



American Canoe Association (ACA)
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**American Canoe Association (ACA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

for

**2023 Olympic Hopes Regatta &
2023-2024 National Development
Team**

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RESPONSIBILITY: SPRINT COMPETITION COMMITTEE

DATE APPROVED:

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1. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

1.1. The American Canoe Association (ACA) 2023 Olympic Hopes program provides opportunities for 15–17-year-old athletes to enter the exciting world of International Canoe/Kayak Sprint Racing. This foundation-building program includes those who train diligently and have the desire and potential to achieve success in international competition as they grow into older age groups, and eventually the Senior level.

2. SELECTION OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. Select the 2023 – 2024 OHR Team from out of our fastest Sprint paddlers born in 2006, 2007, and 2008.
- 2.2. Provide a vehicle where the top US athletes born in 2006, 2007, and 2008 can come together to train and/or compete several times each year.
- 2.3. Expose US athletes to the best Canoe/Kayak Sprint athletes in the world at their same age.
- 2.4. Develop, educate, and emulate building the US Team towards the Los Angeles Olympic Games 2028 and beyond.
- 2.5. Provide a clear and timely procedure to identify, select and notify our top-performing athletes born in 2006, 2007, and 2008.

3. OHR SCHEDULE

Deposit Due	To confirm availability	\$500	July 30
Trials	US National Championships	Sarasota, FL	Aug 1-4
Team Announcement	Picture taking & processing	At Nationals	Aug 5
Final Payment Due	At the completion of Nationals after the announcement	At Nationals	Aug 5
OHR Tour	Travel coordinated to arrive August 30th	Poznan, POL	August 29-30th
	Pre-regatta Camp	Poznań, POL	Sept 1-6th
Regatta	Olympic Hopes	Poznań, POL	Sep 7 – 10
Travel	Home		11-Sep

4. SELECTION BENEFITS

- 4.1. Selected athletes have the right to compete at the 2023 Olympic Hopes Regatta.
- 4.2. All eligibility and services are available to the selected athletes from the Trials until subsequent Trials are held for 2024, including invitations to National Development Camps and other possible international regattas.
- 4.3. Being a member of the National Development Team is an honor and privilege earned by an athlete's hard work and effort towards being their best and producing competitive and successful results on the world stage.

5. SELECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1. Selected athletes are expected to follow the ACA Code of Conduct (Section 10) and to be positive contributors to the Team effort.
- 5.2. Selected athletes are expected to travel with the Team and be with the team while in Europe.
 - 5.2.1. Exceptions only apply to athletes if approved by the National Team Coach ahead of travel time for extenuating circumstances.
- 5.3. Selected athletes are expected to always give their best effort in training and racing.

6. SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the OHR and CSP-NDT are covered by this selection.
- 6.2. There is no Citizenship requirement to compete on behalf of the United States at the OHR.
- 6.3. A candidate athlete must possess a passport that expires no later than six months after the close of the competition and be presented at Team Processing on August 5th.
- 6.4. A candidate athlete must be free to travel out of and back into the United States, and into and out of the European Union and Poland.
- 6.5. A candidate athlete must be in good standing as a Competition Level Member of the ACA.
- 6.6. A candidate athlete must complete all OHR registration and deposit requirements by July 30th
- 6.7. A selected athlete must make their final payment and complete required paperwork by August 5, 2023.

7. SELECTION COMPETITION

7.1. EVENT: US National Championships / USA CSP National Development Team & Olympic Hopes Regatta Trials (Trials)

7.2. VENUE: Sarasota, FL

7.3. DATES: August 1 – August 4

7.4. The OHR Team will be nominated based on the results from this competition.

7.5. EVENTS

The following Categories and events to be raced and used for selection.

WOMENS KAYAK	MENS KAYAK	WOMENS CANOE	MENS CANOE
K1 1000 / 500 / 200	K1 1000 / 500 / 200	C1 1000 / 500 / 200	C1 1000 / 500 / 200
K2 500m	K2 500m	C2 500m	C2 500m

7.5.1. EVENT ORDER AND START INTERVALS

7.5.1.1. The Chief Official will establish the final event order, start interval, and the overall schedule after the close of the registration period for the Trials. This will be at least one week prior to the event start.

