

POLICY	Governance
TITLE:	2024 Canoe Slalom U23 Team
AREA:	High Performance
RESPONSIBILITY:	National Performance Director
RELATED POLICIES:	PA Selection Procedures Policy
DRAFTED BY:	Manager Performance Operations – Canoe Slalom
DATE APPROVED:	22 December 2023
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1. DEFINITIONS

In these Criteria, the following words have the following respective meanings:

Policy	means the Selection Procedures Policy adopted by the Board of PA from time to time that governs the selection of athletes to PA Teams.
Event	means Men's K1, Women's K1, Men's C1, Women's C1, Men's Kayak Cross, and Women's Kayak Cross
Criteria	means this Selection Criteria Supplement.
PA	means Paddle Australia Ltd, the recognised governing body for Paddling in Australia.
Minimum Performance Standard (MPS)	means the minimum performance standard required by PA for selection to a national team in addition to any other criteria as set out in clause 5 of this Criteria.
Team	means the 2024 PA Canoe Slalom U23 Team to compete at the 2024 ICF Jnr/U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships.
Ranking List	means the 2024 PA Canoe Slalom Open Team ranking list which will list all nominated and eligible U23 athletes.
Benchmark Event (BME)	means the pinnacle event of the season – either the World Championships or Olympic Games.

Words not defined in these Criteria have the meaning ascribed to them in the [Constitution](#) of PA or the Policy unless a contrary meaning appears from the context.

Any failure to give any notice or follow any process including but not only timeframes under this Criteria does not invalidate such notice or process and does not give rise to an appeal in respect to the notice or process.

2. SELECTION AIMS

Solely to give context to this Criteria and its processes, the aims of the PA High Performance Program for the 2024 U23 season are to:

- a) identify U23 athletes who show the necessary skill and potential to contest for BME success at the U23 World Championships in 2024 and
- b) support and Elevate U23 athletes towards the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

3. SELECTION PROCEDURES

3.1 SELECTION PANEL

In accordance with the Policy, the Selection Panel members are:

- Kim Crane (Chair)
- Sue Natoli
- Kynan Maley
- Rosalyn Lawrence.

3.2 ELIGIBILITY

- 3.2.1 To be eligible for consideration for selection to the Team, athletes must comply with the Policy.
- 3.2.2 To be entered into the ICF Entry system an athlete must request entry to the Oceania Championships and Australian Open no later than 16 days prior to the beginning of the first selection competition (10 January). Such requests must be in writing and sent to the Manager Performance Operations - Canoe Slalom (sara.latham@paddle.org.au).
- 3.2.3 Athletes must be born between 1 January 2002 and 31 December 2009 to be eligible for Under 23 Team selection.
- 3.2.4 To be eligible for consideration for selection under criteria that incorporates a specific age category (i.e. age related MPS), the age will be determined as of 31 December 2024.
- 3.2.5 Athletes must have nominated for the Team according to clause 3.3 of this Criteria.

3.3 TEAM NOMINATION

- 3.3.1 The competitions for which the Team may be selected for in 2024 are:
- a) 2024 ICF Canoe Slalom U23 World Championships to be held in Liptovsky Mikuláš, Slovakia
 - b) other ICF competitions as may be determined by PA.
- 3.3.2 Athletes must nominate to be considered for selection to the Team. The process of nomination forms part of the entry process for the selection competitions listed in clause 3.4 of this Criteria.
- 3.3.3 If, in accordance with clause 7 of this policy, the selection competitions are cancelled prior to the entry process closing, then PA will communicate an alternate nomination process.
- 3.3.4 By nominating for consideration for selection to the Team, athletes will simultaneously nominate for consideration for selection to all Teams, for which they are eligible, during the 2024 Canoe Slalom Selection Competitions.

- 3.3.5 By nominating for consideration for selection to the Team, athletes will comply with:
- (i) this Criteria; and
 - (ii) the Policy.

3.4 SELECTION COMPETITIONS

The following competitions will be utilised for considering the selection of athletes to the Team:

- (i) **Oceania Championships** Penrith NSW (26–28 January 2024)
- (ii) **Australian Open** Penrith NSW, (2-4 February 2024).

