



Paddle UK Marathon Racing Selection Policy 2024

Published April 2024 (Inclusion of Paracanoe)

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ABBREVIATIONS

BC	British Canoeing
ECA	European Canoe Association
ICF	International Canoe Federation
MRC	Marathon Racing Committee
HC	Handicap
BMT	Benchmark Table
TPT	Team Profile Table
SCN	Short Course Nationals

1. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of the Canoe Marathon Selection Policy is to clearly outline the processes which will lead to the selection of the GBR Canoe Marathon Teams for all international events named within this policy. It also aims to support the longer-term goal of the Marathon Racing Committee to be a top canoe marathon nation regularly winning championship medals across the age groups and classes.

1.1 2024 International Objectives:

- a) To select the best team of athletes to represent Great Britain at the European and World Championships
- b) To pursue long-term athlete development through the selection of teams for the development trips which:
 - i. give opportunities to learn through competing abroad;
 - ii. give opportunities to support the transition through age groups into senior classes;
 - iii. support senior athletes in their continued development.

1.2 2024 International Races and Selection Principles:

a) Championship Events - European and World Championships:

To select a team of the top performing athletes across the ages and classes scheduled at the Championship Events. This is subject to there being athletes of the requisite standard available for selection. The size of the teams taken to the Championship Events will be balanced in line with the current national representation in kayak and canoe, with 14 places identified for kayak and 2 prioritised for canoe. **In addition, up to 5 places are available for the paracanoe demonstration event at both championships.**

b) World Cup K1 (Senior and U23 Development Trip)

To select a team of athletes whose continued development would benefit from exposure to this level of international racing in K1, in pursuit of developing future Championship Event standard athletes and potential future medallists (see section 3.3.c for detail of inclusion / exclusion).

c) Waterlands K1 (U23 and U18 Development Trip):

To give international opportunities to a pool of athletes who would not otherwise be expected to race internationally in 2024 in Canoe Marathon (see section 3.4.c for detail of inclusion / exclusion). This is with the aim of:

- i. Supporting athletes to develop their ability to manage themselves in an international team environment.
- ii. Giving them experience on an international start line.
- iii. Giving them the responsibility of representing their country.

d) Sanabria K4 (Senior and U23 Development Trip)

To select a development team to represent Great Britain comprised of athletes who have demonstrated a strong crew boat capability with the aim of building a competitive crew boat to support continued athlete development. Priority will be given to U23 athletes and Senior athletes who are in their first three years of the Senior class. Athletes will be selected from the next top performing athletes not selected for the European Championships in 2024. This trip will run subject to Great Britain being invited to the event by the organisers.

e) French Nationals K1 and K2 (U16 and U14 Development Trip)

Select a team of young athletes who would otherwise not represent Great Britain in Canoe Marathon in 2024 with the aim to:

- i. give young athletes the opportunity to develop their international experience;
- ii. support athletes to develop their ability to manage themselves in an international team environment.

f) The outline opportunities for each age group in 2024 are as follows:-

	U16s	U17s	U18s	U23s	Seniors
Domestic racing	Hasler calendar, winter races, Short and Long Course National Championships				
Assessment events	National Championships	All assessment events			
Target internationals for 2024	French Nationals	Waterlands Euro Champs World Champs	Waterlands Euro Champs World Champs	Waterlands Sanabria World Cup Euro Champs World Champs	Sanabria* World Cup Euro Champs World Champs

*Priority given to U23s and athletes in their first three years of Senior, as per section 1.2.d.

1.3 Selection Committee Composition

- a) The members of the Selection Committee are appointed by the MRC. The MRC retains overall authority for all aspects of this policy.
- b) The Selection Committee for 2024 will consist of the following members:

Chair: Nanette North (IND)

Voting Members:

Tom Sharpe (RIC)
Jo Bates (FOX)
Kat Wilson (BSF)
Roland Lawler (ELM)
Paul Dimmock (WEY)

Non-voting, independent representatives:

Lizzie Broughton (RIC)
James Hives / Richard Ramsdale (PUK)
TBC Canoe Representation

- c) **Communication with and from the Selection Committee**

All communication to the Selection Committee should be directed to the Chair, by email to marathon.selectors@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk. Questions may be asked of individual Selection Committee members, but athletes, parents and coaches should only refer to an official response from the Chair when seeking guidance. Any communications directed to the Chair that cannot be answered by reference to this policy will be discussed with the whole Selection Committee, and a consensus response given.

