

Canoe Ocean Racing Team Selection Policy 2024

CONTENTS & DEFINITIONS

CONTENTS		
Section 1	OVERVIEW Introduction, GB Ocean Racing Objectives & Strategy, GB Selection Panel Members	Pages 2 & 3
Section 2	ELIGIBILITY FOR GBR SELECTION	Page 4
Section 3	GREAT BRITAIN TEAM SELECTION POLICY Selection Process 2024 International Selection Program Athlete Availability Selection Meetings & Team Announcements	Pages 5, 6 & 7
Section 4	GENERAL INFORMATION – GBR TEAMS Exceptional Circumstances, Transport & Logistics, Funding, Contingency, & Participation Injury/Illness, Appeals Procedure Data Protection, Policies, Communications	Pages 7,8,9,10
Appendix 1	Appeals Procedure	

ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS	
OR	Canoe Ocean Racing
Paddle UK	Paddle UK (a trading name of British Canoeing)
SLSGB	Surf Lifesaving GB
ICF	International Canoe Federation
OR Selection Panel	Ocean Racing Selection Panel
OR WG	Ocean Racing Working Group

SECTION 1 – OVERVIEW

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1. Canoe Ocean Racing (OR) is a recognised discipline within the International Canoe Federation (ICF).
- 1.2. There are two major OR events taking place in the 2024 season, the ECA OR Championships and the ICF World Championships. However, the ECA OR Championships are to be held in The Azores 10-14th April 2024 which falls before the OR assessment races which presents challenges from a logistics and team selection perspective. As a result, the OR WG has taken the decision not to enter a team to this event.
- 1.3. As a result, the key focus of this Selection Policy is the ICF World Championships due to be hosted in Madeira between September 30th and October 6th 2024 (the "World Championships").
- 1.4. To assess, train and support a GB Team to compete in the World Championships, the OR Selection Panel and OR WG have identified some key race dates for assessment and development.
- 1.5. This Selection Policy will select athletes in the following OR Craft disciplines:
 - 1.5.1. Single Surf Ski (SS1)
 - 1.5.2. Surf Ski mixed doubles (SS2)
 - 1.5.3. Outrigger Canoe Single (OC1)
- 1.6. Selection will be made by the OR Selection Panel and will be based on the priority discipline of Single Surf Ski (SS1) in accordance with the selection process outlined in section 3 of this Selection Policy.

2. **International Objectives**

- 2.1. This Selection Policy seeks to select the best athletes in a transparent way that prioritises achievement of international success.
- 2.2. The primary focus of National Team Selection in 2024 will be to;
 - 2.2.1. To achieve top 50% results at the World Championship, with the greatest emphasis placed on competitive results across all classes entered.
 - 2.2.2. To enter up to 5 athletes per class, if assessed to be competitive, at international level in Men's and Women's, U18, U23 and Senior classes in the World Championships in 2024.
 - 2.2.3. To pursue long-term athlete development, that encourages athletes to reach their full potential in Ocean Racing as a sports career choice, and supports the transition from junior, through to the U23's and to senior classes.
 - 2.2.4. To work with both Paddle UK and SLSCGB to develop athletes, as well as coaches who help to produce athletes of international quality with the aim of forming a competitive GB squad capable of winning International medals in future years.

3. **Principles**

- 3.1. The following are principles that will apply to the selection process, the national team and the work of the OR more generally:
 - 3.1.1. A commitment to follow up on the lessons learnt in previous years in preparing athletes to be able to compete at their best in international competitions.
 - 3.1.2. Utilise the skill set of the OR WG and senior paddlers to give support to the GB squad.
 - 3.1.3. Review and note athletes' performances in kayak race related disciplines of Spec Ski (within SLSCGB) and K1 (within Marathon, Sprint and WWR) as there is good cross over between OR and these disciplines.

- 3.1.4. Only athletes who are competitive at international level will compete in the World Championships. By this we mean that they are likely to come in the top half of their field.

4. **Paddle UK OR Selection Panel Detail & Structure**

- 4.1. The OR Selection Panel is comprised of individuals selected by Paddle UK based on the knowledge and experience members have of OR.
- 4.2. The OR Selection Panel retains overall authority for all aspects of selection and this selection policy.
- 4.3. The OR Selection Panel for 2024 remains formed from 2023 with two changes, the Paddle UK observer and the addition of a OC1 representative.
- 4.4. The Selection Panel will therefore consist of the following members, with membership being reviewed in 2025:

Chair: – Jon White

Voting Members:

Jim Taylor-Ross

Stu Sherman

Roy Fieldus

Micky MacDonald

Richard Parrott (OC1 rep)

Observer:

Greg Van Heerden – Paddle UK

Non-voting Assessors:

