



British Canoeing Stand Up Paddleboarding Selection Policy 2023

Final

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ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS	
SUP	Stand Up Paddleboarding
BC	British Canoeing
ICF	International Canoe Federation
SUP Panel	Stand Up Paddleboarding Selection Panel

SECTION 1 – OVERVIEW

Stand Up Paddleboarding Selection Panel

Stand Up Paddleboarding is a recognised discipline within the International Canoe Federation (ICF).

In 2023 (15-19 November) there will be an ICF World Championships held at Pattaya, Thailand

In 2021 the ICF introduced a team element to the World Championships event programme, which requires National Federations to enter athletes into the team events. British Canoeing as the UK member federation of the ICF has the opportunity to facilitate the entry of teams into the ICF SUP World Championships. The 2023 team will be selected from those who have entered the individual events and registered their interest with British Canoeing to be considered for the team element.

Individual entries remain open and any athlete can enter themselves through the World Championships entry system. Individuals remain responsible for their trip logistics and costs.

The SUP Selection Panel within BC will be used for selection for the 2023 World Championships teams.

1. International Objectives

- a) To achieve success at World Championship level.
- b) To pursue long-term athlete development, that encourages athletes to reach their full potential in Stand Up Paddleboarding as a sports career choice, and supports the transition from junior, through to the U23's and to senior classes.
- c) To develop athletes and coaches who help to produce athletes of international quality, to ultimately form a competitive GB squad capable of winning International medals in future years.

2. British Canoeing SUP Selection Panel Detail & Structure

- a) The members of the SUP Selection Panel are selected by British Canoeing.
- b) The SUP Selection Panel retains overall authority for all aspects of policy.
- c) The SUP Selection Panel for 2023 will consist of the following members:

Chair: – Sam Rutt

Voting Members:

Scott Warren

Adrian Soper

- d) Conflicts of Interest

British Canoeing is committed to upholding high standards of integrity and as such any person who sits on the selection committee 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. If a person is unsure whether they have a conflict or potential conflict they should consult the Head of Governance and Compliance.

For the avoidance of doubt, members of the selection committee will be free to discuss decisions relating to athletes in their home club, or family members. However, in the case of a split decision by the Selection Committee, the votes of any members affected by such a potential conflict of interest will not be counted.

SECTION 2 ELIGIBILITY FOR GBR SELECTION 2023

1. International Eligibility

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

- a) They must have entered the event as an individual.
- b) They must be Comprehensive (“On the Water”) British Canoeing members throughout the year or the equivalent membership of Home Nations.
- c) They must have registered with the BC – using the SUP Registration Form
- d) They must meet age and nationality criteria for international competition as defined by the Eligibility Policy.
- e) They must be prepared to meet all costs.
- f) They must be prepared to organise their own travel and accommodation in the best interest of the team.
- g) They must be prepared to accept the Team Manager’s and staff (if appointed) direction regarding behaviour and racing.
- h) They must be prepared to dress and conduct themselves in a manner befitting a British Team representative and promote the good name of British Canoeing both at home and abroad.
- i) They must wear the GB SUP team uniform (if available).
- j) They must sign and abide by the British Canoeing Code of Conduct.
- k) All athletes must also meet the ICF age and disability criteria specific to the class of race they are seeking selection for.
- l) 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

- a) A junior can compete at an SUP International U18 event as part of the GB Team events in the year in which his/her 16th birthday falls.
- b) The last year an U18 may compete in international programme events is the year in which his/her 18th birthday falls.
- c) The last year an U23 may compete in international programme events is the year in which his/her 23rd birthday falls.
- d) The Senior Class is for any athlete aged over 23 years.

