

Paddle UK Marathon Racing Selection Policy

All athletes wishing to be considered for Marathon Racing selection during 2025 should complete the online availability forms by the required date (see section 7). All forms will be published on the Marathon Racing Committee (MRC) website prior to the required deadline:

<https://canoemarathon.org.uk>

Athletes wishing to contact the Selection Committee in relation to the content of this policy should do so via email to the Chair of Selections: marathon.selectors@vol.paddleuk.org.uk

SECTION A: PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Marathon racing selection policy ("Selection Policy") is to clearly outline the processes which will lead to the selection of the Marathon Racing teams for all 2025 international events named within this policy. It also aims to support the longer-term goals of the discipline.

2. Principles

- 2.1. The primary focus of international team selection will be to optimise performance at the World Championships, European Championships and World Games.
- 2.2. The secondary focus is to pursue long-term athlete development through the selection of teams for the development trips.
- 2.3. The Selection Policy seeks to select the best athletes in a transparent and open manner, which prioritises optimal preparation time in order to maximise the opportunities for international success.
- 2.4. Selection will be based on results in assessment races together with, and subject to, an assessment of performance standards. All eligible athletes will be considered equally for selection against the stated selection criteria regardless of club, training location, age, and National Association.
- 2.5. Where athletes compete in more than one eligible selection event, the policy will be applied in isolation for each specific event.
- 2.6. For Championship events, the selection process is primarily "first past the post" for kayak and a cross-class comparison through handicap benchmarking for canoe.
- 2.7. For Development events selection is usually based on one or two lead assessments. The selection of the team will be in line with the primary objectives of the trip and taking into account any logistical restrictions.
- 2.8. For all selections (with the exception of some development events), 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.
- 2.9. 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.
- 2.10. 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.
- 2.11. For more information on the handicap data, BMT and TPT, please see Appendix B.

SECTION B. ELIGIBILITY AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. To be eligible to be selected to any marathon racing team, athletes/crews must meet the following conditions:
 - 3.1.1. comply with eligibility criteria in accordance with competition rules laid down by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) or the European Canoe Association (ECA) as is applicable for the relevant competition as well as the [Paddle UK¹ Eligibility Policy](#);

¹ Paddle UK is a trading name of British Canoeing which is a Company registered at Companies House with the registered number 01525484.

- 3.1.2. Meet age and nationality criteria for international competitions as outlined below;
 - 3.1.3. Be a full member of Paddle UK or National Association² that enables participation in competition;
 - 3.1.4. Athletes are expected to sign up to the Paddle UK Athletes Code of Conduct on accepting selection (at least two weeks before travelling to the first competition), as well as settling any outstanding payments prior to travel;
 - 3.1.5. hold a valid passport with a minimum of 6 months unexpired validity and when competing in European countries hold a valid European Health Insurance Card or a valid Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). Details to apply for a free GHIC card can be found [here](#).
- 3.2. Paddle UK reserves the right to deselect an athlete who has been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under Paddle UK, ICF or IRF rules. This includes doping offences in line with the [Paddle UK Anti-Doping Rules](#) as well as violations of the Paddle UK [position on prohibited substances and illegal drugs](#).

4. International Eligibility

- 4.1. Selection will be subject to eligibility in accordance with competition rules laid down by the ICF or the ECA as is applicable for the relevant competition.
- 4.2. The first year an athlete can compete at World and European Senior/U23/Junior Championships is the year of their 15th birthday.
- 4.3. The last year a junior may compete in the Under 18 category is the year of their 18th birthday.

5. Performance Standards

- 5.1. 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 A. The Selection Committee reserves 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 A unsuitable.

