

2024 Australian Canoe Marathon Team Selection Criteria Supplement

POLICY	Governance
TITLE:	2024 Australian Canoe Marathon Team Selection Criteria Supplement
AREA:	Sports Operations
RESPONSIBILITY:	Sports Operations Manager
RELATED POLICIES:	PA Selection Procedures Policy
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1. DEFINITIONS

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

“Age Groups”	means Junior, U23, Senior and Masters age groups as determined by the current ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules (as published on the ICF website) clause 1.4. Athlete ages will be taken as at 31 December of the year of the Competition.
“Class/es”	means, the Classes to be raced at the Competition, which for ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships currently includes for Long Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K1 Men’s Junior, U23 and Senior • K1 Women’s Junior, U23 and Senior • C1 Men’s Junior, U23 and Senior • C1 Women’s Junior, U23 and Senior • K2 Men’s Junior, U23 and Senior • K2 Women’s Junior Senior • C2 Men’s Junior and Senior and for Short Course: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K1 Men’s Senior, C1 Men’s Senior; and • K1 Women’s Senior, C1 Women’s Senior.
“Competition”	means the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships • ICF Masters Canoe Marathon World Championships, and • ICF Para Canoe Marathon World Championships as published by the ICF each year.
“Criteria”	means this Selection Criteria Supplement.
“Cut-Off Time”	means the time behind the winning time at the Selection Competition for each Class that defines the performance standard required to be met to be eligible for selection to the Team.
“Junior”	means an Athlete eligible to compete as a Junior under ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules.
“U23”	means an Athlete eligible to compete as an U23 under ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules.
“Senior”	means an Athlete eligible to compete as a Senior under ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules. Effectively this group has no age restrictions.

“Masters”	means an Athlete eligible to compete in the Masters Age Groups as determined by the ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules.
“PA”	means Paddle Australia Ltd, the recognized governing body for Canoeing in Australia.
“PACMTC”	means the Paddle Australia Canoe Marathon Technical Committee.
“Policy”	means the PA Selection Procedure Policy adopted by the Board of PA that governs the selection of Athletes to Paddle Australia Teams, and as it may be amended from time to time.
“Selection Panel”	means the Selection Panel appointed by the CEO of PA pursuant to clause 4.1 of the Policy.
“Selection Competition”	means the PA Canoe Marathon Championships each year as published on the PA website.
“Short Course”	means a shorter course distance than the long course distance, as outlined in the ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules
“Long Course”	means the long course distance for a Canoe Marathon event, as outlined in the ICF Canoe Marathon Competition Rules
“Team”	means the Australian Canoe Marathon Team to compete at the ICF Masters Canoe Marathon World Championships and ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships each year.

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

2. SELECTION PROCEDURES

2.1 SELECTION SYSTEM REQUIREMENT

- 2.1.1 A selection system is required for Junior, U23 and Senior age group athletes because ICF Canoe Marathon Rules require these athletes to “*compete at a level commensurate with the level of the particular ICF competition*” and limit participation to a maximum of two crews for each Class for each national federation.
- 2.1.2 These limitation rules do not apply to Masters World Championships, which is a lower-level competition.

2.2 SELECTION SYSTEM OBJECTIVES

- 2.2.1 The objectives of the PA Marathon selection system are to:
 - 2.2.1.1. provide a fair and reasonable method for selecting athletes to represent Australia,
 - 2.2.1.2. be easily understood and implemented, and
 - 2.2.1.3. enable Paddle Australia to meet the requirement to select athletes of a suitable standard for international competition.

