

# Paddle UK Eligibility Policy

## 1. Eligibility for National Team Selection

- 1.1. Must be a current Member of Paddle UK or a National Association (Paddle Scotland, Canoe Wales, Paddle Northern Ireland).
- 1.2. For International Competitions governed by the International Canoe Federation (ICF), the ICF competition rules, as amended from time to time, will apply<sup>1</sup>. At the date of approval of this policy the rules are as follows:
  - 1.2.1. An athlete that has competed internationally at any level in the last three (3) years requires authorisation from the ICF with the approval of the two (2) National Federations involved to change sporting nationality.
  - 1.2.2. For an athlete to be eligible for a change of sporting nationality they must have lived in that country for the last one (1) year or hold the nationality of the new country.
  - 1.2.3. An athlete who is aged 18 or under can change sporting nationality with the approval of the two (2) National Federations involved. They are not required to fulfil the one (1) year residency rule.
  - 1.2.4. The request of the change of sporting nationality must be made in writing to the ICF by the new National Federation no later than 30<sup>th</sup> November the year before the athlete wants to compete (e.g., 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to be eligible to compete for Paddle UK from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025).
  - 1.2.5. For the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the Olympic and Paralympic Charter rules will be applied for nationality issues. For an athlete to gain an Olympic or Paralympic quota place they hold citizenship/nationality of the National Federation they represent.
  - 1.2.6. An athlete cannot compete for more than one (1) National Federation in any calendar year in canoeing.
- 1.3. The same procedure and rules apply, should the athlete decide they want to change back to compete for their National Federation of origin.
- 1.4. For International Competitions governed by the International Rafting Federation (IRF) the IRF race rules as amended from time to time, will apply. At the date of approval of this policy the rules are as follows:
  - 1.4.1. Only a Competitor who is a member of their National Federation, who in turn is a Member Nation of the IRF, is eligible to compete in an IRF A- or B-Level Event.
  - 1.4.2. A Competitor may not compete for more than one National Federation in any one calendar year. This rule does not apply in the case of changing residency or citizenship by marriage. In all cases of a change in residency or citizenship, once confirmed, the former National Federation has no right to prevent a Competitor from racing in an Event.
  - 1.4.3. If a Competitor wishes to compete for a Member Nation at an A- or B-Level Event and they do not hold a passport or official permanent residency in that nation, they must:

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<sup>1</sup> For Rafting the International Rafting Federation Rules shall apply.  
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- 1.4.3.1. Provide proof that they are permanently domiciled in that foreign nation to the satisfaction of the Residency Approval Committee appointed by the Sport & Competition Committee.
- 1.4.3.2. Provide authorisation from their Federation of origin unless they have been domiciled for 2 years or more in this foreign nation or has married a citizen from that foreign nation.
- 1.4.3.3. Have competed in the national selections of the foreign nation.
- 1.4.3.4. Bring such cases to the attention of the IRF before the announced deadline date for Team entries.

1.5. In order to be eligible to be on a UK Sport funded programme an athlete must be a British national, possess a valid British Passport or be in the process of applying for British Citizenship. If an athlete is not a British national or a British Passport holder then an athlete should be aware that they will not be able to compete in the Olympic or Paralympic Games for GB. Therefore they should be actively pursuing – and likely to receive – a British passport.

## **2. Eligibility for National Championship Titles**

2.1. In order to be eligible to win a National Championship title a competitor must either satisfy all the criteria detailed in Clause 2.2 **or** all the criteria detailed in Clause 2.3:

2.2. A competitor must:

- 2.2.1. Be a British Citizen.
- 2.2.2. Be a current member of Paddle UK or a National Association (Paddle Scotland, Canoe Wales, Paddle Northern Ireland).
- 2.2.3. Not currently be representing, or in the selection process to represent, another National Federation.

2.3. A competitor must:

- 2.3.1. Have been resident in the United Kingdom for at least 2 (two) years (the residency being calculated as being the 2 (two) years immediately preceding January 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of the relevant competition).
- 2.3.2. Have been a member of Paddle UK or a National Association (Paddle Scotland, Canoe Wales, Paddle Northern Ireland) for at least 2 (two) years.
- 2.3.3. Not currently be representing, or in the selection process to represent, another National Federation.

2.4. In entering a National Championship, competitors agree to abide by this Eligibility Policy and comply with the requirements and procedures of Paddle UK and/or the National Championships organisers.

2.5. If a competitor is not a British Citizen and has not been Resident in the United Kingdom and a member of Paddle UK or a National Association (Paddle Scotland, Canoe Wales, Paddle Northern Ireland) for the necessary 2 (two) years (in accordance with 2.3.2 above) and there are exceptional circumstances then they may apply to the Paddle UK Head of Governance requesting discretion to be exercised. Any applications should be submitted at least 28 (twenty eight) days prior to any National Championships event in which they wish to compete.

2.6. Each case shall be considered on its own merits and any decision in an individual case does not create a precedent for any future cases.