Mat Rowlands

Fay Lamph

Lewis Kirton

Lizelle Kemp

- 4.5. OR Selection Panel and OR WG assessor members are required to make every effort to attend all GB squad training, assessment and development events, to ensure that a true and accurate assessment of current abilities can be made.
- 4.6. Paddle UK is committed to upholding high standards of integrity and as such any person who sits on the OR Selection Panel shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of and any vote in respect of any selection matter in which they have a material conflict of interest. For the avoidance of doubt and for the purposes of this policy, a material conflict of interest does not necessarily include the fact that a member of the Selection Panel may know an athlete or have specialist knowledge and experience of athletes from within their Club or previous selections. If a person is unsure whether they have a conflict or potential conflict they should consult the Director of Governance.

SECTION 2 ELIGIBILITY FOR GBR SELECTION 2024

1. International Eligibility

Athletes wishing to be considered for International Events must comply with the following conditions:

- 1.1. They must be Comprehensive (“On the Water”) Paddle UK and SLSGB members throughout the year or the equivalent membership of Home Nations.
- 1.2. They must have registered with the OR WG – using the OR Registration Form.
- 1.3. They must meet age and nationality criteria for international competition as defined by the Paddle UK Eligibility Policy.
- 1.4. They must be prepared to meet all costs associated with attendance at domestic and international events.
- 1.5. They must be prepared to organise their own travel and accommodation in the best interest of the team.
- 1.6. They must be prepared to accept the Team Manager’s and staff direction regarding behaviour and racing.
- 1.7. They must be prepared to dress and conduct themselves in a manner befitting a British Team representative and promote the good name of both SLSGB and Paddle UK at home and abroad.
- 1.8. They must prepare to buy the GB ‘One Team’ OR Team uniform top, and wear when reasonably required.
- 1.9. They must sign and abide by the OR Code of Conduct.
- 1.10. All athletes must also meet the ICF age and disability criteria specific to the class of race they are seeking selection for.
- 1.11. All athletes must have passed the ICF online anti-doping course prior to competing and attend a Clean Sport Workshop if possible.

2. Age Categories

- 2.1. A junior can compete at an OR International U18 event as part of the GB Team events in the year in which their 16th birthday falls.
- 2.2. The last year an U18 may compete in international programme events is the year in which their 18th birthday falls.
- 2.3. The last year an U23 may compete in international programme events is the year in which their 23rd birthday falls.
- 2.4. Any athlete who does not meet one of the age categories detailed above must compete in the Senior category.
- 2.5. There are no age categories or restrictions for the Para Class.

SECTION 3 – GREAT BRITAIN TEAM SELECTION 2024

1. International Programme 2024

- 1.1. The OR WG and OR Panel have identified certain events from the ICF international calendar, for which international teams will be selected (see Table in 2.5 for details). When deciding which events will be attended, due regard has been given to the objectives and to available resources including voluntary manpower and budgets.
- 1.2. The team composition by class for each event has been set in accordance with the ECA and ICF Rules, if we have GB athletes of an International competitive standard these will be:
 - 1.2.1. **World Championships:** Due to rebuilding from COVID the usual ICF invitation from World Ranking points in each class will not be in operation. The event will therefore effectively be an 'open invitation' reflecting the rebuild from COVID policy.
- 1.3. From time to time, the OR WG receives invitations to additional international events. Most of these events are open entry, and where applicable teams will be selected for these events. Team selections will be made after an assessment event and all selections will be made in line with the principles/objectives of this Policy. Any additional events being selected for will be announced on GB OR Website prior to the selection being made. Currently the OR WG are looking at the race in Cherbourg 14/15 September 2024, as a Squad Development race._

1.4. **Table of International Selection Program:**

<u>Event</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Team Composition</u>	<u>Assessment Events</u>	<u>GB Team Registration</u>	<u>International Availability Deadline</u>
World Championships Madeira	30 th September - 06 th October 2024	All Classes	5x assessment races Previous International races	25 th April 2024	31 st July 2024

2. **Selection Process**

- 2.1. The selection of the Great Britain OR Team for all international events will be made on a fair assessment, open-to-all basis, in line with this Policy.
- 2.2. There will be five OR SS1 and three (possibly four) OR OC1 assessment races on which selection to the World Championships will be primarily assessed:
 - 27th April 24 - Rhoose (SS1)
 - 18th & 19th May 24 - Epic Bay (SS1)
 - 01st & 2nd Jun 24 – Sussex Classic (SS1 and possibly OC1)
 - 15th & 16th Jun 24 - FBOR (SS1 and OC1)
 - 06th Jul 24 – Celtic Cup (SS1 and OC1)
 - 28th Jul 24 - Hayling Island (OC1)