How each of the races will be utilised is detailed below.

4 SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Athletes will be selected to the Team in each respective Event, up to the maximum number of quota places (3) awarded to Australia by the ICF for each individual Event, as follows:

4.1 SELECTION PROCESS – DOMESTIC RANKING SYSTEM

4.1.1 Selection trials and Criteria for Selection include:

Selection Trial #	Selection Competition Name	Stage of Competition	Result counting	Comment
1a	Oceania Championships Penrith NSW, (26–28 January 2024)	Heat 1 only	Official race ranking <i>(exclusive of all athletes who are not eligible for U23 Team selection)</i>	Heat 2 results will only be used to enable race progression to the Semi-final. Heat 2 results will not be used to gain ranking points or an MPS
1b	Oceania Championships Penrith NSW, (26–28 January 2024)	Finals	Ranking across official and invitational Semi-final and Finals <i>(exclusive of all athletes who are not eligible for U23 Team selection)</i>	i.e. a paddler who races in the invitational Semi-final or Final with a faster time than an athlete in the respective official Semi-final or Final will be ranked higher for AUS selection purposes.
2	Australian Open, Penrith NSW, (2-4 February 2024)	Finals	Ranking across Official Final and Invitational Final <i>(exclusive of all athletes who are not eligible for U23 Team selection)</i>	i.e. a paddler who races in the Invitational Final with a time faster than a paddler in the official Final will be ranked lower regardless of whether their time was faster or not

4.1.2 An athlete’s placing in each of the selection trials outlined in clause 4.1.1 will be used to earn points for the Open ranking list for the purpose of ranking athletes according to the following table.

Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Selection Competitions (Selection Trials 1a, 1b and 2)			
1st	80	16th	18
2nd	72	17th	16
3rd	65	18th	14
4th	58	19th	12
5th	52	20th	11
6th	47	21st	10
7th	43	22nd	9
8th	38	23rd	8
9th	34	24th	7
10th	31	25th	6
11th	28	26th	5
12th	26	27th	4
13th	24	28th	3
14th	22	29th	2
15th	20	30th	1

4.1.3 To be clear:

- a) At each of the selection trials, the ranking table in clause 4.1.2 will exclude all non-Australian athletes and athletes who have not nominated for U23 selection under this Criteria.
- b) The athletes who are excluded for the purposes of building the ranking list will still remain in the official race progression system for the chosen format.
 - i. i.e. non-Australian athletes and athletes who have not nominated for Selection.

4.1.4 Using the Open ranking list, athletes will be ranked from highest points to lowest points in accordance with the following:

- (i) Only each athlete's two (2) highest point scores from the three (3) selection trials set out in clause 4.1.1 will be totalled for the purposes of the rankings.
- (ii) Where two or more athletes have the same total ranking points score, the athlete who has the highest single ranking points score shall be ranked higher.
- (iii) Where two or more athletes are still ranked equally after consideration of the above clause and a choice must be made between the two athletes for the purposes of this Criteria, the athlete who achieves the best result during selection trial 2 shall be ranked higher.

4.2 CANOE SLALOM SELECTION CRITERIA

AUTOMATIC SELECTION

- 4.2.1 Subject to clause 4.2.2, the two (2) highest ranked eligible U23 Male and two (2) highest ranked eligible U23 Female athletes, based on the ranking system outlined in clause 4.1, AND, achieved at least 1 x U23 MPS (or U21 MPS for eligible Athletes aged 21 years or younger) in any of the selection races outlined in clause 5 at selection competitions, outlined in clause 3.4 i) or ii), will be automatically selected in the Event or Events they achieve the ranking results.
- 4.2.2 Where an athlete who is U18 (Junior) achieves the criteria for Automatic Selection under clause 4.2.1 to the U23 Team in addition to achieving selection to the Junior Team (Top 3 boats), that athlete will **ONLY BE SELECTED TO** the U18 (Junior) team. For clarity the Selection Panel will not consider any athlete already selected to the Junior Team, for the U23 Team despite meeting the requirements of clause 4.2.1.
- 4.2.3 To be clear (and again subject to clause 4.2.2):
- a) to be **AUTOMATICALLY** selected, an athlete must have achieved at least 1 x U23 MPS (or U21 MPS for eligible Athletes aged 21 years or younger).
 - b) an athlete who is ranked in the Top 2, who has not achieved 1 x U23 MPS (or U21 MPS), will **NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY** selected, but may be selected by discretion according to clause 4.2.4 (ie. the position does not automatically roll down to the next ranked athlete who has achieved MPS).

DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

The Selection Panel may consider where teams are not filled to the maximum allocated spots, applying its absolute discretion to select athletes whose performances are suitable for international representation. The Selection Panel is not obliged to fill all quota places.

- 4.2.4 The Selection Panel, at its absolute discretion, may select additional athletes in Olympic Canoe Slalom Events up to the maximum number of quota places awarded to Australia by the ICF. In doing so, it may consider any or all, or none, of the following in no particular order and with no particular weighting:
- ranking of each athlete according to clause 4.1.4 of this Criteria;
 - application of MPS according to clause 5 of this Criteria;
 - in accordance with clause 7.4(i) to (vi) inclusive, of this Criteria;
 - performances in relation to the U23 MPS, or in relation to U21 MPS for those eligible for U23 and U21 aged athletes, respectively; and
 - Performances during the Kayak Cross Selection Trials outlined in clause 4.5.1 of the criteria.

- approved extenuating circumstances that may apply as outlined in clause 6, in which case a selection decision will be based on the weight of performance-based evidence in accordance with clause 7.4(i) to (vi) inclusive, of this Criteria;
- Where the maximum number of ICF quota places are not filled by U23 athletes (based on the above criteria), and the number of Junior athletes who achieve Junior MPS exceed the ICF quota, in a particular Event, then the Selection Panel, may, but are not obliged to, select Junior athletes.

4.3 RESERVES

The Selection Panel will not select reserves for the 2024 U23 World Championships, unless required in the Selection Panel’s absolute discretion.

4.4 KAYAK CROSS SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection to the Kayak Cross competitions at the 2024 ICF Canoe Slalom Junior and U23 World Championships will be determined by an athlete’s final ranking in the 2024 Kayak Cross selection Time Trials which determine the Kayak Cross ranking list outlined below:

4.4.1 Domestic selection trials and Criteria for selection include:

Selection Trial #	Selection Competition Name	Stage of Competition	Result counting
1	<i>Oceania Championships</i> Penrith NSW, (26–28 January 2024)	Time Trial	Official result (exclusive of non-Australian athletes)
2	<i>Australian Open</i> Penrith NSW, (2–4 February 2024)	Time Trial	Official result (exclusive of non-Australian athletes)

4.4.2 An athlete’s placing in each of the selection trials outlined in clause 4.4.1 will be used to earn points for the Kayak Cross ranking List for the purpose of ranking athletes according to the following table.

Paddle Australia Kayak Cross Selection Competitions (Selection Trials 1 and 2)			
1st	80	17th	16
2nd	72	18th	15
3rd	65	19th	14
4th	58	20th	13
5th	52	21st	12
6th	47	22nd	11
7th	43	23rd	10
8th	38	24th	9
9th	34	25th	8
10th	31	26th	7

11th	28	27th	6
12th	26	28th	5
13th	24	29th	4
14th	22	30th	3
15th	20	31st	2
16th	18	32nd	1

To be clear:

- a) At each of the selection trials, the ranking table in clause 4.4.1 will exclude all non-Australian athletes and athletes who have not nominated for U23 selection under this Criteria.

Using the kayak Cross ranking list, athletes will be ranked from highest points to lowest points in accordance with the following:

- (i) The athlete's two points scores from the two (2) selection trials set out in clause 4.4.1 will be totalled for the purposes of the rankings.
- (ii) Where two or more athletes have the same total ranking points score, the athlete who has the highest single ranking points score from selection trial 1b, shall be ranked higher.

AUTOMATIC SELECTION

Boat 1:

4.4.3 To be automatically selected to the 2024 Canoe Slalom U23 Team in Kayak Cross, an athlete must be the highest ranked U23 athlete on the Kayak Cross Ranking List.

