

USA Wildwater Senior Team Selection Procedures

Revised October 11, 2023

Part 1 - Bids and Scheduling

1. Bids for USA Wildwater Senior Team Trials should normally be submitted to the USA Wildwater Committee for consideration at least six months in advance of the proposed date of competition.
2. Team trials may occur in the Fall (September, October, or November) of the year prior to World competitions. For example, team trials for the 2020 USA Wildwater Senior Team may take place in the fall of 2019. In any case, team trials must take place far enough in advance of international competition so that the proper registration can be performed.

Part 2 - Eligibility

1. ACA Requirements - All athletes competing for a spot on the USA Wildwater team must:
 - a. Be current **ACA Competition Individual** members with a **Competition License** endorsement, in good standing, and valid for at least 30 days beyond Senior Worlds, or the last scheduled competition for the USA Senior Team in the calendar year.
 - b. Have submitted a signed Athlete Code of Conduct
 - c. Have completed the SafeSport training modules (athletes 18+ only)
 - d. Anti-Doping Training - <https://adel.wada-ama.org/learn>. Please register as an international athlete and complete the required training modules.
 - e. Declare, either at or within two days of team trials, (with parent/guardian signature for minors) their commitment to international travel to, and competition at, specific ICF World events.
2. Eligibility Years - An individual may qualify for the USA Wildwater senior team starting in the year of her or his 15th birthday.

Part 3 - General Procedures

1. The Wildwater Committee shall nominate a member of the Wildwater Committee to be present at team trials and be responsible for the following:
 - a. Describe the selection procedures at the pre-race meeting and address any clarifying questions.

- b. Collect the names and contact information of those athletes who are competing for a team spot (this should be part of the registration process) and the specific international competitions they are seeking to qualify for.
 - c. Conduct competency assessments for any athletes not assessed prior to team trials. (Any competency assessments conducted at team trials will be submitted to the wildwater committee for their consideration.)
 - d. Observe the competitions to ensure that they are conducted according to the competition rules and report all exceptions to the Wildwater Committee.
 - e. Have immediate, one-to-one conversations with athletes who haven't met the criteria.
2. In order to qualify, an athlete must meet the performance criteria based on their percentage off of the winning boat at team trials, as further described in Appendix A of this document.
3. Results from team trials events will be submitted to the USA Wildwater Committee. It will be the responsibility of the committee to officially select the members of the USA Wildwater Senior team following consideration of those results.
4. Bye Process - Athletes may request to be selected to the USA Wildwater Team without attending team trials. Qualifying athletes who attended team trials will be preferentially selected. Selection via a "Bye" would only be used by the committee to fill vacancies on the team following team trials. In order to be eligible for selection to the team via a Bye, an athlete must:
 1. Provide a verifiable reason for not attending team trials. Satisfactory reasons: medical emergency, injury, family emergency, mandatory school or work event. This must be documented and submitted with the bye application.
 2. Have qualified for the USA Wildwater Team within the three calendar years prior to the date of the petition. If this is not applicable, the athlete must provide a written statement of why they feel they are prepared to compete internationally.
 3. Apply in writing (see Bye Request Document) to the USA Wildwater Committee for a Bye no later than one month after team trials. Bye requests should be submitted to the Chair of the Wildwater Committee.
 4. State a reason for the request.
 5. Provide verifiable performance results to demonstrate fitness and preparation for international competition.
 6. Provide a detailed training history for the past 3 months and a description of the training plan that will be followed leading up to international competition.