- d) **Conflicts of Interest**

British Canoeing is committed to upholding high standards of integrity and as such any person who sits on the Selection Committee 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 material conflict of interest. For the avoidance of doubt and for the purposes of this policy, a material conflict of interest does not necessarily include the fact that a member of the Selection Committee may know an athlete or have specialist knowledge and experience of athletes from within their Club or previous selections. If a person is unsure whether they have a conflict or potential conflict they should consult the BC Director of Governance.

- e) Members of the Selection Committee are required to make every effort to attend all domestic assessment events, to ensure that a true and accurate assessment of current abilities can be made.
- f) Selection meetings to decide the composition of international teams will only be held once a final set of results has been checked and can be properly considered. The meetings may be held in person or by teleconference or video conference and individual members may join a physical meeting remotely via teleconference or video conference and be regarded as present at the meeting.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR GBR SELECTION 2024

2.1 International Eligibility

To be eligible to be selected to any 2024 GBR Team, athletes/crews must meet the following conditions:

- a) They must be Comprehensive (“On The Water”) British Canoeing or Home Nation Association members throughout the year.
- b) They must meet age and nationality criteria for international competition as defined by the British Canoeing [Eligibility Policy](#).
- c) They should be prepared to meet all assembly costs and pay a contribution towards subsistence costs at International Events.
- d) They should be prepared to travel and be accommodated in such a way as is considered in the best interests of the overall team.
- e) They must be prepared to accept the direction and instruction of the Team Manager and applicable staff with regard to behaviour and racing while abroad.
- f) They must be prepared to dress and conduct themselves in a manner befitting a British Team representative and promote the good name of British Canoeing both at home and abroad.
- g) They should wear the GB tracksuit and team clothing provided, on all suitable occasions.
- h) They must sign and abide by the British Canoeing Code of Conduct.
- i) All athletes must also meet the ICF age criteria specific to the class of race they are seeking selection for.
- j) They must have completed the availability form for the international(s) in question.
- k) They must not be subject to any international travel restrictions.

2.2 Age Categories

- a) The first year a junior can compete at World and European Senior/U23/Junior Championships is the year in which their 15th birthday falls.
- b) The last year an U23 may compete in international programme events is the year in which their 23rd birthday falls.
- c) The last year an U18 may compete in international programme events is the year in which their 18th birthday falls.

3. SELECTION PROCESS 2024

3.1 Overview

- a) The selection of Great Britain teams for all internationals will be made in line with this policy. All eligible athletes will be considered equally for selection against the stated selection criteria regardless of club, training location, and Home Nation.
- b) The default position of the Selection Committee will be to select the largest team possible for events. However, each selection meeting will consider any applicable budget and accommodation restrictions and where necessary the Selection Committee may reduce the team size accordingly.
- c) For Development events the selections are usually made from one or two lead assessments. The selection of the team will be in line with the primary objective of the trip and taking into account any logistical restrictions.
- d) For Championship Events, the selection process is primarily “first past the post” for Kayak and a cross class comparison through handicap benchmarking for Canoe.
- e) For all selections (with the exception of the French Nationals and Waterlands), handicap data may be used to compare athletes across classes. This information is placed into the benchmark table (BMT) which is used to inform the final team selection.
- f) For the Championship Events, there may be multiple distances across the age groups. Where possible, the Selection Committee seeks to provide representation across the available events and maximise the team of athletes travelling. To do this they use the “Team Profile Table” (TPT) to define the events each athlete is selected for.
- g) For more information on the handicap data, BMT and TPT, please see Appendix C.
- h) Selections under this Policy are subject to meeting the applicable performance standard at the lead assessment for the event. The detail of the application of performance standards can be found in Appendix B. The Selection Committee reserve the right to not apply a performance standard where circumstances arise which in the Selection Committee’s reasonable opinion would make the application of the performance standard at Appendix B unsuitable.