- 2.3. All athletes seeking selection for an international event should endeavour to race in at least three of the five assessment races, unless declared to the GB Team Manager in writing and on their registration form as exceptional circumstances.
- 2.4. If an athlete races in 3 or more assessment events, then an athlete's best three performances in assessment races will be assessed.
- 2.5. An athlete must race in the correct class corresponding to the category and team for which they are seeking international selection, unless previously agreed with the OR Panel. The OR Panel reserves the right to disregard results gained by athletes racing in the wrong class or at the wrong races.
- 2.6. In addition to performance at the assessment races, Athlete selection will be in part based on the OR assessment report, which will include reference to:
 - 2.6.1. Assessment race conditions and race field;
 - 2.6.2. Previous and current OR International performance;
 - 2.6.3. Performance in GB Team training camps;
 - 2.6.4. Current form and experience in both OR and other kayak race related disciplines;
 - 2.6.5. Competency in Ocean Racing.
- 2.7. Athlete selection will also be based on performances benchmarked across classes to the likelihood of being competitive in the top half of an OR International level race. This benchmarking assessment will be made with reference to the following factors:
 - 2.7.1. The athlete must have proven themselves to be safe and competent to race on the ocean. This will be a judgment call made by looking at the athletes' race histories in both ocean racing and other disciplines where appropriate. This is especially important for under 18 and under 23 categories.
 - 2.7.2. Athletes with recent international experience will be used as benchmarks by which the Selection Panel judge likely international standards. This is a process where by places and times achieved by current athlete's in 2023 international events are evaluated. Their percentage time difference from winning time is calculated. These athletes are then used as benchmarks during the assessment races to indicate international competitiveness.
 - 2.7.3. Average speed will be used to assist in judgement, however it is recognised that OR is extremely conditions dependent.
- 2.8. The OR Panel may consider additional information and performance if exceptional circumstances prevent an athlete from competing in the OR assessment races due to clashes with other race related discipline assessments or Internationals - as notified to the GB Team Manager and listed on the athletes OR registration form.
- 2.9. Individuals' selection to the GB team for each event will depend on meeting the Availability and Eligibility Criteria.
- 2.10. If athletes do not meet the identified criteria, the OR Selection Panel retain the right to select athletes in exceptional circumstances, provided such selection is in line with the 2024 Selection Policy Objectives and Strategy.
- 2.11. For the avoidance of doubt, data collected from assessment races and training camps, and an explanation of how it has been used to make selections, will be published at the same time as all announcements of selections for international teams.

3. **Athlete Availability**

- 3.1. Athlete availability must be supplied via the Athlete Registration form for 2024, according to the deadlines specified in the Internationals Programme detailed in the Table of International Selection Program detailed in Section 3, clause 1.4.
 - 3.2. Athletes missing a deadline will not be considered and will have no grounds for appeal, except at the discretion of the GB Team Manager where exceptional circumstances arise.
 - 3.3. Lists of available, and eligible athletes for each international team will be published on GB OR Website.
 - 3.4. Completion of an Athlete Registration form by an athlete will be accompanied by a commitment to forfeit their athlete contribution - if required - in the case of selection and subsequent withdrawal from the team, except at the discretion of the GB Team Manager where exceptional circumstances arise between selection and event.
4. **Selection Meetings and Announcements of 2024 GB OR Teams**
- 4.1. The OR Selection Panel will meet within 7 days of the Celtic Cup event to select the squad of paddlers training to compete in the World Championships in Madeira.
 - 4.2. The announcement of the squad will be made within ten days of the corresponding selection meeting, via the Paddle UK and GB OR website. Further publications of the announcements will be made on GB OR social media.
 - 4.3. Team announcements will include:
 - 4.3.1. The names of all paddlers selected for the team including the classes they will be participating in;
 - 4.3.2. A summary of the data used to make the selections;
 - 4.3.3. Confirmation of which selections (if any) were made based on exceptional circumstances.
 - 4.4. Paddle UK reserve the right to withdraw the selection of any athlete found guilty of a disciplinary offence under Paddle UK/ICF/ECA rules.

SECTION 4 - GENERAL INFORMATION – 2024 GB OR TEAM

1. Exceptional Circumstances

- 1.1. For the purposes of this clause, exceptional circumstances are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and unforeseen.
- 1.2. To be considered for exceptional circumstances, an athlete must be able to demonstrate the following performance level:
 - 1.2.1. Top half of field International Class A or B race.
- 1.3. Should an athlete meeting the above performance standard miss an assessment event due to exceptional circumstances or suffer an equipment failure, the Selection Panel reserve the right to provide an opportunity for such a boat to be eligible for selection.
- 1.4. Where an athlete wishes to invoke this clause, exceptional circumstances requests should be directed to the Chair of the Selection Panel within 24 hours of the race assessment via email: jon@farleysport.com and should provide:
 - 1.4.1. Certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant information regarding the exceptional circumstance.
 - 1.4.2. In cases of illness or injury, information should be provided from a suitable medical professional regarding recovery and expected ability to perform at the event the athlete is seeking selection for.

