ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
for
2026 ICF Slalom and Kayak Cross World Championships,
2026 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Championships,
2026 ICF Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Cups,
and
to become a member of USA Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross National Teams.

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

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1 GLOSSARY & ABBREVIATIONS

Discipline	A discipline is a branch of a sport comprising one (1) or several events (e.g., Canoe Slalom, Kayak Cross Canoe Slalom).
Boat	A boat is the watercraft used to practice canoeing (e.g., canoe or kayak): • A single boat: a boat with only one (1) place for an athlete (e.g., kayak single);
Age group	e.g., Junior (Jr), Under 23 (U23), Seniors, Masters depending on each discipline
Category	A category is defined by a boat and a gender (e.g., Men Kayak, Mixed Canoe).
Class	A class is defined by a category and the number of places in a boat (e.g., men kayak single; mixed canoe double).
Event	An event is a contest in one (1) discipline resulting in the award of medals. An event is defined by at least a class and depending on the competition and the discipline with the additional optional information: an age group (e.g., Junior men's kayak, Under 23 women's kayak single).
Type of event	• Individual events: A boat comprised of one (1) or more athletes competing against other boats. • Team events: three (3) boats competing together against other teams.
Event Phase	A stage of competition (e.g., heats, semi-final, final).
Run	The basic unit of an event phase (e.g., heats 1st run, semi-final, final).
Competition program	The list of events included in a competition.
Competition schedule	The complete list of events and their different phases with the time at which they shall be held.
ICF	International Canoe Federation
ACA	American Canoe Association (USA National Governance Body for the sports of Canoe & Kayak)
NGB	National Governing Body
CSL	Canoe Slalom
CSLX	Kayak Cross
WCH	World Championships
WCS	World Cup Series
Team Selections	USA National Team Selections
USA CSL Team / the U.S. CSL Team	USA Canoe Slalom Team
USA CSLX Team / The U.S. CSLX Team	USA Kayak Cross Canoe Slalom Team
USA Jr CSL Team / the U.S. Jr CSL Team	USA Junior Canoe Slalom Team

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

USA U23 CSL Team / the U.S. U23 CSL Team	USA U23 Canoe Slalom Team
USA Senior CSL Team / the U.S. Senior CSL Team	USA Senior Canoe Slalom Team
USA Jr CSLX Team / the U.S. Jr CSLX Team	USA Junior Kayak Cross Canoe Slalom Team
USA U23 CSLX Team / the U.S. U23 CSLX Team	USA U23 Kayak Cross Canoe Slalom Team
USA Senior CSLX Team / the U.S. Senior CSLX Team	USA Senior Kayak Cross Canoe Slalom Team
ICF Jr & U23 CSL WCH	ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships
DSQ-R	Disqualification for the run
DNS	Did not start
DNF	Did not finish

2 ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for eligibility for USA Canoe Slalom National Team or USA Kayak Cross Canoe Slalom National Team, athletes must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

Eligibility for the 2026 USA CSL Team Selections and 2026 USA CSLX Team Selections shall be governed by the current International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Slalom Competition Rules and the ACA Canoe Slalom Competition Rules, Article 3:

- ICF Canoe Slalom Competition Rules: 2026 Slalom Competition Rules
- ACA Canoe Slalom Competition Rules: 2026 ACA Slalom Competition Rules

2.1 Citizenship

Citizenship is not a requirement of eligibility to compete on behalf of the United States in CSL and CSLX events during:

- the 2025/26 ICF Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross Ranking Races,
- the 2026 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Championships,
- the 2026 ICF Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Cups
- the 2026 ICF Slalom and Kayak Cross World Championships

However, athletes must meet ICF eligibility rules for competition. These rules are outlined in the ICF Slalom Competition Rules, Section 1.3 – Athlete Eligibility for ICF Competition.

2.2 Other requirements

- Athletes must be members in good standing with ACA at the time of the start of the Team Selections and during all national and international competitions, including being current with SafeSport Requirements.

- Only athletes meeting eligibility requirements will be included in finish placement, percentage calculations, and points awarded for 2026 USA Team Selections.
    - International athletes competing in the events who do not meet eligibility requirements to compete for the USA will not be included.

