

Selection Policy for 2009 Irish Wild Water Racing Teams

1. Introduction

The 2009 Selection Policy provides selection guidelines and criteria by which a national team(s) will be selected for 2009 for the following events:

- Senior European Championships. June 19-23, at Sondrio, Italy (river Adda).
- World Cup. October 20-November 7, Tasmania, Australia (various rivers).
- Junior World Championships. July 15-18, at Buochs, Switzerland (river Engelbergeraa).

The Policy also sets out eligibility conditions for paddlers seeking selection.

The 2009 Selection Policy may be amended at any time by the Committee if the Committee is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary to give effect to the 2009 Selection Policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight, or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of Team Selection.

The 2009 Selection Policy applies to 2009 only. Previous selection policies or criteria will have no bearing on the 2009 Selection Policy.

2. Eligibility Criteria

A. In order to be eligible for selection for the National Wild Water Senior Racing Team all paddlers must;

- (1) Be fully paid up members of the Irish Canoe Union.
- (2) 18 years of age or older on the first day of January in 2009.
- (3) Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with ICF Wildwater Racing rules Section 3.
- (4) Inform the committee in writing (an email will suffice) before 31st January 2009. Please contact: secretary@irishwildwaterracing.com

B. In order to be eligible for selection for the National Wild Water Junior Racing Team all paddlers must;

- (1) Be fully paid up members of the Irish Canoe Union.
- (2) Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with ICF Wild Water Racing rules Section 3
- (3) Inform the committee in writing (an email will suffice) before 31st January 2009. Please contact: secretary@irishwildwaterracing.com.
- (4) The first year a junior competitor can compete is the year that his/her 15th birthday falls in and the last year he/she may compete as a junior is the year that his/her 18th birthday falls in.

Those paddlers who achieve selection must indicate the international events in which they intend to participate, in writing or by email, to the secretary of the Wild Water Racing Committee on or before the 30th of March 2008.

3. Team Selection

Paddlers may be selected for The National Teams as follows;

- a) Pre-Selection
- b) Performance Selection

4. Senior Team

European Championship

A team of up to four competitors in Men's K1, three in Women's K1 and three in C1 may be selected to represent Ireland in the European Championships. If a C2 crew attains national champion status, they may be considered for selection.

a) Pre-Selection

From the paddlers who applied and are eligible for selection, two Men's K1, one Women's K1 and one C1 may be pre-selected from a ranking list prepared by the Selection Panel based on the paddlers' national ranking (i.e. the top two ranked men's kayak, top ranked women's kayak and top ranked C1s may be pre-selected) arising from their performance at the following events:

Castleconnell Sprint, Castleconnell Classic, Aghade Sprint, Avonmore Classic, Sluice Sprint, Boyne Classic

b) Performance Selection

Nominated selection events:

- Sprint Race – the Barrow Sprint (Sunday 8th March).
- Classic Race – Lower Liffey Classic (Sunday 22nd March).

For the selection races in each class, selection will be based on the following points system:

1st place – 9 points
2nd place – 7 points
3rd place – 6 points
4th place – 5 points
5th place – 4 points
6th place – 3 points
7th place – 2 points
8th place 0- 1 point
9th place and below – 0 points

Selection points will be added for both events and a selection ranking list will be drawn up for all competitors seeking selection for the national team. The above points will only be awarded to people seeking selection, i.e. those not seeking selection will not feature in the selection points ranking list. These ranking points will go towards drawing up a selection ranking list from which the remaining positions on the national team may be filled.

If a pre-selected paddler also features in the selection event, their result in the nominated selection event will be discounted for selection purposes (as they will have been pre-selected) and the selection points will be recalculated accordingly and distributed to the other competitors seeking selection.

The Selection Panel reserves the right to vary selection dates if unforeseen circumstances disrupt the selection timetable. If this becomes necessary, every effort will be made to inform paddlers as soon as possible.

Important Discretionary Provisions applying to both Pre-selection and Performance Selection

Discretion may be exercised by the Selection Panel and in exercising its discretion the Selection Panel may consider any factor, or combination of factors that in the

opinion of the Selection Panel is relevant for consideration when selecting athletes.

