

Paddle UK Marathon Racing Selection Policy 2026

All athletes wishing to be considered for Marathon Racing selection during 2026 should complete the online availability form for the relevant Event by the availability registration deadline detailed in clause 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 Panel 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

- 1.1. The purpose of the Marathon racing selection policy is to clearly outline the processes which will lead to the selection of the Marathon Racing Teams for all 2026 international events named within this policy.
- 1.2. The policy also aims to support the longer-term goals of the Marathon racing discipline.

2. Principles

- 2.1. The primary focus of National Team Selection will be to optimise performance at The World Championships and European Championships.
- 2.2. The secondary focus is to pursue long-term athlete development through the selection of teams for Development Events. The Development Events are detailed in Table 2 in Clause 7.1.
- 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 selection 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. In this policy, "paracanoe classes" are defined as VL1, VL2, VL3, KL1, KL2, KL3 for both Men and Women.
- 2.7. For the 2026 European Championship event, the selection process is primarily "first past the post" for kayak, and a cross-class comparison through handicap bench-marking for canoe and paracanoe classes.
- 2.8. For the World Championships event, in reflection of the anticipated small team size, selection will be made to maximise medal winning opportunities. Selection will be primarily based on performances at the European Championships alongside supporting data from the National Marathon Championships, the 2026 assessment races, and where required, 2025 International performances.
- 2.9. Selection for Development Events is based on one assessment race (two in the case of Sanabria K4). The selection of the team will be in line with the primary objectives of the trip (see 2.2) and take into account any logistical restrictions.
- 2.10. For all selections (with the exception of designated 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 final team selection.
- 2.11. The default position of the Selection Panel 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, team sizes may be reduced from the maximum team size outlined in this Selection Policy.

- 2.12. For the Championship events, there may be multiple distances across the age groups. Where possible the Selection Panel 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.
- 2.13. For more information on handicap data, BMT and TPT, please see Appendix 1.

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](#);
 - 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 Association that enables participation in competition;
 - 3.1.4. 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 not to select - or to deselect - an athlete who is subject to an interim suspension or 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. With the exception of any designated Development Places, the Marathon Selection Panel will apply a performance standard for European and World Championships selection under this policy to ensure athletes are of the appropriate level for the competition they are being considered for. The detail of the application of performance standards can be found in Appendix 1.
- 5.2. The Selection Panel reserves the right to not apply a performance standard where circumstances arise which in the Selection Panel's reasonable opinion would make the application of the performance standard in Appendix 1 unsuitable (for example a result rendered unrepresentative due to grossly abnormal race conditions).

SECTION C: GREAT BRITAIN MARATHON SELECTION 2026

6. Selection Panel Composition

- 6.1. The Marathon Selection Panel (Selection Panel) will be appointed by the Marathon Racing Committee.
- 6.2. The Selection Panel for 2026 will consist of the following members:

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

Chair:
Nanette North (EXE)

Voting Members:
Jo Bates (FOX)
Tom Sharpe (RIC)
Matthew Enoch (NOT)
Fay Lamph (WEY) – Selection Panel Secretary
Lizzie Broughton (RIC)

Non-voting, independent representatives:

Athlete representative - TBC

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

- 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.

7. 2026 International Programme

- 7.1. The International Programme for 2026 is as follows:

Table 1

Major Championships					
Date	Event	Team Composition	Lead Assessments	Athlete Contribution	Availability Registration Deadline
22 – 28 June	European Championships, Romania	A maximum of 24 Athletes including para-athletes	K1 Assessment 2 May K2 Assessment 23 May	£600	24 April
22-25 October	World Championships, Argentina	A maximum of 7 athletes, including para-athletes	European Championships 22-28 June	£700	3 July

Table 2

Development Events					
Date	Event	Team Composition	Lead Assessments	Athlete Contribution	Availability Registration Deadline
18 April	Waterlands Marathon, Netherlands	12 U23/U18 development athletes	K1 Assessment 28 March	£300	20 March
July TBC	Sanabria K4, Spain	8 senior athletes (4 male, 4 female)	K2 Assessment 23 May Supported by Short Course Nationals (SCN), 3 May	£300	24 April
26-27	French	12 U16/U14	National	£300	3 July

September	Nationals	athletes	Championships 11-12 July		
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8. Team Selection Overview