Boat 2, 3, and 4:

4.4.4 To be automatically selected to the Team in Kayak Cross, an athlete must first be selected to the 2024 Canoe Slalom U23 Team as outlined under clause 4.2, and then be the next highest ranked U23 athlete on the Kayak Cross Ranking List.

4.4.5 Where an athlete chooses not to or cannot accept their position to contest the Kayak Cross competition, the position may roll down to the next ranked athlete, subject to that athlete already being selected for the Team.

4.4.6 Subject to a position being available following the application of clauses 4.4.3 and 4.4.4, the Selection Panel may, at its absolute discretion, but is not obliged to, select athlete(s) who have not been selected for the Team, according to clause 4.2.4.

5 MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARD

5.1 The updated 2024 Canoe Slalom MPS will be set out in Schedule A of this criteria and may be applied at the absolute discretion of the Selection Panel.

5.2 The requirement for athletes to 'achieve MPS', means an athlete has:

- 5.2.1 Achieved the necessary MPS in a single run within the performance standard listed in Schedule A for the relevant selection competition, whether on the Heats 1st run (only), Semi-final, or Final phase
- 5.2.2 Where an athlete does not qualify through the official progression of the competition into the official Semi-final, an invitational Semi-final will be available to allow all athletes to receive a minimum of four (4) opportunities to achieve an MPS.
- 5.2.3 Where an Athlete racing in an invitational Semi-final achieves a score that would have placed them in the official Final, they are then able to compete in an invitational Final.
- 5.2.4 If, for any reason, an athlete has not achieved MPS and the Selection Panel requires further evidence of an athlete's ability to achieve MPS, it may consider any or none or all of the following in no particular order and with no particular weighting:
- Relevant performance times in relation to MPS from the athlete within the 2022 or 2023 calendar years,
 - Relative performances against other athletes who have achieved MPS during the 2022 or 2023 calendar years,
 - Relevant World Cup or World Championship (Junior/U23/Senior) performances from the previous 24 months,
 - Approved Extenuating Circumstances according to clause 6

6 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- 6.1 Notwithstanding anything contained within this Criteria, an athlete may apply in writing to the Selection Panel (via the Chair), to ask the Selection Panel to consider Extenuating Circumstances. Such application must incorporate substantive supporting evidence of the Extenuating Circumstances. This application must be received either prior to the Selection Competition beginning, or, as soon as practically possible and no later than 2 hours following the selection competition in which the extenuating circumstances apply.
- 6.2 Selection Panel is not obliged to accept or consider an application under this clause. Only Extenuating Circumstances which prevent an athlete from either attending a Selection Competition, or finishing a selection competition may be accepted.
- 6.3 For the purposes of this Policy, **Extenuating Circumstances** means:
- a) injury or illness, as confirmed by the PA Chief Medical Officer, or their authorised representative;
 - b) equipment failure (where applicable);
 - c) travel delays or restrictions;
 - d) bereavement or disability arising from death or serious illness of an immediate family member; and/or

e) an unanticipated event occurring at the Selection Competition(s).

6.4 If the Selection Panel accepts an Extenuating Circumstance application, a decision in each case of the weight afforded to the Extenuating Circumstances, will be made by the Selection Panel on an individual basis at its absolute discretion.

7 COMPETITION/EVENT CANCELLATION AND SELECTION CONTINGENCY

Prior to cancellation of any Selection Event/Competition, PA will investigate all opportunities to postpone and/or re-schedule a particular Selection Event/Competition for the purpose of allowing the selection process to proceed. If a Selection Competition and/or Event is cancelled for any reason (e.g. Covid restrictions, extreme weather, catastrophic pump failure at Penrith etc), the following process will apply.

7.1 If Selection Competition 3.4 (ii) is cancelled, apart from the Selection Criteria related to that specific Selection Competition, there will be no change to the Selection Criteria (i.e. each athlete's two (2) point scores from the selection trials set out in clause 4.1.1 will be totalled for the purposes of the rankings).

