



American Canoe Association (ACA)  
P.O. Box 7996 | Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404  
Phone: +1.540.907.4460 | [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

**American Canoe Association (ACA)**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
for  
**2024 Olympic Hopes Regatta &**  
**2024-2025 National Development Team**

DRAFTED BY: Steve Kelly/ Shelley Oates-Wilding/ Joe Harper/ Alyson Mrozinski

Approval by : SPRINT COMPETITION COMMITTEE

DATE APPROVED: May 7, 2024

**Contents**

SELECTION PHILOSOPHY..... 2

SELECTION OBJECTIVES..... 3

SELECTION BENEFITS..... 4

SELECTION RESPONSIBILITIES ..... 4

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS ..... 4

SELECTION COMPETITION ..... 4

SELECTION PROCEDURE..... 5

REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES ..... 6

REMOVAL OF ATHLETES ..... 6

ACA SIGNATURES..... 7

## 1. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

1.1. The American Canoe Association (ACA) 2024 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.

### 1.2. OHR Selection Philosophy

Recognizing that the success of team boats extends beyond the sum of individual talents, this procedure is grounded in the principle that the identification and cultivation of team boat dynamics are crucial. Therefore, the selection process combines objective race performance analysis with the subjective, expert evaluation of coaches to identify the most promising team boat configurations.

### 1.3 Selection Criteria

1.3.1. Individual Paddler Performance: Initial consideration for team boat selection will be based on paddlers' performances in single (K1) events and any relevant team boat (K2, K4) races during the selection event. This quantitative data serves as the foundation for identifying potential team boat candidates.

1.3.2. Synergy and Compatibility: Recognizing the distinct skill set required for team boat success, coaches will assess potential team boat configurations for synergy—how well athletes' paddling styles, rhythms, and strengths complement each other. This assessment will be primarily visual and experiential, relying on the coaches' expertise and knowledge of the athletes.

### 1.4. Procedure

1.4.1. Pre-Trial Assessment: Prior to selection trials, coaches will review historical race data and performance metrics for all eligible paddlers. This review aims to identify a pool of candidates for team boat trials based on individual prowess and potential compatibility in team settings.

1.4.2. Selection Trials: During the trials, paddlers will compete in their individual events and in preliminary team boat combinations. These races provide a dual-purpose: validating individual performance metrics and offering an initial look at potential team dynamics.

1.4.3. Training Camps: Post-trials, selected paddlers will participate in targeted training camps where various team boat combinations will be extensively tested. These camps are designed to allow coaches to:

- Observe paddler synergy in a controlled, competitive environment.
- Experiment with different team configurations to identify the most effective combinations.

- Develop a deeper understanding of each paddler's ability to adapt to and enhance team boat performance.

1.4.4. Coach's Discretion: Throughout this process, coaches retain the discretion to adjust team boat configurations based on observed performances, synergy, and potential for improvement. Their decisions will be informed by both the empirical data collected during trials and camps, and their professional judgment regarding the intangible aspects of team performance.

The final team boat configurations and entries will be finalized before the start of the OHR Tour.

1.4.5. Final Selection: The culmination of this procedure is the selection of the team boats for the international competitions, which reflects both the rigorous analysis of performance data and the nuanced evaluation of team dynamics by the coaching staff.

## 1.5. Implementation and Review

1.5.1. Communication: The selection criteria, process, and rationale will be transparently communicated to all athletes and stakeholders to ensure clarity and understanding of the selection philosophy.

1.5.2. Feedback and Adaptation: Athletes will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the selection process, and the procedure will be reviewed annually to incorporate learnings and adapt to evolving best practices in the sport.

## Conclusion

This procedure is designed to harness the best of both empirical analysis and expert intuition in forming team boats that exemplify the pinnacle of synergy, skill, and competitive spirit. Through a meticulous and adaptive approach, ACA aims to foster an environment of excellence, teamwork, and international success.

## 2. SELECTION OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. Select the 2024 – 2025 OHR Team from out of our fastest Sprint paddlers born in 2007, 2008, and 2009.
- 2.2. Provide a vehicle where the top US athletes born in 2007, 2008, and 2009 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 2007, 2008, and 2009.

### 3. SELECTION BENEFITS

- 3.1. Selected athletes have the right to compete at the 2024 Olympic Hopes Regatta.
- 3.2. All eligibility and services are available to the selected athletes from the Trials until subsequent Trials are held for 2025, including invitations to National Development Camps and other possible international regattas.
- 3.3. 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.