SECTION 3 – GREAT BRITAIN TEAM SELECTION POLICY 2023

1. Selection Process

- a) The selection of the Great Britain SUP Team for all internationals will be made on a fair assessment, open-to-all basis, within the constraints of the Objectives and Strategy.
- b) There is no selection for World Championship individual events. Any individual may enter via the event website.
- c) For selection to the World Championships team events results from the Falmouth Bay Open, 8th and 9th July 2023 will be considered as part of the selection process. (Please see Appendix 2 for changes to the GBSUP categorisation for competitive paddlers including both board categories and age groups).
- d) Athlete selection will take into account:
 - 1) Assessment race conditions and race field
 - 2) Previous and current SUP International performance
 - 4) Current form and experience in SUP
 - 5) Competency in Stand Up Paddleboarding
- e) Athlete selection will be based on likelihood of being competitive in the top half of an SUP International level race.
- f) The SUP Panel may consider additional information and performance if mitigating circumstances prevent an athlete from competing in the Falmouth Bay Open.
- g) Individuals' selection to the GB team for each event will depend on meeting the Availability and Eligibility Criteria.
- h) Selection of athletes who fall outside of the above is at the discretion of the SUP Panel, in line with the 2023 Objectives and Strategy.

2. Contingency

Should a date or venue need to be changed, this will be announced on the BC SUP pages of the Website as soon as possible.

3. Athlete Availability

- a) Athlete availability must be supplied via the Athlete Registration form for 2023.
- b) Athletes missing a deadline will not be considered and will have no grounds for appeal, except where mitigating circumstances arise.

4. Selection Meetings and Announcements of 2023 GB SUP Teams

- a) Meetings of the SUP Panel will happen 2 weeks prior (at the latest) to the closing date for entries for the World Championships. Announcements of the team will be made soon after via the BC SUP pages of the Website .
- b) British Canoeing reserve the right to withdraw the selection of any athlete found guilty of a disciplinary offence under BC/ICF/ECA rules.

- c) Team announcements will include the names of all paddlers selected for the team.

SECTION 4 - GENERAL INFORMATION – 2023 GB SUP TEAM

1. Mitigating Circumstances

There will be situations where athletes who would normally be expected to earn a team place are prevented from doing so for legitimate reasons. This may include:

- 1) Unavailability for selection events due to GB Team selection in another canoeing discipline (supported by evidence)
- 2) Injury or illness (supported by evidence)
- 3) Equipment failure at the assessment.
- 4) Assessment Race (s) cancelled

Evidence supporting 1) or 2) above must be sent in writing to the Chair of the Selection Panel in advance of the entry deadline for the international in question.

The SUP Panel will retain the right to consider previous assessment or international events from previous years. It must be demonstrable, based on such evidence that the athlete in question would normally have comfortably earned a place. Selectors will not be able to choose an athlete who has not raced internationally previously (in any international classified event) or raced assessments in the current season.

Borderline cases will be ruled in favour of athletes who completed the 2023 selection event. The selectors may also disregard evidence of non-availability if they are able to select a team of sufficient strength without the athlete in question. An explanation of any selection made on the basis of mitigating circumstances will be included in any notes that accompany the announcement of all international teams.

2. Transport & Logistics

All transport and logistics will be organised by the Athlete.

It is the athlete's responsibility to meet all entry and exit requirements for host countries.

3. Funding and Participation (all GBR Teams)

All athletes selected to represent the Great Britain SUP teams will fund themselves.

4. Paddler agreement

Selected athletes must sign the British Canoeing Great Britain Team participation agreement on accepting selection, and at least two weeks before travelling to the first event. Paddlers on a BC funded programme will still be bound by the terms of their agreement with British Canoeing.

5. Illness or injury

The GB SUP Team Manager (if appointed) 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.

6. Competency

If conditions at any international race are such that the safety of some or all athletes are at risk if they were to train or compete, the GB Team Manager (if appointed) may make a decision based on the athlete's known competency, to cancel training or withdraw that athlete entry and consultation with appropriate athlete coaches.

7. Appeals Procedure

Please see Appendix 1 for the British Canoeing appeals procedure.

