

Paddle UK Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross International Panel Statement

Important Information ahead of the 2026 Selection Series - 4th March 2026

This statement provides some important general information and information specific to certain categories so please read carefully:

General Information ahead of selection:

- Information on the competition timetable, including demos will be shared by the organising club as part of their event brief. Please note that for the Holme Pierrepont Div 1, no practice is permitted in any category if an athlete is racing in selection.
- Video provision will be available at both selection venues. The video will consist of coaching video supplemented by static cameras to enable multiple angles for judging. Details on how video can be accessed will be shared as part of each event brief.
- At both venues, the video will be cabled and it is VITAL that everyone on site does not walk/stand on the delicate fibre-optic cables as this can significantly impact the quality and durability of the feed. In 2025 some runs were lost whilst damaged cables were replaced so please consider what you are standing on and that video operators and static cameras should be given plenty of space to ensure that the view for cameras is not blocked.
- The official selection points table for Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross competition will be updated on two occasions:
 - Following completion of the Lee Valley weekend early in the w/c 30th March [here](#)
 - Following completion of the second weekend of competition at HPP [here](#)
 - Unofficial selection points tables may get shared on competition whatsapp groups.
- Weighing scales & equipment checking will be available on site from Friday evening prior to each competition. The scales have recently been calibrated and it is each athlete's individual responsibility to check that their boat meets the weight requirements on each weekend on the competition scales as no exceptions will be made.
- The IP advises all athletes to ensure that you have entered the competitions in the events that you have qualified before the deadlines and take time to read the [selection policy](#).
- In Kayak Cross, although no protests are permitted, be aware that for the head to head stages, all penalties are reviewed by the chief judge and all phases are judged by video as well as the judges on the bank. For the time trials the chief judge reviews penalties given from the bank. This happens automatically behind the scenes but not everyone is aware of the difference in process in kayak cross compared to canoe slalom.
- Results and progressions will be updated on a live Google sheet during the kayak cross competition. The link will be shared on the competition whatsapp group nearer the time.

Update on the application of Section E in identified female selection events:

On 17th December, the IP issued the following statement:

Pregnancy: In line with clause 20 of section E of the 2026 selection policy, the IP confirms that it has received and accepted in principle a request for consideration from Mallory Franklin in WC1, WK1 & WX1.

The IP committed to providing clarity on what this means by the 5th March.

In order to provide clarity to all female competitors entering the selection process, the International Panel has invoked clause 20 and is now able to confirm the following important information that will apply separately for each event (WK1, WC1 & WX1):

In Women's Canoe (WC1):

Either - If Mallory Franklin starts in any of the six races in the selection competition in WC1 **AND** meets the WC1 senior performance standard as stated in appendix A.3. then clause 20.5.1. of the 2026 selection policy will be invoked as set out below:

- *'Allow the athlete(s) to race in the selection series to assess performance level in a specific event(s) and substitute the lowest placed selected athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the request in all or specific competition(s).'*
- Therefore, if the senior performance standard is met by Mallory Franklin in WC1, the IP will select:
 - a. The top two athletes from the final selection ranking table for the whole 2026 season.
 - b. Mallory Franklin into the remaining team place regardless of her position in the final selection ranking table for all senior team races except the European Championships.
 - c. For the senior European Championships only, the third boat in the final selection ranking table.

Or - If Mallory Franklin does not start in any of the six races in the selection competition in WC1 then the International Panel will invoke clause 20.5.2. of the selection policy, specifically:

- *'identify a single race opportunity whereby the lowest ranked boat that has been selected and the identified athlete(s) would compete for a GBR Team place at all or a specific competition(s)'*
- Therefore, in the event of invoking section 20.5.2 in WC1, be aware of the following detail:
 - a. World Cup 1 will be used to facilitate a race off between Mallory Franklin & the third boat from the final selection ranking table in WC1.
 - b. In WC1 only, for World Cup 1, the selected team if 20.5.2 is invoked will consist of:
 - i. Boat 1 from the 2026 selection final ranking table (not involved in race off)
 - ii. Boat 3 from the 2026 selection final ranking table
 - iii. Mallory Franklin (Note - the 2nd boat will be required to release this race)
 - c. The highest placed of the two athletes in the final race results at World Cup 1 in WC1 will be selected to the 2026 Senior Team in all remaining events for the 2026 season except the European Championships which will be retained for boat 3 in the final selection ranking table regardless of the outcome of the race off.

In Women's Kayak (WK1)

Either - If Mallory Franklin starts in any race in the selection competition in WK1 then clause 20 of the 2026 selection policy will not be invoked in that event and the result from the final selection ranking order in WK1 will determine the GBR team for the whole season.

Or - If Mallory Franklin does not start in any races in the selection competition in WK1 then the International Panel will invoke clause 20.5.4. of the selection policy, specifically:

- *'Substitute the lowest placed selected athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the request to all or specific competition(s)'*
- Therefore, subject to a satisfactory demonstration of senior performance standard by 28th August 2026, the IP will require the third boat in the selection ranking table (including any

pre-selected boats) to release the Senior European Championships (23-27 September) to enable Mallory Franklin to compete. The IP will confirm if the performance standard has been achieved to invoke the clause by 28th August 2026.

In Women's Kayak Cross (WX1)

Either - If Mallory Franklin starts in any race in the selection competition in WX1 then clause 20 of the 2026 selection policy will not be invoked in that event and the result from the final selection ranking order in WX1 will determine the GBR team for the whole season.

Or - If Mallory Franklin does not start in any races in the selection competition in WX1 then the International Panel will invoke clause 20.5.4. of the selection policy, specifically:

- *'Substitute the lowest placed selected athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the request to all or specific competition(s)'*
- Therefore, subject to a satisfactory demonstration of senior performance standard by 28th August 2026, the IP will require the third boat in the selection ranking table to release the Senior European Championships (23-27 September) to enable Mallory Franklin to compete. The IP will confirm if the performance standard has been achieved to invoke the clause by 28th August 2026.

Note for all WC1, WK1 & WX1:

- In the event that Mallory Franklin chooses to use one or more premier races in the 2026 selection competition in an event(s) as part of her return to competition, then this is permitted if she withdraws formally from selection in that specific event(s) without affecting the invoking of section 20 in that event(s)

In making its decision, the International Panel has considered the delicate balance between the athlete meeting the criteria to be considered for clause 20 and the rest of the athletes competing for selection to a 2026 GBR team. It has also considered the principles of the policy, requirements of the ICF Olympic Qualification System and an up to date assessment of performance. Whilst this decision is not subject to appeal, if there is anything that is unclear in this statement, please feel free to reach out to the IP to seek clarity by emailing us at enquiries.internationalpanel@paddleuk.org.uk

International Panel

4th March 2026