

DRAFT 2027 Senior, U23 & Junior Great Britain **Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Team Selection Policies** **FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Once again, the IP shares these draft 2027 policies for consultation and welcomes all feedback to help the development of the 2027 policies prior to their publication by the end of December 2026. Again, 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 links provided below.

[Please take the time to read the overview which also sets out the context behind the proposals prior to diving into the details of each policy.](#)

In particular the IP is seeking feedback on the options and potential solutions for Kayak Cross selection for Junior & U23 team selection.

When providing feedback, 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.

The policies are presented in two documents:

[Draft 2027 Summarised Junior Team Selection Policy](#) **[Draft 2027 Senior & U23 Team Selection Policy](#)**

Please feedback on the policy [HERE](#) by 23:59 on Thursday 15th October 2026 or at:

https://forms.paddleuk.org.uk/live/form/SlalomSelectionConsultation/formperma/v5tV9B71iltsxdP3va-l-ff37RNRw22KI2MpNZFy_qH8

[Please read the executive summary below to understand the background to the policy proposals:](#)

There are a number of specific changes proposed by the IP for 2027 which in particular include:
Generic

1. **Senior Team - Olympic Focus:** The Paddle Worldwide (Formerly ICF) [Olympic Qualification System](#) has changed the landscape for qualifying places at the Olympic Games. The draft 2027 Senior team selection policy is unashamedly focused on optimising performance delivery and in particular on securing athlete quota places for the 2028 LA Olympic Games. The Draft 2028 Olympic Selection Policy will be shared for consultation before the end of 2026 ahead of a planned publication by the end of March 2027 as it proposes to use international results in 2027 as part of the nomination process to team GB.
2. **Pre-Selection** - The IP will, subject to appeal, by 2nd October, publish the names of athletes pre-selected to the 2027 senior team on the basis of their performances to date in the Olympic Qualification Ranking to enable optimal preparation for the remaining rounds of the OQS.
3. **Pregnancy:** In line with sport wide best practice, the IP introduced a section in 2026 to recognise and support athletes returning to international competition following pregnancy. This is now being rolled out across more Paddle UK disciplines and is extended to all age categories. See section 19 of the junior policy and section 22 of the senior/U23 policy.
4. **Registration** The IP is working with committee volunteers to remove the need for registration again by capturing the required data through existing committee processes. This will be confirmed in the final policy.
5. **Kayak Cross & Canoe Slalom, Team Rotation** (section 25) **Senior Team Only** . With World Cup, European Champs and World Championships being critical for performance delivery and there being a large number of international development race opportunities, section 25 proposes the option of enacting a rotation policy which provides the IP an opportunity where performance levels are similar, to pro-actively share start-line opportunities across the season following selection and also the ability to rotate athletes who do not meet agreed targets in order to

provide race opportunities to other athletes from the selection ranking. The intent of this is to provide the opportunity, at the discretion of the IP, to open more opportunities where appropriate to athletes of an appropriate international standard.

Canoe Slalom Specific

6. In response to your feedback, the Slalom Committee, Home Associations and to align with the wider sport strategy, junior selection for canoe slalom is proposed to take place across 3 venues as explained [here](#). **Note that all venues remain provisional subject to demonstrating the availability of satisfactory pre-event training access.**
7. **The draft policies for Canoe Slalom reflect a continuation of an established format of racing,** points system and reflect the Paddle Worldwide format of racing introduced in 2025 where every run counts. Senior & U23 selection is proposed for one weekend in April at Lee Valley.
8. Performance Standards will be reviewed at the end of the 2026 International season and confirmed in the final policies. Initial analysis of the junior season suggests that the minimum standards will remain unchanged.

Kayak Cross Specific

9. **U23 & Junior Team Kayak Cross Team Selection** (Junior Section 15, U23 Section 18) There are no scheduled kayak cross competitions in 2027 and the IP is particularly interested in your views on the following as the desire of the IP is not to add the additional cost and demands of another weekend to an already busy time of year. The options that the IP are considering are set out below for feedback and practical solutions as to how a fair kayak cross selection process can be staged:
 - Option 1: Selected from a time trial process alongside one of the first two junior Canoe Slalom Team selection races: (ideally at Cardiff)**
 - Option 2: Selected from a time trial process at a stand alone selection process on Sun 26th April at Lee Valley:**
 - Option 3: Selected from within the selected 2027 Canoe Slalom Team:**
10. **Senior Kayak Cross Team Selection** (Section 15) Due to calendar constraints and pre-selections, it is proposed that the kayak cross senior team will be selected from a kayak cross assessment process by a panel of experienced kayak cross coaches overseen by the IP. There will be an opportunity to qualify into the assessment process which will start with a time trial based assessment day before the field is narrowed to a final head to head assessment process. The IP will maintain an overview of the process throughout and will make the final selection decisions based on a coaching panel nomination similar to how Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe teams are selected.

**Please feedback [on this link](#)
by 23:59 on Thursday 15th October 2026**

Finally - These drafts are just that, there will be changes made as a result of the consultation process so please treat all dates, venues and details as provisional and do not book accommodation until the final policies are published in December.

Advance Notice - 2027 Junior & U23 Team Costs

We know that the cost of attending International Competitions is significant if an athlete is selected to a GBR U23 or Junior Team. We are also aware that in 2027 the Junior & U23 World Championships take place in Thailand which adds an additional logistical and financial challenge.

To assist financial planning, the IP is sharing Paddle UK's provisional calculation of athlete contributions is around £2,300 per athlete for the World Championships and we expect the contribution for the Europeans in Tacen to be in line with this year's in Epinal at approximately £1400 per paddler. It is likely that the athlete contributions will be required in 3 installments: one in May, one in June, and the final one in July.