



**British Canoeing – Canoe Sprint & Paracanoe
International Panel Statement – March 2021**

This Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe IP statement follows the previous statement of 12th February 2021 and provides very important updates to the policy published in December 2020. The IP continue to monitor the prevailing risks and landscape for competition and are grateful to the DCMS exemption which allows the planned April selection regatta to go ahead subject to restrictions and wish to confirm the following:

Paracanoe Selection:

In line with section 5.2 'Mitigating circumstances', and section 1.2 'Paracanoe strategy' which outlines that the number 1 priority of the Paralympic programme is to select the team with the best chance of medal success at the rearranged Tokyo Paralympic Games.

With the continued challenges of Covid, in the interests of athlete health and wellbeing we would like to announce the following changes to the selection process for Paracanoe:

1. Athletes in the identified non-contested events listed below are pre-selected for the 2021 season. These pre-selections are based on those that meet the classification and eligibility criteria for selection to ICF international events and the Paralympic Games. The athletes selected are:

	Men	Women
KL1	Ian Marsden	Jeanette Chippington
KL2		Charlotte Henshaw <i>Emma Wiggs (Double Up)</i>
KL3		
VL2	Stewart Clark*	Emma Wiggs <i>Jeanette Chippington (Double Up)</i>
VL3		

*VL2M still to be qualified at 2nd round qualifier

Italics represent selection to double up in additional event

2. The team selected for the Szeged World Cup/2nd Round Qualification will be limited to the following:
 - Pre-selected boats as above
 - 1st boats (April selection regatta) in KL3M, KL3W, VL3M
 - First 2 boats (April selection regatta) in KL2M (quota slot still to be secured)
 - 2nd boats (April selection regatta) needing to race in Szeged to meet IPC eligibility for Tokyo Paralympic Games.
3. 2nd boats (April selection regatta) and development boats will be considered for Duisburg European Championship selection with a maximum of 2 boats per event.

Note: In the event that the Szeged World Cup/2nd Round Qualification event is cancelled the ICF have stated that further allocation of the outstanding 4 Paralympic quota places per Paralympic sport class would revert back to the 2019 World Championships results. Based on the 2019 World Championship result, the events in which GBR have yet to qualify Tokyo 2020 NPC quota slots and are outstanding that would be re-allocated to GBR are (KL2M and VL2M). Therefore, GBR would qualify the KL2M & VL2M NPC slot for the Paralympic Games. Therefore, in the Scenario that Szeged World Cup/2nd Round Qualification is



cancelled the nomination for Paralympic Games in KL2M & VL2M events would be awarded to the first placed boat at the April selection regatta.

A final list of athletes meeting regatta qualification standard is currently being finalised and will be published early next week.

Canoe Sprint – Senior Team Selection

Olympic selections

Entry to the April Selection Regatta has now closed (28th March 2021) and no late entries will be accepted.

The IP wish to remind those athletes entered for selection that the event is only permitted under specific DCMS elite dispensation and only athletes who have a genuine chance to contest for a senior team place should have entered.

World Cup and Europeans Team

The current situation regarding Covid remains very uncertain and the decision on attendance at each international event will be made on an event by event basis in accordance with agreed BC protocol and in line with Government guidance. It is important to be aware that the final team selected to these events will be very small and will primarily focus on those athletes already selected to Tokyo and athletes selected in events where Tokyo quota places remain available to be qualified.

At present it is the intent of the IP, working with the SRC & regatta committee to run the following events at the April regatta:

	Men's events		Women's events	
	Olympic	Para	Olympic	Para
Priority 1 Olympic & Paralympic qualification events	K1 1000m K2 1000m C1 1000m C2 1000m	KL2 VL2	C1 200m C2 500m K1 200m K1 500m K2 500m	
Priority 2 Tokyo & Paris Olympic & Paralympic events	K1 200m K2 500m	KL1 KL3 VL3		KL1 KL2 KL3 VL2

Nomination of reserves for Senior European Championships

- In the event of the first place boat not taking up the European Championships place the reserve will be in place order of all athletes finishing within 102% of the winning time at the April Regatta.
- Due to quarantine requirements and to protect the team traveling to the European Championships it is not viable to race the World Cup in Barnaul and the European Championships.



Important change to the policy in the event of the cancellation of one or both of the remaining Tokyo qualification events.

1.1 of the published policy states *'this policy focuses on aligning performance delivery with the remaining rounds of the Olympic qualification system and performance at the Olympic Games.'* the number 1 priority of the Canoe Sprint Programme is to select the team with the best chance of winning a medal and achieving further finals in Tokyo.

With increased cases of Covid 19 in central Europe, the possibility of the cancellation of the remaining rounds of Olympic qualification are a growing threat.

The IP therefore wish to state very clearly the policy selection process only in the event of the cancellation of one or both of the remaining qualification opportunities for any places allocated to Team GB:

- **Women's Canoe events.** If this situation occurs, the current process outlined in 5.5.3.2 does not align to the fundamental purpose of the policy "to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games" or the wider strategy, "to win one medal and an additional 'A' finalist at the Tokyo Olympic Games" as it is essential that all eligible women's canoe athletes are able to demonstrate through an objective process the strongest boat(s) to be nominated to Team GB for selection.

Therefore in women's canoe events if the situation above arises, the following amended process will be followed:

- The winning boat times in C1 200m and C2 500m at the April Regatta will be compared to WL Times in those disciplines*. The boat with the best percentage in relation to WL Times will gain the quota place(s). If a direct comparison cannot be made due to change in weather conditions then an alternative date for a race off** will be identified and agreed where the race can take place in comparable conditions.
- In the event of only 1 quota place being allocated in this process through the WC1 200m having the higher performance standard, the quota space would not automatically be awarded to the WC1 200m boat. Both quota places would be allocated based on a race off** in C1 200m between the members of the winning C1 200m and C2 500m from the April regatta.

***To ensure all athletes can prepare fully for the April Selection Regatta in their chosen event, any race off would take place at a later date, to be confirmed if this eventuality arises.*

*World Leading Times in these events are:

Event	WC1 200m	WC2 500m
World Leading Time	00:45.55	01:55.82

Note: World leading time is the aggregate of the 40 best recorded times at international regattas

World Leading Times with Percentages

	W/L Time	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%
C1W 200m	00:45.55	00:46.01	00:46.46	00:46.92	00:47.37	00:47.83	00:48.28	00:48.74	00:49.19
C2W 500m	01:55.82	01:56.98	01:58.14	01:59.29	02:00.45	02:01.61	02:02.77	02:03.93	02:05.09



Junior & U23 Selection 2021

The IP continues to monitor the guidance for staging events and will continue to work with the SRC and regatta committee to determine if the June regatta will be proceed as planned. Following the publication by the ICF on Thursday 25th March announcing the postponement of the Sprint Junior & U23 World Championships, there are no further updates at present other than the intention remains to hold selection alongside the June regatta.

IP Communications leading into and during selection regattas

The IP WhatsApp group can be found at

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FJFF2D6VQ4D9cjDMeXzoQQ>.

The IP will continue to review the landscape and will base our decisions on the safety of athletes, volunteers and staff, compliance with government guidelines and setting a transparent process under challenging circumstances.

International Panel

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