

AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (ACA)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES for
2023 INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION (ICF) and
2023 PAN AMERICAN CANOE FEDERATION (COPAC)
PARACANOE INTERNATIONAL EVENTS (If scheduled)
NOT Paralympic Games or Para Pan American Games

January 28, 2023

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1 Minimum eligibility requirement for an athlete to be considered for selection to compete with or be a member of the team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athletes must be a national of the United States at the time of selection in Paralympic event (M/WKL 1, 2, 3 and M/W VL 2, 3) for the 2023 ICF World Championships.

Athletes must be either a national of the United States or permanent residents or holders of current United States work visas to compete in a non-Paralympic event (M/W VL 1) in the 2023 ICF World Championships, or to compete in any Paracanoe event in any international Paracanoe event other than the World Championships.

Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the World Championships or any later international competition.

Athletes must follow ICF procedures to change their sporting nationality if they have competed internationally in the last three years.
(https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/rules_paracanoe_2022.pdf)

1.1.2. Minimum ICF standards for participation:

Athlete must turn 15 years old or older during 2023.

Athlete must complete up to date Anti-Doping education prior to start of trials. <https://www.canoeicf.com/anti-doping-education>

Athlete must have a disability eligible for assignment to a Paracanoe Sport Class other than Sport Class Not Eligible.

Athlete must be previously internationally classified in Paracanoe or submit all classification documentation to DebSmithPage@gmail.com not later than March 21, 2023 to arrange for virtual or in person national classification to determine the are likely to classify in the sport class in which he/she would be qualified for the Team. E.g., an above knee amputee would qualify for VL3 and KL3, but a below knee amputee would only qualify for KL3.

1. [Paracanoe athletes diagnosis form](#)
2. [Paracanoe athletes certificate of diagnosis](#)
3. [Paracanoe athletes information and consent](#)
4. [Declaration of medical complications and emergency measures](#)
5. [Equipment passport \(season 2022\)](#)
6. [Strapping waiver](#)
7. [PFD waiver](#)

Link to ICF Paracanoe Classification rules:

8. [ICF Classification Rules and Regulations for Paracanoe](#)

1.1.3. Other ACA requirements:

Athlete must be an ACA Competition Member in good standing at the time of entry and throughout any training camps and competition.

Any athlete who will be 18 or older as of the date of departure from any domestic or foreign competition venue or training camp will be required to undergo a background screen with the current USOPC Background Check Policy and must remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.

[USOPC Background Check Policy.](#)

[USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.](#)

Required Safesport training: <https://americancanoe.org/new-safesport-training-platform/>

1.2. Tryout event:

1.2.1. The 2023 USA Paracanoe National Team Trials are scheduled on Lake Natoma, Folsom, California, April 13-15, 2023 concurrently with the 2023 USA

Canoe Sprint National Team Trials. Dates to be confirmed and Paracanoe race schedule to be specified after close of Sprint and Paracanoe entries. Entries must be submitted by midnight (EST) Mar 14, 2023 and all required tasks and training must be completed before the first day of trials.

1.2.2. Qualification is not required for the 2023 Paracanoe National Team Trials. Athletes will compete in one race in kayak and/or va`a to determine ranking in their sport class. Sports classes, disciplines, and genders may be combined, and lanes will be assigned to minimize interference among competitors in different classes while providing a competition environment. The top two competitors in each class are eligible to compete in the international events, but only those competitors that meet or exceed the 2023 time standard for each class will be named deemed elite athletes and Members of the 2023 USA Paracanoe National Team. Those who do not meet the qualifying time standard but place first or second will be Members of the 2023 USA Paracanoe Development Team. Time standards and background data are at: [2022 Paracanoe EAP information](#).

1.2.3. As athletes have at most two events in only the 200m distance and no teamboats, athletes may be given one or more extra opportunities to race on the course for experience and an official time, but not for rank order and selection to compete internationally.

1.2.4. 2023 Paracanoe National Team Trials results and official times in Paralympic events may be used to determine priority to receive National Team coaching, potential funding from USOPC/ACA, and other benefits that the USOPC/ACA may provide from time to time. Team membership and eligibility for funding and/or services apply to the athletes from the 2022 Paracanoe National Team Trials until these 2023 trials, and from these trials until ACA organizes subsequent Team Trials.

1.2.5. Force Majeure – Contingency Plan

If for some reason, the 2023 ACA Paracanoe National Team Trials are cancelled, the ACA will organize Paracanoe Qualifier competitions if necessary. The exact date and location of this event or events will be confirmed and communicated via email and the ACA website at least 30 days prior to the ICF Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe Championships. More than one event may be arranged to be most convenient for the athletes entered in the individual Paracanoe events. If there are no more than two entries in an event, both entries will be nominated to compete in the international events without trials

2. Discretionary Selection

2.1. Participation in the 2023 Paracanoe National Team Trials may be impossible or extremely difficult for several high potential athletes. If, for example, the athlete is committed to a training camp or competition in another Team USA Sport, or if transporting a suitable boat to Lake Natoma would be extraordinarily impractical and result in missed training opportunities before and after trials, or if taking off from work to attend trials makes it impossible for the athlete to get off work for international competitions, the ACA Executive Director, in consultation with the Paracanoe Program Manager and the Paracanoe Committee Chairman, will assess the validity of reasons for skipping the Paracanoe Selection Trials.

2.2. Discretionary criteria:

2.2.1. If 2022 Paracanoe National Team Members who placed in the A-Final or won the B-Final in their event at the 2022 ICF Paracanoe World Championships and achieved the 2023 Time Standard cannot compete at the trials in April 2023 for an accepted reason, they are selected by discretion to the 2023 USA Paracanoe National Team.