SECTION C: GREAT BRITAIN MARATHON RACING SELECTION 2025

6. Selection Committee Composition

- 6.1. The Marathon Racing Selection Committee (Selection Committee) will be appointed by the Marathon Racing Committee.
- 6.2. The Selection Committee for 2025 will consist of the following members:

Chair:

Nanette North (IND)

Voting Members:

Joanne Bates (FOX)

Tom Sharpe (RIC)

Geoff Lovell (WOR)

Roland Lawler (ELM)

Matthew Enoch (NOT)

Fay Lamph (WEY)

Kat Wilson (BSF) – Selection Committee Secretary

Non-voting, independent representatives:

Lizzie Broughton (RIC) – athlete representative

An employee of Paddle UK may attend selection meetings as a non-voting observer and, where appropriate, offer support and guidance to the Selection Committee.

- 6.3. 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 digital conference software (e.g. Zoom or Teams) or telephone conference calls.

² Paddle Scotland, Canoe Wales, or Paddle Northern Ireland.

7. 2024 International Programme

7.1. The International Programme for 2025 is as follows:

Event	Dates	Team Composition	Lead Assessments	Athlete Contribution**	Availability Deadline*	Team Announced
German Nationals Brandenburg, Germany	17 th – 18 th May	Team of 12 U23 & U18 athletes	K1 / C1 Assessment 29 th March	£300	26 th March	31 st March
European Championships, Ponte de Lima, Portugal	4 th – 8 th June	Team of up to 24 athletes (including up to 4 para athletes)	K2/C2 Assessment 26 th April K1 /C1/ Paracanoe Assessment 3 rd May <i>Supporting assessment Short Course Champs 4th May</i>	£600	30 th April	WC 6 th May
Sanabria K4, Sinabria, Spain	July tbc	8 senior athletes, 4 female 4 male	K2/C2 Assessment 26 th April <i>Supporting assessment Short Course Champs 4th May</i>	£300		
World Games, China	9 th – 10 th August	1 SMK1 1 SWK1	K1 /C1 Paracanoe Assessment 3 rd May	£600		
World Championships, Hungary	3rd - 7th Sept	Team of 20 athletes (including up to 4 para athletes)	National Championships 26 th /27 th July <i>Supported by European Championships</i>	£600	23 rd July	WC 28th July
French National Championships, tbc	Sept tbc	Up to 12 athletes, aged under 16	Nationals Championships 26 th /27 th July	£300	23 rd July	WC 28th July
World Cup, China	Oct tbc	No team. Eligible athletes can request permission to enter	Continuous Assessment from the 2025 season	Self Funded	3 rd Sept	N/A
Super Cup	Oct tbc					

*This will be the provisional date the availability 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.

8. Team Selection Overview

8.1. The assessment event programme for 2025 is as follows

Date	Event	Format	Venue	Lead Assessment For:
29 th March	K1 / C1 Assessment	Full distance K1/C1	Norwich	German Nationals
26 th April	K2 / C2 Assessment	Full distance K2/C2 race	Reading	European Championships K2/ C2 & Sanabria K4
3 rd May	K1 / C1 Assessment	Full distance K1/C1	Nottingham	European Championships & World Games K1
4 th May	Short Course National Championships	Heats & Finals	Peterborough	<i>Supporting assessment for Euros Short Course & Sanabria K4</i>
5 – 8 th June	European Championships	International Competition	Portugal	World Championships*
26 – 27 th July	National Championships	K1/C1 and K2/C2 long course	Norwich	French Nationals. World Championships

*The European Championships will be used for continuous assessment for the World Championships selection. 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).

9. Selection for European Championships 2025

9.1. Team Size:

- 9.1.1. A team of up to 24 athletes may be selected, subject to the budget allowing.
- 9.1.2. Subject to the performance standard being met (see Appendix A), the table below represents the events and classes that will be selected:

Age Group	K1	K2	Canoe	Paracanoe	Additional Places*	Total
SM	1	2	2			
U23M	1					
SW	1	2				
U23W	1					
JM	1	2				
JW	1	2				
Total	6	8	2	4	4	24

*Subject to the budget allowing, an additional 4 places may be offered at the discretion of the Selection Committee selected via handicap benchmark across all classes.

