

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT

This explanatory document provides a summary of Performance Standards for the Paris 2024 quadrennial cycle. It outlines the method by which the Performance Standards (PS) have been established, the reason for their development and the application of them by Paddle Australia (PA) in relation to Minimum Performance Standards (MPS). The application of Performance Standards is to be used as informative guidelines due to the variable nature of Canoe Slalom competition.

BACKGROUND:

1. The level of competition in Canoe Slalom across the globe is improving in both quality and depth. Australia's isolation from the large European Canoe Slalom nations means as a country we have less access to quality international competition.
2. For Australia to remain a strong nation in Canoe Slalom, we must have a clear understanding of the standard of international competition and regularly monitor and assess our performances against those standards.
3. The purpose of establishing Performance Standards is two-fold:
 - (a) To educate athletes, coaches, parents, support staff and stakeholders on the current standards of International competition.
 - (b) To provide a standard (based on historical data) by which decisions can be made to inform the allocation of resources and/or selection of athletes to various teams or squads to support the objectives of the high performance program.
4. Being a sport held in variable conditions, there is no easy method to establish a 100% accurate Performance Standard or time. Nevertheless, by applying a formula based on sound methodology over a nominated period of time enables us to generate performance standards that can be applied as an accurate guide to be used to educate and inform decision making.
5. The implementation of Performance Standards has been effective at providing an objective and transparent measure for determining performances against international standard. For the Paris cycle, we have made a few adjustments that will be implemented including:
 - (a) incorporating BME data since 2013 (previously 2015), to reflect 2 Olympic cycles.
 - (b) The establishment of minimum performance standards for U16, U21 and U25 categories. These additional standards will be applied to capture athletes who are in the earlier years within each of the formal ICF age categories.
 - (c) The intention is that the established performance standards, which are calculated over 2013 to 2020, will remain unchanged throughout 2022 to 2024. Previously, we have updated these standards each year, but for consistency we intend not to change these standards (unless extenuating circumstances develop that requires these to be adjusted).

METHOD FOR DEVELOPING THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

1. The performance standards have been based on the results of Senior, U23 and Junior World Championships competitions between 2013 and 2019.
2. At the conclusion of each competition season, the Base Score from each of these competitions (Snr, U23 and Junior) are averaged and applied for each discipline.
3. To protect the integrity of the data is maintained, times that were more than 1 standard deviation greater (slower) than the overall mean, were excluded, with the mean then recalculated to produce the final MPS. This reduces the effect of results being influenced heavily by 50s penalties or decreased quality of fields

METHOD FOR CALCULATING THE BASE SCORE:

1. A Base Score is calculated as the average of the fastest total score recorded by any Australian athlete in C1 Men, C1 Women, K1 Men and K1 Women.
2. A Base Score is only calculated from the heats phase run 1 and from the Semi Final run at each Selection Competition.
3. Example:
The Base Score is calculated by adding the fastest score (best eligible Australian) in any age category in C1M, C1W, K1M, K1W and dividing by 4. The percentage score for an athlete/crew at a competition is calculated by dividing the total score for that athlete/crew by the Base Score and multiplying by 100. For example, if the Base Score at a competition is 184.55 and an athlete has a score of 195.44, the percentage score is calculated as follows:
 $(195.44 / 184.55) \times 100 = 105.90\%$

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (MPS) IN RELATION TO THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

1. Performance Standards are all calculated off historical data collected from international BME competitions. The Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) across the Junior, U23 and Senior age categories represent the following results at these competitions.
 - (a) K1 Men: Top 40
 - (b) K1 Women: Top 30
 - (c) C1 Men: Top 30
 - (d) C1 Women: Top 20 (*representing a new Olympic discipline with currently lower depth. The intention is that this will be increased to Top 30 for the next Olympic Cycle*)
2. For the Paris Cycle, additional age-related MPSs have been included based on the following calculation:
 - (a) U16: calculated as the Junior MPS, plus an absolute 5% onto the value (not 5% of the value)
 - (b) U21: calculated as the average of the Junior (U18) and U23 MPS
 - (c) U25: calculated as the average of the U23 and Senior MPS
3. Due to the way Performance Standards are calculated there may be circumstances where the highest ranked Australian canoe slalom athletes (defined as the ranking of Australian athletes from the previous year's domestic selection process) do not attend certain domestic competitions. This has a significant affect on the Performance Standards which need to be considered. In that case, the selection panel will apply a level of discretion according to the following guidelines:

- (a) any event where the highest ranked Australian athletes from any two Classes, does not start the event, then the Selection Panel will apply a correction factor of 1.5%.
 - (b) any event where the highest 2 ranked Australian athletes from any one Class, do not start the event, then the Selection Panel will apply a correction factor of 1.5%.
 - (c) any event where the highest 2 ranked Australian athletes from any two Classes, do not start the event, then the Selection Panel will apply a correction factor of 3%.
 - (d) If there are circumstances where more of the highest ranked athletes, outlined above, do not attend, then the selection panel will apply their absolute discretion in the selection process.
4. These standards will be used to assist selecting Teams, Squads and inform Athlete Categorisation decisions.