



## **British Canoeing - Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe International Panel Statement - December 2023**

This statement provides a number of important updates and opportunities for feedback as policies are finalised for the 2024 International season:

### **Board Appointment of Interim IP:**

Barney Wainwright and Malcolm Johnson have left the Sprint and Paracanoe International Panel. Tim Scott has been succeeded by Nick Fowler-Rimell following his appointment to Chair of the Sprint Racing Committee. We thank Barney, Malcolm and Tim for their valued time and expertise during their time on the IP.

The British Canoeing Board have recently approved an interim arrangement to ensure the essential work of finalising policies is completed in time for the 2024 season. The [interim IP Terms of Reference](#) set out the composition and scope of the remit of the IP. This interim arrangement will be reviewed by the Board at its meeting in February and we will ensure the community is fully updated.

### **Publication of the 2024 Paracanoe Selection Policy:**

Following the conclusion of the consultation process on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and consideration of the feedback, the Interim IP is pleased to publish the 2024 Paracanoe selection policy which includes the selection process for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games which has been approved by the British Paralympic Association and the British Canoeing governance process.

Thank you to those people who took time to provide feedback on the draft policy. As a result of the consultation, a number of changes and clarifications have been made which are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

The policy can be found [here](#). Don't forget about the need to [register](#) by 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **Draft U23 & Junior 2024 selection policies released for public consultation:**

Consultation opens today on the [Draft 2024 Junior Policy](#) and [Draft 2024 U23 Policy](#) and runs until Tuesday 2nd January 2024 so please read and feedback on YOUR selection policies at the [link](#) or full link: [https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/sprint\\_junior\\_u23\\_selection\\_policy\\_feedback](https://britishcanoeing.formstack.com/forms/sprint_junior_u23_selection_policy_feedback)

The draft policy has been developed following the establishment of the [Junior Selection Performance Advisory Group \(JSPAG\)](#) which brings representatives from clubs, communities and Home Nations together to propose the shape and direction of the junior selection policies. The Interim IP group have prepared the draft 2024 policy following the recommendations made by JSPAG and now share widely for public consultation. There is an overview of the thinking behind the policy at the start of the policy to provide context to the draft policy.

**The Interim IP and JSPAG will consider the feedback from consultation in early January and aim to publish the final 2024 Junior & U23 policies in mid Jan 2024.**

### **Canoe Sprint - World Championships.**

These are scheduled to take place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on the 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August 2024. There is very little information on this event including which events will be included in the racing programme. For this reason, the final detail will be provided by 16th March 2024.

**A reminder:** The 2024 Canoe Sprint Senior & Olympic Team policies are already published here:

[2024 Canoe Sprint Olympic Team Selection Policy](#)

[2024 Canoe Sprint Senior Team Selection Policy](#)

Don't forget about the need to register by 6<sup>th</sup> March (sprint seniors) please find the [link to register](#).

## **2024 Canoe Sprint Senior Selection Policy - Important Change to April Regatta** **Senior K4 selection from first past the post to a pool selection**

The published 2024 senior policy committed to a crew boat process being made available by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. As no Men's or Women's K4's were qualified for the Paris Games, this process has not been activated and an alternative process will be used for 2024 Senior WK4 & MK4 as outlined below:

### **Changes:**

- Whilst stating in section 2.7 of the 2024 senior selection policy that a process for the "composition of crew boats" would be published by 1.10.23. As the intention of the policy was to have something in place for K4s, with none qualified for Games, this is no longer relevant.
- Remove the WK4 & MK4 races from April selection (specifically remove from section 8.3.1 of the 2024 senior team policy) and use ranking lists from K1 500m and K2 500m in April to create a pool of athletes that can be part of a K4 process through April and May.
- Allow for selection to World Cups and Euros through this process.
- The process will be owned by section coaches, supported by Senior Coach/Performance Director and ratified by the IP.

### **Specific Details:**

- The pool will be up to 8 athletes for men's kayak and 8 athletes for women's kayak
- The winning K2 in both men's and women's K2 500m will be selected to the pool.
- In men's kayak there will be a combined ranking of K1 performances across K1 200m and K1 500m to select the additional 6 places to the pool. Race position in both will be aggregated with the athletes having the lowest combined total selected to the pool. In the event of a tie for the 8th pool place, all athletes tied will be invited to the formation process.
- In women's kayak K1 performances from the K1 500m will be used to select the additional 6 places to the pool.
- In the event of athletes turning down their places in the pool the next best ranked athlete based on respective K1 performances will be selected to the pool.
- The crew boat process will follow the WCP Squad Formation Principles which for reference are:
  - **Step 1:** Identify all athletes that are of the required standard to be part of the squad formation.
  - **Step 2:** Discussion with athletes on all performance opportunities available.
  - **Step 3:** Is there a crew combination with an established track record where due consideration should be given to keeping that boat together?
  - **Step 4:** Timeline and process built in partnership with athletes involved.
  - **Step 5:** Decision making process takes into account information from athletes, coaches and data.

## **Appendix - Key changes as a result of Paracanoe consultation feedback:**

Q.1 "9.5 could there be a minimum % time from the winning boat below which the IP would not consider an athlete. This would provide clarity for all."

Response:

We have expanded the wording in point 9.5 to give greater clarity as to what factors the IP will consider when determining whether and athlete should be selected ahead of one of the first 2 boats for world championships in order to gain eligibility to compete at the Paralympic Games. Regarding the consideration of % to winner, this is only one of the factors and there is not a consistent % that can be applied across all classes. However when making any decision the IP will be guided by data from each sport class at the 2023 World Championships when considering % that would place an athlete in the medal zone in a particular sport class.

Q.2 Can different schedules for the selection regatta be considered?

Response:

This doesn't relate directly to policy however there is on going discussion to firm up the schedule and find the best fit for athlete performance and wider regatta schedule.

Q3. Related to section 14 and giving clarity on which athletes would be considered for exceptional circumstances

Response:

The wording has been changed to : Achieved the A final or placed in the top 3 in the B final in a Paralympic Event at a World Championships in the 24 months prior to the selection event.