### 4. SELECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

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

### 5. SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the OHR and CSP-NDT are covered by this selection.
- 5.2. There is no Citizenship requirement to compete on behalf of the United States at the OHR.
- 5.3. 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 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 5.4. A candidate athlete must be free to travel out of and back into the United States, into and out of the European Union and Hungary.
- 5.5. A candidate athlete must be in good standing as a Competition Level Member of the ACA.
- 5.6. A candidate athlete must complete all OHR registration and deposit requirements by April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 5.7. A selected athlete must make their final payment and complete required paperwork by August 10, 2024.

### 6. SELECTION COMPETITION

- 6.1. EVENTS: Ted Houk Memorial Regatta.
- 6.2. VENUE: Green Lake, Seattle, WA.
- 6.3. DATES: June 8– June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 6.4. The OHR Team will be nominated based on the results from the Ted Houk

competition. Only athletes registered with the ACA for OHR Selection by April 30<sup>th</sup> will be considered.

## 6.5. EVENTS

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

<b>MENS KAYAK</b>	<b>WOMEN KAYAK</b>	<b>MEN CANOE</b>	<b>WOMEN CANOE</b>
<b>K1 1000 / 500</b>	<b>K1 1000 / 500</b>	<b>C1 1000 / 500</b>	<b>C1 1000 / 500</b>
<b>K2 1000</b>	<b>K2 500</b>	<b>C2 1000</b>	<b>C2 500</b>

## 6.6. CANCELED RACES AND EVENTS

6.6.1. 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.

6.6.2. 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.

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

## 7. SELECTION PROCEDURE

### 7.1. SELECTION METHOD TO THE TEAM THROUGH K1/C1

#### 7.1.1. Top 2 fastest athletes

7.1.1.1. To determine the top 2 fastest Trials finishers, results will be computed independently for each 2007, 2008, and 2009 birth years.

7.1.1.2. Selection for the fastest two finishers for athletes born in 2007 will be based on results from Junior (U18) events.

7.1.1.3. Selection for the fastest two finishers for athletes born in each 2008 and 2009 will be based on results from Juvenile (U16) events.

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

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

7.1.1.6. The first and second fastest finishers in the K1/C1 500m events for each age will be nominated to the Team and given the right of first refusal to race the K1/C1 200m.

7.1.1.7. If one or both of the selected athletes declines their Team nomination, the nomination for the Team will go to the next ranked athlete in that event in that age division.

## 7.2. SELECTION IN TO THE K4/C4 TEAMBOAT POOL

7.2.1. All teamboats (K2/C2/K4/C4 200m/500m/1000m) will be comprised of athletes from the teamboat pool.

The exact entries for each athlete will be determined through coach discretion and written rationale approved by the High Performance Director and Sprint Committee. See section 1 for teamboat selection philosophy using the teamboat pool/ranking system.

7.2.2. The table below shows how athletes will be selected into the teamboat pool.

Note there will be a separate team boat pool for kayak and canoe athletes. For conciseness, the selection method to the team boat pool was combined into one table.

## 8. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

8.1. Any athlete needing replacement will be replaced by the next most eligible athlete based on the results of the Ted Houk Regatta.

8.2. Once the team travels to the venue, no replacement athletes will be made.

1& 2	K2/C2 winners (ranked in the order they finish in the singles 500m)
3	K1/C1 500m winner
4	K1/C1 500m second place
5	K1/C1 500m third place
6	K1/C1 500m fourth place
7+	The next ranked athletes in the K1/C1 500m may be selected to the boat pool up to a maximum of 8 athletes per discipline

## 9. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

9.1. The ACA has jurisdiction over nominees and Team members.

9.2. An athlete who is nominated to, and accepts membership in, the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons:

9.2.1. Voluntary withdrawal: An athlete who wishes to voluntarily withdraw from the Team must submit a written letter to the 2024 OHR Team Leader and [Skelly@americancanoe.org](mailto:Skelly@americancanoe.org)

9.2.2. 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.

9.2.3. 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.

9.2.3.1. The ACA Code of Conduct can be found at:

<https://americacanoe.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/07/Member-Code-of-Conduct-final-07252022.pdf>

9.2.3.2. 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://americacanoe.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/10/ACA-Bfinal-changes-accepted-2022-10-07.pdf>

Grievance Procedures

[https://americacanoe.org/community/aboutus/#tab\\_5](https://americacanoe.org/community/aboutus/#tab_5)

## 10. ACA SIGNATURES

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Alyson Mrozinski

ACA Sprint Competition Committee

Chairperson

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Beth Spilman

ACA Executive Director

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Steve Kelly

ACA Manager of Sprint & Paracanoe  
programs and events