A paddler may be selected where there is a clear case that a paddler should be selected but for exceptional circumstances was unable to meet the selection criteria or the Selection Panel considers the outcome of the Selection Events do not reflect the true potential of a particular paddler

Any decision regarding discretionary selection will be made by the selection Panel with due regard to the paddler's abilities, skill level, speed and training efforts.

The Selection Panel will make the final selection of the teams.

World Cup

A team of up to six competitors in Men's K1, four in Women's K1 and four in C1 may be selected to represent Ireland in the World Cup Events. If a C2 crew attains national champion status, they may be considered for selection.

The same selection criteria will be used as for the European Championships team, except that more people may be selected for each category, based on the selection points accumulated. The same nominated selection events will be used as above.

5. Junior Team

Junior World Championships

A team of up to four competitors in Men's K1, three in Women's K1 and three in C1 may be selected to represent Ireland in the European Championships.

a) Pre-Selection

From the paddlers who applied and are eligible for selection two Junior Men's K1 and one Junior Women's K1 may be pre-selected from a ranking list prepared by the Selection Panel based on the paddlers' national ranking arising from their performance at the following events:

Castleconnell Sprint, Castleconnell Classic, Aghade Sprint, Avonmore Classic, Sluice Sprint, Boyne Classic

b) Performance Selection

Nominated selection events:

- Sprint Race – the Barrow Sprint (Sunday 8th March).
- Classic Race – Lower Liffey Classic (Sunday 22nd March).

For the selection races in each class, selection will be based on the following points system:

1st place - 9 points
2nd place – 7 points
3rd place – 6 points
4th place – 5 points
5th place – 4 points
6th place – 3 points
7th place – 2 points
8th place – 1 point
9th place and below - 0

Selection points will be added for both events and a selection ranking list will be drawn up for all competitors seeking selection for the national team. The above points will only be awarded to people seeking selection, i.e. those not seeking selection will not feature in the selection points ranking list. These ranking points will go towards drawing up a selection ranking list from which the remaining positions on the national team may be filled.

If a pre-selected paddler also features in the selection event, their result in the nominated selection event will be discounted for selection purposes (as they will have been pre-selected) and the selection points will be recalculated accordingly and distributed to the other competitors seeking selection.

The Selection Panel reserves the right to vary selection dates if unforeseen circumstances disrupt the selection timetable. If this becomes necessary, every effort will be made to inform paddlers as soon as possible.

Important Discretionary Provisions applying to both Pre-selection and Performance Selection.

Discretion may be exercised by the Selection Panel and in exercising its discretion the Selection Panel may consider any factor, or combination of factors that in the opinion of the Selection Panel is relevant for consideration when selecting athletes.

A paddler may be selected where there is a clear case that a paddler should be selected but for exceptional circumstances was unable to meet the selection

criteria or the Selection Panel considers the outcome of the Selection Events do not reflect the true potential of a particular paddler

Any decision regarding discretionary selection will be made by the selection Panel with due regard to the paddler's abilities, skill level, speed and training efforts.

Competitors may be selected to represent Ireland in junior C1 and C2, if they attain a full national ranking. The decision regarding this will be made by the selection Panel at the end of the season, with due regard to the paddler's abilities, skill level, speed and training efforts.

The Selection Panel will make the final selection of the teams.

6. Funding

The funding breakdown is expected to be follows:

- 35% of available funding will be allocated to the Senior European Championships.
- 30% of available funding will be allocated to the World Cup events.
- 35% of available funding will be allocated to the Junior World Championships.

The maximum allowable funding a paddler can receive is 75% of the total costs incurred, however given the amount of money expected to be made available to WWR racing, it is likely that competitors will receive somewhat less than this amount. Competitors will be liable for their day to day living expenses (accommodation, food and travel) while abroad and will be entitled to partial refund following completion of the events and upon production of relevant receipts, etc.

7. Notes (applicable to both Senior and Junior Teams)

- Wavehopper percentages will not be allowed for selection purposes.
- In the event of a tie, the aggregate percentage off the class winner's time will be the deciding factor.
- All paddlers seeking team places are expected to participate fully in organised training sessions and in the national ranking WWR races.

- Competitors, who achieve the above requirements, will be required to sign a code of conduct before being deemed to be selected to represent Ireland at international events.
- The WWR racing selection Panel will make the final selection of the teams.
- Paddlers who do not make selection may be invited to participate in a training camp in July 2009, the venue yet to be decided.