9.2. Lead Assessments:

- 9.2.1. Doubles selections will be made from the K2 / C2 assessment on the 26th April.
- 9.2.2. Singles selection will be made from the K1 / C1 assessment on the 3rd May
- 9.2.3. Results from the Short Course Nationals will be used to support identifying which athletes selected onto the team via the long course assessments will also compete in the short course.

9.3. Selection Process:

- 9.3.1. Kayak selection will be “first past the post” with 14 places available (see 9.1.2) meaning the winners of each kayak class will be selected onto the team subject to them achieving the required performance standard.
- 9.3.2. Two places are identified for canoe across C1 and C2 and all age groups. The places will be offered to the two highest ranked canoe athletes on the BMT, subject to them achieving the required performance standard.
- 9.3.3. Four places are identified for paracanoe across all the classes. The places will be offered to the four highest ranked paracanoe athletes on the BMT. These athletes are not subject to a minimum performance standard in 2025.
- 9.3.4. Four additional places are identified for all classes for the 2025 European Championships. The places will be offered to the next four athletes on the BMT, subject to them making the minimum performance standard.

9.4. Released Placed / Final Team Selection:

- 9.4.1. Where there is no available athlete meeting the performance standard in a designated age / class, this place will be released back to the team..
- 9.4.2. If an athlete(s) makes the team in both K1 and K2, the spare place(s) will be released back to the team.
- 9.4.3. When selecting for any released places, the Selection Committee will consider the following factors (in the following priority order):
- i. the BMT ranking across all the classes;
 - ii. the Team Profile (TPT) with the aim of sending the best team to the Championship event;
 - iii. previous assessment races from the 2025 season as supporting evidence where it is required to help decide between athletes for the final places;
 - iv. the final team balance considering any logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements known at the time of the selection meeting.

9.5. Team Profile / Lead Events

- 9.5.1. Athletes will be selected for a lead class.
- 9.5.2. 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.
- 9.5.3. Athletes may be entered into additional events / distances at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- 9.5.4. The Selection Committee reserves the right to put a K2/C2 together from two athletes who have been selected onto the team 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.

10. Selection for World Championships 2025

10.1. Team Size:

10.1.1. A team of up to 20 athletes has been budgeted for.

10.1.2. Subject to the performance standard being met (see Appendix A), the table below represents the events and classes that will be selected:

Age Group	K1	K2	Canoe	Paracanoe	Total
SM	1	2	2	4	
U23M	1				
SW	1	2			
U23W	1				
JM	1	2			
JW	1	2			
Total	6	8	2	4	20

10.2. Lead Assessments:

10.2.1. Doubles and singles selections will be made from the K1 / C2 & K2 / C2 National Championships on the 26-27th July.

10.2.2. Results from the Short Course Nationals and the European Championships Short Course will be used to support identifying which athletes selected onto the team via the long course assessments will also compete in the short course.

10.3. Selection Process:

10.3.1. Kayak selection will be “first past the post” with 14 places available (see 8.2.1.2). Unless a class has an athlete already pre-selected, the winners of each kayak class will be selected onto the team subject to them achieving the required performance standard.

10.3.2. Two places are identified for canoe across C1 and C2 and all age groups. Unless athletes have been pre-selected in the canoe classes, the places will be offered to the two highest ranked canoe athletes on the BMT, subject to them achieving the required performance standard.

10.3.3. Four places are identified for paracanoe across all the classes. Unless athletes have been pre-selected in the paracanoe classes, the places will be offered to the four highest ranked canoe athletes on the BMT. These athletes are not subject to a minimum performance standard in 2025.

10.4. World Championships Pre-Selection:

10.4.1. 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.

10.4.2. Ordinarily this will result in the athlete being selected into the age and class that the medal was won (e.g. a medal in the SWK1 LC or SC 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.)

10.4.3. If an U23 wins 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. This information will be shared prior to the lead assessment.

10.4.4. If 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.

10.4.5. Due to there being a maximum of two places identified for canoe, only two canoe athletes can be pre-selected. If more than two canoe athletes win a 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 9.4.3.

