

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CANOE SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS- CANOE MARATHON SELECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

The FISU World University Canoe Sports Championships 2024 will take place in Montemor-o-Velho, Portugal with competition date of the 24 August 2024. British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) is sanctioning a GB Students delegation as National University Sports Federation (NUSF) to represent the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The marathon delegation is anticipated to arrive at Porto International Airport (OPO) on 22nd August 2024 and depart on 25th August 2024.

The Canoe Marathon team will travel later and join the Canoe Sprint team who are arriving on the 19th August. Any athletes selected to represent in Canoe Marathon and are subsequently selected in Canoe Sprint will only pay the Canoe Sprint delegate costs with travel with the canoe sprint team and complete in both championships.

2. Nominations

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must submit an online registration on the BUCS website by 11.59pm on 30th March 2024. All nominations will be open from 12th March 2024. Link to the registration form can be found [Here](#)

3. Eligibility

3.1. For an individual to be eligible to represent BUCS/GB Students at the event they shall fulfil all of the following eligibility criteria:

- 3.1.1. Be a British (United Kingdom) national.
- 3.1.2. Be a registered student at an institution which is a recognised provider of Higher Education (HE).
- 3.1.3. Be at least 18 and no older than 25 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event.
- 3.1.4. Be registered on a course which is at or above one of the following minimum levels:
 - Level 4 on the Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ).
 - Level 7 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).
 - Level 4 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland (RQF).
 - Level 4 on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

- An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be registered on a course equivalent to those covered in this section 3.1.4.

3.1.5. Be undertaking a study programme equivalent to:

- Where the course is credit rated under CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme), at least 60 credits per year.
- Where the course is run using guided learning hours, a minimum of 225 hours per year.
- Where the course is a postgraduate course which is not credit rated, no less than 50% of the full-time student programme per year.
- In this section 3.1.5 a year will be taken as 12 months from the start date of their course.
- An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be undertaking a study programme equivalent to the requirements of 3.1.5.

3.1.6. Be an athlete who is permitted by Paddle UK to participate in FISU competition alongside any other competition in that sport.

3.2. **Special cases for participation** Further to any FISU regulations in place at the time, the following individuals are classified as eligible to represent BUCS/GB Students in FISU competitions:

3.2.1. Notwithstanding section 3.1.5, an individual who is otherwise eligible under section 3.1 on a sandwich/industrial placement as part of their course is eligible during this time.

3.2.2. A former student of an eligible institution (as per section 3.1.2) who has obtained an eligible qualification (as per section 3.1.4) from said institution in the calendar year preceding the event. For this event Students graduating in 2023 will be eligible to compete in 2024, as former students who have obtained their qualification in the calendar year preceding the event.

3.3. A student who would otherwise be eligible under section 3.1 who has their studies suspended will not be eligible to compete until such a time as their studies recommence.

3.4. **Transgender athletes** BUCS promotes a zero-tolerance approach to transphobia and any person or institution found to be in contravention of this regulation will face disciplinary action under the BUCS disciplinary procedure.

3.5. For this event, the policy on transgender participation of FISU and/or the International Federation whose sport specific regulations are being followed shall apply. Drug testing procedures and prohibitions also apply to athletes who identify as transgender. Any athlete receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.

3.6. Please note that any athlete who is currently suspended or expelled by FISU, WADA, Paddle UK, or the International Canoe Federation International or National Federation is ineligible for selection.

- 3.7. Any individual who is serving a suspension as a result of an Anti-Doping rule violation will not be eligible to participate in any FISU competitions.
- 3.8. Allowing ineligible participants to represent an institution will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken. Athletic Union or equivalent staff should in cases of doubt refer the circumstances to the BUCS Sport Compliance and Governance Manager.

4. Anti-Doping

- 4.1. Anti-Doping All participants in FISU competitions (including the event) are subject to the Anti-Doping rules of UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), FISU, and Paddle UK. As such:
 - 4.1.1. All participants are subject to testing.
 - 4.1.2. All participants must complete the UKAD Compete Clean+ eLearning course and upload a copy of their course certificate upon nomination. The Compete Clean+ eLearning can be accessed for free via the UKAD Clean Sport Hub. Once registered, athletes can click onto the relevant eLearning and complete the modules at their convenience. Compete Clean+ contains 11 modules which explore Anti-Doping topics including athletes' rights under the World Anti-Doping Code, UK Anti-Doping Rules, the Prohibited List, checking medications and supplements, the Testing Process and how to report concerns around doping in sport.

5. Selection Event

Selections will take place 23rd March at the K1/C1 assessment race in Norwich. Selected athletes will be notified by the team announcements issues WC 25th March. Due to the short turn around between selection and BUCS' financial commitment, full payment will be required by 6th May.