7.2 If circumstances arise where Selection Competition/Event 3.4 (i) has been cancelled for any reason and cannot be reasonably rescheduled, and Selection Competition/Event 3.4 (ii) is able to be completed, in order to fulfil clause 4.1.4 and for the purposes of this Criteria, Heat 1 and Final Ranking (across official and invitational and Finals - Not official race ranking and exclusive of non-Australian athletes) from selection competition 3.4 (ii) will form the two (2) necessary selection trials to rank nominated athletes, and subsequently select the Team.

7.3 To be clear:

- a) If Selection Competition/Event 3.4 (i) is cancelled and cannot be rescheduled, and Selection Competition/Event 3.4 (ii) is completed in full, for the purposes of this criteria the selection trials that will be used to select the Team in each Olympic Canoe Slalom Events are:
- b) **Selection Trial 2a:** Australian Open, Penrith NSW, (2–4 February, 2024), Heat 1 only, official race ranking (exclusive of non-Australian athletes)
- c) **Selection Trial 2b:** Australian Open, Penrith NSW, (2–4 February 2024), Final result, ranking across official and invitational Finals (not official race ranking and exclusive of non-Australian athletes)

7.4 In the occurrence of clause 7.1 being enacted, where two or more athletes are ranked equally and require a tie break for the purposes of this Criteria, following the application of clause 4.1.4(i) and (ii), the athlete who achieved the best result at Selection Trial 1b will be ranked higher.

7.5 Where a circumstance occurs where the cancelling of Selection Competitions/Events means the opportunity to participate in two (2) selection trials is not possible, and all

avenues to re-schedule and postpone the Selection Competitions/Events have been exhausted, the selection panel may, at their absolute discretion, select athletes for the Team in each Event. In doing so, the selection panel may consider, but is not required to consider, any one or combination of the following in no particular order and with no particular weighting:

- (i) performances in ICF World Cup or U23 or Senior World Championships Competitions over the past two (2) international seasons (2022 and 2023);
- (ii) performances in domestic competitions throughout 2022 and 2023;
- (iii) demonstrated continual performance improvement over the last 24 months;
- (iv) recent performances in relation to the Senior MPS, or in relation to the U23, U21, or Junior MPS for those eligible U23, U21, or Junior aged athletes, respectively;
- (v) current athlete injury/illness or condition which may impair an athlete's performance; and
- (vi) benefit and timing of a competition to assist an athlete's preparation for an U23 and/or Senior World Championships.

7.6 Notwithstanding anything in this clause 7, as outlined in clause 4 of the Policy, PA may amend or repeal this Criteria at any time for any reason as determined by PA in its absolute discretion. This may include cancellation, postponement or change to selection competition(s) and/or this Criteria.

8. SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

8.1 Announcement of the Team will be made within 2 weeks of the 2024 Australian Open.

8.2 Athletes must accept the offer of selection within 5 days of receiving the selection confirmation. If they do not accept within this time the offer lapses.

SCHEDULE A: MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Implementation of the MPS:

1. At the conclusion of each selection competition under this Criteria, a Base Score is calculated as the average of the lowest total score recorded by any Australian entrant 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. Where there is no "Semi-final", and only a "Final" progression from the Heats, this "Final" progression will be used.
3. Example:

The Base Score is calculated by adding the winning score (best Australian entrant) 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 athlete A has a score of 195.44, the percentage score is calculated as follows:

$$(195.44 / 184.55) \times 100 = 105.90\%$$

2024 MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

Event	Senior MPS (% of Base Score)	U25 MPS (% of Base Score)	U23 MPS (% of Base Score)	U21MPS (% of Base Score)	Junior MPS (% of Base Score)	U16 MPS (% of Base Score)
K1 Men	<94.26%	<96.35%	<98.43%	<103.00%	<107.56%	<112.56%
K1 Women	<107.92%	<112.54%	<117.16%	<122.14%	<127.12%	<132.12%
C1 Men	<101.09%	<102.77%	<104.45%	<110.51%	<116.57%	<121.57%
C1 Women	<124.72%	<125.48%	<126.24%	<133.30%	<140.35%	<145.35%