3.2 2024 Programme

- a) The assessment event programme for 2024 is as follows:

Date	Event	Format	Venue	Lead Assessment For:
23 rd March	K1 / C1 Assessment	Full distance K1/C1	Norwich	Waterlands & World Cup
4 th May	K2 / C2 Assessment	Full distance K2/C2 race	Elmbridge	European Championships & Sanabria
12 th May	Short Course National Championships	Heats & Finals	Peterborough	<i>Supporting assessment for Euros & Sanabria</i>
18 th May	K1 / C1 / Paracanoe Assessment	Full distance K1/C1/Paracanoe race	Elmbridge	European Championships
13 – 14 th July	National Championships	K1/C1 and K2/C2 long course	Reading	French Nationals. <i>Supporting assessment for Open class at Para demo</i>
27 - 30 th July	European Championships	International Competition	Poznan, Poland	World Championships*
10 - 11 th Aug	Assessment Weekend	K1/C1/Paracanoe and K2/C2 long course	tbc	World Championships

*medals from the European Championships will secure selection into the age and class of medal secured (subject to this class being on the World Championships schedule). All other results will form part of the continued assessment and require athletes to race the final assessment(s) in August.

NB The assessment events for the European and World Championships include an assessment for the Paracanoe Demonstration classes.

b) The International Programme for 2024 is as follows:

Event	Dates	Team Composition	Lead Assessments	Athlete Contribution**	Availability Deadline*	Team Announced
Waterlands, Amsterdam, Netherlands	20 th April	Up to 12 athletes ages U18 & U23	K1/C1 Assessment 23 rd March	£300	6 th March	WC 11 th March
World Cup, Brandenburg, Germany	1 -2 nd June	10 athletes: Senior & U23 only		£500		
European Championships, Poznan, Poland	25 -28 th July	Team of 16 athletes	K2/C2 Assessment 4 th May K1 /C1/ Paracanoe Assessment 18 th May <i>Supporting assessment Short Course Champs 12th May</i>	£500	15 th May	WC 20 th May
Sanabria K4, Sinabria, Spain	Tbc July	8 senior athletes, 4 female 4 male	K2/C2 Assessment 4 th May <i>Supporting assessment Short Course Champs 12th May</i>	£500		
World Championships, Croatia	19 th – 22 nd September	Team of 16 athletes	K1/C1/Paracanoe & K2/C2 Lead assessments 10 – 11 th Aug <i>Supported by European Championships</i>	£500	7 th Aug	WC 12 th Aug
French National Championships, tbc	tbc	Up to 12 athletes, aged under 16	Nationals Championships	£300	7 th Aug	WC 12 th Aug

*This will be the earliest date the form is required to be returned. Dates may be extended at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

**Costs are an estimate and may change. Final costs of each trip will be shared on / or at the same time as the release of the availability form.

3.3 Selection for European and World Championships 2024

a) Team Size:

- i. A team of up to 16 athletes has been budgeted for the European and World Championships.
- ii. Subject to the performance standard being met (see Appendix B), the table below represents the events and classes that will be selected with 14 places designated across kayak and 2 places across the canoe classes and events for the highest ranked canoes in the BMT.

Age Group	K1	K2	Canoe	Total
SM	1	2	2	16
U23M	1			
SW	1	2		
U23W	1			
JM	1	2		
JW	1	2		
Total	6	8	2	16

b) European Championships Lead Assessments:

- i. K2 / C2 selections will be made from the long course K2 / C2 assessment race on the 4th May.