6. Athlete Costs

The cost of participation in this event will be in the region of £1280 per participant and will be required in full at the point of selection. Athletes submitting a nomination acknowledge this requirement and accept financial liability including in the case of withdrawal related to injury or illness upon their nomination.

7. Athlete Availability

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must submit an online availability form by **22:00 on the 23rd of March**. The form can be found [here](#)

8. Performance Standard

The selection committee will apply a minimum performance standard to ensure athletes are of the appropriate level for the competition they are being considered for. The detail of the application of performance standards can be found in Appendix 1. The selection committee reserve the right to not apply a performance standard either at all or as prescribed in Appendix 1, where circumstances arise which in the selection committee's reasonable opinion would make the application of the performance standard at Appendix 1 unsuitable.

a) Lead Assessment:

- i. Selections will take place from the K1 / C1 assessment race on the 23rd March.

b) Kayak and Canoe Selections:

- i. There are up to 8 places available made up from up to 2 athletes from the following classes: C1W 12km, C1M 16km, K1W 16km, K1M 20km.
- ii. Subject to the performance assessment, selections will be made from the top two eligible athletes in K1M, K1W, C1M and C1W.

10. Selection & Selection Committee

The members of the Selection Committee are appointed by the MRC. The MRC retains overall authority for all aspects of this policy.

The selection committee will consist of:

- Nanette North (IND): Chair
- Jo Bates (FOX): Voting Member
- Roland Lawler (ELM): Voting Member
- Kat Wilson (BSF): Voting Member
- Paul Dimmock (WEY): Voting Member
- Tom Sharpe (RIC): Voting Member
- Lizzie Broughton (RIC): Athlete Rep

The Selection Committee is therefore composed of 5 voting members and shall be quorate if 3 members are present.

Selections will be made without bias or discrimination, and, as such, any conflicts, real or perceived, must be declared and recorded at the start of the meeting. The existence of a disclosed conflict will not preclude a Selection Committee member, or attendee, from participating in deliberations. Depending on the nature of the conflict a Selection Committee member may have to abstain from voting if a vote is required.

Appeals

Only Stage 1 of the process (Formal Review) will apply to this selection. See appendix 2.
appeals@paddleuk.org.uk

Appendix 1- Performance Standards

The minimum performance standards bench mark identified for this selection can be found in the table below:

Men	K1	C1	Women	K1	C1
SM	4	11	SW	12	21

These are based on the current medal winning average handicaps (see below). All have been given +3HC points vs the International medal winning standard, except SMK1 as it has been demonstrated that the athletes in these classes often perform less well nationally compared to their international results so are have a +4HC.

Medal Winning HC Average used for the 2024 Minimum Performance Standards:

	Medal Winning HC (average)					AVERAGE	Comment
	Distance	Worlds 21	Euros 22	Worlds 22	Euros 23		
SMK1	29.8	0	0	0	2	0	Euros was very hot & had impact on SMK1 HC. Excluded Euros 23
SWK1	26.2	9	8	6	9	9	Worlds 22 it an outlier. Removed from average
U23 MK1	26.2	2	2	1	2	2	
U23 WK1	22.6	9	9	8	8	9	
JMK1	22.6	4	4	1	3	4	Worlds 22 is an outlier. Removed from average
JWK1	19	10	12	10	9	11	
SMC1	26.2	8	10	7	9	8	Changed distance in 2023 from 26.2km to 22.6km
U23 MC1	22.6	9	12	9	12	10	
SWC1	15.4	17	18	18	18	18	
U23 WC1							
JMC1	15.4	15	13	13	14	14	Changed distance in 2023 from 19km to 15.4km
JWC1	11.8	22	24	23		23	
SMK2	29.8	0	0	0	0	0	
SWK2	26.2	6	8	8	7	7	
JMK2	22.6	3	4	3	3	3	
JWK2	19	10	10	12	7	10	
SMC2	26.2	6	8	10	8	8	Changed distance in 2023 from 26.2km to 22.6km
SWC2							
JMC2	15.4		13	15	12	13	Changed distance in 2023 from 19km to 15.4km
JWC2							

Appendix 2 – British Canoeing Non-Olympic Appeals Procedure

Guidance Notes:

Whilst selection decisions are made in good faith, every athlete should be able to appeal a selection decision if there are grounds to do so (see paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 below). If you're unsure about why a decision has been made, your coach, parent/carer or another trusted person may be able to give you some advice. If you subsequently believe you have grounds to appeal the decision, this Appeals Procedure sets out how you can do this and what process will be followed.

If you wish to appeal a decision and would like some guidance you are advised to seek support from your coach, parent/carer, discipline Welfare Officer or other trusted person to help you.

1. CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

- 1.1 This Selection Appeals Procedure ("**the Procedure**") is referenced in all non-Olympic discipline selection policies published by the British Canoeing Discipline Committees and applies to international team selection decisions for major international competitions (such as World Championships) in non-Olympic disciplines.
- 1.2 For the avoidance of doubt, selection Appeals in the Olympic disciplines (Sprint, Paracanoe, and Slalom) will be managed in accordance with the British Canoeing Competition Selection Appeals Procedure as referenced in the applicable selection policies.
- 1.3 Selection will take place in accordance with the applicable selection policies as published from time to time by the relevant Discipline Committee. In this Procedure all policies are referred to as the "**Selection Policy**". Any athlete ("**the Athlete**") wishing to lodge an appeal under this Procedure must be fully familiar with the provisions of the Selection Policy.
- 1.4 This Procedure is intended to be accelerated in nature to enable any appeal to be resolved as quickly as is reasonably possible. Due to the nature of selection for major events, decisions often need to be taken close to the time of the event to which the selection relates. There is considerable potential for impact on athlete preparation related to the outcome of the appeal, both with regard to the Athlete, as well as any athlete who is at risk of being deselected or otherwise adversely affected by the appeal.
- 1.5 Accordingly, the aim of this Procedure is to return a decision on appeal as soon as possible after the original selection decision has been announced. The key stages of the appeal process are as follows:

Selection Decision Announced

↓ 2 working days

Deadline to submit Request for Review

↓ within 7 working days

Deadline to submit Notice of Appeal

↓ within 8 working days

Appeal Decision / Final Selection Outcome

- 1.6 The British Canoeing Director of Governance shall have the power to adjust the timescales within this Procedure. If timescales are adjusted, this will be communicated to all interested parties at each relevant stage of the appeals process. If the Athlete believes the timescales should be adjusted they should notify the Director of Governance at the earliest opportunity and/or communicate this within the Notice of Appeal.

2. BINDING AGREEMENT

Guidance Note: given the short timescales and the need for certainty for the benefit of all athletes and the selected team, this section 2 explains that this Procedure is the only opportunity for you, as an athlete, to challenge a selection decision. Due to the time constraints, there is no further right of appeal to other bodies or courts. It is important if you are going to challenge the selection decision that you make all your arguments.

- 2.1 This Procedure is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each Athlete and British Canoeing (referred to as "**the Parties**") as to how selection decisions are to be challenged. The Parties agree to submit any dispute, concerning any matter connected with or arising out of selection issues, to binding arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Procedure.
- 2.2 The Parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of this Procedure, or any decision made under this Procedure, before any court of law or other dispute resolution body. The Parties will treat all decisions under this Procedure as final and binding upon them.
- 2.3 The Parties agree that this Procedure is to be treated as an arbitration procedure under Part 1 of the Arbitration Act 1996 ("**the Act**") and the provisions of clause 2.1 above amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of section 6 of the Act. The seat of the Arbitration shall be England.

If an Athlete wishes to challenge a selection decision then the following two stage process will apply:

3. STAGE 1 - FORMAL REVIEW

- 3.1 A written request for a formal review may be submitted, in the first instance, by the Appellant Athlete to the Discipline Selection Committee Chair who will carry out a review in consultation with the relevant Selection Panel.
- 3.2 This request must be submitted within 2 working days (or an earlier date if that has been decided and communicated by the Director of Governance) of the selection being formally announced and must identify the grounds of appeal upon which they intend to rely, as set out in paragraph 5, provide an outline of the Athlete's argument and provide any evidence or information relied on to support this.
- 3.3 Within 5 working days (or an earlier date if that has been decided and communicated by the Director of Governance) of receiving the Appellant Athlete's request the Discipline Committee Chair will advise in writing the outcome of the review and the decision reached and will provide brief written reasons.

4. STAGE 2 - NOTICE OF APPEAL

- 4.1 If following the formal review an Athlete wishes to appeal a selection decision, they must submit a written Notice of Appeal, which shall be sent to the British Canoeing Director of

Governance at appeals@paddleuk.org.uk. The Notice of Appeal must be received within 2 working days of receipt of the outcome of the Stage 1 Review above.

- 4.2 Failure to submit the Notice of Appeal on time will result in no further action being taken and the Athlete shall lose the right of appeal. The Director of Governance may, at their absolute discretion, decide to admit a Notice of Appeal received after the deadline in exceptional circumstances. It shall be the responsibility of the Athlete to prove the exceptional circumstances.
- 4.3 The Notice of Appeal must set out the grounds of the appeal and include full details of which ground(s) in paragraph 5 the appeal is based upon and the precise manner in which the ground(s) have been met. The Notice of Appeal should be as comprehensive as possible and include any documents or written evidence upon which the Athlete relies, as it will form the basis of the remainder of this Procedure.

