



## British Canoeing – Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe

### International Panel Statement – April 2021

This Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe IP statement follows the previous statements of 12<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and provides very important updates to the policy published in December 2020. The covid-19 situation in Europe continues to increase uncertainty over the appropriateness and ability to attend early season International events if the ICF permits competition. The IP continue to monitor the prevailing risks and landscape for competition and are grateful to the DCMS exemption which provides very strict criteria that if met is the only way that would currently permit a GBR team to attend International competition. The IP wish to provide the following updates:

#### **April Selection Event:**

This is intended to proceed as detailed to those who have registered and entered and complied with the strict requirements. Attendees are reminded of the requirements to register and attend a mandatory induction and the requirement to have a negative covid test within 72 hours of the first day of competition. A final event Bulletin, Bulletin 2 will be published on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April. It is important that all entrants familiarise themselves with the information within.

The IP wish to remind all competitors that Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April remains a contingency day only should it be required. Whilst it is hoped to complete the regatta within the 2 days, please be aware that if weather conditions force the use of the contingency day then this will be utilised.

#### **Sprint European Qualifier and Sprint & Paracanoe World Cup 1 Team Selection:**

The significant restrictions on International travel and the process of risk assessment of sending teams has determined that the only way that a team will be permitted to travel will be to send a small focused team to Szeged. This is implemented in line with the exceptional circumstances clauses in the respective policies as a result of covid-19 restrictions and risks.

A small focused team will be selected on the following basis from the April regatta:

<b>Priority 1</b>	Athletes selected in events where opportunities remain to qualify Tokyo quota place(s) or (for Paracanoe only) where attendance is required to confirm Paralympic eligibility. Important Note: The IP will use performance data from the 2021 April selection event to make an assessment of how competitive the selected boat will be against the World standard to determine which boats will actually be selected to attend the qualification event. The IP will only select boats with a realistic chance of qualification of a quota place(s). In events where a boat is selected to attend, if an athlete/crew decides to opt out of the race, reserves will only be considered if within 102% of the winner of the April regatta.
<b>Priority 2</b>	Athletes who are pre-selected to the 2021 senior team or 1st boats in events in which a quota slot is already qualified for the 2021 Tokyo Games.



### **Canoe Sprint Olympic Selection:**

Due to the continuing uncertainty surrounding International events going ahead and the growing possibility of competitions being rescheduled or cancelled the International Panel wish to confirm the following:

It is impossible to pro-actively cover every 'what if?' eventuality or scenario that may arise depending upon the specific circumstances. For this reason, the IP wish to highlight section 5.5.3 of the published selection policy:

**5.5.3 Important Note:** *In the event of Great Britain being re-allocated any Olympic quota place(s) after the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 as the opportunity for pre-qualification will be deemed to have expired.*

In the event of unforeseen circumstances arising, the International Panel will consider the circumstances presented and determine the appropriate response in line with the highlighted wording within 5.5.3. This enables the IP to respond to any scenario in line with the policy objectives laid out in 1.1 in particular '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.'

### **Paracanoe & Canoe Sprint Senior European Championships**

There is growing uncertainty over the senior European Championships going ahead when planned with indications suggesting that it will be postponed until later in 2021.

For this reason selection will be confirmed once the status of the event is further clarified.

### **Junior & U23 Selection 2021**

The IP is aware of the postponement of the ICF Junior & U23 World Championships to early September and increasing uncertainty over the Junior & U23 Europeans proceeding as planned. The IP recognises the desire to have clarity around selection and continues to monitor the guidance for staging events and will continue to work with the SRC and regatta committee to determine the appropriate solution for a selection regatta. It is hoped to provide an update on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

**International Panel**

**9<sup>th</sup> April 2021**