8.1. The assessment event programme for 2026 is as follows:

Date	Event	Format	Venue	Assessment For:
28 March	K1 / C1	K1/C1 long course	Norwich	Waterlands Marathon
2 May	K1 /C1 and para Assessment	K1/C1/para long course	Nottingham	Lead assessment for European Championships
3 May	Short Course National Championships	K1/C1/para short course (heats & Finals)	Manvers	Supporting assessment for Euros Short Course, and Sanabria K4
23 May	K2 Assessment	K2 long course	Elmbridge	Lead Assessment for European Championships and Sanabria K4.
22-28 June	European Championships	International Competition	Romania	Lead Assessment for World Championships
11-12 July	National Championships	K1/C1 and K2/C2 long course	Laleham	Supporting assessment for World Championships Lead assessment for French Nationals

9. Selection for European Championships 2026

9.1. Team Size:

9.1.1. Subject to budget allowing, a team of up to 24 athletes will be selected in the following events and classes:

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

*Four development places are available across all classes, reflecting the fact that there is no European World Cup event in 2026.

9.2. Lead Assessments:

9.2.1. Doubles selections will be made from the K2 / C2 assessment on 23 May.

9.2.2. Singles selection will be made from the K1 / C1 assessment on 2 May (subject to 9.6 below).

9.2.3. Results from the Short Course Nationals will be used to identify which athletes selected onto the team via the long course assessments will also compete in the short course events(s).

9.3. Selection Process:

9.3.1. Kayak selection will be "first past the post" with 14 places available (see 9.1.1) 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. When selecting for canoe places, the Selection Panel will consider the following:

- i. the athletes ranking on the BMT;
- ii. where an athlete has not competed at the lead assessment due to the scheduling issues detailed in clause 9.6, consideration will also be given to previous assessment races from the 2026 season, as well as international performances in the 2025 season.

Any selections made for canoe places under this clause 9.3.2 are subject to

athletes

achieving the required performance standard.

9.3.3. Four places are identified for para-canoe across all the classes. The places will be offered to the four highest ranked para-canoe athletes on the BMT. These athletes are not subject to the minimum performance standard.

9.4. Released Places:

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 Panel 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 2026 season, and international performance in the 2025 season, as supporting evidence where it is required to help decide between athletes for the final places.

9.5. Development Places / Final Team Selection:

9.5.1. In addition to the above, 4 (four) further places are identified for athlete development.

9.5.2. As development opportunities, these selections are not subject to the minimum performance standard.

9.5.3. When selecting for development places, the Selection Panel will consider the following factors (in the following priority order):

- i. the BMT ranking of athletes that have not already been selected through 9.3 and 9.4 across all the classes;
- ii. an athlete's performance at the Short Course Nationals with priority given to those athletes that secure the highest placed finish;
- iii. the Team Profile (TPT) with the aim of sending the best team to the Championship event;
- iv. previous assessment races from the 2026 season, and international performance in the 2025 season, as supporting evidence where it is required to help decide between athletes for the final places;
- v. the final team balance considering any logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements known at the time of the selection meeting.

9.6. Where an athlete is selected for the ICF Sprint World Cup in Szeged and feels unable to participate in the lead assessment for the European Marathon Championships due to the proximity of the events, the athlete may be eligible for selection to the team via a released place following consideration of the factors detailed in clause 9.4.3 or a canoe space in accordance with 9.3.2.

9.7. Team Profile / Lead Events

9.7.1. Athletes will be selected for a lead class.

9.7.2. 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.

9.7.3. Athletes may be entered into additional events / distances at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

9.7.4. The Selection Panel 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 2026

10.1. Team Size: A team of up to 7 athletes has been provisionally budgeted for; final team size

- may differ from this depending on budgetary restrictions.
- 10.2. Lead Assessments: Doubles and singles selections will primarily be made from the K1 / C1 & K2 / C2 and Para class results from the European Championships 2026, including short course events.
 - 10.3. Selection Process:
 - 10.3.1. The Selection Panel will prioritise athletes who have demonstrated medal-winning potential regardless of event or class (including Senior, Junior, Kayak, Canoe and Para-canoe events).
 - 10.3.2. The Selection Panel will use the following information to assess medal-winning potential in the following priority order²:
 - i. European Championships results 2026 (subject to 10.4 below);
 - ii. 2026 National Championships race results;
 - iii. World and European Championship performance from the past 24 months;
 - iv. All other Assessment Race results from the 2026 season.
 - 10.4. Where an athlete is selected for the European Championships 2026 but is unable to complete due to competing at the 2026 Junior and U23 Sprint World Championships, the Selection Panel may consider the factors listed in 10.3.2 (clauses ii, iii and iv) and results from the National Marathon Championships (supporting assessment event) to assess medal-winning potential.
 - 10.5. Team Profile / Lead Events:
 - 10.5.1. Athletes will be selected for a lead class. 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.
 - 10.5.2. Athletes may be entered into additional events / distances at the discretion of the Selection Panel.
 - 10.5.3. The Selection Panel 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. Waterlands Marathon 2026