2.3 SELECTION PANEL

- 2.3.1 The Selection Panel will be published each year in accordance with clause 4 of the Policy.
- 2.3.2 The Selectors for the 2024 Australian Canoe Marathon Team are:
 - Jerry Dunn (Chair)
 - Jenni Bateman
 - Mark Rickard
 - Mark Sanderson

2.4 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.4.1 In order to be eligible for selection to the Team, athletes must comply with the Policy, in particular clause 6.
- 2.4.2 Athletes must provide the information outlined in clause 6.1 to PA as a part of entry into the Selection Competition by the closing date for entries as listed on the event information. Should this information not be provided by the closing date the Panel may choose not to consider the athlete’s nomination.
- 2.4.3 In order to be eligible for selection to the team, athletes must have registered their nomination by 8:00pm (EDST) on Sunday 24 March 2024

2.5 TEAM NOMINATION

- 2.5.1 The Team will be selected to compete at the Competition.

- 2.5.2 Athletes will need to notify of availability for selection at the point of entry for the Selection Competition in accordance with the Policy.
- 2.5.3 By nominating for Selection to the Team, athletes:
 - 2.5.3.1. agree to comply with these Criteria; and
 - 2.3.3.2 agree to comply with the Policy.

2.6 SELECTION COMPETITION

- 2.6.1 The Selection Competition will be utilised as part of the selection process.
- 2.6.2 Athletes/crews may compete in one or more Classes at the Selection Competition.
- 2.6.3 Athletes seeking selection in the Team to compete at the Competition must compete in the Selection Competition.

2.7 SELECTION METHODOLOGY – ICF CANOE MARATHON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 2.7.1 The Selection Panel will select up to two (2) athletes/crews in each of the relevant Classes.
- 2.7.2 At the Selection Competition, athletes will be eligible for selection in each Class if the athlete/crew wins the Class at the Selection competition or finishes within the Cut-Off Time of the winning boat in that Class.
- 2.7.3 Should more than two (2) athletes/crews finish within the Cut-Off Time of the winning boat in that Class, the highest placed athletes/crews will be selected first.
- 2.7.4 The Cut-Off Time is based on the estimated speed required for an athlete to finish above the lowest 25th percentile of athletes at ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships in that Class. This time has been calculated recognizing that the winning speeds at Australian Canoe Marathon Championships are typically less than World Championships.
- 2.7.5 The Cut-Off Time is calculated from results at multiple previous ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships to minimize the impact of different racing conditions and tactics from year to year. The Cut-Off Time for each Class is defined in Clauses 2.8 and 2.9 below.
- 2.7.6 The winning time of each Class at the Selection Event is used to establish the performance benchmark for each Class, reflecting the course and racing conditions at the time of the Selection event.
- 2.7.7 The PACMTC recognizes that some classes may be more competitively contested than other classes. However, for simplicity a common Cut-Off time difference has been used for all short course classes and a common Cut-Off time difference has been used for all long course classes, based on Australian Senior Women's and Men's kayak results.
- 2.7.8 In many classes at the Selection Competition the two fastest athletes/crews seeking selection will complete their event faster than the Cut-Off Time. The Cut-Off Time represents the minimum standard required for selection.
- 2.7.9 The Selection Panel is NOT obliged to select the maximum number of ICF quota positions.

2.8 SELECTION CRITERIA – SHORT COURSE

- 2.8.1 The Cut-Off Time for each ICF Canoe Marathon World Championship Short Course classes is thirty (30) seconds behind the winning time for that class.

2.9 SELECTION CRITERIA – LONG COURSE

- 2.9.1 The Cut-Off Time for each ICF Canoe Marathon World Championship Long Course classes is five (5) minutes behind the winning time for that class.

2.10 SELECTION CRITERIA – PARA CANOE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 2.10.1 Paracanoe athletes seeking selection to the Team will need to compete and finish in the Paracanoe Classes at the Selection Competition. Paracanoe athletes will not be required to portage.

2.11 SELECTION CRITERIA – MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 2.11.1 Masters' athletes seeking selection to the Team will need to compete and finish in the Masters ICF Selection Classes at the Selection Competition. Masters' athletes competing in the Masters ICF Selection Classes at the Selection Competition may be required to portage in accordance with ICF rules.