- ii. K1 / C1 selections will be made from the long course K1 / C1 assessment on the 18th May.
 - iii. The SCN will also be used to support in nominating selected athletes to compete in the short course event at the championships.
- c) European Championships Kayak Selection:**
- i. Kayak selection will be “first past the post” with 14 places available (see 3.3.a) meaning the winners of each kayak class will be selected onto the team subject to them making the performance standard.
- d) European Championships Canoe Selection:**
- i. Two places are identified for canoe across C1 and C2 and all age groups.
 - ii. The places will be offered to the two highest ranked canoe athletes on the BMT, subject to them making the minimum performance standard.
- e) World Championships Pre-selection:**
- i. Athletes who have won a medal at the European Championships in an event that is scheduled for the World Championships will be pre-selected onto the World Championship team. Ordinarily this will result in them being selected in the age and class that the medal was won (e.g. a medal in the SWK1 LC would mean the athlete is selected onto the team in the SWK1 spot, or a JMC2 medal would mean the athletes are selected onto the team in the JMC2 spaces.)
 - ii. In the case of an U23 winning a medal in the Senior Short Course, they will ordinarily be selected onto the team in their U23 age and class. This will also be the case if an U23 wins medals in both U23 and Senior events, however the Selection Committee will use the TPT to identify which place will be pre-selected and therefore which place will still be available for further selection onto the team
 - iii. In the event that an athlete wins medals in both the singles and doubles, the Selection Committee will use the TPT to identify which place will be pre-selected and therefore what places will be released and therefore available for further selection onto the team.
 - iv. Any pre-selections made in accordance with this section 3.3(e) will fill the respective place detailed in 3.3(a) on the team in this age/class.
 - v. Due to there being a maximum of two places identified for Canoe, only two Canoe athletes can be pre-selected. In the event that more than two Canoe athletes medal in the Canoe classes, the top two athletes on the BMT will be pre-selected. Further selections in Canoe may only be achieved through securing a released place in accordance with section 3.3(i).
 - vi. In circumstances where a pre-selection is made in accordance with this clause, there will still be an opportunity for selection into the age/class at the lead assessment. However, any further selections into the age/class may only be achieved through securing a released place in accordance with section 3.3(i).
- f) World Championships Lead Assessments:**
- i. K2 / C2 selections will be made from the long course K2 / C2 assessment race (11th Aug tbc)
 - ii. K1 / C1 selections will be made from the long course K1 / C1 assessment race (10th Aug tbc)
 - iii. The SCN and short course race at the European Championships will also be used to support in nominating selected athletes to compete in the short course event at the World Championships.
- g) World Championship Kayak Selections:**
- i. Where there are no preselected athletes for the respective age/class, Kayak selection will be “first past the post” with 14 places available (see 3.3.a) meaning the winners of each kayak class will be selected onto the team subject to them making the performance standard.
 - ii. In ages/classes where there is a pre-selected athlete, further selections into this age / class may only be achieved through securing a released place in accordance with section 3.3(i).
- h) World Championship Canoe Selections:**
- i. There are two places identified for canoe across C1 and C2 and all age groups.
 - ii. Canoe athletes pre-selected in accordance with section 3.3(e) will automatically be allocated the canoe places. If there are two canoe athletes pre-selected then further selections of canoe athletes may only be achieved through securing a released place in accordance with section 3.3(i).
 - iii. If one or fewer canoe athletes are pre-selected, the remaining places will be offered to the highest ranked canoe athletes on the BMT subject to them making the performance standard.
- i) Released Places / Final Team Selection:**
- i. Where there is no available athlete meeting the performance standard in a designated age / class, this place will be released back to the team.
 - ii. If an athlete (s) makes the team in both K1 and K2, the spare place (s) will be released back to the team.

- iii. When selecting for any released places, the Selection Committee will consider the following factors (in the following priority order):
 - a. the BMT ranking across all the classes;
 - b. the Team Profile (TPT) with the aim of sending the best team to the Championship Event;
 - c. all previous assessment races from the 2024 season as supporting evidence where it is required to help decide between athletes for the final places;
 - d. the final team balance considering any logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements known at the time of the selection meeting.

j) Team Profile / Lead Events:

- i. Athletes will be selected for a lead class.
- ii. In the event that an athlete has performed well across multiple classes (e.g. K1/C1 & K2/C2) the athlete's expressed preference will be given priority.
- iii. Athletes may be selected for additional events /distances at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- iv. The Selection Committee reserves the right to put a K2/C2 together from two athletes who have been selected in other classes, assuming the athletes accept and there is an entry space available in the relevant class once the team spaces have been filled.

