



**Irish Wildwater Racing
Selection Policy
Junior, U23 & Senior**

2023

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0.List of abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CI	Canoeing Ireland
DNF	Did not finish
ECA	European Canoe Association
HPU	High Performance Unit
ICF	International Canoe Federation
IWWR	Irish Wildwater Racing
NGB	National Governing Body
NODR	Non-Olympic Discipline Representative
PD	Performance Director
SP	Selection Panel
K1	Kayak class
C1	Canoe class
C2	Canoe Doubles class
WWR	Wildwater Racing

1 Introduction

1.0 Purpose

The Purpose of this selection policy is to outline the processes which will lead to the selection of the best athletes to represent Ireland at international events 2023, refer to Table 1 Table of races. The selection policy is designed to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances at the World Championships, the European Championships and World Cups.

9-11 June 2023	ICF WILDWATER World Championships	Sprint	Augsburg Germany
14-16 July	World Cup	CLASSIC & SPRINT	Mezzana, Val Di Sole, Italy
29-30 August	World Cup	CLASSIC & SPRINT	Lipno, Czech Republic
31-Aug-1-Sept	World Cup	CLASSIC & SPRINT	Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic
16-20 May	Wildwater Canoeing, Senior European Championships	CLASSIC & SPRINT	Skopje, Macedonia
5-9 July 2023	ECA JUNIOR AND U23 WILDWATER CANOEING World CHAMPIONSHIP	SPRINT & CLASSIC	RoudniceNad Labem, Czech Republic

Table 1 2023 International Races

This selection policy will support optimal performance delivery at international events through a robust system that athletes can benchmark their progress on. This 2023 selection policy has been developed by the Canoeing Ireland Performance Director with input from the relevant sub-committee. It has been ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO and the Board of Directors.

2. Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible to compete for Ireland, athletes must meet and maintain for the duration of the 2023 competition season the following athlete eligibility criteria:

- I. Be a current registered member of Canoeing Ireland who is eligible to represent Ireland at international events in accordance with ICF/ECA rules and have no outstanding debt to Canoeing Ireland or any of its technical committees.
- II. Hold an Irish passport or be eligible to hold an Irish passport.
- III. Is not under a doping violation investigation or serving a suspension/sanction for a doping violation.
- IV. Has attended a Canoeing Ireland Anti-Doping education course prior to team selection events.
- V. Is fit to perform to the best of their ability.

VI. Has signed the athlete agreement and the subsequent athlete contract.

3. The Key Stakeholders and process outline

The Performance Director (PD), liaising with the relevant sub-committee, is responsible for the development of selection policies.

Consultation

If timelines allow, athletes may be consulted, and their input sought on the first and final draft of the selection policy prior to publishing.

Oversight

The CEO and the CI Board will all have oversight of this Selection Policy for 2023. The Board will have ultimate authority in approving all Selection Policies for publication.

4. 2023 Selection Policy Terms & Conditions

4.0 Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this 2023 selection policy.

4.1 No athlete can be considered for selection for any Canoeing Ireland team if they do not meet and maintain the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2 above.

4.2 An athlete who for any reason, fails to maintain eligibility may be removed from the 2023 team. Eligibility issues will be communicated in the first instance by the PD. Any athlete who has been removed from the 2023 team will be replaced by the next ranked athlete, if applicable.

4.3 Athletes for all major international events must comply with International Canoe Federation (ICF) Rules and European Canoe Association (ECA) Rules. Entry to ICF and ECA events is restricted to members of the National Governing Bodies affiliated to the ICF and the ECA. In Ireland, the affiliated National Governing Body is Canoeing Ireland.

4.4 The selection of an athlete for inclusion on the 2023 team shall be confirmed to that athlete in writing by the PD or the relevant sub-committee within 7 days of the official team being agreed on and all appeals, if any, have concluded.

4.5 If an athlete's selection is made subject to that athlete meeting further conditions, such further conditions will be communicated as soon as possible to the athlete.

4.6 All entries of Irish canoe athletes to events must be made through the Canoeing Ireland office following the selection of athletes pursuant to the 2023 selection policy.

4.7 Proposals to amend this 2023 selection policy may be put forward if amendments are necessary and such amendments are determined to be in the best interest of athletes and Canoeing Ireland. Proposals to amend this 2023 policy will be submitted to the PD. All proposed amendments must be ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO in the first instance and approved by the CI Board. All final amendments will be clearly identified and will be binding on all athletes.

4.8 Canoeing Ireland reserves the right to deselect or suspend an athlete who is under investigation for disciplinary offences under Canoeing Ireland /ICF rules. Any athlete who is serving an active sanction arising from a disciplinary matter will not be eligible for team membership. This includes doping offences.

5. The Selection Process

The selection criteria for the National Teams are as follows;

5.1 Senior Team World Championships

A team of up to four competitors in all individual classes (Men's K1, Women's K1, C1 and C2) may be selected to represent Ireland in the World Sprint Championships

Nominated selection events:

Classic race – Inny 1, March 26th 2023

For the selection race in 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 this event and a selection-ranking list will be drawn up for all paddlers seeking selection from which the positions on the national team may be filled. The above points will be awarded only to paddlers participating in the selection event.

