



Canoe Slalom International Panel (IP) 2021 Selection Policy

The 2021 Junior, U23 & Senior Team selection policy is published today and can be found on the British Canoeing Website. Clearly covid-19 remains an ongoing challenge to all and the IP understands that if required, there may have to be adjustments in order to deliver a fair selection process within the principles outlined in the policy.

The IP want to thank those who contributed through the public consultation process in October which has helped to shape the final policy. Further details of the themes that emerged through consultation feedback is contained later in this statement.

The announcement of the addition of Extreme Canoe Slalom to the Paris 2024 Olympic Programme provides a fantastic opportunity to further raise the profile of whitewater paddlesport on the Olympic stage. As further information becomes available, the IP are committed to publishing a selection policy for Extreme Slalom by the end of March 2021 at the latest.

Selection registration – Registration for 2021 selection is now live and can be accessed [here](#). Please register by 3rd March 2021 and don't forget to enter each race too. Only eligible and qualified athletes should register, any qualifiers during 2021 will be given a deadline to register following qualification to the selection process.

Final Opportunity to qualify to 2021 GBR Team selection:

Recognising that there has been significant opportunity for athletes to develop since the selection qualification process concluded in late 2019 the IP will provide the following opportunities with final details confirmed by 31 Jan 2021:

Junior Selection - As per the policy, this is open to all ranked premier paddlers PLUS to reflect the special circumstances caused by Covid-19 there will be an additional opportunity for a defined number of athletes to qualify into junior team selection. The numbers and event(s) will be confirmed by 31st January 2021.

Senior & U23 Selection – As per the 2019 policy those athletes who have already qualified for 2020 selection will remain qualified for 2021 selection. There will be an additional opportunity for a defined number of athletes to be eligible for Senior & U23 team selection. The numbers and event(s) will be confirmed by 31st January 2021.

Consultation – Emerging Themes – As we said, we are grateful for those who took the time to read and provide feedback and ideas on the draft policy (65 respondents). We have summarised the main themes emerging from the consultation process in the tables below:

Theme	Description	Outcome
Selection based at a single venue (LV)	Concerns were raised about access to LV during the Covid-19 pandemic to non programme athletes and the implications it	The IP is mindful of the challenges presented by the pandemic and has moved junior and U23 selection to Nottingham later in the year. Senior



	had on a fair playing field, particularly at junior level.	selection will remain at LV as it is one of the best venues in the world and the IP are firm on utilising it as the venue for Senior selection.
Selection qualifiers	There was concern that due to the suspension of the 2020 season that many people would miss out on the opportunity to race at selection as they had been unable to promote to the Premier division or earn a wildcard in 2020.	The IP recognises this as an issue and will be facilitating a qualification process for senior, U23 and Junior selection to be run in early 2021. More information will be released by the end of January 2021.
U23 Release Race policy	Feedback was given about the appropriateness of asking an U23 athlete giving up their (earned) spot on to the U23 team to the 4th boat halving their opportunities to race a Championship race.	The policy has been adjusted to reflect that any athlete who is selected for the U23 team will be eligible to race at both the U23 World and European Championships in 2021.
Performance Standards	It was questioned as to why the Performance Standards calculation didn't incorporate the 2020 standards from the Senior Europeans and two world cup races which were held (as the standards appeared to be easier than what has been published to make a top 20 International position)	By drawing attention to the shifting standards, the IP has re-examined the Performance Standards data available as well as the strength of the startlines that competed in 2020. Due to decreased participation at these races and that the world cups placed everybody straight into semi finals it was deemed these startlines to not reflect the true standard of full strength senior international races and therefore the 2020 data will continue to be omitted from the Performance Standards calculation.
What if races are delayed?	It was requested to provide clarity on what happens if the Olympics (or any race) is delayed in 2021	The IP has clarified further that if any 2021 scheduled events are delayed beyond 31.12.21 then the IP reserve the right hold a wholly new selection process.
There were a number of clarifications requested	These requests for clarification were appreciated by the IP to ensure clarity in the intention of the policy.	In a number of areas, wording has been changed to tighten the wording and improve clarity such as Olympic reserves, released races, performance standards.