



British Canoeing - Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross

International Panel Statement

International Panel – Policy Updates – Updated 21st December 2023

2024 Selection Policy

The 2024 GBR Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross selection policies are all now published on the [British Canoeing website](#). The International Panel wishes to thank those people who took time to provide feedback during the consultation process in October. There is a summary of some of the areas of feedback and changes made later in this statement in the Appendix. There are a number of areas to highlight for awareness:

Canoe Slalom Selection Qualifiers:

Following the completion of the 2023 ranking season and the outcome of the ACM which included agreement of the 2024 calendar, the IP can now confirm those juniors eligible to register and enter for the 2024 selection series for GBR canoe slalom AND Kayak Cross Teams:

Junior Canoe Slalom Selection Qualifiers: (Updated Table MK1 Specifically)

MK1	MC1	WK1	WC1
Gwion Williams	William Kettle	Zoe Blythe-Shields	KATE Lyndon
Oscar Wyllie	Isaac Wright	Kate Lyndon	Zoe Blythe-Shields
Murray Robb	Woody South	Arina Kontchakov	Darcey McMullins
Nathan Nabili	Talu Aysan	Sofia Alfer	Arina Kontchakov
Harry Kirby	Leo Miller	Sennah Nader-Humphries	Sadie Sterry
Dominic Thomas	Harry McKenna	Jasmine Wilde	Taliesin McLean
Jacob Law	Lewis Arden	Darcey McMullins	Jasmine Wilde
Herbie Staines	Dan Joyce	Sadie Sterry	Hannah Toovey
Jonah Hanrahan	Sebastian Reeves	Taliesin McLean	Sophie Cameron
Scott Ritchie	Abel Blythe	Olwen Yates	Emily McLean
Woody South	Alistair Ross	Hannah Toovey	Aimee Cameron
Hayden Ridley	Matthew Telfer	Iga Tomasik	Daisy Macklin
Thomas Arrowsmith	Thomas Kent	Maddie Hobbs	Robyn Taunt
Theo Wright	Toby Wilde	Hanna Griffiths	Ridhi Makwana
Deio Thomas	Jonah Hanrahan	Aimee Cameron	Esme Price
Louie Gordon		Daisy Macklin	
Reuben Yates		Eiri O'Connor	
Austin Gould		Robyn Taunt	
Harry McKenna		Sophie Cameron	
Luke Robinson		Freya Pryce	
Alistair Ross		Lara Elcock	
Jacob Mockler		Leisa Thomas	
Matthew Telfer		Alana Middleton	
Arthur Jacques		Rebecca Guest	
Lewis Arden		Evie Lancaster	
25	15	25	15

Junior Kayak Cross Selection Qualifiers: (Updated Table MK1 Specifically)

MK1	MC1	WK1	WC1
Gwion Williams	William Kettle	Zoe Blythe-Shields	KATE Lyndon
Oscar Wyllie	Isaac Wright	Kate Lyndon	Zoe Blythe-Shields
Murray Robb	Woody South	Arina Kontchakov	Darcey McMullins
Nathan Nabili	Talu Aysan	Sofia Alfer	Arina Kontchakov
Harry Kirby	Leo Miller	Sennah Nader-Humphries	Sadie Sterry
Dominic Thomas		Jasmine Wilde	
Jacob Law		Darcey McMullins	
Herbie Staines		Sadie Sterry	
Jonah Hanrahan		Taliesin McLean	
Scott Ritchie		Olwen Yates	

All Athletes – Don't forget to enter and register:

All athletes wishing to be considered for selection to a 2024 Great Britain Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross team should register for selection and enter the race(s) in order to confirm eligibility as below:

Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom:

- Register [here](#) by Midday on Wednesday 14th February 2024 (& Enter the Race(s) [here](#)).