2.2.1 Age requirements for Junior and U23 events

- Only athletes born in years 2008 to 2011 can qualify for the 2026 USA Junior CSL and CSLX Teams.
- Only athletes born in years 2003 to 2011 can qualify for the 2026 USA U23 CSL and CSLX Teams.

3 TEAM SELECTIONS

Via the procedures set forth herein, athletes will qualify for the 2026 USA CSL and CSLX Teams and the right to compete on behalf of the United States at:

- the 2026 ICF Slalom and Kayak Cross World Championships,
- the 2026 ICF Junior & U23 Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Championships,
- the 2026 ICF Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Cup Series

3.1 Junior & U23 CSL and CSLX Team Selections

Junior & U23 CSL and CSLX Team Selections shall be held at Montgomery Whitewater 1100 Maxwell Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36104 concurrently with the 2026 ICF Canoe Slalom World Ranking Competition, March 13-15, 2026.

3.2 Senior CSL and CSLX Team Selections

Senior CSL & CSLX Team Selections shall be held concurrently with the 2026 ICF Ranking Races and will consist of competitions at:

- Competition #1: 2026 ICF Ranking Race- 1100 Maxwell Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36104 on March 13-15, 2026, and
- Competition #2: 2026 ICF Ranking Race - RIVERSPORT - 2800 Riversport Dr., Oklahoma City, OK 73129 on March 27-29, 2026.

3.3 Events offered

A total of six events shall be offered at the Team Selections and results shall be computed independently for each of these six events. These events are:

- Men’s Kayak (MK1)
- Woman’s Kayak (WK1)
- Men’s Canoe (MC1)
- Women’s Canoe (WC1)
- Men’s Kayak Cross (MCSLX)
- Women’s Kayak Cross (WCSLX)

4 METHOD OF CONDUCTING TEAM SELECTIONS – COMPETITION FORMAT

4.1 Competition Rules

- The Team Selections shall be governed according to the rules outlined in links in Section 2.

4.2 Junior & U23 CLS Team Selection

Junior & U23 CSL Team Selections shall be used to nominate athletes to USA Junior & U23 CSL Team positions.

- Competition shall be comprised of four separate runs on two different courses:
  - Two runs on Course 1
  - Two runs on Course 2
- Junior & U23 CSL Team selection shall be based on a minimum of 2 out of a total of 4 runs at the Team Selections unless an exception is triggered due to Force Majeure. Force Majeure may cause runs to be canceled, and an alternate selection method, as outlined in Section 6, shall be implemented.

4.2.1 Runs Counted:

- The athlete's best run of each day of the Team Selections shall be used towards calculating athlete's overall ranking.

4.3 Senior CSL Team Selections

Senior CSL Team Selections shall be used to nominate athletes to USA Senior CSL Team positions. Each day will consist of one race on a unique course, with two runs each day.

- Competition 1 shall be comprised of four separate runs on two different courses:
  - Two runs on Course 1
  - Two runs on Course 2
- Competition 2 shall be comprised of two separate runs on the same course:
- Senior CSL Team selection shall be based on four runs, unless an exception is triggered due to Force Majeure. Force Majeure may cause runs to be canceled, and an alternate selection method, as outlined in Section 6, shall be implemented.

4.3.1 Runs Counted:

- The athlete's best run of each day of Team Selections plus the best run from the remaining three shall be used towards calculating athlete's overall ranking.

4.4 Jr & U23 CSLX Team Selections

The Junior & U23 CSLX Team Selections competition shall be used to nominate athletes to USA Junior & U23 CSLX Team positions.

- The competition shall be structured in two phases.
  - The first phase of competition is the Individual race, followed by the Head-to-Head race.
  - Points from the Individual finish by ranking (not time) will be added to the points from the Head-to-Head finish.

4.5 Senior CSLX Team Selections

The Senior CSLX Team Selections competition shall be used to nominate athletes to the Senior CSLX Team positions using the events referenced in section 3.2.

- The competition shall be structured in two phases.
  - The first phase of competition is the Individual race, followed by the Head-to-Head race.
  - Points from the best Individual finish by ranking (not time) from the two races will be added to the points from the best Head-to-Head finish from the two races.
    - In the event of a tie between two athletes, the athlete with the lower Individual time at Competition 2, ICF Ranking Race March 27-29, will be used.

