



British Canoeing – Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe

International Panel Statement – February 2021

This statement follows the publication of the 2021 selection policies in mid-December 2020 and aims to provide an update whilst recognising a very uncertain landscape for the next few months. The panel wishes to acknowledge the ongoing challenges to the whole community not only to training but the health, financial and emotional challenges that the covid-19 pandemic continues to inflict.

As we approach one year since covid-19 became a reality in the UK, it is clear that the consequences are unlikely to relent imminently and as the uncertainty continues, the IP wishes to provide the following updates below reflecting recent discussions:

General Overview:

The IP will continue to base all decisions on the safety of athletes, volunteers and staff, compliance with government guidelines and setting a transparent process under challenging circumstances. International canoeing events are still planned for 2021 and subject to the ongoing restrictions, the IP believes that the International season including the Olympic & Paralympic Games will proceed as planned if at all possible. At the time of writing both the Continental Qualifying event, the Global Qualifying event and the World Cups are taking place and The ICF along with the ECA and relevant organising groups are continuously reviewing the viability of these events every 4 weeks on an event by event basis. The decisions around British Team entry into international events in 2021 will also be taken on an event by event basis in line with the British Canoeing Board approved risk mitigation processes.

Decisions to go ahead with events rely on current advice specific to the host country government, therefore, should the status of these events change, the selection process and our own regattas, may be subject to change. It is necessary therefore to adjust the policy in line with exceptional circumstances outlined in section 7.3 of the policy.

2021 April Regatta & Selection

It is clear that a full April regatta is unrealistic to take place as intended. Subject to final agreement from the venue and authorities, it is intended to hold Paracanoe and Sprint Senior team selection in Tokyo critical events for the early part of the international season.

At present it is the intent of the IP, working with the SRC & regatta committee to run the following events at the April regatta:

	Men's events		Women's events	
	Olympic	Para	Olympic	Para
Priority 1 Olympic & Paralympic qualification events	K1 1000m K2 1000m C1 1000m C2 1000m	KL2 VL2 KL1 KL3 VL3	C1 200m C2 500m K1 200m K1 500m K2 500m	KL1 KL2 KL3 VL2
Priority 2 Tokyo & Paris Olympic & Paralympic events	K1 200m K2 500m			VL3



Following team selection the composition of a small and focused team for the Continental/Global Qualification and WC1/2 will be made based upon UK Government guidance in line with the health situation in both the UK and Europe. It will follow these strategic decision making principles in priority order:

1. Athletes will only be selected into outstanding Tokyo Qualification Events or to Paracanoe Events where a 1st or 2nd boat requires Paralympic eligibility.
 - In Canoe Sprint 1 boat per event including athletes pre-selected from 2019 as a Tokyo Athlete.
 - For Paracanoe up to 2 boats per event
2. 2nd Boats may be selected in Tokyo/Paris Olympic Sprint classes & up to 2 boats in Paralympic classes not otherwise selected in strategic priority 1.
3. Selection as per the published 2021 selection policy.

Notes

- **No K4 events will be run at this stage of the 2021 senior selection. Any K4's may be selected for W Cups & Europeans from within the K1 & K2 selected boats.**
- **Within the next IP update, the composition of the senior europeans team will be determined.**
- **In Sprint, priority 1 events, second boats may only be selected to attend in the event of a withdrawal of a first boat.**

With the main event other than the Tokyo Games of the year being the Copenhagen World Championships, it is still intended to hold the senior world Championship team selection in July for those events not already selected.

The IP is working with the SRC and regatta committee to identify a way to create a race weekend in April that provides a covid-19 secure framework and believe that with the nature of our sport being outdoors, a selection series can take place but there will be mitigations taken to create an acceptable risk such as:

- Limiting access to the site to athletes, officials and coaching staff only
- Changing the format of racing such as splitting the events across different days
- Reducing the list of eligible athletes based upon the divisional status if required
- Strictly applying limits on additional partners, parents and supporters on site
- Restrictions on access to indoor spaces other than for toilet facilities

Final detail will be confirmed closer to the event when details are finalised and approved.

Don't forget to register

IMPORTANT – All athletes wishing to be considered for selection to a 2021 Great Britain Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe SENIOR team should register for selection in order to confirm eligibility. The registration process is available [here](#) and needs to be completed by 28th February 2021. Paddlers remain responsible for entering the appropriate regatta(s) before entry deadlines. Entering the race is not registration.

