

American Canoe Association (ACA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES
February 20th, 2024

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1.1.0. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2024 Paralympic Games.

1.1.1. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the 2024 Paralympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) (PAG and PPAG only) standards for participation (if any):

To be eligible for nomination by an NPC, athletes must:

- be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date after 31 December 2024
- have competed in the 2023 ICF Paracanoe World Championships or the 2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championships

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must be a member in good standing of the American Canoe Association (ACA) and have current Safe Sport certification at the time of nomination that will not expire until one month after the 2024 Paralympic Games.
- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.

- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- At the time of nomination to the Paralympic Team, an athlete must have an ICF International Classification with an international sport class status of Confirmed or Review with a Fixed Review Date after 31 December 2024 at the qualifying competition.

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the nomination process:

2023 ICF Paracanoe World Championships, Duisburg, Germany, August 23-26, 2023.

Olympic and Paralympic Trials, Lake Natoma, California, March 22-23, 2024.

2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championships, Szeged, Hungary, May 9-11, 2024

- 1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

Athletes are selected to participate in the 2023 ICF Paracanoe World Championships via the ACA's 2023 ICE Paracanoe World Championships selection procedures available at <https://americancanoe.org/competition/teams/olympic-paralympic/paracanoe/>

Registration information for the Olympic and Paralympic Trials will be made available at least 30-days before the start of the Trials on the ACA's website (<https://americancanoe.org/>).

Athletes are selected to participate in the 2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championships based on the results of the Olympic and Paralympic Trails referenced in Section 1.3 of these procedures.

- 1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for the 2024 Paralympic Games (include maximum Team size):

Allocation of Qualification Slots:

The qualification slot is allocated to the NPC, not to the individual athlete. An athlete can only obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.

If an athlete attains a qualifying rank in both a Kayak and a Va'a medal event at the same qualification event, the NPC is allocated the Va'a qualification slot while the Kayak qualification slot is allocated to the next highest ranked athlete in the respective Kayak event (not otherwise qualified).

Maximum Quota Allocation Per NPC:

An NPC can be allocated a maximum of one (1) qualification slot per medal event. An NPC can obtain a maximum of five (5) male and five (5) female slots.

There must be a minimum of three (3) continents represented in each medal event at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (*ICF Three Continents Rule*). Should three (3) continents not be represented then the lowest ranked qualified NPC at the 2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championship will lose their slot in the respective medal event and the qualification slot will be given to the highest ranked NPC from another continent not represented in that event. This process will be repeated until three (3) continents are represented in all medal events.

Qualification System:

| <u>Method</u> | <u>Qualification</u> |
|---|--|
| <u>2023 World Championships Qualification</u> | The top six (6) ranked athletes in each medal event obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC up to the maximum quota. |
| <u>2024 World Championships Qualification</u> | <p>The top four (4) ranked athletes in each medal event (not yet qualified) each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC up to the maximum quota. The number of slots allocated via this method is subject to the allocation of Host Country slots.</p> <p>In the event the 2024 ICF Paracanoe World Championships is not held, the respective slots will be allocated to the next highest ranked qualified NPC at the 2023 ICF Paracanoe World Championships.</p> |

2024 Olympic & Paralympic Trials:

The 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Trials (*the Trials*) will be leveraged to nominate

athletes to available 2024 Paralympic Games quotas earned through the 2023 Paracanoe World Championships and/or nominate athletes to enter the 2024 Paracanoe World Championships. All ten Paralympic eligible events will be contested if there are two or more athletes entered into each respective event.

Since the conclusion of the 2023 Paracanoe World Championships, NPC USA has been allocated one qualification slot in the Men's VL2 and one qualification slot in the Women's VL3 events for the 2024 Paralympic Games.

If only one athlete is registered for entry into an event at the Trials, the event will not be contested at the Trials and the registered athlete will be nominated to enter the 2024 Paracanoe World Championship. If there is only one entry at the Trials in the Men's VL2 and/or Women's VL3 events, the registered athlete will be nominated to the 2024 Paralympic Team in the respective event.

If there are two or more athletes entering an event at the Trials, the event will be contested. The top two finishing athletes in each respective event will be nominated to compete at the 2024 Paracanoe World Championships. If there are two or more athlete entries in the Men's VL2 and/or Women's VL3 events, the highest placed finishing athlete of the respective event at the Trials will be named to the 2024 Paralympic Team so long as the highest placed finishing athlete competed in the 2023 Paracanoe World Championships in the same event.

