

DRAFT 2026 Senior, U23 & Junior Great Britain
Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Team Selection Policy
FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Once again, the IP shares this draft policy for consultation and welcomes all feedback to help the development of the 2026 policies prior to their publication by the end of December 2025. For this year, we have simplified the process by summarising the proposed key changes in this document whilst still allowing everyone to see the full draft if they wish to by following the [link](#) provided. The draft policy builds on the selection process used in 2025 and in particular incorporates the feedback from the questionnaire shared in May 2025 following the selection process. Please be aware that the ICF have recently shared initial proposals for the Olympic Qualification System (OQS) which may have an impact on the final senior policy as explained later in this document.

Please take time to tell us what you like about the policy as well as dislikes, errors or omissions as if you don't tell us that you like it, we may change aspects in response to feedback. Thank you in advance for reading and providing feedback.

Please feedback on the policy [HERE](#) by 23:59 on Wednesday 29th October 2025 or at:

https://forms.paddleuk.org.uk/live/form/SlalomSelectionConsultation/formperma/v5tV9B71iltsxdP3vaI-ff37RNRw22KI2MpNZFy_qH8

Please read the executive summary below to understand the background to the policy proposals:

Headlines - Reflections from 2025 International Racing which have influenced the IP proposals when looking ahead to 2026 and beyond:

- All GBR Teams - The ICF format of racing introduced in 2025 where every run counts, has reinforced that the World Cup, Europeans and World Champs are not development events with development opportunities provided by a growing number of world ranking races. The performance standard required to achieve international semi finals and finals in 2025 has also tightened which will be reflected once the season has been completed.
- Senior Team only - The ICF is yet to publish the final Olympic Qualification System (OQS) for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games but what is known is that there will be an Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR) that may run from July 2026 until October 2027 and will require athletes to count results from up to 9 International races from across 2 seasons. The IP will continue to seek opportunities to influence the direction of the OQS which is due to be published by March 2026.
- Senior Team Only - Olympic Qualification Ranking is likely to be linked to individual athletes, hence this may be reflected once known in any pre-selection opportunities for the 2027 team (for those delivering at the highest level). Whilst feedback has been provided to the ICF from the IP and in collaboration with other Nations the final OQS will shape the Senior policy with the possibility that members of the selected 2026 team who deliver to an agreed level may need to remain selected into the 2027 season to meet the demands of the OQS.
- Senior Team Only - It is clear from the initial drafts of the OQS that doubling or even trebling up at Games will be permitted subject to a maximum of 2 entries from a Nation in each event. Whilst this does not shift the 2026 policy specifically, it indicates a growing shift by the ICF towards athletes being profiled in multiple events to maximise entries but minimise overall athlete numbers and may influence the policy that will determine the 2028 Olympic Team. At this stage it is only reflected in the suggestion outlined below regarding reserves.

There are a number of specific changes proposed by the IP for 2026 which in particular include:

Generic

1. **Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Tie Breaks** (Senior & U23 only) - To align with the policy principles and reflect that World Ranking is a key component to qualify for Los Angeles 2028, a first tie breaker is proposed to be determined by comparing ICF World Ranking if ranked in the top 80.

Canoe Slalom

- 1.3. For canoe slalom events, where two or more athletes have the same overall selection ranking points score, their final position in the ranking table will be resolved by comparing individual race results in the following order:
 - 1.3.1. For Senior & U23 Team only, highest ICF World Ranking in current World ranking at time of selection in the event that they are tied in. To activate this clause at least one of the athletes must be ranked in the top 80.
 - 1.3.2. Best single canoe slalom result from the series (points)
 - 1.3.3. Second best single canoe slalom result from the series (points)
 - 1.3.4. Third best single canoe slalom result from the series (points)
 - 1.3.5. The lowest average percentage of counting results as calculated in accordance with section A.3 and A.4 of Appendix A. (calculated to 1 decimal place).
 - 1.3.6. The higher finisher in the final canoe slalom race of the series

Kayak Cross

- 15.1.3. Where two or more athletes have the same overall selection ranking points score, their final position in the final selection ranking table will be resolved by comparing individual race results in the following order:
 - 15.1.3.1. For Senior & U23 Team only, highest ICF World Ranking in current World ranking at time of selection in the event that they are tied in. To activate this clause at least one of the athletes must be ranked in the top 80.
 - 15.1.3.2. Their best (lowest) points score from up to 4 phases.
 - 15.1.3.3. Their second best (lowest) points score from up to 4 phases.
 - 15.1.3.4. The higher finisher in the final race of the competition (lowest points)

2. **Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Reserves** - To align with a shift by the ICF towards the strategy of multi profile athletes and the likely Games opportunity here (Canoe/kayak/Kayak Cross). If there are selected team members who are named reserves (have met the performance standard) in another event, they will be first in line if a reserve opportunity arises. This reflects the delivery nature of senior events and that experience is a critical factor in performance.

Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross

1. **2026 Senior, U23 & Junior Canoe Slalom Team Selection & Reserves**
 - 1.1. Subject to Pre-Selection (10.1.1) the top three athletes will be selected in descending order of the respective Canoe Slalom Final Selection Ranking Table providing they have achieved the minimum Performance Standard. Those athletes who have not achieved the minimum performance standard (even when finishing higher in the Final Selection Ranking Table) will not be eligible. See Appendix B for an example of a final selection ranking table.

Where a team place becomes available, reserves will be filled in the following order:
 - 1.2. From within the already selected team - In the event where there is a vacancy, the highest ranked reserve who is already selected in another canoe slalom or kayak cross event for that competition(s) will be selected to the team for the competition(s).
 - 1.3. Where no athletes meet the criteria outlined in 13.2 above, reserves will be selected in descending order of the respective Canoe Slalom Final Selection Ranking Table providing they have achieved the minimum Performance Standard. Those athletes who have not achieved the minimum performance standard (even when finishing higher in the Final Selection Ranking Table) will not be eligible. See Appendix B for an example of a final selection ranking table.
 - 1.4. Subject to clause 21.4, section 6, Exceptional Circumstances or pre-selection (senior only) through section 10.1.1., the maximum permitted boats in each event will be selected.

3. **Registration** The IP is working with committee volunteers to remove the need for registration by capturing the required data through existing committee processes. This was requested by many in the IP questionnaire and will be confirmed in the final policy.

4. **2027 Pre-Selection.** As the detail of the OQS has yet to be published, the IP will only determine what Pre-selection opportunity/ies will be available by the start of the International season in May 2026. This may provide opportunities for senior world championship medallists to be pre-selected for the 2027 team as is usual protocol or there may be opportunities for pre-selection through achieving a certain OQR at the end of the 2026 season as outlined earlier in this document. All options will be considered and shared for transparency before the start of the senior international season.

16. At the time of publication, the International Panel is awaiting the details of the Olympic Qualification System (OQS) so it commits to confirming any opportunities and criteria for pre-selection to the 2027 senior team by 15th May 2026 ahead of the start of the 2026 International Season. The IP can confirm that any 2027 pre-selection will only be available to athletes selected to the 2026 senior team.

Canoe Slalom Specific

5. **Race Format** - This has been increased from up to 4 races to up to 6 single run races. The increase in race runs is intended to provide more opportunities to demonstrate the performance standard, reduce tie breaks as well as to reflect that in international competitions, every run counts and came out strongly in your feedback to the questionnaire in May. Note that the contingency remains unchanged so in the worst case scenario, selection would be determined from the best of two runs. How performance standards are achieved are also adjusted to reflect the increase in race opportunities.

Canoe Slalom Race Format and how many races count for points calculation

1. **Calculating the overall 2026 Senior, U23 & Junior Canoe Slalom Selection rankings:**
 - 1.1. The individual boat's best points scores from the up to six races (as specified in **Appendix B**) are combined to give their overall selection ranking points score as below:
 - 1.1.1. 2026 Senior & U23 Team – The best 4 points scores from up to 6 races are used for overall rank.
 - 1.1.2. 2026 Junior Team – The best 3 points scores from up to 6 races are used for overall rank.
 - 1.2. Athletes are not required to compete in all six races of selection but should be aware of the detail of the tie break below.

Canoe Slalom Performance Standards

Calculation of Canoe Slalom Average Performance Standard

A.2. Performance Standards can be achieved on any race in the up to 6 race series.

A.3. The table below details the number of race runs that will be used to calculate an athlete's Performance Standard.

Team	Number of race runs to calculate performance standard (rounded up to nearest whole number if fewer races completed)
Senior Team	Average of the Best 4 percentages from up to 6 races
U23 Team	Average of the Best 3 percentages from up to 6 races
Junior Team	Average of the Best 2 percentages from up to 6 races

A.4. The tiered system accounts for development at junior level to performance at senior level.

Example average performance standard calculation

Senior - $(102.74\% + 101.11\% + 102.04\% + 103.56) / 4 = 102.36\%$

6. **Selection start Order** - To better simulate the feeling of a final, it is proposed to increase to ten the athletes from the 2025 senior selection ranking who go off in reverse order at the end of each class. In addition it is proposed that the IP may also adjust the start order where an athlete is ranked in a position that may compromise their race or those of others. This would also cover athletes who may be returning from injury/illness/pregnancy etc.

