

IRISH WILDWATER RACING 2015 SELECTION POLICY

A. INTRODUCTION

The Wild-Water Racing Committee aims to promote and improve the standard of Irish paddlers through International competition and improve our image on the International stage by sending good standard teams abroad. We also aspire to develop participation in all categories at both Senior and Junior International events. The aim of the selection policy is therefore, to select the best paddlers to represent Ireland abroad.

The 2015 Selection Policy (the "Policy") provides the guidelines and criteria by which the national teams will be selected for the following events taking place in the year 2015:

June 4th-7th	Senior European Championships	Banja Luka, Bosnia
June 19th-22nd	World Cup	Bovec, Slovenia & Murau, Austria
June 23rd-28th	World Championships	Vienna, Austria http://www.vienna-wildwasser.at/
August 2nd-7th	Junior & U23 World Championships	Bryson City, USA http://nantahala2015.com/

All events subject to confirmation by the ICF

The Policy sets out eligibility conditions for paddlers seeking selection, the selection event process, discretionary provisions, funding policy and notes relevant to the implementation of the Policy. The Policy may be amended at any time by the Wild-Water Racing Committee if it is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary to give effect to the 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 Policy applies to the year 2015 only. Previous selection policies or criteria will have no bearing on this Policy.

B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. In order to be eligible for selection for the National Wild Water Senior Racing Team each athlete must;
 - (a) Be a fully paid up member of Canoeing Ireland.

(b) Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with ICF Wildwater Racing Rules (Section 3).

(c) Inform the committee via email before February 1st 2015 of their intention to compete for a place on the senior national team clearly stating which class(es) they intend to compete in. (Email secretary@irishwildwaterracing.com and send a copy to chairperson@wildwaterracing.com. The Wild-Water Racing Committee will accept notification of an a paddlers' intention to be considered for selection from paddlers from January 1st 2015.

(d) Compete in at least four national championship ranking races in the 2014-2015 season for the category/class(es) in which they intend to compete in internationally (See Note 6).

2. In order to be eligible for selection for the National Under 23 Wildwater Racing Team each paddler must;

(a) Be a fully paid up member of Canoeing Ireland.

(b) Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with ICF Wildwater Racing rules Section 3

(c) Inform the committee via email before February 1st 2015 of their intention to compete for a place on the junior national team clearly stating which class(es) they intend to compete in. (Email secretary@irishwildwaterracing.com and send a copy to chairperson@wildwaterracing.com. The Wild-Water Racing Committee will accept notification of a paddlers' intention to be considered for selection from paddlers from January 1st 2015.

(d) The first year a 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 23rd birthday falls in.

(e) Compete in at least four national championship ranking races in the 2014-2015 season for the category/class(es) in which they intend to compete in internationally (see Note 6).

3. In order to be eligible for selection for the National Wildwater Junior Racing Team each paddler must;

(a) Be a fully paid up member of Canoeing Ireland.

(b) Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with ICF Wildwater Racing rules Section 3

(c) Inform the committee via email before February 1st 2015 of their intention to compete for a place on the junior national team clearly stating which class(es) they intend to compete in. (Email secretary@irishwildwaterracing.com and send a copy to chairperson@wildwaterracing.com. The Wild-Water Racing Committee will accept notification of a paddlers' intention to be considered for selection from paddlers from January 1st 2015.

(d) 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.

(e) Compete in at least four national championship ranking races in the 2014-2015 season for the category/class(es) in which they intend to compete in internationally (see Note 6).

(f) Have an ability to roll and self rescue on whitewater

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 Wildwater Racing Committee on or before the 21st March 2015. In the event a paddler does not notify the Committee of the events in which they intend participating the Wild-Water Racing Committee will take it that the paddler does not wish to be part of the National Team for 2015 and will not be entered by the Wild-Water Racing Committee in any of the events.

C. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria for the National Teams are as follows;

1. Senior Team Senior World Championship

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

Nominated selection events:

Sprint Race – River Slaney, Aghade, Tullow, Co. Carlow (8th February 2015)

Classic Race – River Inny, Ballymahon, Co. Longford (22nd February 2015). Note that the first race of the day will be nominated as the selection race

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 February 1st 2015

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 above.

3. Under 23 World Championship

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

Nominated selection events:

Sprint Race – River Slaney, Aghade, Tullow, Co. Carlow (8th February 2015)

Classic Race – River Inny, Ballymahon, Co. Longford (22nd February 2015). Note that the first race of the day will be nominated as the selection race

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 February 1st 2015

3. Junior Team: Junior World Championship

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

Nominated selection events:

Sprint Race – River Slaney, Aghade, Tullow, Co. Carlow (8th February 2015)

Classic Race – River Inny, Ballymahon, Co. Longford (22nd February 2015). Note that the first race of the day will be nominated as the selection race

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 February 1st 2015

4. Masters competitions

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

D. DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS

Discretion may be exercised by the Wild-Water Racing Committee and in confirming the final selection of both Senior and Junior teams. The Wild-Water Racing Committee may consider any factor, or combination of factors that in the opinion of the Wild-Water Racing Committee, is relevant for consideration when selecting a paddler. 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.

E. FUNDING POLICY

Subject to funding being available for travel to international competition, the division of funding will be as follows:

1. Senior Team & Under 23 Team (50% of the total fund will go to the Senior and Under 23 Team)

The fund for senior and under 23 team members is for outstanding performance at International events. This incentive program is based on the performance of paddlers at the events referred to above. No one paddler will receive more than half of the fund. Each finish by a paddler within the performance range buys a paddler a share of the fund. A finish within 7% of the winner of a world cup race buys 3 shares (6 shares for World championships, European Championships or Under 23 World

Championships). A finish within 10% of the winner of a World Cup race buys 2 shares (4 shares for World or European Championship). A finish within 13% of the winner of a World Cup race buys 1 share (2 shares for World or European Championships).

2. Junior Team (50% of the total fund will go to the Junior Team)

Each of the paddlers on the team will receive an equal share of the fund.

F. NOTES RELEVANT TO POLICY

1. The Wild-Water Racing Committee reserves the right to vary selection dates and the race course if unforeseen circumstances and/or weather conditions disrupt the selection timetable. If this becomes necessary, every effort will be made to inform paddlers as soon as possible.
2. A junior paddler wishing to compete for a place on both the junior and under 23 national team must ensure his/her letter/email to the Secretary specifically states this. Juniors are deemed eligible to race in the under 23 world Championships, but priority for the under 23 team will be given to paddlers who are eligible to race under 23, but are too old to race junior. A junior who races in both the Junior World Championships and the Under 23 World Championships (which are hosted at the same venue) will only be eligible for funding for the junior event.
3. Juniors (those whose 18th birthday falls in 2015 or later) are not eligible to race at senior events, other than the under 23 World Championships.
4. In the event of a tie in selection points, the aggregate percentage off the class winner's time will be the deciding factor.
5. All paddlers, 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.
6. The Irish Wild Water Racing committee Constitution Section 5.2: "The best 60% of ranking race results (to the closest integer) out of the total number of races held in each season will be taken into account for the individual championship points."
7. The Wild-Water Racing Committee will make the final selection of the teams, subject to the right of appeal. If deemed necessary, the Wild-Water Racing Committee may appoint a selection sub-committee to adjudicate over the selection of senior and/or junior national teams.
8. The Wild-Water Racing Committee anticipates arranging a national team training weekend on 14th-16th March 2015. All competitors selected for the national Wildwater racing teams (senior or junior) are expected to participate fully in this weekend.