3.4 Paracanoe Demonstration at European and World Championships

a) Team Size:

- i. A team of up to 5 athletes has been budgeted for the paracanoe demonstration events at the European and World Championships.

b) European Championships Lead Assessments:

- i. Selections will be made from the paracanoe long course assessment on the 18th May.
- ii. The SCN will also be used as supporting evidence if required given this race is open to any K1 (including paracanoe) as per the open class at the European Championships.

c) European Championships Paracanoe Selection:

- i. Up to 5 places are available for paracanoe athletes across all the classes.
- ii. The places will be offered to the five highest ranked paracanoe athletes on the BMT.

d) World Championships Pre-selection:

- i. Athletes who have won a medal at the European Championships in a paracanoe demonstration event that is scheduled for the World Championships will be pre-selected onto the World Championship team taking one of the 5 available athlete places.

e) World Championships Lead Assessments:

- i. Selections will be made from the long course assessment on the 10th August.
- ii. The National Championships will also be used as supporting evidence if required, along with the results from the other paracanoe assessments from 2024.

f) World Championships Paracanoe Selection:

- i. Up to 5 places are identified for paracanoe across all the classes.
- iii. Paracanoe athletes pre-selected in accordance with section 3.4.d) will automatically be allocated a paracanoe place. If there are five paracanoe athletes pre-selected then there will no further opportunities for selection.
- iv. Following any preselection, any remaining places will be offered to the highest ranked paracanoe athletes on the BMT.

g) Final Team Selection:

- i. When selecting the final places, the Selection Committee will consider the following factors (in the following priority order):
 - a) the BMT ranking across all the classes;
 - b) the Team Profile (TPT) with the aim of sending the best team to the Championship Event;
 - c) all previous assessment races from the 2024 season as supporting evidence where it is required to help decide between athletes for the final places;
 - d) the final team balance considering any logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements known at the time of the selection meeting.

3.5 World Cup 2024

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 10 places available for U23 and Senior athletes in K1 and C1.
- ii. Selections will be made from the top performing athletes at the assessment race.
- iii. Selections will be balanced across the classes based on the performance of the athletes available.
- iv. If required, the BMT will be used to compare across the classes for the final athlete places.
- v. The final team balance will be informed by the logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements.

c) Exclusions:

- i. Senior and U23 athletes who have won a medal in their current age category at a European or World Championships in the last 2 years will ordinarily be excluded from selection for this event with the inclusion of these athletes at the reasonable discretion of the Selection Committee.

3.6 Waterlands 2024

a) Lead Assessment:

- i. Selections will take place from the K1 assessment race on the 23rd March.
- ii. Please note there is currently no C1 race scheduled at this event and therefore there is no opportunity for Canoe selection.

b) Kayak Selections:

- i. There are 12 places available split by: 4 U23M, 4 U23W, 2 U18M, 2 U18JW.
- ii. Selections will be made from the top performing athletes in each class at the assessment race who are not expected to represent Great Britain in other internationals this year. See exclusions below.
- iii. The final team balance will be informed by the logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements.

c) Exclusions:

- i. Athletes who have made the 2024 World Cup team will ordinarily be excluded from selection for this event.
- ii. Current junior athletes who have medalled at the European or World Championships in 2023 will ordinarily be excluded from selection for this event, as these athletes are anticipated to be of standard to challenge for the for the teams for the Championship Events in 2024.
- iii. Inclusion of any athletes falling under 3.6(c)(i& ii) will be at the reasonable discretion of the Selection Committee.

3.7 Sanabria K4 2024

a) Lead Assessments:

- i. The lead assessment is the K2 assessment race on the 4th May. Results from the Short Course Nationals may also be used as a supporting assessment to inform selection of this event as per 3.7.b).v.

b) Kayak Selections:

- i. The team will be selected from available athletes who have not been selected to race at the European Championships 2024.
- ii. Priority will be given to U23 athletes and athletes who are in their first three years of the Senior age category (“prioritised age categories”).
- iii. Initial selections will be made from the K2 assessment.
- iv. Where possible whole K2s will be selected together if the K2 has performed well, both athletes are available, both meet the prioritised age categories, and neither are selected for at the European Championships.
- v. Final places will be filled from the available athletes by using their K2 and SCN results to select the best possible K4s.
- vi. Inclusion of athletes over the prioritised age categories will be at the discretion of the Selection Committee in pursuit of selecting a strong crew boat whilst also considering long term athlete development.

