



## **UPDATE: 2021 Slalom Domestic Competition Season**

Acknowledging the challenges that everyone is experiencing with Covid-19 restrictions, the Canoe Slalom Technical Committee recently met to discuss alternate options for the 2021 domestic competition calendar.

The committee supports the information previously released by Paddle Australia that outlined the decision-making criteria as to whether future national level competitions and selection events would proceed.

<https://paddle.org.au/2020/07/30/2020-21-national-competition-calendar-update/>

The following decisions have been made with health and safety as a priority and to ensure competitions are as fair as possible.

Acknowledging that there are many athletes (especially in Victoria) who have been unable to train at all during recent months, and with some border closures remaining in place for the foreseeable future, the Canoe Slalom Technical Committee, in conjunction with the High Performance Team, agreed on the following actions to alleviate some anxiety of competing for selection in early January:

### **1/ Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Championships to be held at Bradys, Tasmania:**

- This event will not be used for the purpose of selection for any teams or squads. The main reason for this is that it is unlikely that sufficient training and preparation on appropriate whitewater will be available for ALL athletes to create a safe and fair competition for the purpose of selecting national teams. Additionally, the significant uncertainty surrounding the opening of the Tasmanian border (particularly to Victoria), results in further anxiety and challenges with organising the necessary travel.
- the local organisers have indicated their intention is to still host the Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Championships at Bradys on the same weekend in January and a decision as to whether that can occur will be based on the criteria outlined in the previous PA release (link above).
- Further, the local organisers have indicated their intention to run a local event if the National Championship status is removed (based on the criteria outlined in the previous PA release).
- Obviously, subject to any ongoing Covid-19 restrictions in place, athletes who are able to prepare adequately and travel to Tasmania in January are welcome and encouraged to attend this fantastic canoe slalom venue and competition.

### **2/ Additional Canoe Slalom Selection Event in Penrith added to the domestic Calendar:**

- Recognising the limited competition opportunities available since February this year, Paddle Australia will be hosting an additional Canoe Slalom selection event at Penrith in either late February or early March (final date TBC).
- The intention is for the Australian Open to remain and will serve as the first selection event for Senior World Cup Teams as well as the U23 World Championship Team.



- The additional selection event will be the second selection event for the Senior World Cup Teams and U23 World Championship Team and will be the sole selection event for the Junior World Championship Team.
- The reason to only host one selection event for juniors is to minimise the travel requirements and expense for junior athletes in the middle of school term.
- This new date for selection will allow additional time for junior athletes to prepare for selection, including the entire Christmas school holidays.

### **3/ Oceania Championships in New Zealand:**

- The 2021 Oceania Championships will be held in Wero, NZ but there is likely to be a change in dates from the original date of March 27-29 to an earlier date (TBC).
- Importantly, the 2021 Oceania Championships will play no role in selection for any teams or squads.
- The reason for this is to minimise the risk of International travel (including potential travel exemption and quarantine requirements), as well as to minimise expense.

Paddle Australia will continue to provide updates as to the status of all of these events. Depending on how the next few months progress, there may be additional camps and/or race opportunities through March-May to ensure athletes have access to quality development opportunities.