10.4.6. Due to there being a maximum of four places identified for paracanoe, only four paracanoe athletes can be pre-selected. If more than four paracanoe athletes win a medal, the top four athletes on the BMT will be pre-selected. Further selections in paracanoe may only be achieved through securing a released place in accordance with section 9.4.3.

10.4.7. 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 9.4.3.

10.5. Released Places / Final Team Selection:

- 10.5.1. Where there is no available athlete meeting the performance standard in a designated age / class, this place will be released back to the team.
- 10.5.2. If an athlete(s) makes the team in both K1 and K2, the spare place(s) will be released back to the team.
- 10.5.3. When selecting for any released places, the Selection Committee will consider the following factors (in the following priority order):
 - v. the BMT ranking across all the classes;
 - vi. the Team Profile (TPT) with the aim of sending the best team to the Championship event;
 - vii. all previous assessment races from the 2025 season as supporting evidence where it is required to help decide between athletes for the final places;
 - viii. the final team balance considering any logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements known at the time of the selection meeting.

10.6. Team Profile / Lead Events

- 10.6.1. Athletes will be selected for a lead class.
- 10.6.2. 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.
- 10.6.3. Athletes may be entered into additional events / distances at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- 10.6.4. The Selection Committee reserves the right to put a K2/C2 together from two athletes who have been selected onto the team 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.

11. German Nationals 2025

- 11.1. This is a development trip for U23 and U18 athletes.
- 11.2. Preselected athletes from the 2024 French Nationals will automatically be selected into the German Nationals team, subject to them completing the K1 / C1 assessment on the 29th March.
- 11.3. Any places released back from the preselected athletes will be filled by benchmarking the results across the eligible classes from the K1 / C1 assessment on the 29th March.
- 11.4. Athletes who represented Great Britain in the 2024 World Championships and European Championships in their current class will ordinarily be excluded from selection to this team. This is in line with the objective of athlete development.

12. World Games 2025

- 12.1. Selection will be made from the K1 / C1 assessment on the 3rd May
- 12.2. One SWK1 and one SMK1 will be selected.
- 12.3. Selections will be made from the top performing athletes from the combined start of the Senior and U23 K1M and Senior and U23 K1W races and therefore is open to all athletes competing in both the U23 and Senior category.

13. Sanabria K4 2025

- 13.1. The team will be selected from the top performing athletes available athletes who have not been selected to race at the European Championships 2025.
- 13.2. Priority will be given to U23 athletes and athletes who are in their first three years of the Senior age category ("prioritised age categories").
- 13.3. Initial selections will be made from the K2 assessment on the 26th April.
- 13.4. 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.
- 13.5. Final places will be filled from the available athletes by using their K2 and SCN results to select the best possible K4s.
- 13.6. 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.

14. French Nationals 2025

- 14.1. The lead assessments are National Championships U16 and U14 classes. K1 / C1 results will be used as the lead selection event, followed by consideration of the K2 / C2 results.
- 14.2. Selections will be made from the top performing singles across the age groups.

- 14.3. Where possible high performing K2 / C2s will be kept together.
- 14.4. In the event this is not possible, K2 / C2s will be made up from the best available K1 / C1s.
- 14.5. Where possible, this team will be balanced to enable six K2 / C2s to be entered from the twelve athletes selected.
- 14.6. The final team balance will be informed by the logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements.
- 14.7. Priority will be given to athletes who have not already represented Great Britain in Canoe Marathon in the 2025 season.

15. World Cup and Super Cup 2025

- 15.1. The Selection Committee will not be sending a team to either of these events and therefore any athlete choosing to travel to this event will do so independently and self-funded.
- 15.2. Athletes wishing to attend must make a request to the Chair of Selection Committee.
- 15.3. Entries will be approved for any athlete who has made the required performance standard (as per Appendix A) during the 2025 assessment program for the event they are seeking to enter.
- 15.4. The MRC will provide support with event entry and accreditation administration as far as is reasonably possible.