5. GROUNDS OF APPEAL

- 5.1 An Athlete shall only be entitled to appeal on one or more of the following grounds:
 - 5.1.1 there has been a failure to follow the Selection Policy as published;
 - 5.1.2 the Selection Panel has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact;
 - 5.1.3 the Selection Panel (or any member of the panel) has shown actual bias when making the decision; and/or
 - 5.1.4 the decision is one that no reasonable decision maker could ever have reached.
- 5.2 In order to ensure a timely and efficient appeals process only the grounds of appeal detailed in 5.1 will be permitted. The composition of the Selection Panel is not open to appeal unless 5.1.3 is being cited in the Notice of Appeal.
- 5.3 The right to appeal a selection decision 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 and selection criteria as stated in the Selection Policy. In reaching their decision the Selection Panel are acting as experts and athletes agree that in so doing the Selection Panel exercises judgment and discretion which are not in themselves capable of challenge. Athletes should therefore consider carefully whether any of the grounds of appeal at clause 5.1 exists before submitting a Notice of Appeal.
- 5.4 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published Selection Policy or, subject to grounds 5.1.3, against the actions of the Selection Panel, provided they follow the selection criteria published.

6. APPEAL PANEL

- 6.1 Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Director of Governance or their designee shall:
 - 6.1.1 contact the Selection Panel to inform them of the Appeal, provide them with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Selection Panel provide their response to the Notice of Appeal along with any information used in the selection process which they wish the Appeal Panel to consider within 3 working days of receipt of the request; and
 - 6.1.2 convene an Appeal Panel, which shall consist of 3 people, who shall be selected from British Canoeing's independent Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register, the details of which are further set out in the Schedule. Confirmation of the Appeal Panel will be disclosed to the Athlete following the receipt of the Notice of

Appeal. No person who has been involved in the selection process shall be a member of the Appeal Panel.

- 6.2 The Athlete shall have the opportunity to challenge the composition of the Appeal Panel by submitting written objections within 1 working day of being informed of the Appeal Panel. British Canoeing shall review the objection, consider the issues raised and decide in its absolute discretion whether it is appropriate to alter the composition of the Appeal Panel.
- 6.3 Once appointed, the Appeal Panel will ordinarily determine the appeal based on the written submissions of the Athlete, and the Selection Panel without a hearing or the calling of witnesses or the giving of oral evidence. However the Appeal Panel will have the power to set its own processes and give directions including requesting further information from the Athlete, Selection Panel or any other relevant party, setting up a video or telephone conference, determining if a hearing is required and if it is, establishing the date, time and place, and format to be followed in such a hearing.
- 6.4 The Appeal Panel will seek to reach its decision within 5 working days of its appointment in accordance with **Error! Reference source not found.** and will inform all interested parties in writing.

7. REMEDIES

- 7.1 The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to;
 - 7.1.1 reject the Appeal and confirm the selection decision.
 - 7.1.2 only where the grounds set out in paragraphs 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 have been upheld, rescind the selection decision and confirm the selection of the Athlete.
 - 7.1.3 where the grounds in 5.1.1 or 5.1.2 have been upheld, quash the selection decision and remit the matter back to the Selection Panel identifying the errors they have found in the conduct of the selection process and requesting that a new decision is made within one week (or such shorter time as the Appeal Panel deem is reasonable in all the circumstances).
- 7.2 The cost and resource of administering the Appeal Panel will generally fall to British Canoeing unless the Appeal Panel directs otherwise.

8. MINOR AND NON-CONSEQUENTIAL BREACHES OF THIS PROCEDURE

- 8.1 A deviation from any requirement of this Procedure shall not invalidate the Procedure or the decision of the Appeal Panel unless there is a clear and significant risk that the deviation has affected the decision of the Appeal Panel. This shall not apply to the time limit for the Athlete to submit their formal appeal under paragraph 4 of this Procedure.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS AND PUBLICATION OF DECISION

- 9.1 Unless the Parties mutually agree to waive the right, all Parties are under an obligation of confidentiality in respect of this Procedure except for reasonable disclosure to family members and/or a trusted advisor in the case of athletes. Save as permitted under this Procedure none of the Parties will make any public statement or disclosure of the contents of any correspondence concerning any of the Parties during the course of any appeal heard under this Procedure.
- 9.2 British Canoeing shall be entitled to publish the outcome of the Appeal in such manner and to



such extent as is necessary to inform all properly interested and affected parties of the status of the selection decision previously published and the resulting implications upon selection.

10. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THIS PROCEDURES

British Canoeing shall be entitled to amend this Procedure from time to time. Amendments shall take effect from the first date of publication of the updated Procedure on the British Canoeing website. British Canoeing welcomes comments about this Procedure or feedback on the process.

These should be sent to:

Director of Governance

Email: nancy.squires@paddleuk.org.uk or appeals@paddleuk.org.uk

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