- 11.1. The lead assessment is the K1 assessment race on 28th March.
- 11.2. Note that there is currently no C1 class scheduled for this event, therefore there is no opportunity for C1 selection.
- 11.3. Twelve places are available for selection, split between U23M (4 places), U23W (4 places), JM (2 places) and JW (2 places).
- 11.4. Selections will be made from the top performing athletes in each class at the assessment race that are not expected to be selected to represent Great Britain in other events this year.
- 11.5. The final team balance will be informed by logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements.

12. Sanabria K4 2026

- 12.1. The team will be selected from the top performing eligible athletes who have not been selected to race at the European Championships 2026.
- 12.2. Priority will be given to U23 athletes and athletes who are in their first three years of the Senior age category ("prioritised age categories").
- 12.3. Initial selections will be made from the K2 assessment race on 23rd May.
- 12.4. 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.
- 12.5. Final places will be filled from the available athletes by using their K2 and Short Course Nationals results to select the best possible K4s.
- 12.6. Inclusion of athletes over the prioritised age categories will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel in pursuit of selecting a strong crew boat whilst also considering long term athlete development.

² When considering and comparing race results under clause 10.3.2, the Selection Panel will not only consider the finishing position, but will weigh the performance based on the percentage behind the winning time and the depth and calibre of the field in which the result was achieved.

13. French Nationals 2026

- 13.1. The lead assessments are National Championships U16 and U14 classes.
- 13.2. K1 / C1 results will be used as the lead selection event.
- 13.3. Selections will be made from the top performing singles across the age groups. The BMT will not be used for selection in this event.
- 13.4. High performing K2 / C2s crews will be kept together where both athletes are available and have achieved selection from their K1 results.
- 13.5. In the event this is not possible, K2 / C2s will be made up from the best available K1 / C1s.
- 13.6. Where possible, this team will be balanced to enable six K2 / C2s to be entered from the twelve athletes selected.
- 13.7. The final team balance will be informed by the logistical restrictions and room sharing requirements.
- 13.8. Priority will be given to athletes who have not already represented Great Britain in Canoe Marathon in the 2026 season.

14. Assessment Race Participation

- 14.1. Unless an exception is specifically detailed within this Policy, all athletes seeking selection for an event must race in the lead assessment race(s) for the international event they are seeking selection.
- 14.2. Athletes seeking selection for an event must race in the class(es) corresponding to the age for which they are seeking international selection, unless agreed and authorised in writing by the chair of Selectors prior to the selection event. The Selection Panel 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.
- 14.3. 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 19.

15. Athlete Availability

- 15.1. Athlete availability must be supplied via the web form on <https://canoemarathon.org.uk> according to the deadlines specified on the MRC website.
- 15.2. 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.
- 15.3. 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 Panel where exceptional circumstances arise between selection and event.

16. Selection Meetings and Announcements of 2026 GBR Teams

- 16.1. Meetings of the Selection Panel will take place following the final selection race corresponding to each international event.
- 16.2. The announcement of teams for international events will take place within five working days of the corresponding selection meeting, via the marathon racing website at <https://canoemarathon.org.uk>

17. General Provisions

- 17.1. The Selection Panel 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:
 - 17.1.1. Medical grounds – i.e., when an injury/illness (both mental or physical) may, in the reasonable opinion of the Selection Panel, inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance and/ or mean the athlete cannot reasonably be considered fit to travel; or
 - 17.1.2. Suitability as a team member, where for example (but not limited to) an athlete's behaviour or attitude leads the Selection Panel to determine in its reasonable opinion that the selection of such athlete would be inappropriate; or
 - 17.1.3. 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 Panel, they would no