16. Assessment Race Participation

- 16.1. 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.
- 16.2. 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.
- 16.3. 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 clause 20.
- 16.4. Athletes travelling to the 2025 Junior and U23 Sprint World Championships will not be able to make the National Championships on the 26-27th July. If any of these athletes are seeking selection to the World Championships, they must inform the to the Chair of the Selection Committee as per the Exceptional circumstances policy (section 21).

17. Athlete Availability

- 17.1. Athlete availability must be supplied via the web form on Canoemarathon.org.uk according to the deadlines specified on the MRC website.
- 17.2. 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.
- 17.3. 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.

18. Selection Meetings and Announcements of 2025 GBR Teams

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

19. General Provisions

- 19.1. The Selection Committee reserves the right not to nominate, or to de-select for any international event, any individual or crew athlete or reserve on the following grounds:
 - 19.1.1. Medical grounds – i.e. when an injury/illness (both mental or physical) may, in the reasonable opinion of the Selection Committee, inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance and/ or mean the athlete cannot reasonably be considered fit to travel; or
 - 19.1.2. Suitability as a team member, where for example (but not limited to) an athlete's behaviour or attitude leads the Selection Committee to determine in its reasonable opinion that the selection of such athlete would be inappropriate; or
 - 19.1.3. Poor form – i.e. when an athlete's form in events and/or training has decreased to such a level that, in the reasonable opinion of the Selection Committee, they would no longer be able to achieve the required level of performance to be competitive at the applicable competition(s).

- 19.2. Any decisions taken in accordance with 18.1 will only be made following consultation with the athlete, appropriate coaches and/or medical reports and in the case of 18.1.3. include reference to applicable performance standards.
- 19.3. Non-travelling reserve(s) may be named in each individual event where the required performance standards have been achieved. In order of selection, named reserves will only travel in the event of injury or illness to a selected athlete or where a place(s) is declined.

SECTION D: CONTINGENCY AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

20. Contingency

- 20.1. The Selection Committee retains the right to implement contingency measures where circumstances arise that prevent full, fair and competitive racing and adapt racing to ensure as fair a selection process as possible. This may include circumstances such as weather conditions and Covid-19 implications.
- 20.2. If weather conditions or other significant issues arise rendering it inappropriate or impossible to conduct an assessment race during or, in advance of competition, the Selection Committee may declare that a race(s) will not be used for assessment and invoke one or more of the following non-exclusive alternatives:
 - 20.2.1. Rescheduling of any affected assessment race(s) to early morning/evening racing within the same assessment event (if scheduling and weather conditions permit).
 - 20.2.2. Rescheduling of any affected assessment races to an alternative competition (if appropriate).
 - 20.2.3. Rescheduling to an alternative date if available and appropriate.
 - 20.2.4. Using results from completed assessments races to inform selection.
- 20.3. Any decision made under these provisions of the policy will be made by a minimum of two Selection Committee members and where changes are required to be made to the event schedule, such decisions will be made in consultation with the assessment event organisers.
- 20.4. All Selection Committee announcements relevant to contingencies will be posted on the MRC website: [Canoemarathon.org.uk](http://canoemarathon.org.uk)

