



British Canoeing Canoe Slalom International Panel Statement

Scheduled update on Implementation of 2024 Selection Policies

Olympic Selection Process 2023/2024

The 2024 Paris Olympic Team selection policy was published in March 2023 and can be found [here](#). The International Panel urges all athletes and coaches to read and understand the policy ahead of October. Any questions should be directed at enquiries.internationalpanel@britishcanoeing.org.uk. There will also be a further policy update in late 2023 following the Canoe Slalom global qualifier and stage 1 of the selection process which will provide the final detail for the kayak cross selection process in stage 2.

The purpose of this document is to provide transparency on the decision-making process although nothing in this document forms any part of the published selection policy and should not be considered as final and binding.

The International Panel (IP) members:

Nominations to Team GB will be made by a panel decision based on the principles and process outlined in the published selection policy. The 5 members of the IP Collectively have over 80 years involvement in selecting International Teams and collectively have attended 14 Olympic Games and 43 Senior World Championships during the aggregate of 159 years of involvement in the sport of Canoe Slalom.

Who are making the decisions?

The make up of the panel is listed below each with a vote:

- Andy Maddock (Chair) Head of Performance Operations
- Mark Ratcliffe Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Performance Director
- David Spencer Slalom Committee Representative
- Jim McConnachie Independent Member
- Gareth Wilson Podium Technical Coach

In addition, all meetings under this process will have in attendance the following representatives:

- James Unsworth BC Legal & Governance Officer
- Elaine Sweny-Skilton Independent Observer (Representing the British Olympic Association)

Full profiles of the IP members can be found in **Appendix 1**.

The process for preparing for the selection decisions:

The development and publication of the 2024 selection policy was the result of over 14 months work by the IP. As soon as the 2024 policies were published in March 2023, the IP set about clarifying the processes it will follow to implement the 2024 Paris selection policy. This document aims to share an overview of the processes that will underpin the nomination process:

w/c 9th October

Following the completion of the international element of the assessment process on 8th October 2023, a data template will be completed for each athlete meeting the criteria laid out in sections 12.2.1.1 and 12.2.1.2 of the policy. This data will be checked for accuracy ahead of the senior team selection event. This period will also be used to confirm any Paris 2024 canoe slalom quota places secured following the 2023 World Championships.

An IP meeting is scheduled for 4pm on Wednesday 11th October 2023 with the main agenda to cover the following:

- Update on official quota position following First Round Qualification
- Final planning meeting for 2024 senior team selection weekend
- Checking data sheets so far for accuracy (no interpretation)
- 2024 Jun/U23 CSL Selection Policy – finalise draft policy ready for consultation
- 2024 Kayak Cross Policy – finalise draft policy ready for consultation
- Finalise Agenda for October 23rd selection meeting including invitees, R&R, Declaration of Interests, process for communication of decisions etc

w/c 23rd October

Stage 1 - International Panel Olympic Team & Senior Team Selection Meeting. The full panel will meet to assess the performances in the context of the Olympic selection policy and determine any nominations to be made under stage 1 of the published policy. The panel will also apply the 2024 senior team selection policy.

An IP meeting is scheduled for 10am on Monday 23rd October 2023 with the main agenda to cover the following:

- Selection of the 2024 Canoe Slalom Senior Team
- Paris 2024 Stage 1 Olympic Selection process
- Process for communication of decisions

Wednesday 25th October by 4pm (*Note – this is a change from published*)

Due to the overlap of certain aspects of the senior and Olympic policies, the IP intends to release the selected senior team and any Olympic nominations at the same time. In order to ensure that the process is fully followed and any communication is managed appropriately then the announcement will be made by 4pm on Wednesday 25th October 2023. This team announcement will also trigger the start of the 2 working day appeal window.

This will conclude stage 1 of the process and dates for stages 2 and 3 will be published as part of the kayak cross senior team selection policy by 31st December 2023.

Advance Notice – Equipment Rules 2024.

There are always a number of questions regarding equipment rules for selection so the IP wish to clarify the following:

2024 Senior Team Canoe Slalom Selection – The rules for equipment will be in accordance with UK rules for the 2023 season.

