

Canoe Marathon Ireland National Team Selection Policy

2026

Purpose:

This policy outlines the criteria and processes for the selection of Irish teams for all categories for the 2026 ICF World Canoe Marathon Championships & 2026 ECA European Canoe Marathon Championships and any potential ICF World Cup event

Selection Principles:

- Selection is based on demonstrated performance capability relevant to the target championship.
- Selection aims to be fair, transparent, and consistent across all athletes and categories.
- Canoe Marathon Ireland reserves the right to exercise discretion, within the terms of this policy, where it is in the best interests of performance and team outcomes.

Athlete Eligibility:

To be eligible to compete for Ireland, athletes must meet and maintain for the duration of the 2026 competition season the following athlete eligibility criteria:

- Be a current registered member of Canoeing Ireland who is eligible to represent Ireland at ICF canoe marathon events in accordance with ICF rules and have no outstanding debt to Canoeing Ireland or any of its technical committees.
- Meet ICF eligibility criteria to represent a country
- Is not the subject of a doping violation investigation or suspension.
- Must complete WADA ADEL anti-doping course prior to International Racing.
- Has signed the relevant Canoe Marathon Ireland Code of Conduct.
- Meet the minimum 5k standard time outlines in Table 1

General Selection Notes:

- Minimum standards.
 - 5K course must start & end at the same place.
 - Times must be achieved in the current year and must be verified by an individual ratified by the Canoe Marathon Ireland Committee.
 - No minimum standard times apply to Para classes for 2026

Minimum Standard 5K Times

Male		Female	
<i>Class</i>	<i>5K Time</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>5k Time</i>
Senior K1	22:30	Senior K1	25:00
U23 K1	22:30	U23 K1	25:30
U18 K1	23:00	U18 K1	26:30
Senior C1	24:30	Senior C1	28:30
U23 C1	26:00	U23 C1	29:30
U18 C1	27:15	U18 C1	31:30

Table 1

- Races that count for meeting the domestic race requirements outlined in the selection criteria include, Ribadesella Ranking Races, National Championship races, Liffey Descent, Junior Liffey descent and non-ranking marathon races appearing on the domestic race calendar found on www.canoemarathonireland.com
- Selection races will run in all classes which have more than 2 athletes looking for selection for the National Team. For classes with 2 or less eligible paddlers a selection race will not be required.
- Selection event course distance & details will be published to athletes at least 7 days before the event.
- Any U23 paddler achieving selection for both senior and U23 must choose one long course to compete in.
- Selection decisions will be made by the Canoe Marathon Ireland Committee, operating under the authority of Canoeing Ireland.
- The Canoe Marathon Ireland Committee may exercise selection discretion in exceptional circumstances.
- Discretion cannot be used to override the outcome of published selection races
- Discretion may only be exercised in the following cases:
 - Where quota places remain unfilled.

- Where an athlete is unable to compete due to verified extenuating circumstances (e.g. illness, injury) and there is less than 3 weeks before the first day of the event.
 - Where an athlete withdraws with more than 3 weeks before the first day of the event and no other athlete who raced for selection is available.
- In the event of an athlete withdrawal the place will be offered to the next highest placed athlete in the relevant selection race. In the case where no other athlete who raced for selection is available, the Canoe Marathon Ireland Committee may use discretionary selection, acting reasonably and based on available performance-based evidence. Where performance-based evidence is used, it will be weighted as follows:
 1. Results from designated selection races
 2. Performances at recent International competitions
 3. Domestic ranking race results
 4. Demonstrated performance consistency during the 2025/26 season
- Any discretionary selection must:
 - Be applied consistently
 - Be based on defined performance evidence
 - Be documented by the Canoe Marathon Ireland Committee
- If an athlete wishes to withdraw from the National Team after being selected, they should Notify the Canoe Marathon Ireland committee as soon as is reasonably possible via email at canoemarathonirelandcommittee@gmail.com
- For K2 selection the committee will arrange a selection race if required, giving a minimum of 7 days' notice.
- Appeals:
 - Athletes have the right to appeal a selection decision. Appeals must be submitted in writing to Canoeing Ireland within 72 hours of selection being communicated.
 - Appeals will be heard in accordance with Canoeing Ireland's Appeals Policy by an independent panel. The outcome of the appeal shall be final.
 - Appeals relate to whether the selection policy was correctly applied, not to race performance or results themselves.
 - The Canoe Marathon Ireland Committee's Selection judgment of performance is not appealable.
- The Canoe Marathon Ireland Committee with the Pathway and Performance Director will formally ratify selections and notify Athletes of selection decisions via email within 7 days of a selection event.