7. Byes that were awarded for the 2021 season do not count towards the maximum of three times any one athlete can be granted byes over the course of his/her competitive career.
 8. If an athlete is selected for the team and later must withdraw, the athlete must notify the USA Wildwater Committee as soon as possible.
 9. Submission of a Bye request by a minor must be signed by a parent/guardian, and conveys an automatic commitment to international travel and competition if selected to the team.
5. The other means that an Athlete may be selected to the USA Wildwater team is in the case of open berths on the Team that the USA Wildwater Committee desires to fill with qualified racers.
- a) The Wildwater Committee will publicly announce the intention to try and fill the open berths.
 - b) Qualified athletes must apply to the Wildwater Committee in writing via the bye process listed above.
6. Selection of a Masters team for Masters World Championships will also occur. Masters athletes will be selected from competitors over 35 years of age (those who will turn 36 during the calendar year). Masters athletes must attend team trials and must be able to finish the team trials course within 125% of the winning boat in their class. Should a Masters athlete not be able to attend Team Trails, they must follow the bye process in Part 3, Section 4 above and submit verifiable results which prove that they are capable of finishing within 125% of the winner of their class and can safely complete on the river that the Masters Worlds will be held.
7. Selection decisions will be made by majority vote of the committee members. Committee members who are seeking to qualify for the Senior or Masters Teams must recuse themselves when their selection is voted on.
8. In cases where an international competition course is deemed to be very difficult, the Wildwater Committee may require that athletes prove their ability to safely compete in the particular event as part of the qualification process. This would include requiring that athletes demonstrate competency on a course comparable to the level anticipated at the World Cups or World Championships for the selection year. This could be results from a known course, video from similar sized water, or direct demonstration. An example of this is the additional (separate) documentation that was required for athletes competing in the 2020 Cheat Canyon World Cups.

9. Foreign Athletes - Foreign athletes are welcome to attend USA Wildwater team trials but will not be included in the results for the purposes of team selection. Performance criteria percentages will be based off of the fastest USA boat.

Part 4 - Specific Procedures for when the World Championships are Sprints Only

1. A total of up to 4 athletes may be selected for each class.
2. Team Trials will consist of two Sprint events and one Classic event.
3. Both Sprint events will be determined by the better of two runs on each of the Sprint courses, and the Classic event determined by one run on the Classic course.
4. Qualifying athletes will be ranked based on their best finish in the two sprint events.
5. Ties will be broken using the sum of % off of the leader in the two Sprint times. In the unlikely event that the combined % results in a tie, the results of the Classic will be the tie breaker.

Part 5 - Specific Procedures for World Championships with Sprints and Classic Races

1. World Championships - A total of up to 4 athletes may be selected for each class.
2. Team Trials will consist of a two heat Sprint event and a Classic event. When possible, they will be on venues of appropriate difficulty to match with the upcoming world events.
3. The selection criteria will be:
 - Winner of the Classic
 - Winner of the Sprint Event (based on the best time of two Sprints heats)
 - In the event that the winner of Classic is also the winner of the Sprint, the following will apply to assure that the fastest racers are chosen and it does not matter whether the Classic or the Sprints are held first:
 - For purposes of Team selection: the athlete that wins both will be assigned as the winner of the event that they win by the largest margin. The second place athlete that finishes closest to the winner of the Sprint or the Classic (in terms of percentage) will be chosen as the winner of that event, and the athlete that won both events will be assigned as the winner of the event that they won by the largest margin.
 - Example: Cam wins both the Classic and the Sprint events in K1M. Cam beats Chris the second place Classic finisher by 1%; and Cam beats Geoff the second place finisher in the Sprint by 2 %. For purposes of team selection, Cam would be deemed the winner of the Sprint and Chris would be deemed the winner of the Classic. Geoff would be eligible for team selection by combined percentages as outlined below.
 - The remaining two places on the team will be filled based on the best combined percentages from their best Sprint and the Classic – i.e. the individuals with the closest values to a cumulative percentage total of 200% when Classic and Sprint results are added together will be selected.

Part 6 - Specific Procedures for World Cups

- A total of up to 6 athletes may be selected for each class (assuming they meet the other qualifications)
- The selection criteria will be the same as the World Championships with Sprint and Classic races (Part 5 above).
- The additional two athletes will be chosen based on the best combined percentages from their best Sprint and the Classic.

Appendix A
Minimum Percentage at Team Trials to Qualify for the USA Wildwater Team

In addition to eligibility based on their finish within their class, each racer must also finish within a specific percentage of the ***overall winning boat at Team Trials (normally a K-1)***. ***This applies for all classes.*** Racers must normally finish within the percentages listed below. The Wildwater Committee may elect to increase the percentages across the board if conditions at Trials are judged to exclude qualified athletes who would otherwise have made the cutoff.

Category	<u>Classic</u>	<u>Sprint</u>
K-1	18%	23%
K-1 W	28%	33%
C-2	28%	33%
C-2W	38%	43%
C-1	33%	38%
C-1W	43%	48%