8. Data Protection

British Canoeing is a privacy conscious organisation and is strongly committed to your right to privacy. Our Privacy and Data Protection Statement, which follows guidelines set out in the Data Protection Act 1998, can be found on our website:

<https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/privacy-centre>

Any data gathered in the course of selection will be used in accordance with this Statement and will not be shared with any third party without your consent.

9. Policies

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

10. Communications

British Canoeing 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 SUP Panel the Chair of the panel will be available to speak informally to athletes, club coaches and in the case of minors, parents.

APPENDIX 1 – BRITISH CANOEING APPEALS PROCEDURE

Guidance Notes:

Whilst selection decisions are made in good faith, every athlete should be able to appeal a selection decision if there are grounds to do so (see paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 below). If you're unsure about why a decision has been made, your coach, parent/carer or another trusted person may be able to give you some advice. If you subsequently believe you have grounds to appeal the decision, this Appeals Procedure sets out how you can do this and what process will be followed.

If you wish to appeal a decision and would like some guidance you are advised to seek support from your coach, parent/carer, discipline Welfare Officer or other trusted person to help you.

1. CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

- 1.1 This Selection Appeals Procedure ("the Procedure") is referenced in all non-Olympic discipline selection policies published by the British Canoeing Discipline Committees and applies to international team selection decisions for major international competitions (such as World Championships) in non-Olympic disciplines.
- 1.2 For the avoidance of doubt, selection Appeals in the Olympic disciplines (Sprint, Paracanoe, and Slalom) will be managed in accordance with the British Canoeing Competition Selection Appeals Procedure as referenced in the applicable selection policies.
- 1.3 Selection will take place in accordance with the applicable selection policies as published from time to time by the relevant Discipline Committee. In this Procedure all policies are referred to as the "Selection Policy". Any athlete ("the Athlete") wishing to lodge an appeal under this Procedure must be fully familiar with the provisions of the Selection Policy.
- 1.4 This Procedure is intended to be accelerated in nature to enable any appeal to be resolved as quickly as is reasonably possible. Due to the nature of selection for major events, decisions often need to be taken close to the time of the event to which the selection relates. There is considerable potential for impact on athlete preparation related to the outcome of the appeal, both with regard to the Athlete, as well as any athlete who is at risk of being deselected or otherwise adversely affected by the appeal.
- 1.5 Accordingly, the aim of this Procedure is to return a decision on appeal as soon as possible after the original selection decision has been announced. The key stages of the appeal process are as follows:

Selection Decision Announced

↓ 2 working days

Deadline to submit Request for Review

↓ within 7 working days

Deadline to submit Notice of Appeal

↓ within 8 working days

Appeal Decision / Final Selection Outcome

- 1.6 The British Canoeing Director of Governance shall have the power to adjust the timescales within this Procedure. If timescales are adjusted, this will be communicated to all interested parties at each relevant stage of the appeals process. If the Athlete believes the timescales should be adjusted they should notify the Director of Governance at the earliest opportunity and/or communicate this within the Notice of Appeal.

2. BINDING AGREEMENT

Guidance Note: given the short timescales and the need for certainty for the benefit of all athletes and the selected team, this section 2 explains that this Procedure is the only opportunity for you, as an athlete, to challenge a selection decision. Due to the time constraints, there is no further right of appeal to other bodies or courts. It is important if you are going to challenge the selection decision that you make all your arguments.

- 2.1 This Procedure is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each Athlete and British Canoeing (referred to as "the Parties") as to how selection decisions are to be challenged. The Parties agree to submit any dispute, concerning any matter connected with or arising out of selection issues, to binding arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Procedure.
- 2.2 The Parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of this Procedure, or any decision made under this Procedure, before any court of law or other dispute resolution body. The Parties will treat all decisions under this Procedure as final and binding upon them.
- 2.3 The Parties agree that this Procedure is to be treated as an arbitration procedure under Part 1 of the Arbitration Act 1996 ("the Act") and the provisions of clause 2.1 above amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of section 6 of the Act. The seat of the Arbitration shall be England.