1. 2026 Great Britain Senior, U23 & Junior CANOE SLALOM Team Selection Format:

Canoe Slalom Races 1 & 2	Sat 28 th March 2026	Lee Valley
Canoe Slalom Races 3 & 4	Sat 11 th April 2026	Holme Pierrepont
Canoe Slalom Races 5 & 6	Sun 12 th April 2026	Holme Pierrepont

- 1.1. Canoe Slalom Selection will be conducted from the results of up to six single run races.
- 1.2. The start order for all 2026 Canoe Slalom selection races will be the reverse order of 2025 National Divisional Ranking with the top ten athletes from the 2025 senior team selection ranking going last in reverse order of the final selection ranking. The International Panel also reserves the right to adjust the selection start order to ensure fairness such as where an athlete is ranked in a position that does not reflect their potential race pace.

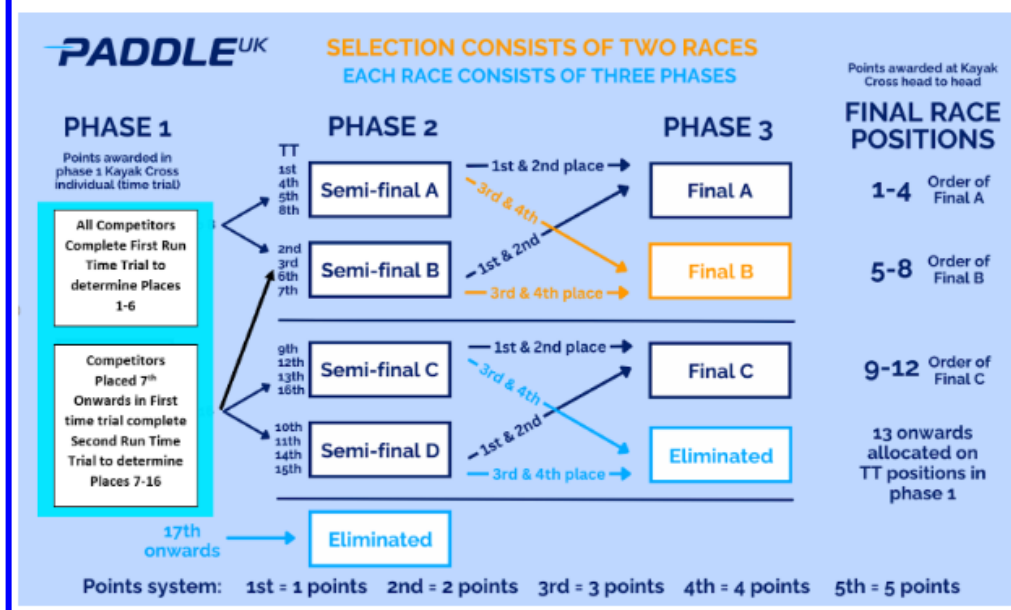
Kayak Cross Specific

7. **Progression in Kayak Cross Individual (Time Trial)** - Another area flagged from the feedback to the IP questionnaire is the concern that there was 'double jeopardy' as if you faulted in the kayak cross individual, the knock on also impacted the head to head highest position. To address this, the IP proposes that the practice run will be replaced and instead there will be two runs for each kayak cross individual race with the top 6 going through on run 1 and those not making the top 6 will race again to determine places 7 onwards. This then offers a 'lifeline' to someone who faults on run 1 and provides additional practice on the race course.

14. 2026 Great Britain Senior, U23 & Junior KAYAK CROSS Team Selection Format:

Kayak Cross Races 1 & 2	Sun 29 th March 2026	Lee Valley
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- 14.1. Kayak Cross Selection will be conducted from the results of two kayak cross races:
 - 15.1.1. Phase 1 – Kayak Cross Individual (Time Trial) Phase (open to all entered athletes) (identifies the start list for Semi-finals A-D (Phase 2) for Head to Head competition and sets the seeding)
 - 15.1.1.1. Individual Time Trial Run 1 - To only determine positions 1 to 6 for phase 2 and points for phase 1 places 1-6.
 - 15.1.1.2. Individual Time Trial Run 2 - Those athletes not qualified in the top 6 on run 1 will undertake a second run to determine position 7 onwards for phase 2 and points for phase 1 places 7th onwards (Note that 17th place onwards in run 2 are eliminated at this phase).
 - 15.1.2. Phase 2 – Head-to-Head Semi Final (Determines the top 12 and the start list for finals A-C) 13th place onwards are eliminated.
 - 15.1.3. Phase 3 – Head-to-Head Final A determines positions 1-4, Final B determines positions 5-8 and Final C determines positions 9-12. Places 13 – 16 are determined by the Position in the Time Trial.
 - 15.1.4. Those athletes outside the top 16 in the Time Trial will be eliminated and score points based on the position in the Time Trial.
- 15.2. Diagram A: The progression process for each of the 2 races as described in 15.1 above.



The Whole [Policy working draft can be found here](#) if you wish to read the whole policy before feeding back.

Please feedback [on this link](#) by 23:59 on Wednesday 29th October 2025