PADDLE AUSTRALIA
CANOE SLALOM AND KAYAK CROSS

The purpose of the High Performance Program is to support our Australian athletes to become the worlds best paddlers and people.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT

Paddle Australia's (PA) High Performance Program supports international competition opportunities to deliver on it's purpose.

This explanatory document provides a summary of Senior Performance Standards for the 2024 International Season in the lead up to the Paris Olympic Games. It outlines the method by which the Performance Standards (PS) have been established, the reason for their development and the application of them by PA in relation to Minimum Performance Standards (MPS). The application of Performance Standards is to be used as informative guidelines for monitoring athlete development / progression and team selection in both Canoe Slalom (CSL), and Kayak Cross (CSLX), due to the variable nature of the sports, and the evolving environment of the international field.

BACKGROUND:

1. The level of competition in CSL and CSLX across the globe is improving rapidly in both quality and depth. Australia's isolation from the large European CSL and CSLX nations means as a country we have less access to quality international competition.

2. For Australia to have the greatest chance of achieving the most Olympic Medals at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, we must ensure we are objectively informed of the international standard required to perform in both disciplines and hold ourselves accountable to this standard as a nation.

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 an effective method to provide an objective, and transparent measure for determining an athlete's international performance potential from domestic competitions.

6. For season 2024, for the World Cup Policy, there will be two (2) Performance Standards, one for Canoe Slalom (CSL-MPS), and one for Kayak Cross (CSLX-MPS). For the U23 and JNR Policies there will only be an MPS for Canoe Slalom.

METHOD FOR DEVELOPING THE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

1. To create objective Performance Standards, all calculations in the development of any MPS are based on historical international racing data.

   (a) Canoe Slalom: Data based on World Championships from 2013 – 2020

   (b) Kayak Cross: Data based on World Championships and World Cups in seasons 2022 and 2023 (12 races total included)

2. To ensure the integrity of the data is maintained, times that were more than one (1) standard deviation greater (slower) than the overall mean, were excluded, with the mean then recalculated to produce the final MPS.

METHOD FOR CALCULATING THE BASE SCORE:

1. A Base Score is calculated as the average of the lowest total score (fastest time) recorded by any eligible Australian athlete:

   (a) Canoe Slalom: Average of the fastest total time from K1M, K1W, C1M, and C1W

   (b) Kayak Cross: Average of the fastest time trial from the MCSLX and WCSLX

2. A Base Score is only calculated from the Heat 1 (CSL), and the Time Trial phase (CSLX) of each relevant competition so that we can guarantee all events are represented.

3. **Example (CSL):**

   The Base Score is calculated by adding the winning score (fastest 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) x 100 = 105.90%

ESTABLISHMENT OF CANOE SLALOM MPS (CSL-MPS) IN RELATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

1. Performance Standards are all calculated off historical data collected from international BME competitions. The CSL-MPS across the Junior, U23 and Open 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 increase to Top 30 for the next Olympic Cycle)*

2. For the Paris Cycle, additional age-related MPS 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

These standards will be used to assist in selecting Teams, Squads, and inform Athlete Categorisation decisions.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KAYAK CROSS MPS (CSLX-MPS) IN RELATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

3. Performance Standards are all calculated off historical data collected from international World Cup and World Championship Competitions. Due to the infancy of this discipline, purely BME results cannot be relied on for accurate objective data. The MPS represent the following results at international competitions.

   (e) MCSLX: Top 16 in the Time Trial (96.29% of the Base Score)
   (f) WCSLX: Top 16 in the Time Trial (105.93% of the Base Score)

4. These standards will be used to assist selecting Teams, Squads, and inform Athlete Categorisation decisions.

5. Top 16 has been chosen due to the high percentage of athlete's (88% in MCSLX and 93% in WCSLX), who finish within the Top 5 during the Head-to-Head phase also achieving a Top 16 result within the Time Trial.

Distribution of WCSLX Time Trial Ranks for Athlete's Who Finished Top 5 in the Head to Head (2022 & 2023)

88% of all athlete's who have finished in the top 5 in the head to head (Brackets), have finished with a time trial result of 16 or higher.

Distribution of MCSLX Time Trial Ranks for Athlete's Who Finished Top 5 in the Head to Head (2022 & 2023)

93% of all athlete's who have finished in the top 5 in the head to head (Brackets), have finished with a time trial result of 16 or higher.