4.5.1 The Individual Race

The Individual race shall be held to rank athletes for the first phase of the CLSX competition using the point system below.

- CSLX Individual shall be used to award points as follows:

1	100
2	92
3	85
4	79
5	73
6	67
7	62
8	57
9	53
10	49
11	45
12	41
13	38
14	35
15	32
16	30
17	28
18	26
19	24
20	22
21	20
22	19
23	18
24	17
25	16
26	15
27	14
28	13
29	12
30	11
31	10
32	9

4.5.2 The Head-to-Head Phase of the CSLX Competition

CSLX Head-to-Head phase of the competition shall be used to award points using the same point allocation as above. Ranking will be determined by ICF Rules and can be found starting on page 92 of this document.
https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/2025_canoe_slalom_competition_rules_final.pdf

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

Bracket example A

32 boats qualify from the Qualification Phase

Heats

HEAT 1 (H1)	Bib n°	Color
1st in Qualification	1	R
16th in Qualification	16	G
17th in Qualification	17	B
32nd in Qualification	32	Y

HEAT 2 (H2)	Bib n°	Color
8th in Qualification	8	R
9th in Qualification	9	G
24th in Qualification	24	B
25th in Qualification	25	Y

HEAT 3 (H3)	Bib n°	Color
5th in Qualification	5	R
12nd in Qualification	12	G
21st in Qualification	21	B
28th in Qualification	28	Y

HEAT 4 (H4)	Bib n°	Color
4th in Qualification	4	R
13th in Qualification	13	G
20th in Qualification	20	B
29th in Qualification	29	Y

HEAT 5 (H5)	Bib n°	Color
3rd in Qualification	3	R
14th in Qualification	14	G
19th in Qualification	19	B
30th in Qualification	30	Y

HEAT 6 (H6)	Bib n°	Color
6th in Qualification	6	R
11th in Qualification	11	G
22nd in Qualification	22	B
27th in Qualification	27	Y

HEAT 7 (H7)	Bib n°	Color
7th in Qualification	7	R
10th in Qualification	10	G
23rd in Qualification	23	B
26th in Qualification	26	Y

HEAT 8 (H8)	Bib n°	Color
2nd in Qualification	2	R
15th in Qualification	15	G
18th in Qualification	18	B
31st in Qualification	31	Y

Quarterfinals

Quaterfinal 1 (QF1)	Bib n°	Color
1st in H1 or H2	lowest bib	R
1st in H1 or H2	highest bib	G
2nd in H1 or H2	lowest bib	B
2nd in H1 or H2	highest bib	Y

Quaterfinal 2 (QF2)	Bib n°	Color
1st in H3 or H4	lowest bib	R
1st in H3 or H4	highest bib	G
2nd in H3 or H4	lowest bib	B
2nd in H3 or H4	highest bib	Y

Quaterfinal 3 (QF3)	Bib n°	Color
1st in H5 or H6	lowest bib	R
1st in H5 or H6	highest bib	G
2nd in H5 or H6	lowest bib	B
2nd in H5 or H6	highest bib	Y

Quaterfinal 4 (QF4)	Bib n°	Color
1st in H7 or H8	lowest bib	R
1st in H7 or H8	highest bib	G
2nd in H7 or H8	lowest bib	B
2nd in H7 or H8	highest bib	Y

Semifinals

Semifinal 1 (SF1)	Bib n°	Color
1st in QF1 or QF2	lowest bib	R
1st in QF1 or QF2	highest bib	G
2nd in QF1 or QF2	lowest bib	B
2nd in QF1 or QF2	highest bib	Y

Semifinal 2 (SF2)	Bib n°	Color
1st in QF3 or QF4	lowest bib	R
1st in QF3 or QF4	highest bib	G
2nd in QF3 or QF4	lowest bib	B
2nd in QF3 or QF4	highest bib	Y

Final

Final (F)	Bib n°	Color
1st in SF1 or SF2	lowest bib	R
1st in SF1 or SF2	highest bib	G
2nd in SF1 or SF2	lowest bib	B
2nd in SF1 or SF2	highest bib	Y

Table 1: Bracket table for the fastest 16 athletes that have progressed to the quarterfinals after the Individual phase.