7.5.1.2. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) will communicate the final competition schedule (including the draw (lane assignments) to athletes, coaches, and officials no later than 6 pm local time 7 days before the first day of the competition.

7.5.1.3. A minimum of 1 hour between each race must be provided to athletes competing in any two events. Races will be the Nationals progression.

7.5.2. CANCELED RACES AND EVENTS

7.5.2.1. In consultation with the Sprint Competition Committee, the Chief Official shall designate additional races to replace a canceled race or event(s) if one or more races or events are canceled for any reason.

7.5.2.2. Any replacement race or event shall be held as soon as possible either during or after the scheduled races as determined by the Chief Official and SCC.

7.5.2.3. If a replacement race cannot be held, ranking will be made based on the races that were held.

7.5.3. BOAT SEEDING IN EVENT HEATS AND FOR PROGRESSIONS

The Chief Official will determine if seeding occurs and organize the seeding at the Trials.

8. SELECTION PROCEDURE

8.1. Team Size

8.1.1. The maximum Team size may be 48 athletes.

8.1.2. Minimum Team size, assuming all nominees accept their place on the Team, may be 24.

8.1.3. Team Size: Women's Kayak

Women's Kayak	Year of Birth			
	2006	2007	2008	2006-2008
Maximum Team Size	6	6	6	4
Minimum Team Size	2	2	2	

8.1.4. Team Size: Men's Kayak

Men's Kayak	Year of Birth			
	2006	2007	2008	2006-2008
Maximum Team Size	6	6	6	4
Minimum Team Size	2	2	2	

8.1.5. Team Size: Women's Canoe

Women's Canoe	Year of Birth			
	2006	2007	2008	2006-2008
Maximum Team Size	6	6	6	4
Minimum Team Size	2	2	2	

8.1.6. Team Size: Women's Canoe

Men's Canoe	Year of Birth			
	2006	2007	2008	2006-2008
Maximum Team Size	6	6	6	4
Minimum Team Size	2	2	2	

8.2. Selection Method to the Team Through K1/C1

8.2.1. Top 2 fastest athletes

8.2.1.1. To determine the top 2 fastest Trials finishers, results will be computed independently for each 2006, 2007, and 2008 birth years.

8.2.1.2. Selection for the fastest two finishers for athletes born in 2006 will be based on results from Junior (U18) events.

8.2.1.3. Selection for the fastest two finishers for athletes born in each 2007 and 2008 will be based on results from Juvenile (U16) events.

8.2.1.4. The fastest of the K1 200M, 500M, and 1000M events for each age will be nominated to the Team and given right of first refusal to race in that event.

8.2.1.5. Second fastest finishers of the K1 200M, 500M, and 1000M events for each age will be nominated to the Team.

8.2.1.6. If one or both of the selected athletes declines their Team nomination, the nomination for the Team will go to the next ranked athlete who is within 7% of the 1st place time in that event in the A Final. If no next ranked athlete is within 7% of the winning time, no athlete will be selected to the Team based on that Trials event.

8.2.2. Selection Method to the team through K2/C2

8.2.2.1. Top finishing boat in the Juvenile K2 500m A final will be selected to the team.

8.2.2.2. Top finishing boat in the Junior K2 500m A final will be selected to the team.

8.2.2.2.1 Both athletes in the top Junior K2 boat must meet the OHR age requirement for either of them to be selected.

8.3. All nominated athletes will be announced at the end of Trials at the Nationals banquet.

8.4. Team processing will occur following the Team announcement.

8.4.1. Final paperwork will be completed

8.4.2. Final payment paid

8.4.3. Uniform distribution

8.4.4. Schedule reviewed and updated

8.4.5. Travel plan implemented

9. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 9.1. Replacement athletes may be added following the procedures in Section 8.
- 9.2. Once the team travels to the venue, no replacement athletes will be made.

10. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 10.1. The ACA has jurisdiction over nominees and Team members.
- 10.2. An athlete who is nominated to, and accepts membership in, the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons:
 - 10.2.1. Voluntary withdrawal: An athlete who wishes to voluntarily withdraw from the Team must submit a written letter to the 2023 OHR Team Leader.
 - 10.2.2. Removal due to Injury or illness: An athlete who sustains an injury or illness that s/he believes is not disabling, must provide written certification from a physician (or medical staff) approved by the ACA to that effect. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the ACA, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
 - 10.2.3. ACA Code of Conduct violation: A Team member may be removed for violation of the ACA Code of Conduct. The removed athlete may be required to travel home at his/her own expense.
 - 10.2.3.1. The ACA Code of Conduct can be found at:
<https://americancanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Member-Code-of-Conduct-final-07252022.pdf>
 - 10.2.3.2. An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the ACA's Bylaws and Grievance Procedures
ACA's Bylaws
<https://americancanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ACA-B-final-changes-accepted-2022-10-07.pdf>
Grievance Procedures
https://americancanoe.org/community/about-us/#tab_5

11. DEPOSITS, FINAL PAYMENTS, & REFUNDS

11.1. The payment schedule is:

	Due	Amount
Deposit	30-Apr	\$500
Final Payment	5-Aug	\$XXXX
Total		\$XXXX

11.2. All deposits and final payments will be paid to the ACA at:

[https:// XXX](https://XXX)

11.3. The ACA will hold all deposits and final payments.

11.4. A deposit will be refunded if:

11.4.1. An athlete is not selected to the Team

11.4.2. An athlete is unable to compete due to a disabling medical reason that is certified by an approved ACA physician and the refund is requested in writing to the 2023 OHR Team Leader no later than August 20.

11.4.3. An athlete experiences a personal tragedy that is verified, and the refund is requested in writing to the 2023 OHR Team Leader no later than August 20.

11.5. A deposit and final payment will not be refunded if:

11.5.1. An athlete is selected to the Team and then declines to participate.

11.5.2. An athlete is removed for a disciplinary reason.

12. ATHLETE SAFESPORT REQUIREMENTS

13.1. There are no athlete SafeSport requirements for OHR.

13.2. However, Team athletes are strongly encouraged to take the 15-minute course on "SafeSport for Youth Athletes for Ages 13-17"

13.3. To access this course, first-time SafeSport users should [Create an ACA SafeSport Account](#). Returning users should log in at safesporttrained.org. All courses are available in the catalog while logged in with a profile.

13. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

- 14.1. The National Team Coaches requested that a volunteer create a draft of these procedures.
- 14.2. The volunteer created the initial draft and submitted it for comment to the National Team Coaches, ACA Manager of Sprint & Paracanoe Programs and Events, the ACA Executive Director, the Sprint Coaches Association, and the ACA Sprint Competition Committee.
- 14.3. The volunteer received the comments and incorporated them into this document as agreed.
- 14.4. The finished document was then resubmitted for approval to the ACA Sprint Competition Committee, the ACA Manager of Sprint & Paracanoe Programs and Events, and ACA Executive.
- 14.5. Upon approval, the Chair of the Sprint Competition Committee, the ACA Manager of Sprint & Paracanoe Programs and Events, and ACA Executive Director signed this document.
- 14.6. This document was then posted on the ACA Web site at:
[https:// XXX](https://XXX)

14. ACA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- 15.1. ACA Bylaws can be found at:
<https://americacanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ACA-Bylaws-final-changes-accepted-2022-10-07.pdf>
- 15.2. ACA Grievance Procedures can be found at:
https://americacanoe.org/community/about-us/#tab_5

15. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

- 16.1. The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Office of the Athlete Ombuds and its staff (the Athlete Ombuds) offers independent, confidential advice to athletes regarding their rights and responsibilities in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and assists athletes with a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints, and concerns. The Athlete Ombuds' focus is to serve athletes who represent the U.S. in international competition. The Athlete Ombuds operates on the core principles of confidentiality and privacy, independence, and impartiality.
- 16.2. Additional information about the USOPC Athlete Ombuds Office may be found at: <https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombuds>.
- 16.3. Contact information:
Email: Ombudsman@usathlete.org
Phone: 719-866-5000

16. ACA SIGNATURES

Date 06/20/2023

Signature *Alyson Mrozinski*

Alyson Mrozinski
ACA Sprint Competition Committee
Chairperson

Date _____

Signature _____

Steve Kelly
ACA Manager of Sprint & Paracanoe
Programs and Event

Date _____

Signature _____

Beth Spilman
ACA Executive Director