If the Men's VL2 and/or Women's VL3 events are contested at the Trials, and the highest placed finishing athlete did not compete at the 2023 Paracanoe World Championships in the same event, athlete nomination to the available quota slot will be determined based on finishing placement results at the 2024 Paracanoe World Championships.

2024 Paracanoe World Championships:

Athletes that earn a quota for NPC USA at the 2024 Paracanoe World Championships will be nominated to the 2024 Paralympic Team in the respective event that the quota slot was earned.

If athlete nomination to the 2024 Paralympic Team through the available quota slots earned at the 2023 Paracanoe World Championships in the Men's VL2 and/or Women's VL3 events was not determined at the Trials, the highest placed finishing athlete at the 2024 Paracanoe World Championships in the respective event will be nominated to the 2024 Paralympic Team.

In the event of a conflict between this overview and the International Canoe Federation Qualification System, the ICF Qualification System will take precedent. For more details, please refer to the ICF Qualification System directly here:

<https://www.paralympic.org/paris-2024/qualification-regulations>

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

- 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any): N/A
- 2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used: N/A
- 2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, or other decisions/recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process, along with a complete list of the members' titles:
N/A
 - 2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee: N/A

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.3. Prior to submitting athlete entries by name to the USOPC, the ACA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is nominated to the Team by the ACA may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the ACA:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the ACA Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the ACA. 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 debilitating and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the ACA's Code of Conduct:
(https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/competition-documents/code_of_conduct/2019_aca_athlete_code_of_con.pdf).
- 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IPC/ICF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the team from the medal event program of the 2024 Paralympic Games.
- 3.1.7. Change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection, such that:
 - 3.1.7.1. the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team; and/or
 - 3.1.7.2. the athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/IF.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the ACA's Bylaws (<https://americancanoe.org/wp->

<content/uploads/2022/09/Gov-013- grievance rev 8 5 2022-v4.pdf>) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.4. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable ACA Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply, contained in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms. The USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and made available during the Games registration process; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the Delegation Terms. See "Delegation Events" at <https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Dispute-Resolution> for more information.
- 3.5. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.3. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. Prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Should an athlete need to be replaced, the ACA will nominate the next highest placed finisher at the Olympic and Paralympic Trials in the corresponding race in which a quota slot is not fulfilled. Athletes must meet all of the minimum eligibility standards listed in Section 1.1.

Should an athlete need to be replaced and there is not a viable replacement based on next highest placed finisher at the Olympic and Paralympic Trials in the corresponding race, the ACA will nominate an athlete registrant meeting all of the minimum eligibility standards listed in Section 1.1.

Should a replacement athlete not be identified in either method above, the unfilled quota slot will be returned to the ICF for redistribution.

- 4.1.2. After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Should an athlete need to be replaced, the ACA will follow the replacement process defined in Section 4.1.1 if athlete replacement is allowed by the Local Organizing Committee.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The ACA will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the 2024 Paralympic Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2024 Paralympic Games:

- ACA Code of Conduct:
https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/competition-documents/code_of_conduct/2023_aca_athlete_code_of_con.pdf

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the ACA in the following public location(s):

7.3. ACA Web site: www.americancanoe.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: June 1, 2024

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition: N/A

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC anti- doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out- of-Competition Testing as required by the IPC, APC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

ACA Paracanoe Committee:

- Steve Kelly, Manager
- Debby Page, Chairman, ACA Paracanoe Committee
- Kenny Kasperbauer, Athlete Representative
- Kelly Allen, Athlete Representative

12. NGB/PSO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The NGB/PSO Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

- https://americancanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ACA-Bylaws-final-changes-accepted_2022_10_07.pdf
- https://americancanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Gov-013-grievance_rev_8_5_2022-v4.pdf

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC, as applicable, and/or ICF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, as applicable, and/or ICF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to the ACA. However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

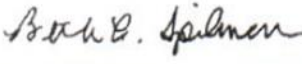
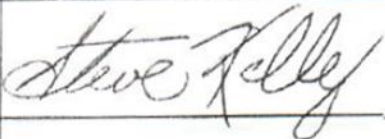

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the ICF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the

information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the American Canoe Association.

| Position | Print Name | Signature | Date |
|--|-------------------|--|-----------|
| ACA Executive Director | Beth Spilman |  | 2/20/2024 |
| Manager, High Performance and Competitions | Steve Kelly |  | 2/21/2024 |
| USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative* | Kenny Kasperbauer |  | 2/20/2024 |
| | | | |

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the ACA, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the ACA must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.