If an Athlete wishes to challenge a selection decision then the following two stage process will apply:

3. STAGE 1 - FORMAL REVIEW

- 3.1 A written request for a formal review may be submitted, in the first instance, by the Appellant Athlete to the Discipline Committee Chair who will carry out a review in consultation with the relevant Selection Panel.
- 3.2 This request must be submitted within 2 working days (or an earlier date if that has been decided and communicated by the Director of Governance) of the selection being formally announced and must identify the grounds of appeal upon which they intend to rely, as set out in paragraph 5, provide an outline of the Athlete's argument and provide any evidence or information relied on to support this.
- 3.3 Within 5 working days (or an earlier date if that has been decided and communicated by the Director of Governance) of receiving the Appellant Athlete's request the Discipline Committee Chair will advise in writing the outcome of the review and the decision reached and will provide brief written reasons.

4. STAGE 2 - NOTICE OF APPEAL

- 4.1 If following the formal review an Athlete wishes to appeal a selection decision, they must submit a written Notice of Appeal, which shall be sent to the British Canoeing Director of Governance. The Notice of Appeal must be received within 2 working days of receipt of the outcome of the Stage 1 Review above.
- 4.2 Failure to submit the Notice of Appeal on time will result in no further action being taken and the Athlete shall lose the right of appeal. The Director of Governance may, at their absolute discretion, decide to admit a Notice of Appeal received after the deadline in exceptional circumstances. It shall be the responsibility of the Athlete to prove the exceptional circumstances.
- 4.3 The Notice of Appeal must set out the grounds of the appeal and include full details of which ground(s) in paragraph 5 the appeal is based upon and the precise manner in which the ground(s) have been met. The Notice of Appeal should be as comprehensive as possible and include any documents or written evidence upon which the Athlete relies, as it will form the basis of the remainder of this Procedure.

5. GROUNDS OF APPEAL

- 5.1 An Athlete shall only be entitled to appeal on one or more of the following grounds:
- 5.1.1 there has been a failure to follow the Selection Policy as published;
 - 5.1.2 the Selection Panel has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact;
 - 5.1.3 the Selection Panel (or any member of the panel) has shown actual bias when making the decision; and/or
 - 5.1.4 the decision is one that no reasonable decision maker could ever have reached.
- 5.2 In order to ensure a timely and efficient appeals process only the grounds of appeal detailed in 5.1 will be permitted. The composition of the Selection Panel is not open to appeal unless 5.1.3 is being cited in the Notice of Appeal.
- 5.3 The right to appeal a selection decision is provided on these limited grounds only and must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the selection panel where they have followed the proper procedure and selection criteria as stated in the Selection Policy. In reaching their decision the Selection Panel are acting as experts and athletes agree that in so doing the Selection Panel exercises judgement and discretion which are not in themselves capable of challenge. Athletes should therefore consider carefully whether any of the grounds of appeal at clause 5.1 exists before submitting a Notice of Appeal.
- 5.4 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published Selection Policy or, subject to grounds 5.1.3, against the actions of the Selection Panel, provided they follow the selection criteria published.

6. APPEAL PANEL

- 6.1 Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Director of Governance or their designee shall:
- 6.1.1 contact the Selection Panel to inform them of the Appeal, provide them with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Selection Panel provide any information used in the selection process which they wish the Appeal Panel to consider within 3 working days of receipt of the request; and
 - 6.1.2 convene an Appeal Panel, which shall consist of 3 people, who shall be selected from British Canoeing's independent Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register, the details of

which are further set out in the Schedule. Confirmation of the Appeal Panel will be disclosed to the Athlete following the receipt of the Notice of Appeal. No person who has been involved in the selection process shall be a member of the Appeal Panel.