Event Specific Selection Criteria:

2026 ECA Canoe Marathon European Championships

Pitesti, Romania 22.6.2026 - 28.6.2026

To select for this event an Athlete must

- Meet the minimum 5k standard time outlines in table1 prior to the selection event
- Competed in a minimum of 2 domestic Marathon races including at least 1 Ranking event before the European Championships, otherwise they forfeit their place.
- K1/C1 and Para Long Course:
 - Selection race will be held on 21st March 2026. Location TBC
 - The athletes placing 1st in their class in the selection race secure selection for both the European Championships and World Championships Long Course for 2026.
 - The athletes placing 2nd in their class in the selection race secure their selection for the 2026 European Championships.
- K1/C1 Short Course:
 - Selection race will be held on 18th April 2026. Location TBC
 - The athletes placing 1st in their class in the selection race secure selection for both the European Championships and World Championships Short Course for 2026.
 - The athletes placing 2nd in their class in the selection race secure their selection for the 2026 European Championships.
- K2/C2:
 - For crews wishing to be selected both athletes must inform the committee by email to canoemarathonirelandcommitte@gmail.com no later than 23:59 on 22nd March 2026 confirming they want to race together.
 - Any athlete wishing to participate in K2 must have taken part in the relevant K1 selection race.
 - If required a selection race will be organised giving a minimum of 7 days' notice.

2026 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships

GUALEGUAYCHU, Argentina 22.10.2026 - 25.10.2026

To select for this event an Athlete must

- Have met the minimum 5k standard time outlines in table1 prior to a selection event
- Competed in a minimum of 4 domestic Marathon races including at least 2 Ranking event before the World Championships otherwise they forfeit their place.
- K1/C1 Para Long Course:
 - First Selection race will be held on 21st March 2026. Location TBC
 - The athletes placing 1st in their class in the first selection race secure their spot for the 2026 World Championships Long Course.
 - A selection race for the remaining available spaces will be held the weekend of 9th/10th May (Location TBC). Highest placed athletes in each class will secure selection.
- K1/C1 Short Course:
 - Selection race will be held on 18th April 2026. Location TBC
 - The athletes placing 1st in their class in the selection race secure selection the World Championships Short Course for 2026.
 - The K1 Short Course National Championships being held at Salmon Leap Canoe Club on 24th May 2025 will be the selection event for remaining spaces. Highest placed athletes in each class will secure selection.
- K2/C2:
 - For crews wishing to be selected both athletes must inform the committee by email to canoemarathonirelandcommitte@gmail.com no later than 23:59 on 11nd May 2026 confirming they want to race together.
 - Any athlete wishing to participate in K2 must have taken part in the relevant K1 selection race.
 - If required a selection race will be organised giving a minimum of 7 days' notice.

2026 ICF Canoe Marathon World Cup Events

To select for these events an Athlete must

- Have met the minimum 5k standard times outlined in table1 prior to event entry deadline.

World Cup events currently scheduled for 2026

- BAZHONG, China 23.05.2026 - 24.05.2026 (*Note – Classes for this event still need to be finalised*)

Terms & Conditions

- a) Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this 2026 selection policy.
- b) No athlete can be considered for selection for the 2026 Irish Canoe Marathon team if they do not meet and maintain the athlete eligibility criteria set out in the Athlete Eligibility section of this document.
- c) An athlete who for any reason, fails to maintain eligibility may be removed from the 2026 Irish Canoe Marathon team.
- d) Athletes for all major International events must comply with the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Rules and European Canoe Association (ECA) Rules. Entry to ICF and ECA events is restricted to members of the National Governing Bodies affiliated to the ICF and the ECA. In Ireland, the affiliated National Governing Body is Canoeing Ireland.
- e) Canoeing Ireland reserves the right to deselect and suspend any athlete who is under investigation for disciplinary offences under Canoeing Ireland /ICF rules. Any athlete who is serving an active sanction arising from a disciplinary matter will not be eligible for team membership. This includes doping offences.