Further bracket examples for smaller field sizes can be found at on [pages 24 – 28 of the ICF Slalom Rules]

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

5 METHOD OF SCORING AND RANKING THE CANOE SLALOM TEAM SELECTIONS RESULTS

5.1 Calculation of Athlete Percentage for Each Run

At the Team Selections, athletes earn a total score based on the ICF rules of Canoe Slalom as shown in Equation 1:

Equation 1: Calculation of Athlete Score of Each Run

$$\text{Athlete Score} = \text{Time of the Run in seconds} + \text{Penalty seconds}$$

Following the completion of each race, athlete percentage for each race run shall be computed off of the leading score from that day in that particular event. For the sake of clarity, the leading score in an event is the lowest score in that event as computed from up to two runs on the same course as shown in Equation 2:

Equation 2: Calculation of the Leading Score in an event

$$\text{Leading Score} = \min(\text{Lowest Score Run 1}, \text{Lowest Score Run 2})$$

Athlete Percentage is computed as shown in Equation 3:

Equation 3: Calculation of Athlete Percentage of Each Run

$$\text{Athlete Percentage} = \frac{\text{Athlete Score} * 100}{\text{Leading Score}} - 100$$

Example:

Athlete A has the leading score of the day with 95.70 sec on the second run. Athlete B's time on her first run is 97.21 sec and on her second run is 96.53 sec. Therefore, Athlete B's percentage for the first run is computed as follows:

Equation 4: Example Calculation of Athlete B Percentage of Run 1 in an Event

$$\text{Run1: Athlete B Percentage} = \frac{97.21 * 100}{95.70} - 100 = 1.58\%$$

Furthermore, Athlete B's percentage for the second run is computed as follows:

Equation 5: Example Calculation of Athlete B Percentage of Run 2 in an Event

$$\text{Run 2: Athlete B Percentage} = \frac{96.53 * 100}{95.70} - 100 = 0.87\%$$

5.2 Scoring of Results

First, an athlete's counted runs (defined in Sections 4.2.1 and 4.3.1) are scored according to Equation 3 to compute his/her Athlete Percentage of each run completed during the Team Selections. Then, the athlete's Team Selections Percentage (TSP) is calculated by summing the athlete's Athlete Percentages from runs counted and dividing the result by the number of runs counted as shown in Equation 6:

Equation 6: The Athlete Average Team Selections Percentage (ATSP)

$$\sum^{\text{Runs counted}} (\text{Athlete Percentage})_n$$

Example:

A Senior athlete competed in an event in the Team Selections during Competition 1 and 2. The athlete earned the following Athlete Percentage for each of the four runs computed by the algorithm in Equation 3:

	Day	Run	Athlete Percentage (%)	Ranked Athlete's Percentages
Comp. #1	1	1	1.57	~~2~~
	1	2	0.97	1
	2	1	1.85	~~2~~
	2	2	0.00	1
Comp. #2	1	1	5.43	~~2~~
	1	2	0.45	1

Table 3: Example Athlete Percentage

This athlete's best Athlete Percentages from each day of the Competition 1 and Competition 2 are selected. In this instance, Athlete Percentages from Day 1: Run 2 and Day 2: Run 2 and are highlighted in yellow. The athlete's best Athlete Percentage from the remaining three runs is then selected. In this instance, Athlete Percentage from Day 1: Run 1 is the best remaining and is highlighted in red. The four Athletes Percentages are summed divided by the number of runs counted to compute the athlete's Team Selection Percentage (ATSP).

Equation 8: Example U23/Senior Athlete Team Selections Percentage

$$\text{Competition 1 and 2: TSP} = \frac{0.00\% + 0.97\% + 0.45\% + 1.57\%}{4} = 0.75\%$$

5.3 Ranking of Results

The ranking of results is completed by placing the athlete with the lowest Team Selections Percentage in the highest ranked position. The athlete with the second lowest TSP is placed in the next position. This process continues until all of the eligible athletes have been ranked in each event.