21. Exceptional circumstances

- 21.1. Should an athlete miss a selection event due to illness or injury; or have any other exceptional circumstances, the Selection Committee reserves the right to provide an opportunity for such a boat to be eligible for selection. For the purposes of this clause, exceptional circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and unforeseen.
- 21.2. To be considered for an exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level:
 - 21.2.1. For Senior and U23 Men's athletes, the athlete must have made a top 5 at the World Championships and/or the European Championships in the class they are seeking selection for in the previous 12 months (e.g., an U23 medallist will not be considered for an athlete who is now racing senior).
 - 21.2.2. For Senior and U23 Women athletes, the athlete must have made a top 4 at the World Championships and/or the European Championships in the class they are seeking selection for in the previous 12 months (e.g. an U23 medallist will not be considered for an athlete who is now racing senior).
 - 21.2.3. For a Junior athlete, the athlete must have made a top 3 at the European and / or World Championships in the 2024 season and still be racing in the Junior age category. Junior medals will not be considered for athletes moving into U23.
 - 21.2.4. Selected for the 2025 Junior and U23 Sprint World Championships.
- 21.3. Where an athlete wishes to invoke this clause, and meets the criteria detailed in Clause 19.2.1, exceptional circumstances requests should be directed to the Selection Committee via email at marathon.selectors@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk either prior to the commencement of the selection event, or within 24 hours following the completion of the event. Within the request, the athlete should provide:
 - 21.3.1. Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant exceptional circumstance.
 - 21.3.2. Evidence of meeting the criteria detailed in Clause 20.2.
 - 21.3.3. Any other evidence the athlete wishes the Selection Committee to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other

selected athletes.

- 21.4. When considering an exceptional circumstance request, the Selection Committee will consider the following;
- 21.4.1. The athlete's racing profile in the 2025 assessment season;
 - 21.4.2. World and European Championship performance from the past 24 months;
 - 21.4.3. Sprint international results in 1K and 5K in the past 12 months;
 - 21.4.4. Sprint regatta results in 1K and 5K in the current 2025 season;
- 21.5. Where the Selection Committee accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the Selection Committee reserves the right to:
- 21.5.1. 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;
 - 21.5.2. 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.
- 21.6. All decisions under this Clause 20 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.
- 21.7. **The Selection Committee has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final and not subject to appeal.**

SECTION E: GENERAL INFORMATION

22. Responsibility

The MRC Selection Committee which is appointed by and reports to the Marathon Racing Committee, is responsible for all aspects of developing, approving and managing the implementation of the Marathon Racing selection policies.

23. Conflicts of Interest

Paddle UK and the MRC Committee are 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 the athletes. If a person is unsure whether they have a conflict or potential conflict they should consult the Paddle UK Head of Governance (or their designee).

24. Funding, Participation and Logistics

- 24.1. All athletes selected to represent the GBR teams must:
- 24.1.1. pay the mandatory athlete contribution. Details of the athlete contribution for each event can be found in the International Programme detailed in Section 7.
 - 24.1.2. travel to and from the event together. 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.
 - 24.1.3. share rooms as appropriate.
 - 24.1.4. be prepared to accept team leader direction regarding behaviour and racing as well as wearing the GBR team uniform
 - 24.1.5. Any athletes with debts to the MRC for previous internationals cannot be selected for further international trips until the debt has been settled.

25. Policy Changes

- 25.1. The Selection Policy may be amended at any time by the Selection Committee for one or more of the following circumstances:
- 25.1.1. Any changes in rules governing a particular event;
 - 25.1.2. Any change in ICF, ECA or IRF eligibility, rules or programme of events;
 - 25.1.3. To give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight;
 - 25.1.4. To clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy;

- 25.1.5. Any other reason determined by **the MRC Committee** at its total discretion that is in the best interest of Marathon Racing and in line with the principles outlined for selection.
- 25.1.6. Circumstances arising from any notifiable pandemic or epidemic.

25.2. Any changes will be communicated on Canoemarathon.org.uk

26. Appeals Procedure

- 26.1. Certain decisions made throughout this Selection 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 Selection Policy, the Paddle UK Non-Olympic Discipline Appeals process applies and this procedure can be found [here](#). As permitted under the Appeals Procedure, within Canoe Marathon, the first stage review shall be conducted by the Selection Panel Chair and any references to the Discipline Committee Chair throughout the Appeals Procedure shall be taken to refer to the Selection Panel Chair.
- 26.2. For the Development trips of Sanabria, German Nationals and French Nationals, only Stage 1 of the Appeal Procedure (Formal Review) will apply.