3.8 French Nationals 2024

a) Lead Assessments:

- i. The lead assessments are National Championships U16 and U14 classes
- ii. K1 / C1 results will be used as the lead selection event, followed by consideration of the K2 / C2 results.

b) Kayak and Canoe Selections:

- i. Selections will be made from the top performing singles across the age groups
- ii. Where possible high performing K2 / C2s will be kept together.
- iii. In the event this is not possible, K2 / C2s will be made up from the best available K1 / C1s.
- iv. Where possible, this team will be balanced to enable six K2 / C2s to be entered from the twelve athletes selected.
- v. The final team balance will be informed by the logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements.
- vi. Priority will be given to athletes who have not already represented Great Britain in Canoe Marathon in the 2024 season.

3.9 Assessment Race Participation

- a) All athletes seeking selection for an event must race in the lead assessment race(s) for the international event they are seeking selection for, except in cases where an athlete has been pre-selected for the World Championship).
- b) In all other circumstances, unless otherwise authorised in writing by the Chair of the Selection Committee prior to the event, all athletes seeking selection for an event must race in the class(es) corresponding to the age for which they are seeking international selection. The Selection Committee reserves the right to disregard results gained by athletes racing in the wrong age group or not competing at the lead assessment race(s) nominated for the international being selected for.
- c) Where there are multiple lead assessments nominated for an international team selection, it is recommended athletes participate in all named assessments, unless they have exceptional circumstances as per section 4.1).

3.10 Athlete Availability

- a) Athlete availability must be supplied via the web form on Canoemarathon.org.uk, according to the deadlines specified on the MRC website.
- b) Athletes without an availability form at the time of the Selection Meeting will not be considered for selection and will have no grounds for appeal.
- c) Completion of an availability form by an athlete will be accompanied by a commitment to forfeit their athlete contribution in the case of selection and subsequent withdrawal from the team, except at the discretion of the Selection Committee where exceptional circumstances arise between selection and event.

3.11 Selection Meetings and Announcements

- a) Meetings of the Selection Committee will take place following the final assessment race corresponding to each international event. The announcement of teams for international events will take place within five working days of the corresponding selection meeting, via the MRC website at Canoemarathon.org.uk.
- b) The MRC and British Canoeing reserve the right to withdraw the selection of any athlete found guilty of a disciplinary offence under BC/ICF rules.
- c) Team announcements will include:
 - i) The names of all paddlers selected for the team including the event(s) they will be participating in;
 - ii) A copy of assessment event results used, together with calculated Handicap scores (if applicable)
 - iii) Any additional notes that may support the announcement such as the application of exceptional circumstances if relevant.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

4.1 Exceptional Circumstances

- a) For the purposes of this clause, exceptional circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and unforeseen.
- b) Exceptional Circumstances are only applicable for European and World Championships selections.