- longer be able to achieve the required level of performance to be competitive at the applicable competition(s).
- 17.2. Any decisions taken in accordance with 17.1 will only be made following consultation with the athlete, appropriate coaches and/or medical reports and in the case of 17.1.3 include reference to applicable performance standards.
 - 17.3. Non-travelling reserves may be named in each individual event based solely on position in the identified selection race where 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

18. Contingency

- 18.1. The Selection Panel 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 public health emergencies (e.g., pandemic).
- 18.2. If weather conditions or other significant issues arise rendering it inappropriate or impossible to conduct a selection race during, or in advance of, competition, the Selection Panel may declare that a race(s) will not be used for selection and invoke one or more of the following non-exclusive alternatives:
 - 18.2.1. Rescheduling of any affected selection race(s) to early morning/evening racing within the same selection event (if scheduling and weather conditions permit).
 - 18.2.2. Rescheduling of any affected selection races to an alternative competition (if appropriate).
 - 18.2.3. Rescheduling to a reserve date if available and appropriate.
 - 18.2.4. Using results from completed selection races to inform selection.
- 18.3. Any decision made under these provisions of the policy will be made by a minimum of two Selection Panel members and where changes are required to be made to the event schedule, such decisions will be made in consultation with the applicable chief official at the selection event.
- 18.4. All Selection Panel announcements relevant to contingencies will be posted on <https://canoemarathon.org.uk> and corresponding social media sites.

19. Exceptional Circumstances

- 19.1. For the purposes of this clause, exceptional circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and unforeseen.
- 19.2. Exceptional Circumstances are only applicable for European and World Championships selections.
- 19.3. To be considered for exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level:
 - 19.3.1. For Senior and U23 Men's athletes, the athlete must have made a top 5 at the World Championships and/or medalled at 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).
 - 19.3.2. For Senior and U23 Women athletes, the athlete must have made a top 4 at the World Championships and/or medalled at 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).
 - 19.3.3. For a Junior athlete, the athlete must have medalled at the European and / or World Championships in the 2025 season and still be racing in the Junior age category. Junior medals will not be considered for athletes moving into U23.
- 19.4. Should an athlete meeting the above performance standard miss the lead assessment event due to exceptional circumstances, the Selection Panel reserve the right to provide an opportunity for such a boat to be eligible for selection.
- 19.5. Where an athlete wishes to invoke this clause, exceptional circumstances requests should be directed to the Chair of the Selection Panel within 24 hours of the lead assessment via email: marathon.selectors@vol.britishcanoeing.org.uk and should provide:
 - 19.5.1. Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant information regarding the exceptional circumstance.
 - 19.5.2. 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.
- 19.5.3. Any evidence the athlete wishes the Selection Panel to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other selected athletes.
- 19.6. When considering whether an athlete currently demonstrates, in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other available athletes, the Selection Panel will consider the following:
- 19.6.1. The athlete's racing profile in the 2026 assessment season;
 - 19.6.2. World and European Championship performance from the past 24 months;
 - 19.6.3. Sprint international results in 1K and 5K in the past 12 months;
 - 19.6.4. Sprint regatta results in 1K and 5K in the current 2026 season;
 - 19.6.5. Recent training information shared by the athlete (as part of 19.5.3).
- 19.7. Where the Selection Panel accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the Selection Panel reserves the right to:
- 19.7.1. 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;
 - 19.7.2. 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.
- 19.8. All decisions under this clause that relate to injury, illness (including Covid-19) or medical conditions will be determined by the Selection Panel members. When assessing if an athlete is fit to race, the decision of the Selection Panel is final.
- 19.9. The Selection Panel has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause; any decision is final and not subject to appeal.

SECTION E: GENERAL INFORMATION

20. Responsibility

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

21. Conflicts of Interest

- 21.1. Paddle UK, and the Marathon Committee, is committed to upholding high standards of integrity and as such any person who sits on the Selection Panel 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.
- 21.2. 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 Panel may know an athlete or have specialist knowledge and experience of the athletes.
- 21.3. 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).

22. Funding, Participation and Logistics

- 22.1. 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 7.1. This must be paid prior to departure or by the deadline set by the logistics manager, Graham Warland.
- 22.2. 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 sent to the Logistics Manager, Graham Warland (Graham.warland@gmail.com)
- 22.3. Any athlete selected under this policy must sign the Paddle UK Great Britain Team participation agreement on accepting selection, no more than two weeks following acceptance of a place onto the team. Paddlers on a PUK funded programme will still be

bound by the terms of their agreement with Paddle UK.

