

British Canoeing Eligibility Policy

A. Eligibility for National Team Selection

1. Must be a Member of British Canoeing (including, SCA, CW & CANI).
2. For International Competitions the ICF competition rules, as amended from time to time, will apply*. At the date of approval of this policy the rules 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 30th November the year before the competitor wants to compete (e.g. 30th November 2017 to be eligible to compete for British Canoeing from 1st 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 (1st January to 31st 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.
4. In order to be eligible to be on a UK Sport funded programme an athlete must possess a valid British Passport or be in the process of applying for British Citizenship. (If an athlete is not a British Passport holder and their long term ambition is to compete in the Olympic or Paralympic Games for GB they need to be aware that they will only be eligible for funding and able to compete if they hold a current British passport. Therefore they should be actively pursuing and, likely to achieve a successful, application for a British passport).

B. Eligibility for National Championship Titles.

1. In order to be eligible to win a National Championship title a Competitor must either:

a. Satisfy all of the following:

- i. Be a British Citizen.
- ii. Be a current member of British Canoeing (including, SCA, CW & CANI - Juniors registered with family membership, do not need full British Canoeing membership).
- iii. Not currently be representing or in the selection process to represent another country.

Or

b. Satisfy all of the following:

- i. Have been resident in the United Kingdom for at least 2 (two) years (the residency being calculated as being the 2 (two) years immediately preceding January 1st in the year of the relevant competition).
- ii. Have been a member of British Canoeing, (including, SCA, CW & CANI - Juniors registered with family membership do not need full British Canoeing membership) for at least 2 (two) years.
- iii. Not currently be representing or in the selection process to represent another country.

2. In entering a National Championship, competitors agree to abide by this Eligibility Policy and comply with the requirements and procedures of British Canoeing and/or the National Championships organisers.

3. If a Competitor is not a British Citizen and has not been Resident in the United Kingdom and a member of British Canoeing, (including, SCA, CW & CANI) for the necessary 2 (two) years (in accordance with B 1.b. above) and there are exceptional circumstances then they may apply to the Head of Governance and Compliance requesting discretion to be exercised. Any applications should be submitted at least 4 (four) weeks prior to any National Championships event in which they wish to compete.

4. Each case shall be considered on its own merits and any decision in an individual case does not create a precedent for any future cases.

5. Any decisions made by British Canoeing will be subject to the British Canoeing Dispute Resolution and Disciplinary Policy.

*For Rafting the International Rafting Federation Rules shall apply namely:

1. Only a Competitor who is a member of their National Federation, who in turn is a Member Nation of the IRF, is eligible to compete in an IRF A- or B-Level Event.
2. A Competitor may not compete for more than one National Federation in any one calendar year.

This rule does not apply in the case of changing residency or citizenship by marriage. In all cases of a change in residency or citizenship, once confirmed, the former National Federation has no right to prevent a Competitor from racing in an Event.

3. If a Competitor wishes to compete for a Member Nation at an A- or B-Level Event and they do not hold a passport or official permanent residency in that nation, they must:
 - a. Provide proof that they are permanently domiciled in that foreign nation to the satisfaction of the Sport & Competition Committee.
 - b. Provide authorisation from their Federation of origin unless he/she has domiciled for 2 years or more in this foreign nation or has married a citizen from that foreign nation.
 - c. Have competed in the national selections of the foreign nation.
 - d. Bring such cases to the attention of the IRF before the announced deadline date for Team entries.