Junior, U23 & Senior Kayak Cross:

- Qualifiers early entry: for those listed in 3.2.1 of the kayak cross selection policies: Must Register [here](#) AND ENTER the race [here](#) by Midday on Wednesday 14th February 2024 for a guaranteed entry into the event.
- Open entry: Must Register [here](#) AND ENTER the race [here](#) between the 20th Feb 2024 and midday on 14th March 2024 (entries allocated on first come first served basis).

Only 1 registration is required for all canoe slalom and kayak cross 2024 selection races. Please make sure you enter races as registration is not entering the race(s)!

Important Clarification of 2024 Senior Released Race Policy

The published senior Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross 2024 senior selection policy provides performance criteria to be achieved in order to retain team status at the final 2 world cups of the season in line with the two wording extracts below:

11.2 Any athlete(s) selected to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will not be required to meet the performance criteria at 11.1 and will automatically have priority access to the races named above and retain their place(s) for World Cups 4 and 5.

- 5. Any athlete nominated to Team GB for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games under stage 1 or stage 2 of the Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Paris 2024 Olympic Team Selection Policy will retrospectively added as the number one boat within the selection order identified through Section D and E in the event(s) in which they are nominated for the Olympic Games or in the case of Kayak Cross in the order of the nominations to Team GB.*

The IP wishes to formally clarify that any athlete nominated to the Paris 2024 Olympic Team will have access to the whole season in all events that they have qualified a place in the 2024 senior team top 3. This enables the selected athletes to prioritise their season if selected and racing in multiple categories.

And Finally:

A little known ECA rule at Senior level permits the reigning European Champion to enter the next European Championships in addition to the 3 athlete places that each Nation can enter. Therefore, for the 2024 European Championships, GBR will be allocated 3 entries in MC1 plus an entry for Ryan Westley as reigning champion.

International Panel

Updated 21st December 2023

Appendix: Feedback from Consultation Process:

Thanks again to all who took time to read the draft policies and provide feedback. The IP continues to assess feedback anonymously this gives everyone an equal voice with no unconscious or conscious bias. 18 responses were received and all were considered as part of a review of the feedback at a dedicated IP meeting on the 22nd November.

Feedback was received on a number of topics and the key areas are highlighted below:

- **Performance standards (CSL)**
 - **Age range performance standards – goes against principle 2.4**
 - **How U23 & junior performance standards are calculated to ensure consistency across the two venues**

In response to the feedback, the junior performance standards have been adjusted to reflect 2023 data and there will only be one performance standard for all junior athletes. All Juniors will be required to meet the performance standard on one occasion from the up to 6 races.

For 2024, the Junior & U23 'baseline 100% percentage standard' will be calculated from the Best Single run Score in each race from athletes racing in the U23 and/or junior selection race only (including pre-selected athletes).

The IP believe that these adjustments address the concerns flagged about differences of the strength of start line between HPP and Lee Valley, they continue to set a minimum performance standard whilst being more inclusive and consistent between venues.