- 22.4. Any athlete who falls ill or becomes injured between the selection race and the International competition, must inform the chair of Selectors, and/or the Event team leader. The Selection Panel 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.

23. Policy Changes

- 23.1. The selection policy may be amended at any time by the Selection Panel for one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 23.1.1. Any changes in rules governing a particular event;
 - 23.1.2. Any change in ICF or ECA eligibility, rules or programme of events;
 - 23.1.3. To give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight;
 - 23.1.4. To clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy;
 - 23.1.5. Any other reason determined by the Marathon Racing Committee at its total discretion that is in the best interest of the MRC and in line with the principles outlined for selection.
 - 23.1.6. Circumstances arising from any notifiable pandemic or epidemic.
- 23.2. Any changes will be communicated on the marathon canoeing website.

24. Appeals Procedure

- 24.1. 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 Paddle UK Non-Olympic Discipline Appeals process applies and this procedure can be found [here](#).
- 24.2. For the Development Events of Sanabria, Waterlands and French Nationals, only Stage 1 of the Appeal Procedure (Formal Review) will apply.

25. Data Protection

- 25.1. The Marathon Racing Committee has adopted all Paddle UK policies relating to Data Protection.
- 25.2. 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.
- 25.3. 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.
- 25.4. 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.

26. Policies

- 26.1. 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.

27. Communications

- 27.1. The Selection Panel 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 Panel, the Chair of the Selection Panel will be available to speak informally to athletes and in the case of minors, parents.

28. Force Majeure

28.1. "Force Majeure" means any act, event, omission, cause or circumstance not within the reasonable control of Paddle UK, Marathon Racing Committee 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 Panel shall have the sole discretion, in consultation with the Paddle UK Head of Governance, to make a decision in line with the principles, strategy and mission of this selection policy.

-End of Policy

APPENDIX 1: APPLICATION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Performance Standards may be applied to help ensure a level of consistency to selections across classes and ensure that athletes are selected for the appropriate level of competition.

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 selection of the best possible team.

The Handicap Method

Handicap (HC) scores are a way of measuring the relative speed of paddlers in multiple races and over multiple distances. The following is a brief overview of how the method 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.
- The athlete HCs will be compared to the medal winning averages from the recent international competitions to give a relative comparison across the age groups and classes.
- These handicaps are then placed into the Bench Marking Table (BMT) – see below for details.


The minimum performance standards identified for the European & World Championships in 2026 are as follows:

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 table 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 have +3HC.

Medal Winning HC (average)										
	Worlds 25	Euros 25	Worlds 24	Euros 24	Worlds 23	Euros 23	Worlds 22	Euros 22	Worlds 21	Average (excl. outliers) for 2026 Policy
SMK1	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
SWK1	8	8	7	8	8	9	6	8	9	8
U23 MK1	1	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	2
U23 WK1	9	9	10	9	8	8	8	9	9	9
JMK1	2	3	4	4	3	3	1	4	4	4
JWK1	11	10	9	11	9	9	10	12	10	10
SMC1	10	9	9	9	9	9	7	10	8	9
U23 MC1	13	11	10	11	15	12	9	12	9	11
SWC1	20	18	19	18	18	18	18	18	17	18
U23 WC1	20	24	20	20	21	-	-	-	-	21
JMC1	14	15	13	13	11	14	13	13	15	13
JWC1	22	24	20		22		23	24	22	22

SMK2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWK2	7	7	8	7	7	7	8	8	6	7
JMK2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	3	3
JWK2	9	9	9	7	6	7	12	10	10	9
SMC2	8	7	8	9	7	8	10	8	6	8
JMC2	11	13	12	10	12	15	13	-	14	12

 outlier removed from policy average

Benchmarking Table (BMT)

Each top performing athlete's current years assessment results, HC and international %'s are placed into a table. The Selection Panel can then rank the athletes in order to select the top athletes across the classes. The Selection Panel reserves the right to refer to all previous assessment races from the 2026 season, and International performance in the 2025 season as supporting evidence should it be required to help decide between athletes for the final places.

Team Profile Table (TPT)

The Selection Panel use the Team Profile Table to outline 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 being 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 Panel 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: the Selection Panel 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 2026 assessment information available.