- c) To be considered for exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level:
 - i) For Senior and U23 Men's athletes, the athlete must have made a top 5 at the World Championships and/or medaled at the European Championships in the class they are seeking selection for in the previous 12 months (e.g., an U23 medalist will not be considered for an athlete who is now racing senior).
 - ii) For Senior and U23 Women athletes, the athlete must have made a top 4 at the World Championships and/or medaled at the European Championships in the class they are seeking selection for in the previous 12 months (e.g. an U23 medalist will not be considered for an athlete who is now racing senior).
 - iii) For a Junior athlete, the athlete must have medaled at the European and / or World Championships in the 2023 season and still be racing in the Junior age category. Junior medals will not be considered for athletes moving into U23.
- d) Should an athlete meeting the above performance standard miss the lead assessment event due to exceptional circumstances, the Selection Committee reserve the right to provide an opportunity for such a boat to be eligible for selection.
- e) Where an athlete wishes to invoke this clause, exceptional circumstances requests should be directed to the Chair of the Selection Committee within 24 hours of the lead assessment via email: marathon.selectors@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk and should provide:
 - i) Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant information regarding the exceptional circumstance.
 - ii) In cases of illness or injury, information should be provided from a suitable medical professional regarding recovery and expected ability to perform at the event the athlete is seeking selection for.
 - iii) Any evidence the athlete wishes the Selection Committee to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other selected athletes.
- f) When considering whether an athlete currently demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other available athletes the Selection Committee will consider the following:
 - i) The athlete's racing profile in the 2024 assessment season;
 - ii) World and European Championship performance from the past 24 months;
 - iii) Sprint international results in 1K and 5K in the past 12 months;
 - iv) Sprint regatta results in 1K and 5K in the current 2024 season;
 - v) Recent training information shared by the athlete (as part of 4.1.e.iii).
- g) Where the Selection Committee accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the Selections Committee reserves the right to:
 - i) Where no athlete has been selected for the relevant event under this policy or a team place remains unfilled, accept the exceptional circumstances and select the athlete;
 - ii) Substitute a selected athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the exceptional circumstances request. If this situation arises more detail would be provided in the team announcement.
- h) All decisions under this clause that relate to injury, illness (including Covid-19) or medical conditions will be determined by the Selection Committee members. When assessing if an athlete is fit to race, the decision of the Selection Committee is final.

The Selection Committee has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final and not subject to appeal.

4.2 Contingency

- a) Should a date or venue of any event or assessment event need to be changed, this will be announced on the MRC website at Canoemarathon.org.uk and the MRC Facebook Page as soon as possible.
- b) If for any reason an assessment event is cancelled, it will be rescheduled if practical. If it cannot be rescheduled, the Selection Committee reserves the right to use results from any completed assessment races in 2024 to inform selection decisions.

4.3 Transport and Logistics

All transport and logistics will be organised by the MRC through the Logistics Manager. The whole team will be expected to travel to and from the event together with any request to travel independently of the team being at the discretion of the Logistics Manager and at an athlete's own cost. Dates of travel will be available on the MRC website

and any updates to these travel dates will be published here prior to selection. Athletes will be expected to share rooms as appropriate.

Any questions about logistics must be made through the Logistics Manager, Graham Warland (Graham.warland@gmail.com).

4.4 Funding and Participation

All athletes selected to represent the Great Britain Marathon teams will be part funded by the MRC, with a mandatory athlete contribution. Details of the athlete contribution for each event can be found in the International Programme detailed in Section 3.2(b). The team size for each event is set in line with the Selection Committee's strategy and the budget available, but may be reviewed prior to the selection meeting for each international event.

4.5 Paddler Agreement

Any athlete selected under this policy must sign the British Canoeing Great Britain Team participation agreement on accepting selection, no more than two weeks following acceptance of a place onto the team. Paddlers on a BC funded programme will still be bound by the terms of their agreement with British Canoeing.

4.6 Illness or injury

The Selection Committee reserve the right to withdraw athletes from identified race(s) on the basis of injury/illness or lack of commitment to training. Such decisions will only be taken following consultation with appropriate coaches and/or medical reports.

4.7 Appeal Procedure

- a) Certain decisions made throughout this Policy are not subject to appeal and where this is the case, specific reference will be made to the decision being final. For other selection decisions made under this Policy, the British Canoeing Appeals process applies and this procedure can be found in Appendix A.
- b) For World and European Championship selections, the full British Canoeing Appeal process will apply. For all other selections, only Stage 1 of the process (Formal Review) will apply.**

4.8 Data Protection

The MRC has adopted all British Canoeing policies.

British Canoeing is a privacy conscious organisation and is strongly committed to an individual's right to privacy. All data gathered during the selection process will only be utilised for the purposes of an athlete's participation in a Great Britain Marathon Team and squad. This may include administering their event/race entry and certain information may be published as part of the results and rankings of the event/race.

