



**British Canoeing – Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe
International Panel – Covid-19 – 25th March 2020**

Dear athletes,

As an International Panel we wanted to write the following in response to the recent decisions to cancel upcoming selection races for the 2020 International season. As a panel we feel that it is important to acknowledge the uncertainty that this creates and that we understand the challenge that this represents to each of you particularly given the speed of the escalation of the control measures around this unprecedented situation.

The COVID-19 virus presents a real and serious risk to society, the extent of which is difficult even for scientists and epidemiologists to predict. We recognise the difficulty this has presented for everyone and the uncertainty we are all experiencing. We are in a position in which we must make some important decisions not only in the interest of our Canoeing family, but for society as a whole. We have a mutual responsibility to take this threat seriously and to protect ourselves, one another, and those that are vulnerable within our communities.

As we continuously monitor the implications of the domestic and global restrictions on the domestic and International calendar our decision making will be guided by the following key principles:

- Following Government Health advice on Covid-19
- To put the health and wellbeing of athletes, volunteers and staff at the heart of our decision making.

In the context of the above, British Canoeing International Panels are aware of the need to provide clarity on selection at the earliest opportunity but it must be recognised that this is an ever evolving landscape that requires a strategic approach.

The decision by the IOC and IPC yesterday to delay the Tokyo 2020 Games until the summer of 2021 at the latest has been welcomed by British Canoeing and further clarity on the implications of this are expected from the ICF and IOC over the coming weeks. We will continue to be guided by ICF, ECA, IOC and IPC information as it becomes clearer what, if any races will take place during the 2020 International season. British Canoeing has set up a dedicated area of its [website for all guidance and updates](#) on Covid-19. [The ICF website](#) provides regular updates on changes to the calendar.

As of today, the position remains that all ICF & ECA events are cancelled until at least 31st May and all domestic events are cancelled until at least 30th April.

Whilst many 'what if?' scenarios are being considered by the International Panels and we have already stated that the earliest we will be able to restart any selection



processes but the decision making will be influenced by the next update from the ICF scheduled for late April. The panel recognises the desire for athletes to receive further clarity at the earliest opportunity but as advice is changing daily and the timescale of restrictions both domestically and Internationally are currently undetermined and evolving daily, any responses will be strategic once sufficient information is available to make an informed decision.

We know that you will be eager to continue to prepare as normally as possible and we are sure that you will all find create ways to stay conditioned ahead of a resumption of a competition programme but please ensure that you train safely. We must urge you to put your health, and your loved ones first and remember our collective responsibility as a wider society to follow the Government advice first.

We hope that as a Canoeing family we can pull together, support one another, and show kindness and empathy within our communities in these uncertain times.

Please look after yourselves.

Any further updates from the International Panel will be published Canoe Sprint - [here](#) and Paracanoe [here](#).

International Panel

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