- **Explain rationale behind CSL tie Break (CSL)** - There was feedback that using a % to resolve the tie break would be unfair as the performance percentages may have been calculated differently between venues. The changes to the calculation for 2024 of performance standards will address this concern and the reason for introducing this was in response to feedback that the tie break should be determined from counting selection results. No change made due to the change in performance standards.
- **Exceptional circumstances for juniors** - There was a question as to why there was no opportunity for juniors to be considered for exceptional circumstances. The panel have reinstated this with the similar criteria as U23's. This applies for Canoe Slalom (CSL) and Kayak Cross (CSLX)
- **Start and finish lines and configuration (CSL & CSLX)** – There was a request for more detail. At the time of consultation, the IP were waiting for some specific detail. This is now specified in the appendices.
- **Kayak Cross Race format performance standards and competency (CSLX)** – There was some concern that U23 's racing in CSL were disadvantaged compared to seniors racing CSLX only. The IP in response has reduced the number of CSLX races from 4 to 3 to reflect that U23's are also racing in CSL on the Saturday and provide opportunities for more free practice on the CSLX ramp and course. Now it is 2 from 3 races rather than 3 from 4. One course design for the whole event. The IP were still working on providing greater clarity on the competency required to enter the CSLX event and how we will assess performance standards. This is covered in the final policy and entry process.
- **Access to Lee Valley** – There were perceptions of no access to Lee Valley so the information provided [here](#) aims to identify the many different ways to access the venue. BC staff continue to look at how to enable more access to the CSLX ramp and CSLX gates and this will also be reflected with dedicated times leading into selection and the change to allow more free practice prior to the CSLX races.
- **Alternative ideas/concepts** – Thanks to those who presented alternative methodology to elements of the selection process. The timeline is too tight for any implementation for 2024 but a number of elements will be considered as we move towards 2025 selection. These included Consideration of an alternative combined CSL & CSLX points system to consider in the future and how to 'remove' people who have already made a team part way through the series.
- **Separation of race entries between CSL & CSLX** – we were asked to separate the two types of racing. This permits athletes to choose which of CSL and/or CSLX races people can choose and therefore pay for.
- **In addition** – The IP also considered further feedback such as how do we further safeguard officials, this is addressed in the registration process reminding athletes and parents of the [paddler](#) and [parent codes of conduct](#) which could result in disciplinary action. Water quality concerns and education clashes were also considered.

In addressing feedback concerns with selection, two aspects commonly come up that the IP would like to provide greater clarity on:

1. Roles and responsibilities of different components of the Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross community:

British Canoeing – The National Governing Body for Paddlesport in the UK whose Board delegates responsibility to the British Canoeing Slalom Committee for all aspects of Slalom competition.

The British Canoeing Slalom Committee – The BCSC is an entirely volunteer led committee whose purpose is to interest itself in all matters relating to the management and development of Canoe Slalom in the UK with particular focus on:

- a. Increasing participation through the provision of competition;
- b. Administration of rules and regulations;
- c. Development of athletes, coaches and officials;

The terms of reference are [here](#).

The International Panel – Responsibility for the writing and implementation of selection policies for Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross Great Britain teams. The IP has no budget. The terms of reference are [here](#).

The World Class Programme (WCP)- The WCP receives ringfenced finance from UK Sport specifically to support a prescribed number of athletes to perform on the international stage, particularly at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. More information [here](#).

Home Nation Talent Programmes (Eng, Sco, Wal, NI) – Programmes funded by Home Nation Sports Councils to achieve specific sporting objectives (these will vary between Home Nations).

2. Where selection can be hosted:

The choice of selection venues is a complex equation that involves consideration of many factors including:

- Degree of difficulty/Standard of the whitewater
- Consistency/stability of the whitewater for training and in competition
- Availability of the venue to access for training
- Cost of venue use and other considerations
- Ability to provide judging and video judging to the standard expected by competitors
- Timing of event and impact of the event on volunteers and officials (e.g. three events in 3 Home Nations is a huge expectation and cost for volunteers and officials)
- Costs of the selection series – more venues means more costs for preparation and racing
- The value of juniors & U23's racing against seniors and avoiding separate series for Juniors & U23's as this can lead to twice as many races, cost and even more demand on volunteers and officials.

A number of principles have been established through discussions with the Slalom Committee, IP and Home Nation programmes which conclude that:

- Whilst one race in each Home Nation is often suggested, the reality is that this is the most demanding model on volunteers, the most expensive for parents and competitors as preparing across 3 sites is the most expensive option. The IP therefore work on a principle of a maximum of 2 venues in any series. Based on standard and consistency of water, ability to judge to the standard required at all levels that the primary list of potential GBR selection venues is between - HPP/Cardiff/LV.
- The values of natural sites such as Tryweryn, Grandtully and Washburn are not underestimated but the variability in access and water levels for training and for racing combined with the expectations of the competitors for video judging, vulnerability to weather conditions etc make them less representative of modern international standard race venues (in terms of judging, video, water and therefore training consistency).