27. Data Protection

- 27.1. The MRC Committee has adopted all Paddle UK policies relating to data protection.
- 27.2. Paddle UK 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 Marathon Racing team. 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.
- 27.3. Any personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the Paddle UK 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.
- 27.4. Further information on Paddle UK's approach to privacy and data protection, including Paddle UK's privacy notices, policies and contact details, can be located in their Privacy Centre (<https://paddleuk.org.uk/privacy-centre/>). Should an athlete wish any data Paddle UK hold relating to them to be deleted at any point; they should contact Paddle UK at GDPR@paddleuk.org.uk.

28. Policies

This Selection Policy operates in conjunction with all relevant Paddle UK policies including but not limited to, Equality, Anti-Doping Policy, Pregnancy, Safeguarding, Anti-Bullying Policy, Covid Vaccination Policy and Anti- Bribery Policy.

29. Communications

The Selection Committee 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 and in the case of minors, parents.

30. Force Majeure

"Force Majeure" means any act, event, omission, cause or circumstance not within the reasonable control of Paddle UK, MRC or the race organisers, including but not limited to any strike, lockout or other industrial action, any civil commotion or disorder, riot, invasion, war or terrorist activity or threat of war or terrorist activity, any action taken by a governmental or public authority of any kind (including, without limitation, not granting a consent, exemption, approval or clearance), any fire, explosion, storm, flood, earthquake, subsidence, epidemic or other natural physical disaster. In the event of such Force Majeure affecting the application of the policy, the Selection Committee shall have the sole discretion, in consultation with the Paddle UK Director of Governance, to make a decision in line with the principles, strategy and mission of this selection policy.

-End of Policy

APPENDIX A: Minimum Performance Standards

The minimum performance standards identified for the European & World Championships in 2025 can be found in the table below:

Men	K1	K2	C1	C2	Women	K1	K2	C1	C2
SM	3	3	11	10	SW	10	9	20	N/A
U23M	4		13		U23W	11			
JM	6	5	15	14	JW	12	11	24	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 2025 Minimum Performance Standards:

	Medal Winning HC (average)									Average used to Build 2025 Policy	Comment
	24 World Distances	Worlds 24	Euros 24	Worlds 23	Euros 23	Worlds 22	Euros 22	Worlds 21			
SMK1	29.8	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	Worlds 24 rough weather. Euros 23 short course due to heat. Removed these events from average
SWK1	26.2	7	8	8	9	6	8	9	8	8	Worlds 22 it an outlier.Euros 23 short course due to heat. Removed from average.
U23 MK1	26.2	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	
U23 WK1	22.6	10	9	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	
JMK1	22.6	4	4	3	3	1	4	4	4	4	Worlds 22 is an outlier. Removed from average
JWK1	19	9	11	9	9	10	12	10	10	10	
SMC1	22.6	9	9	9	9	7	10	8	9	9	Changed distance in 2023 from 26.2km to 22.6km
U23 MC1	19	10	11	15	12	9	12	9	11	11	
SWC1	15.4	19	18	18	18	18	18	17	18	18	
U23 WC1	11.8	20	20	21					20	20	
JMC1	15.4	13	13	11	14	13	13	15	13	13	Changed distance in 2023 from 19km to 15.4km
JWC1	11.8	20		22		23	24	22	22	22	
SMK2	29.8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SWK2	26.2	8	7	7	7	8	8	6	7	7	
JMK2	22.6	2	3	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	
JWK2	19	9	7	6	7	12	10	10	9	9	
SMC2	26.2	8	9	7	8	10	8	6	8	8	Changed distance in 2023 from 26.2km to 22.6km
SWC2	15.4										
JMC2	15.4	12	10	12	15	13		14	12	12	Changed distance in 2023 from 19km to 15.4km
JWC2											

APPENDIX B: The Handicap & Benchmarking Process & Associated tools

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.

B.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).

B.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.

B.3: 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 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 timetable**
- **Athlete's form & demonstrated fitness:** e.g. can an athlete do the Long Course K1 & K2 if they are back-to-back, bearing in mind that 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.