Note – If a C2 crew competes in four national ranking races they may be considered for selection by the selection committee or alternatively if a selected individual competitor wants to compete in C2 with another selected competitor they may do so with the discretion of the selection committee. In both cases crew, must apply for selection in the same format as other paddlers, i.e. to the secretary and chairperson via email by April 1st 2023.

5.2 World Cup Races

A team of up to six paddlers in all classes may be selected to represent Ireland in the World Cup Races. The same selection criteria will be used as for the World 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 for World Championships.

5.3 Under 23 World Championship

A team of up to four paddlers in all individual classes (Men's K1, Women's K1, C1 and C2) may be selected to represent Ireland in the Under 23 World Championship.

Nominated selection events:

Classic race – Inny 1, March 26th 2023

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 paddlers seeking selection from which the positions on the national team may be filled. The above points will be awarded only to paddlers participating in selection events.

Note – If a C2 crew competes in four national ranking races they may be considered for selection by the selection committee or alternatively if a selected individual competitor wants to compete in C2 with another selected competitor they may do so with the discretion of the selection committee. In both cases crew, must apply for selection in the same format as other paddlers, i.e. to the secretary and chairperson via email by April 1st 2023.

5.4 Junior Team: Junior World Championship

A team of up to four paddlers in all individual classes (Men's K1, Women's K1, C1 and C2) may be selected to represent Ireland in the Junior World Championship.

Nominated selection events:

Classic race – Inny 1, March 26th 2023

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 paddlers seeking selection from which the positions on the national team may be filled. The above points will be awarded only to paddlers participating in selection events.

Note – If a C2 crew competes in four national ranking races they may be considered for selection by the selection committee or alternatively if a junior selected individual competitor wants to compete in C2 with another junior selected competitor they may do so with the discretion of the selection committee. In both cases crew, must apply for selection in the same format as other paddlers, i.e. to the secretary and chairperson via email by April 1st 2023.

5.5 Masters competitions

Since the entry is not restricted in master's competitions, master's paddlers are responsible for securing their own entries, but must inform the Wildwater Racing Committee in writing prior to travelling. Masters competitors must also be individual members of Canoeing Ireland.

5.6 Extenuating circumstances and Discretionary selection

Extenuating circumstances are serious, unforeseen circumstances beyond an athlete's control (i.e., illness, injury, family bereavement, etc) which genuinely prevent them from competing at the selection event.

If an athlete misses the selection event due to extenuating circumstances and that athlete has recognised international experience and is deemed to be of a suitable performance standard, discretionary selection may be considered by the selection panel if there are available places on the team i.e. the place on the team is not already occupied by a selected athlete.

7. Determining the results of the selection process

On completion of the selection process the following actions will occur:

- The committee will create a ranking list of results
- The selection panel is convened
- The final ranking list for the participant athletes is presented to the SP and
- The selection panel will meet and review the results and approve the selection of the team (provisional subject to appeals)
- All participants are informed of the results of the selection meeting
- Any non-selected athletes are permitted to appeal within the defined process
- If appeals are received, they are dealt with through the normal appeals process
- If no appeals are received within the time period allowed the team as selected is confirmed as final.
- The PD and/or sub-committee will write to all successful athletes and inform them of their selection (provisional pending the signing of the athlete contract).
- The Selection Panel Chairperson will present the minutes of the SP meeting to the CI Board.

8. The Selection Panel

The Selection Panel (SP) will, after review of the results of the selection process, ensure that all proposed athletes meet the eligibility criteria prior to official selection confirmation. The SP can only consider an athlete who meets and maintains the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2, and therefore shall have the final determination, acting reasonably, as to whether an athlete meets the eligibility criteria

8.1 Construct of Selection Panel

The SP will be convened and chaired by the Canoeing Ireland Non-Olympic Discipline Representative (ODR). The selection panel will be ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO. The SP will consist of the following 3 members:

- I. The Non-Olympic Discipline Representative (or another Board appointed member)
- II. The Performance Director
- III. One independent member*

*Independent member can be from another sub-committee/NGB or a retired canoe sport athlete from any discipline who understands the process of team selection.

8.2 Conflicts of Interest

Any member of the SP shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of and any vote in respect of any selection matter in which they have a material conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest might occur when, for example:

- A Selection Panel member is a club coach to a particular athlete vying for selection.
- A Selection Panel member is closely aligned to or is a member of a club for which an athlete vying for selection is also a member of.
- A Selection Panel member is a family member or close friend of an athlete vying for selection.

Or any circumstance where a Selection Panel member has a personal relationship with an athlete or athletes vying for selection which could influence his or her decision or stands to gain in any way from the outcome of a selection decision.

9 Key Competition Dates

Refer to Table 1 key dates for 2023

10. Selection Appeal Procedures –

The Canoeing Ireland Athlete Appeals Process can be found on the Canoeing Ireland website link: <https://www.canoe.ie/governance-documents/>

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