

**American Canoe Association
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2023 Pan American Games
Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross
February 14, 2023**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

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

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

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

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

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) and/or Pan American Sport Organization (PASO) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or 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 Olympic Charter (Rule 41), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the PASO Statutes (Article XXII, Sections 4 and 5).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) standards for participation (if any):

The complete Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross Qualification System for the 2023 Pan American Games – Santiago 2023 can be found at:

<https://www.santiago2023.org/descargas/en/Canoe.pdf>

The following rules will govern any event associated with these athlete selection procedures:

ICF Rules:

<https://www.canoeicf.com/rules#slalom>

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a current Competition member of the American Canoe Association at the time of selection.
- 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](#).
- ACA Slalom Racing Rules (for team trials/domestic events): <https://www.americancanoe.org/page/Slalom> - scroll down to "Racing Rules"

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

- U.S. National Team Trials – Oklahoma City, OK – April 14-16, 2023.

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

This event is open to all current ACA members who meet the minimum eligibility requirements for consideration to be selected to the 2023 Pan American Games Team as mentioned in 1.1.

1.3. Step-by-step description of selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size).

- i. There will be 6 Slalom Canoeing events held at the 2023 Pan American Games – 4 Canoe Slalom and 2 Kayak Cross. The maximum number of quota places that can be allocated to a NOC is 6 which will be determined at the outcome of the 2023 Pan American Championships in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil April 28-30, 2023. The Pan American Qualification System Manual can be found here:

<https://www.santiago2023.org/descargas/en/Canoe.pdf>

- ii. The winners of the 4 Canoe Slalom Events: Men's Kayak, Men's Canoe, Women's Kayak, Women's Canoe, and the 2 Kayak Cross Events: Men's Kayak, Women's Kayak from the 2023 U.S. National Team Trials in Oklahoma City will

be nominated to the 2023 Pan American Games Team if the USA will have qualified a quota place for the corresponding event.

- iii. If the USA qualifies all available quota places, athletes will only have the opportunity to compete in one event.
- iv. An athlete can only acquire one (1) athlete quota place at any Pan American Qualification competition for their NOC regardless of how many places or boats that athlete tries to qualify.
- v. If an athlete wins more than one event (where the USA has earned a quota for the Pan American Games) at the 2023 U.S. National Team Trials, they must by April 17, 2023 elect which of those events they will compete in at the 2023 Pan American Games. The next highest ranked athlete from the U.S. National Team Trials in the event not chosen by the athlete who won multiple events will be nominated in the event not chosen provided a quota has been earned.
- vi. Should the USA not qualify all quota places for the 2023 Pan American Games, athletes that have been named to the 2023 Pan American Games team may have the opportunity to participate in an additional event where the USA competed at the 2023 Pan American Championships but has not qualified a quota place. In this case, the athlete ranked higher in the non-qualified event at the 2023 U.S. National Team Trials will have the opportunity to compete in this event first.
- vii. Once nominated to the Pan American team, athletes must accept or decline the nomination to the Pan American Games by April 16. If an athlete declines his/her nomination, replacements will be named in accordance with section 4 of these procedures.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

- 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):
N/A
- 2.2. Define the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):
N/A
- 2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:
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.

All members of the selection committee must comply with the NGB/PSO's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the NGB/PSO's ethics committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the NGB/PSO's ethics committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse him/herself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the NGB/PSO's ethics committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse him/herself from voting, the ethics committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to NGB/PSO's ethics committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the NGB/PSO selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

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

An athlete who is to be 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 CEO/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 disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the NGB's/HPMO's Code of Conduct.
https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.americancanoe.org/resource/resmgr/competition-documents/code_of_conduct/2023_aca_athlete_code_of_con.pdf
- 3.1.4. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the ACA's Bylaws, Article X, Section 2:
https://americancanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ACA-Bylaws-final-changes-accepted_2022_10_07.pdf and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.
- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/PSO 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.
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, 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 NGB/PSO's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. 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 be removed from the team for any reason, the next highest ranked eligible athlete in respective event from the 2023 U.S. National Team Trials will replace this athlete. If the next highest ranked athlete declines the nomination, the nomination will be given to the next highest ranked athlete until the nomination is accepted.

After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:
See 4.1.1

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 Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games and are included as attachments:

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 locations:

7.1. ACA Web site:

<https://americancanoe.org/competition/teams/olympic-paralympic/slalom/>

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

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

April 30, 2023

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 IOC, IPC, PASO, 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 IOC, IPC, PASO, 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:

Members of ACA Slalom Committee, Slalom Athlete Representative to ACA Board of Directors were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures.

ACA Slalom Committee members:

- Lee Leibfarth – Chair
- Adam Joseph – Vice-Chair
- Adam Van Grack – Immediate Past Chair
- Carlos Ifarraguerri - Member
- Angela Lokken - Member
- Tren Long (athlete representative)
- Tyler Westfall (athlete representative)
- Bert Hinkley - Member
- Casey Eichfeld (athlete representative)
- Zachary Lokken – Athlete Representative to ACA BoD
- Jedediah Hinkley – Slalom HP Director
- Rafal Smolen – Slalom National Team Coach

12. ACA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The ACA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

https://americancanoe.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/bod_documents/ACA-Bylaws-123122.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 IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or ICF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PASO, 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 ACA. However, the selections 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 will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

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:


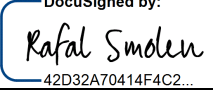
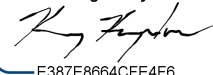
PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. ACA SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF 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 ACA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
ACA President or CEO/Executive Director	Beth Spilman	DocuSigned by:  5139578A79064AF...	March 29, 2023 8:12:15 AM
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Rafał Smoleń	DocuSigned by:  42D32A70414F4C2...	March 27, 2023 5:12:49 PM
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Kenny Kaspenbauer	DocuSigned by:  E387E8664CFE4F6...	March 27, 2023 9:42:16 PM

* 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 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.