2.2.2. Failure to compete at trials and expecting to compete with the team at international events is highly discouraged and done at the athlete's own risk for not being eligible to compete internationally. If there are fewer than three entries, either or both entries will be permitted to compete at international events whether they compete at trials or not, and their National Team membership status will be determined by race times and results at international events or at the 2023 ACA Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe National Championships. In VL2 M, VL3 W, and KL3 M, only one additional athlete can be selected, unless the athlete who qualified by discretion through their performance at the 2022 ICF Paracanoe World Championships and declines one or more international competitions, in which case two other athletes can be entered by the ACA.

2.2.3. To reserve their spot to compete with the team, ALL athletes must register by Mar 14, 2023, even if they do not plan to race at trials. Unfunded athletes must pay estimated costs by the international event organizer's deadline. Withdrawal after the organizer's deadlines may result in forfeiture of payment.

2.3. The Committee responsible for making discretionary selections will be the Paracanoe Selection Committee, made up of the incumbent holders of the following positions:

ACA Executive Director, Beth Spillman.

Paracanoe and Sprint Canoe Program Manager, Steve Kelly

An Elite Paracanoe or Sprint Athlete not involved in the event under consideration

2.3.1. Process to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee: Potential conflicts include coaching or close interpersonal relationships with the athletes under consideration. Any member of the selection committee that has a conflict of interest must disclose it and recuse him/herself from committee discussions and the selection process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance 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 the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3.REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. Events covered by these selection criteria are not Delegation events (i.e., Paralympic Games) overseen by the USOPC. The ACA may remove athletes nominated to the team for any of the following reasons:

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the ACA Executive Director (bspilman@americancanoe.org).

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. 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. [ACA Athlete Code of Conduct](#)

3.2. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, Panam Sports, IPC, WADA, ICF, 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 the ACA's SafeSport policies, as applicable.

3.3. 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, Para E) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

See the ACA Athlete Resources Page for this and other information:

<https://americancanoe.org/competition/membership/resources/>

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

4.1. Process for selection and approval for determining replacement athletes should a vacancy occur:

4.1.1. Any athlete already on the team and eligible to race (i.e., classified in the event) in an additional event will be given the right of first refusal. Any athletes who competed in the trials and were not named to the USA National or Development Team will be nominated and approved by the Selection Committee following verification they have continued preparing for competition. If no entries remain, any otherwise eligible athlete may apply to be a replacement by presenting their case, verified by a coach, to the Selection Committee prior to the close of nominal entries and necessary arrangements, such as boat rental.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

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 closing of the last international event.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

ACA Athlete Code of Conduct. [ACA Athlete Code of Conduct](#)

ACA Athlete Agreement (to be provided and signed at the time National Paracanoe Team membership is accepted).

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The ACA approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the ACA in the following locations not more than 5 days after signing:

ACA Web site (<https://americancanoe.org>)

ACA Paracanoe Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/ACAParacanoe>)

ACA Sprint Coaches Facebook Page

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1510729782357017>)

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes will be announced to all athletes within 48 hours of completing of the selection regatta. Replacements or additions will be announced if and when they are named.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

There are no mandatory training sessions.

Mandatory Competition:

ICF Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe World Championships

Duisburg, Germany

Aug 23-27, 2023

Optional Competitions:

ICF Paracanoe World Cup

Szeged, Hungary

May 11-14, 2023

ACA National Championships

Nathan Benderson Park

Sarasota, FL

Date TBD

Paris World Cup

ICF Paracanoe World Cup

Vaire sur Marne, France (2024 Paralympic Paracanoe venue)

Aug 30-Sep 1, 2023

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, WADA, 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, Panam Sports, WADA, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable. All athletes must have completed anti-doping education required by the ICF by April 13, 2023.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

Incumbents of the following positions were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Chairman, ACA Paracanoe Committee Chairman
Paracanoe Program Manager
Paracanoe Athlete Rep, ACA Paracanoe Committee

Deborah Page
Steve Kelly
Blake Haxton

12. ACA BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The ACA Bylaws and grievance procedures can be found at:

[Final Bylaws](#)

<https://americancanoe.org/competition/membership/resources/>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, 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, Panam Sports, 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, selections are always subject to the unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

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 the ACA.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:



PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the International Canoe Federation 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 ACA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
ACA President or CEO/Executive Director	Beth Spillman		2/6/2023
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Steve Kelly		
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Kenny Kasperbauer		February 5th, 2023

* 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 NGB/PSO, 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 NGB/PSO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

TIME STANDARDS: See [2022 Paracanoe EAP information](#)

Event	Podium Avg	Adjustment %	2022 125%	2023 120%	
MKL1	0:48.298	119.16%	1:00.358	0:57.944	
MKL2	0:42.788	105.54%	0:53.457	0:51.319	
MKL3	0:40.540	100.00%	0:50.651	0:48.625	
MVL1			1:26.425	1:22.968	NEW
MVL2	0:54.776	135.13%	1:08.445	1:05.707	
MVL3	0:50.060	123.46%	1:02.532	1:00.031	
WKL1	0:56.679	139.82%	1:10.819	1:07.986	
WKL2	0:52.138	128.60%	1:05.137	1:02.531	
WKL3	0:50.570	124.79%	1:03.209	1:00.680	
WVL1			1:52.825	1:48.312	NEW
WVL2	1:01.165	150.82%	1:16.392	1:13.337	
WVL3.	1:06.799.	164.86%	1:23.499	1:20.159	