- 1.4.3. Any evidence the athlete wishes the Selection Panel to consider which demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other selected athletes.
- 1.5. When considering whether an athlete currently demonstrates in both training and racing, a superior performance level than other available athletes the Selection Panel will consider the following:
 - 1.5.1. The athlete's racing profile in the 2024 assessment season;
 - 1.5.2. World and European Championship performance from the past 24 months;
 - 1.5.3. Recent training information shared by the athlete (as part of 1.4.3).
- 1.6. Where the Selection Panel accepts an exceptional circumstance request following the process detailed above, the Selections Panel reserves the right to:
 - 1.6.1. Where no athlete has been selected for the relevant event under this policy or a place remains unfilled, accept the exceptional circumstances and select the athlete;
 - 1.6.2. Substitute a selected athlete under this policy with the selection of the athlete making the exceptional circumstances request. If this situation arises more detail would be provided in the team announcement.
- 1.7. All decisions under this clause that relate to injury, illness (including Covid-19) or medical conditions will be determined by the Selection Panel members. When assessing if an athlete is fit to race, the decision of the Selection Panel is final.
- 1.8. The Selection Panel has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final and not subject to appeal.

2. Contingency

- 2.1. Should a date or venue of an assessment event referenced throughout this policy need to be changed, this will be announced on the GB OR Website as soon as possible.
- 2.2. If for any reason an assessment event is cancelled, it will be rescheduled if practical. If it cannot be rescheduled, the Selection Panel/OG WG will endeavor to set up an assessed 'Training Run' either at the race venue or at an alternative location.

3. Transport & Logistics

- 3.1. All transport and logistics will be organised by the Athlete in coordination with the GB OR Team Manager. Any questions about 2024 logistics must be made through the GB Team Manager.

4. Funding and Participation (all GBR Teams)

- 4.1. All athletes selected to represent the Great Britain OR teams will fund themselves.

5. Paddler agreement

- 5.1. Selected athletes must sign the Paddle UK Great Britain Team participation agreement on accepting selection, and at least two weeks before travelling to the first event. Paddlers on a Paddle UK funded programme will still be bound by the terms of their agreement with Paddle UK.
- 5.2. It is the athlete's responsibility to meet all entry and exit requirements to any country in which an international event is held including but not limited to any requirements related to Covid-19.

6. Illness of injury

- 6.1. The GB OR Team Manager reserve the right to withdraw athletes from identified race(s) based on injury/illness or lack of commitment to training. Such decisions will only be taken following consultation with appropriate coaches and/or medical reports.

7. Competency

- 7.1. If conditions at any international race or event are such that the safety of some or all athletes are at risk if they were to train or compete, the GB Team Manager, GB Team Coach or OR WG Safety Lead may make a decision to cancel training or withdraw that athlete entry. Such a decision will be made in consultation with appropriate coaches and will be based on the athletes known competency.

8. Appeal Procedure

- 8.1. Certain decisions made throughout this Policy are not subject to appeal and where this is the case, specific reference will be made to the decision being final. For other selection decisions made under this Policy, the Paddle UK Appeals process applies and this procedure will be published alongside this Policy.

9. Data Protection

- 9.1. Paddle UK is a privacy conscious organisation and is strongly committed to an individual's right to privacy. All data gathered during the selection process will only be utilised for the purposes of an athlete's participation in a OR Team and squad. This may include administering their event/race entry and certain information may be published as part of the results and rankings of the event/race.
- 9.2. Any personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the Paddle UK Data Protection Policy and in accordance with all applicable Data Protection laws in effect at the time of publication of this Selection Policy, including but not limited to, the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.
- 9.3. Further information on Paddle UK's approach to privacy and data protection, including Paddle UK's privacy notices, policies and contact details, can be located in their Privacy Centre (<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/privacy-centre>). Should an athlete wish any data Paddle UK hold relating to them to be deleted at any point; they should contact Paddle UK at GDPR@britishcanoeing.org.uk.

10. Policies

- 10.1. For the avoidance of doubt this selection policy operates in conjunction with all relevant Paddle UK policies including but not limited to, Equality Policy, Anti-Doping Policy, Anti Bullying Policy and Anti Bribery Policy.

11. Communications

- 11.1. Paddle UK is committed to providing open and informative communication in relation to selection. All athletes will receive formal confirmation of the selection and for those athletes who wish to discuss the outcome of decision made by the OR Selection Panel the GB Team Manager will be available to speak informally to athletes, club coaches and in the case of minors, parents.