3 OTHER

3.1 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- 3.1.1 In determining whether an Athlete has met the requirements for selection to the Team, the Selection Panel will **not** have regard to any extenuating circumstances.
- 3.1.2 For the purposes of this clause, “extenuating circumstances” means an inability to compete in, or attend, events, trials, training camps or other competitions arising from:
- (a) injury or illness;
 - (b) equipment failure;
 - (c) travel delays;
 - (d) bereavement or disability arising from death or serious illness of an immediate family member, which means a spouse, de facto partner, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild or sibling; or
 - (e) any other factor or reason that is considered by the Selection Panel to constitute extenuating circumstances.

3.2 SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

- 3.2.1 The selection announcement will be governed by the PA Selection Procedures Policy.
- 3.2.2 Athletes must accept or decline the offer of selection within five (5) days of receiving the selection invitation.
- 3.2.3 Should acceptance not be received by the Selection Panel or PA office within this time the athlete will be assumed to have declined the invitation.

- 3.2.4 The announcement of the Team should be made by PA within two (2) weeks of the conclusion of the Selection Competition.
- 3.2.5 If an athlete withdraws from the Team after accepting selection of the next highest finishing athlete at the Selection Competition meeting the selection cut-off speed for that class will be offered selection.

3.3 ATHLETE PAYMENT

- 3.3.1 Members of the Australian Canoe Marathon Team (Senior, U23, Junior and Masters) are self-funded, meaning all expenses are the responsibility of the individual.
- 3.3.2 The PACMTC have opted to charge all competing athletes, including Masters, a \$100 fee to tour with the Team. This will contribute to supporting the costs associated with a travelling Team Manager to support the athletes.

Please note, pursuant to clause 6.3 of the PA Selection Procedures Policy “Failure to comply with any part of clauses 6.1 or 6.2 may result in the Athlete failing to be eligible for selection or being withdrawn from the Team once selected”.

Appendix 1: Average ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships and Australian Marathon Championships speeds

ICF Canoe Marathon World Championship: performance metrics									PA Champs	
Event	Class	Winning speed	3rd place speed	75th % speed	50th % speed	25th % speed	No. of starters	No. of years	PA win speed	PA win % WC
	distance	km/h	km/h	km/h	km/h	km/h	-	-	km/h	% WC
	km									
SUMMARY (average speeds)										
Short course										
K1WShort	3.45	13.3	13.3	13.0	12.6	12.2	20.0	4	12.6	94.2%
K1MShort	3.45	14.9	14.7	14.5	14.3	14.0	20.0	4	14.3	95.8%
C1WShort	3.45	11.2	10.9	10.7	10.3	9.9	15.8	4	7.8	69.7%
C1MShort	3.45	13.0	12.8	12.6	12.2	11.6	17.0	4	12.0	92.4%
Womens kayak										
K1WU18	18.34	12.2	12.0	11.8	11.4	11.0	23.6	11	11.3	92.9%
K1WU23	22.08	12.4	12.3	12.1	11.8	11.2	19.1	11	11.6	93.1%
K1WSnr	25.83	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.0	11.4	21.2	11	12.0	95.3%
K2WU18	18.34	13.1	12.8	12.7	12.3	11.5	15.6	11	11.8	90.3%
K2WSnr	25.83	13.4	13.3	13.2	12.9	12.2	16.2	11	12.5	93.1%
Mens kayak										
K1MU18	22.08	13.6	13.4	13.1	12.7	12.0	33.4	11	12.3	90.5%
K1MU23	25.83	13.8	13.7	13.5	13.1	12.3	29.2	11	12.6	91.0%
K1MSnr	29.57	13.8	13.8	13.6	13.3	12.5	32.1	11	13.2	95.3%
K2MU18	22.08	14.3	14.2	14.0	13.6	13.1	22.6	11	12.8	89.4%
K2MSnr	29.57	14.8	14.8	14.6	14.2	13.5	24.4	11	13.9	94.1%
Womens canoe										
C1WU18	12.73	10.3	10.0	10.1	9.7	9.4	9.1	8	7.7	74.3%
C1WU23	11.10	10.5	10.2	10.2	9.8	9.4	10.0	1	0.0	0.0%
C1WSnr	16.33	10.8	10.4	10.4	10.0	9.6	11.6	8	9.1	83.7%
C2WU18	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.0%
C2WSnr	0.00	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.0	0.0%
Mens canoe										
C1MU18	18.04	11.8	11.5	11.5	11.2	10.7	12.4	11	9.1	77.5%
C1MU23	21.45	11.9	11.8	11.7	11.2	10.7	12.2	11	0.0	0.0%
C1MSnr	25.53	12.3	12.1	12.0	11.5	10.9	15.3	11	10.6	85.8%
C2MU18	18.04	12.5	12.2	12.3	12.0	11.6	8.5	11	0.0	0.0%
C2MSnr	25.53	13.1	13.0	13.0	12.6	12.2	10.1	11	10.8	81.8%