Example:
Three athletes in the same event during the Team Selections earn the following Team Selections Percentage:

Athlete	Team Selections Percentage (TSP)	Ranking
A	1.22%	2nd
B	0.61%	1st
C	1.97%	3rd

Table 4: Example ranking of the athletes based on the Athlete Average Team Selections Percentage

Ranking of the Team Selections Percentage results for these three athletes results in:

- the first (1st) place for Athlete B,
- the second (2nd) place for Athlete A, and
- the third (3rd) place for Athlete C.

6 FORCE MAJEURE – CANCELED RUNS OR RACE-DAYS

In the event that the Chief Judge determines that a run or a race-day is canceled, the USA CSL and CSLX Team Selections process shall be modified as described in this Section 6.

6.1 Junior & U23 Team Selections

- If the second run on the first day of the U.S. Junior & U23 CSL Team selection is canceled and two runs are completed on the second day of the selection, then the best two runs out of the three runs completed will be counted.
- If the second run on the second day of the U.S. Junior & U23 CSL Team selection is canceled and two runs are completed on the first day of the selection, then the best two runs out of the three runs completed will be counted.
- If the first run on the first day of the selection is canceled and the first run on the second day of the selection is canceled, then only the best run out of the two will be counted.
- If one race-day (both runs) is canceled, then only the best run out of the two will be counted.
- If fewer than two (2) runs are conducted, the second alternate race-day to complete the remaining runs shall be proposed by the Chief Judge, in consultation with representatives of the LOC and ACA. This second alternate race-day shall be held as soon as possible, preferably during the next scheduled Team Trial competition, i.e., the Team Selections Competition 2.

6.2 Senior CSL Team Selections – Competition 1

- If the second run on the first day of the U.S. Senior CSL Team selection is canceled and two runs are completed on the second day of the selection, then the first run of the first day shall count for the selection, and the best run from the second day shall count for the selection.
- If the second run on the second day of the U.S. Senior CSL Team selection is canceled and two runs are completed on the first day of the selection, then the only run of the second

day shall count for the selection, and the best run from the first day shall count for the selection.

- If the first run on the first day of the selection is canceled and the first run on the second day of the selection is canceled, then the best run of each day shall count for the U.S.Senior CSL Team selection.
- If one race-day (both runs) is canceled, both runs on the one day that is completed will count.
- If fewer than two (2) runs are conducted, the second alternate race-day to complete the remaining runs shall be proposed by the Chief Judge, in consultation with representatives of the LOC and ACA. This second alternate race-day shall be held as soon as possible, preferably during the next scheduled Team Trial competition, i.e., the Team Selections Competition 2.

6.3 Senior CSL Team Selections – Competition 2

- If the first run of Senior CSL Team selection is canceled then only run two shall count for selection.
- If the second run of Senior CSL Team Selection is canceled then only the first run shall count for the selection.
- If one race-day (both runs) is canceled, then the best three runs from Competition 1 will count.

6.4 Worst Case

6.4.1 Junior & U23 CSL Team Selection

- If fewer than two (2) runs are conducted at the Team Selections, and no runs were successfully completed during the second alternate day, then the final result shall be determined based on the singular run conducted during the Team Selections Competition.
- If no runs are completed at the Junior Team Selections Competition, then ACA representative in consultation with the Chief Judge and a representative of the LOC shall determine the date and location of the alternate scheduled Team Selections. The alternate scheduled Team Selections shall be organized using the method of conducting the Team Selections described in this document.

6.4.2 Senior CSL Team Selection

- If fewer than two (2) runs are conducted at the Team Selections Competition 1, and Competition 1 was not successfully completed during the second alternate day, the results of the Competition 1 shall be determined based on the singular run conducted during the Team Selections Competition 1.
- If fewer than two (2) runs are conducted at the Team Selections Competition 2, and Competition 2 was not successfully completed during the alternate day, the results of the Competition 2 shall be determined based on the singular run conducted during the Team Selections Competition 2.
- If no runs are completed at the Team Selections Competition 1 and 2, then ACA representative in consultation with the Chief Judge and a representative of the LOC shall determine the date and location of the alternate scheduled Team Selections. The

alternate scheduled Team Selections shall be organized using the method of conducting the Team Selections described in this document, i.e., the same method shall apply to Junior, U23 and Senior categories.