Any personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the British Canoeing Data Protection Policy and in accordance with all applicable Data Protection laws in effect at the time of publication of this Selection Policy, including but not limited to, the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

Further information on British Canoeing's approach to privacy and data protection, including British Canoeing's privacy notices, policies and contact details, can be located in their Privacy Centre

(<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/privacy-centre>). Should an athlete wish any data British Canoeing hold relating to them to be deleted at any point; they should contact British Canoeing at GDPR@britishcanoeing.org.uk.

4.9 Policies

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

4.10 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 Committee the Chair of the Selection Committee will be available to speak informally to athletes, club coaches and in the case of minors, parents of athletes.

APPENDIX A – 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@britishcanoeing.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@britishcanoeing.org.uk or appeals@britishcanoeing.org.uk
British Canoeing
Adbolton Lane
Holme Pierrepont
Nottingham
NG12 2LU

Schedule

Appeal Panel

The Appeal Panel shall be formed as follows:

Chair:

A legally qualified Chair shall be selected from British Canoeing's Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register.

Second and Third Panel Members:

The second and third members shall be independent persons selected from British Canoeing's Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register (a current list is available here: [Policies & Procedures \(britishcanoeing.org.uk\)](https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/policies-procedures)).

If members of the Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register are not available British Canoeing shall have the discretion to appoint from outside this Register.

APPENDIX B Minimum Performance Standards

The minimum performance standards identified for the European & World Championships in 2024 can be found in the table below:

Men	K1	K2	C1	C2	Women	K1	K2	C1	C2
SM	3	3	10	10	SW	11	10	20	N/A
U23M	4		12		U23W	11			
JM	6	5	16	15	JW	13	12	25	N/A

These are based on the current medal winning average handicaps (see below). All have been given +2HC points vs the International medal winning standard, except SMK1 and SMK2 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 +3HC.

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

	Distance	Medal Winning HC (average)				AVERAGE	Comment
		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 C The Handicap & Benchmarking Process & Associated tools

As per 3.1 of the selection policy, the Selection Committee will use comparisons across the classes to support the final make up of the team. The following section will outline the process and the tools used.

C.1 The Handicap Method:

Handicap (HC) scores are a way of measuring the relative speed of paddlers in multiple races and over multiple distances.

Please find a brief overview of how it works:

- All paddlers' results will be adjusted using their speed and race distance to give a comparative measure across all the ages and classes.
- A "consistent" paddler / paddlers with a known HC from the previous year's national and international competitions will be identified.
- Their time and HC will be placed into a formulated spreadsheet giving relative HCs to all the available athletes.
- These will be compared to the medal winning averages from the recent international competitions to give a relative comparison across the age groups and classes.

It is acknowledged that comparison across different races is not a perfect science, so selectors' informed knowledge and discretion will also be used to ensure these comparisons are fair and result in the best possible team selection.

These handicaps are then placed into the Bench Marking Table (BMT).

C.2: Benchmarking Table (BMT)

Each top performing athlete's current years assessment results, HC and international %s are placed into a table. The Selection Committee can then rank the athletes in order to select the top athletes across the classes. The Selection Committee reserves the right to refer to all previous assessment races from the 2024 season as supporting evidence should it be required to help decide between athletes for the final places.

C3: Team Profile Table (TPT)

The Selection Committee use the Team Profile Table to layout the top performing athletes across all the classes and distances. For the European & World Championships the main objective is to the send the best team of available athletes across all the age groups and classes. This is done by considering:

- **Lead class they are considered for**
- **The time-table**
- **Athlete's form & demonstrated fitness:** e.g. can an athlete do the Long Course K1 & K2 if they are back to back and for Senior Men this is approximately 2hrs per race. It is more likely for Juniors to double up as their races are much shorter.
- **Athlete preference**
- **Medal opportunity:** the Selection Committee may limit an athlete to one event to protect the performance in the lead event that has informed their selection.
- **Development / filling gaps in the team:** as per section 3.2.h.vii the selection committee reserves the right to put a C2 / K2 together from two athletes selected in K1. They may also select athletes into the short course event in addition to their long course selection based on the 2024 assessment information available.