Junior Selection 2021

It is clear that with current lockdown restrictions unlikely to ease until March at the earliest that the appropriate action is to give clarity now that 2021 junior selection will not take place in April and instead will move to the scheduled backup option of the June regatta alongside U23 team selection. We anticipate that by then an appropriate event will be possible and that this will provide athletes with a better opportunity to prepare. The IP will also consider if there are any changes to the format of selection to reflect the lack of opportunities to progress since the 2019 season.



Important Paracanoe Information:

As per selection policy, below are the athletes that have achieved regatta time standards:

Athletes with a Paracanoe Qualification Times for 2021						
Event	Athlete	Regatta Qualification Time	Selection Qualification Time	Athlete best time previous 24 months	Regatta Oualification time achieved	Team Selection Oualification time achieved
KL3M	Rob Oliver	47.63	42.67	40.21	Yes	Yes
	Jonathan Young			41.15	Yes	Yes
	Tim Lodge			41.68	Yes	Yes
	Will Rees			47.17*	Yes	No
KL2M	Nick Beighton	50.88	45.58	42.70	Yes	Yes
	Dave Philipson			43.07	Yes	Yes
KL1M	Ian Marsden	56.78	50.87	48.07	Yes	Yes
VL3M	Nick Beighton	59.28	53.11	50.35	Yes	Yes
	Jack Eysers			51.43	Yes	Yes
	Dave Philipson			50.26	Yes	Yes
	Martin Tweedie			49.33	Yes	Yes
	Stuart Wood			47.93	Yes	Yes
VL2M	Darren Edwards	64.60	57.88	62.58*	Yes	No
	Stewart Clark			54.91	Yes	Yes
KL3W	Chelsey Dixon	58.58	52.48	53.57	Yes	No
	Hope Gordon			49.33	Yes	Yes
	Laura Sugar			46.86	Yes	Yes
	Llinos Owen			56.54*	Yes	No
KL2W	Charlotte Henshaw	59.34	53.17	47.47	Yes	Yes
	Emma Wiggs			49.03	Yes	Yes
KL1W	Jeanette Chippington	64.79	58.05	54.13	Yes	Yes
VL3W	Charlotte Henshaw	71.03	63.64	56.82	Yes	Yes
	Beth Fisher			65.08*	Yes	No
VL2W	Emma Wiggs	70.13	62.83	56.10	Yes	Yes
	Jeanette Chippington			60.50	Yes	Yes

* Talent athlete with official GPS training time

Paracanoe Assessment, Classification and Selection Process

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, the Paracanoe Programme has taken the decision to cancel the March Assessment and Classification due to take place on the 20th March 2021. In order to ensure clarity and fairness for all athletes that this decision may affect, please see below the process for athletes be able to be considered for selection:

1. Any athlete who wishes to be considered for selection for the European Championships needs to ensure they register their interest as stated in the Paracanoe Selection Policy 2021 by 28th February 2021. The link to register interest can be found [HERE](#).
2. In order to ensure athletes have an opportunity to post an official 200m time prior to any selection event taking place, [Roger Weir](#) (Backing the Best Co-ordinator) will arrange dates throughout March 2021 at selected locations for athletes who wish to post times Covid restrictions allowing. These days will replace the March Assessment Day.
3. Athletes who have registered their interest in selection and have achieved the regatta performance time will be invited to take part in the April Selection race should Covid restrictions allow.
4. Athletes who are yet to complete their National Classification, and were due to do so in March, will be required to submit medical paperwork by 28th February 2021. This will be assessed by National Classifiers and athletes will be given a 'provisional' classification.
5. British Canoeing will arrange a classification day up to the entry deadline for the European Championships. Athletes will then have the opportunity to complete the assessment process and gain a retrospective National Classification in this instance.



IP Communications leading into and during selection regattas

The IP are introducing an additional one way WhatsApp link to provide updates at any time but particularly in the lead in and during selection regattas. This WhatsApp group can be found at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FJFF2D6VQ4D9cjDMeXzoQQ>.

The IP knows that you all want certainty to plan but we quite simply cannot commit further at present but will commit to another update in the middle of March. In the meantime, please ensure that you register [here](#) by the 28th February. The IP will continue to review the landscape and will base our decisions on the safety of athletes, volunteers and staff, compliance with government guidelines and setting a transparent process under challenging circumstances.

International Panel

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