6.5 Jr, U23, and Senior CSLX Team Selections

- If a Kayak Cross event is not completed due to the cancellation any of the runs, the Chief Judge can establish the final results of the competition based on the last completed phase of the event (e.g., Individual, Quarterfinal Heats or Semi-final Heats).

6.5.1 Force Majeure – CSLX Fall Back

- If no Individual runs are completed at the Team Selections Competition 1 or 2, then ACA representative in consultation with the Chief Judge and a representative of the LOC shall determine the date and location of the alternate scheduled Team Selections. The alternative scheduled Team Selections shall be organized using the method of conducting the Team Selections described in Sections 4.

7 EVENT ORDER

7.1 CSL Events

All canoe slalom events shall be run back-to-back with both genders of the same class competing on the same day. The duration of a pause between the events shall be at least twenty (20) minutes; although, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) could elect to schedule an extended break to serve its commercial needs. The LOC will communicate a complete competition schedule to athletes and officials before or on March 10, 2026.

7.2 CSLX Events

Following the completion of the 2026 CSL Team Selections, two CSLX events shall be held in the following order: MCSLX and WCSLX. The pause between the completion of the CSL events and the start of the CSLX events shall be a minimum of sixty (60) minutes.

8 START INTERVAL

Athletes shall be started at intervals established and announced before or March 10, 2026. The interval shall be consistent for the entire event.

- A minimum time of thirty (30) minutes between each run must be provided. This should ideally be achieved by adjusting the interval between events and not by changing the start order of the affected athletes.
- As per ICF Competition Rules, any boat may petition the Chief Judge to allow additional time between themselves and another boat beyond the scheduled time.

9 ATHLETES SEEDING

Athletes with the highest-ranking shall start last within their respective events. The Team Selections start order for each event shall be determined by the ranking from the final 2025 ICF CSL

World Ranking. If the athlete is not ranked in the 2025 ICF CSL World Ranking, they shall be randomly seeded.

10 RESULTS

The Athlete Percentage and the Team Selection Percentage shall be calculated without rounding with minimum accuracy of one thousandth of a percentage point. However, all results should be displayed and printed with the accuracy of one hundredth of a percentage point. Rounding of the results for the purpose of display and printing shall be calculated to the nearest integer number, where any number smaller than 0.005 rounds to 0.00, and any number equal or larger than 0.005 rounds to 0.01.

10.1 Tied Results

If there is a tie after the completion of the Team Selections, then the athlete with the lowest Athlete Percentage of his/her counted runs at the Team Selections shall be the winner.

11 THE COURSE

11.1 Course Design

Each course shall be designed by a 2-3 member Course Designer Team nominated by the Canoe Slalom Committee and must adhere to current International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Slalom Competition Rules. The local organizing committee (LOC) will publish, in consultation with ACA, a list of two-member Course Designer Teams before March 1, 2026.

11.2 Demonstration Runs

After the CSL course is erected with all gates in position, a demonstration run must be made by at least one non-competitor. Demonstration runs should be conducted, if possible, to include all boat types: WC1, MC1, WK1, MK1. No demonstration runs shall be made for the Kayak Cross events.

11.3 Course Approval

The race shall not commence until the Chief Judge has approved the course. The course shall be approved per ACA and ICF CSL Competition Rules for the Canoe Slalom events, and per ACA and ICF CSLX Competition Rules for the Kayak Cross events. Reference Section 2.2 for more information.

12 APPLICABILITY OF RESULTS

The results of the 2026 USA CSL and CSLX Team Selections shall be used to determine the athlete's eligibility to:

- Become members of the 2026 National Teams,
- Participate in international competitions listed in Section 3,
- Receive the USOPC/ACA athlete funding, (senior team athletes only) and
- Obtain other benefits provided by the USOPC and ACA.

All types of eligibility and benefits mentioned above apply to qualified athletes from the completion of the 2026 Team Selections until the conclusion of the 2027 Team Selections. USOPC benefits

apply only to Olympic events. Athletes give up their rights to these benefits by not accepting their National Team(s) nominations.

