



British Canoeing – Canoe Slalom

International Panel – Covid-19 Update – 30th July 2020

Dear athletes, coaches & parents,

Ever since the rapid escalation of Covid-19 in March 2020 which resulted in the ongoing restrictions and cancellation of all domestic and International races to date the canoe slalom international panel (IP) has been working hard behind the scenes to provide clarity for athletes in an ever evolving landscape.

On 2nd July British Canoeing [announced](#) that due to the ongoing health concerns, uncertainty if competitions will take place and no domestic competition yet scheduled for a selection process to be undertaken that no representative teams will be selected for the 2020 International season in canoe slalom and across the sport.

The decision by the British Canoeing Board supported by the canoe slalom IP has been made to protect the health and wellbeing of athletes, staff and volunteers. We recognise the disappointment that many may feel and fully support the BC Slalom committee in seeking to run open domestic races this year when and if Government guidelines permit. We also recognise that the restrictions within the United Kingdom have not been uniform and many people remain significantly restricted from access to training through government guidelines or other circumstances.

Focus on 2021

With people now having clarity around International competition in 2020, we hope people can now make plans for 2021 to fit their own circumstances during these challenging times. As an International Panel we have already been working hard on looking ahead to 2021 and wish to share the following regarding the 2021 selection process:

1. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Team

On 9th April 2020 we announced reconfirmation of the athletes already selected to Tokyo 2020 for the rescheduled Games in 2021. It is the intention of the IP to retain the principles laid out in the 2020 Senior & Olympic team selection policy so this announcement also confirms the following:

- That the Olympic Team first boat in each event will be pre-selected to the 2021 Great Britain Senior Team for all competitions in the 2021 season.
- That the Olympic Team first reserve in each event will be pre-selected to the 2021 Great Britain Senior Team for all events up to 15th August 2021. This pre-selection for Olympic reserves will be extended for the remainder of the 2021 season to include World Cups and the World Championships by meeting an agreed performance standard in the first part of the 2021 season. The detail will be published within the draft selection policy when it goes out for consultation in autumn 2020.



- In the event of a further delay to the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021 beyond the rescheduled dates, British Canoeing reserve the right to hold a totally new selection process.

2. Qualification for Junior, U23 & Senior selection 2021

Recognising that the ranking system has been frozen until 2021 and that many athletes who have yet to qualify will have made significant progress by the time of the 2021 selection series, we wish to provide clarity and reassurance in the following way:

- All athletes having qualified to compete in 2020 Senior & U23 selection are automatically qualified for the 2021 selection series in that event.
- All juniors ranked in premier who remain eligible for junior selection in 2021 will retain their eligibility.
- The IP is committed to providing at least one further opportunity to qualify for Junior Senior/U23/Junior selection which is likely to be in early 2021. We will publish detail of any further opportunities to qualify for 2021 selection when the 2021 domestic and International calendar is clear.

3. 2021 Selection policy, dates and venue

As normal we will consult on the proposed 2021 selection policy in early autumn 2020. The current proposal will be to hold a combined Junior, U23 & Senior 3 day selection series at Easter 2021 at Lee Valley. This remains provisional until calendar dates and Tokyo preparation camp dates are finalised.

Finally,

Any further updates from the International Panel will be published [here](#) as further information becomes available. As covid-19 implications remain unclear 2021 selection information may still be subject to change in order to deliver a fair and transparent selection process.

Whilst the restrictions may be easing, for many there will be ongoing challenges as a result of the wider social and economic implications of the pandemic and we hope that as a canoeing family we can continue to pull together, support one another, and come through stronger in these uncertain times.

Please look after yourselves.

International Panel

30th July 2020