- 1) The above data have been calculated from ICF Canoe Marathon World Championship and Australian Canoe Marathon Championship results for 2012-2023 for long course classes and 2019-2023 for short course classes (2022-2023 for Australian short course classes).
- 2) 2020 was excluded from ICF results, and 2020 and 2021 were excluded from Australian results, due to Covid19 cancellations.
- 3) The "No. of years" shows the number of years of data available for that ICF class within the 2012-2023 period (maximum of 11 years). Australian Championship canoe class data are limited, with classes often not contested and rarely constituted (i.e. fewer than three boats). Ten years of data were available for most Australian kayak classes.

Appendix 2: Frequently Asked Questions

1) What do the cut-off times represent?

The cut-off times represent the times that athletes in each class need to achieve 25th percentile performance on average at ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships: i.e. to be above the bottom 25% of athletes in that class. The cut-off times recognize that the winning times achieved at Australian Marathon Championships are typically lower than at ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships.

2) Why is the cut-off set at the 25th percentile?

The aim of the thresholds is to give athletes the opportunity to compete at World Championships and finish without being lapped. We believe that all athletes should have the same opportunity: for some classes the speed of 25th percentile is close to the speed at which they will be lapped and not complete their race.

3) Why aren't the selection cut-offs more onerous?

The underlying principle is that we want athletes to have the opportunity to represent Australia and gain international experience providing they can compete at the required standard. In most classes the athletes selected will paddle significantly faster than the cut-off time, which represents a minimum standard.

4) Why aren't the cut-off times different for different classes?

The aim has been to keep the system as simple as reasonably possible. In addition, there has been insufficient Australian canoe class data over the study period (2012 to 2023) for separate cut-off determinations for canoe classes.

5) If speeds at Australian Championships are slower than at World Championships does that mean selected athletes might still be uncompetitive at World Championships?

The winning speeds for Senior kayak classes at Australian Championships are typically about 95-96% of the winning speeds at World Championships for long course singles and short course and ~93-94% for doubles. This has been incorporated in the calculation of the cut-off times. In most Australian Championship classes, the second fastest boat will be well above the cut-off time. The winning speed for Senior canoe classes at Australian Championships are typically slower, at ~84-86% of World Championship speeds.

6) Is there provision for extraordinary weather conditions at the Australian Championships, similar to what was experienced in 2022?

This is implicit in the design of the system, with the winning time in each class accounting for prevailing conditions for that session (wind, humidity, temperature, air quality, etc.).

7) Does this system offer more or less chance for athletes to represent Australia than the previous system?

The new system offers more possibility of two athletes being selected in each class than the previous system (where the long course cut-off times was three (3) minutes).

8) Does this mean that uncompetitive athletes can be selected?

This possibility could occur in classes that are not competitively contested. However, past data suggests that selected paddlers should still be able to complete the course without being lapped. The speeds required to achieve given levels of performance at World Championships are listed in Appendix 1 above. Athletes who are below international standards will need to decide if attendance is in their interests.