate coaches and/or medical reports. In the case of possible loss of form due to illness or injury the Head Coach may arrange a water based test. The test will be appropriate for the conditions, periodization of training and the class. Following the fitness test the Head Coach will supply the IP with the results assessments against % GMT and any other supporting evidence to assess the level of performance. The Head Coach may also request that the B.C Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or another appointee should provide a further medical report to the IP. The IP will then determine whether the athlete will remain on the team for this identified race(s). If the athlete is not fit to compete the IP will nominate the next placed athlete as a suitable replacement based on that athlete achieving the required performance standard.

### **3.2 Disciplinary Offence under the BC Rules**

B.C also has the right to deselect any athlete who has been found guilty of any disciplinary offence including anti-doping under the B.C rules. See athlete agreement and B.C. website.

### **3.3 Mitigating Circumstances**

Should an athlete miss an event or suffer injury or illness the athlete in consultation with the section coach can ask the IP, with guidance by the Chief Medical Officer, to consider their mitigating circumstances. If this is illness or injury, certificated detail must be given to the International Panel prior to the IP selection meeting no later than 24 hours before a British Canoeing selection race. In such a case the IP may allow the athlete a race-off opportunity. The IP has the sole discretion to invoke this clause. If mitigating circumstances are approved then details of any subsequent action would be provided

The athlete must have an established consistent track record in training and racing performance that statistically demonstrates their performance above other athletes based upon performance analysis training data and other objective data such as ICF World Ranking for the previous period. Each athlete case will be taken on its own merits and will not form a precedent.

### **3.4 Contingency**

The IP retains the right to adapt racing to ensure a fair process in line with the following principles and procedures.

The IP will have the responsibility to measure weather conditions and make necessary decisions relating to the timetabling of the event. Should local conditions threaten the planned racing then the IP reserve the right to amend the race format/schedule in any way necessary to complete fair racing.

Examples of such amendments could include:

- Early morning/evening racing
- Taking results from Semi Finals
- Reducing start intervals
- Changing location of racing

This is not an exhaustive list and all other options are also able to be considered to complete a fair selection series in accordance with the specific challenge(s) identified.

### **3.5 Appeals Policy**

The British Canoeing Appeals Policy is shown as Appendix 1 and is available on the B.C website [www.Britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.Britishcanoeing.org.uk). There is no appeal process for athletes deselected under 3.7 below.

### **3.6 Anti-doping**

Athletes must be compliant with the B.C. anti-doping policy at all times. The BC anti-doping Policy can be viewed at: <http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/olympic-paralympic/how-we-work/anti-doping>

## **Section 4. General Policies**

### **4.1 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.

### **4.2 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.

### **4.3 Policies:**

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

### **4.4 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.

END OF POLICY

## **Appendix 1.**

### **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 Where required the time limits set out below for appeal and decision can be accelerated by the Head of Governance and if this is required it will be communicated with the outcome of the formal review and the Selection Panel decision under 1.3 above.
- 2.2 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.

END OF POLICY