- 6.2 The Athlete shall have the opportunity to challenge the composition of the Appeal Panel by submitting written objections within 1 working day of being informed of the Appeal Panel. British Canoeing shall review the objection, consider the issues raised and decide in its absolute discretion whether it is appropriate to alter the composition of the Appeal Panel.
- 6.3 Once appointed, the Appeal Panel will ordinarily determine the appeal based on the written submissions of the Athlete, and the Selection Panel without a hearing or the calling of witnesses or the giving of oral evidence. However the Appeal Panel will have the power to set its own processes and give directions including requesting further information from the Athlete, Selection Panel or any other relevant party, setting up a video or telephone conference, determining if a hearing is required and if it is, establishing the date, time and place, and format to be followed in such a hearing.
- 6.4 The Appeal Panel will seek to reach its decision within 5 working days of its appointment in accordance with 6.1.2 and will inform all interested parties in writing.

7. REMEDIES

- 7.1 The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to;
- 7.1.1 reject the Appeal and confirm the selection decision.
 - 7.1.2 only where the grounds set out in paragraphs 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 have been upheld, rescind the selection decision and confirm the selection of the Athlete.
 - 7.1.3 where the grounds in 5.1.1 or 5.1.2 have been upheld, quash the selection decision and remit the matter back to the Selection Panel identifying the errors they have found in the conduct of the selection process and requesting that a new decision is made within one week (or such shorter time as the Appeal Panel deem is reasonable in all the circumstances).
- 7.2 The cost and resource of administering the Appeal Panel will generally fall to British Canoeing unless the Appeal Panel directs otherwise.

8. MINOR AND NON-CONSEQUENTIAL BREACHES OF THIS PROCEDURE

A deviation from any requirement of this Procedure shall not invalidate the Procedure or the decision of the Appeal Panel unless there is a clear and significant risk that the deviation has affected the decision of the Appeal Panel. This shall not apply to the time limit for the Athlete to submit their formal appeal under paragraph 4 of this Procedure.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS AND PUBLICATION OF DECISION

- 9.1 Unless the Parties mutually agree to waive the right, all Parties are under an obligation of confidentiality in respect of this Procedure except for reasonable disclosure to family members and/or a trusted advisor in the case of athletes. Save as permitted under this Procedure none of the Parties will make any public statement or disclosure of the contents of any correspondence concerning any of the Parties during the course of any appeal heard under this Procedure.

9.2 British Canoeing shall be entitled to publish the outcome of the Appeal in such manner and to such extent as is necessary to inform all properly interested and affected parties of the status of the selection decision previously published and the resulting implications upon selection.

10. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THIS PROCEDURES

British Canoeing shall be entitled to amend this Procedure from time to time. Amendments shall take effect from the first date of publication of the updated Procedure on the British Canoeing website. British Canoeing welcomes comments about this Procedure or feedback on the process.

These should be sent to:

Director of Governance
Email: nancy.squires@britishcanoeing.org.uk
British Canoeing
Adbolton Lane
Holme Pierrepont
Nottingham
NG12 2LU

Schedule

Appeal Panel

The Appeal Panel shall be formed as follows:

Chair:

A legally qualified Chair shall be selected from British Canoeing's Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register.

Second and Third Panel Members:

The second and third members shall be independent persons selected from British Canoeing's Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register (a current list is available here: [Policies & Procedures \(britishcanoeing.org.uk\)](https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/policies-procedures)).

If members of the Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register are not available British Canoeing shall have the discretion to appoint from outside this Register.

APPENDIX 2 – GBSUP RACE FLEET AND AGE GROUP DETAILS

Note 1. For 2023 there has been a change to the GBSUP categorisation for competitive paddlers including both board categories and age groups.

The new categories are as follows:

- **Board Categories**
 - Hardboard Up To 14'
 - iSUP Up To 14.'
- **Paddler Age Groups**
 - Juniors 12 -17
 - Open* 18 - 29
 - Seniors 30 - 39
 - Masters 40 - 49
 - Veterans 50 - 59
 - Grand Kahunas 60+

Note 2. For the GB Team selection purposes GBSUP has created the Open Age Group. This ensures that all paddlers wishing to compete for a team space can do so in a fair and transparent manner in direct competition with their peers. Therefore any paddler may choose to enter the Open Age Group at the respective selection event.