2024 Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom Selection – The rules for equipment will be in accordance with UK rules for the 2024 season.

2024 Junior, U23 & Senior Kayak Cross Team Selection – The rules for equipment will be in accordance with ICF rules for the 2023 season. This means that paddles must be taped to remove sharp edges, Buoyancy aids must meet the rules for kayak cross, boats are on an approved ICF kayak cross list (there will be some boats to borrow) and Helmets must be those approved for kayak Cross. Long Sleeve Cags are also mandatory in Kayak Cross. The IP recognises that this may require equipment that not everyone will have which is why this is being flagged early to enable consideration of borrowing of suitable equipment for the selection races.

APPENDIX 1 - Getting to know your Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross International Panel

Individual Member Profiles:

Mark Ratcliffe: (Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Performance Director)

Number of years involved in Paddlesport? 41

Number of Games (Oly or Para) attended? 3

Number of Senior World Championships attended? 10

Number of years' experience selecting international teams? 19

Sporting Career highlight as athlete, volunteer, parent, coach or administrator? Olympic Gold medal coach Rio 2016

Sports person most admired: Roger Federer

Why did you stand/what motivates you to be a member of the IP? To have strong selection processes which ensure we select the best possible teams to represent Great Britain

Andy Maddock (Chair)

Number of years involved in Paddlesport? 42

Number of Games (Oly or Para) attended? 4 Olympic Games attended - Sydney 2000, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020

Number of Senior World Championships attended? 13 Canoe Slalom World Championships

Number of years experience selecting international teams? Member of selection committee/International Panel since 1998 - 25 years including 5 Olympic Games policies.

Sporting Career highlight as athlete, volunteer, parent, coach or administrator? Commentating on venue at London 2012 as GBR took Gold and Silver in the C2 Slalom event – GBR's first ever Canoe Slalom Olympic Gold medal.

Sports person most admired - Mark Cavendish

Why did you stand/what motivates you to be a member of the IP? To ensure that a fair and transparent selection process exists that enables trust in the process and for athletes to respect the selection outcome.

David Spencer (Slalom Committee representative)

Number of years involved in Paddlesport? - 23

Number of Games (Oly or Para) attended? - 2

Number of Senior World Championships attended? - 2

Number of years experience selecting international teams? - 8

Sporting Career highlight as athlete, volunteer, parent, coach or administrator? Canoe Club Chair, Slalom Committee Chair/Treasurer, Chair English Forum, GB paddler parent

Sports person most admired - Andy Murray

Why did you stand/what motivates you to be a member of the IP? I joined the IP when I became Slalom Chair. I feel a responsibility to the Slalom Community to ensure that selection policies are clear, precise and unambiguous to assure athletes that selection is free, fair and unbiased.

Jim McConnachie (Independent Member)

Number of years involved in Paddlesport? 28

Number of Games (Oly or Para) attended? 2

Number of Senior World Championships attended? 9

Number of years experience selecting international teams? 25

Sporting Career highlight as athlete, volunteer, parent, coach or administrator? Being selected to judge at world and European slalom competitions.

Sports person most admired - Chris Hoy

Why did you stand/what motivates you to be a member of the IP? I felt it would be a good opportunity to help form selection policy from an independent position. Helping to provide a fair and inclusive selection process.

Gareth Wilson (World Class Programme Team Coach)

Number of years involved in Paddlesport? 25

Number of Games (Oly or Para) attended? 3 as a spectator

Number of Senior World Championships attended? 9

Number of years' experience selecting international teams? 3

Sporting Career highlight as athlete, volunteer, parent, coach or administrator? Coach at 2015 world championships in London - best team performance I've ever seen or been part of! Great team vibe, a few medals and so many finals!

Sports person most admired - Michael Jordan

Why did you stand/what motivates you to be a member of the IP? The IP has always helped shape the performance end of canoe slalom. By being part of this panel, I have been excited to shape strategy that will support both athlete and the Great British team's goals on white water.