13 SELECTION OF ATHLETES TO THE CANOE SLALOM AND KAYAK CROSS NATIONAL TEAM

The Standard Event Limit calculated using the Event Adjusted Baseline (EAB) is the method chosen by ACA to determine performance standards for each event and to select members of the 2026 Senior & U23 Canoe Slalom National Teams

13.1 Available Places on the CSL & CSLX National Team

- Up to three boats in each event can qualify to become members of the National A Team.
- An additional two boats will be eligible for the Senior National B Team

13.2 Purpose

The purpose of naming the National Teams is to identify top-performing athletes that have the potential to be internationally successful and to raise the level of national competitions. Being a member of the National Team is an honor and privilege earned by an athlete's hard work and effort towards being the best in the world. A member of the National Team has rights that extend beyond those privileges allocated to other athletes, even those athletes who are selected to represent the United States in international competition but do not meet the quality standards necessary to become a member of the National Team.

13.3 Terminology and Methodology

13.3.1 Definition of the ICF Event Factor (EF) and the Event Adjusted Baseline (EAB)

- The Team Selections Event Adjusted Baseline is computed based on the assumption that on any given race day during the Team Selections, one of the athletes, in one of the events, will have a run at an international standard. The Best Run of the day is identified by adjusting each of the event's results by the expected difference between the events.
- ACA has adopted a methodology where the expected difference between the events is calculated based on the results from the ICF Canoe Slalom World Cups Series and the ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships and Olympic Games conducted during the two years before the Team Selections. For the 2026 Team Selections, ACA uses results from the 2024 and 2025 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cups, the 2024 Olympic Games, and the 2025 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships to compute the 2026 ICF Event Factors. These EFs in percentages are shown in Table 5.

Event	ICF Event Factor (%)
MK1	100.00
WK1	112.00
MC1	106.59
WC1	120.43

Table 5: The 2026 ICF Event Factors (EF)

13.3.2 Computation of the Event Adjusted Baseline is illustrated in Table 6:

Step 0: The Best Score of the day in each event is recorded in the Column 1, and the ICF Event Factors are recorded in the Column 2.

Step 1: The Best Score of the day in each event is divided by an appropriate ICF Event Factor (EF) for a given event and results are recorded in the Column 3.

Step 2: The lowest result after *Step 1* calculation is selected (this might be in any event) and recorded in the Column 4. The lowest result is called the Best Standard.

Step 3: The Event Adjusted Baseline for each event is determined by multiplying the Best Standard by an appropriate ICF Event Factor, and results are recorded in Column 5.

2026	Column 1 Race Results	Column 2 EF Table	Column 3 Step 1	Column 4 Step 2	Column 5 Step 3
Event	Best Score of the day (sec)	ICF Event Factor	Calculation Per Event (sec)	The Best Standard (sec)	Event Adjusted Baseline (sec)
MK1	93.45	100.00%	93.45	90.51	90.51
WK1	101.37	112.00%	90.51	90.51	101.37
MC1	101.50	106.59%	95.22	90.51	96.47
WC1	114.05	120.43%	94.70	90.51	109.00

Table 6: Example Calculation of the Event Adjusted Baseline in seconds

13.3.3 Quality Standard, the Standard Event Limit, and Athlete Event Adjusted Result

An appropriate Quality Standard and the Standard Event Limit ensure that only those athletes that have the potential to be internationally successful are nominated to the CSL and National Teams. There will be no Quality Standard for the 2026 USA Junior National Team. The Quality Standard for USA U23 National Team is 20%. The quality standard for the Senior A Team is 12% and within the top three finishers in the event. The Quality standard for the senior B Team is 18% and within the top 5 finishers in the event.

Equation 11 illustrates how the Standard Event Limit is calculated for WK1 event in Table 6 from the Event Adjusted Baseline (EAB) and the Quality Standard chosen by ACA:

Equation 11: The Standard Event Limit – Step 4

$$\text{Standard Event Limit} = \frac{\text{EAB} * (100\% + \text{Quality Standard})}{100\%}$$

$$\text{Standard Event Limit WK1} = \frac{101.37 * (100\% + 12\%)}{100\%} = 113.53\ sec$$

Therefore, only those athletes that achieve during the Team Selection an Athlete Event Adjusted Result that is scored below the Standard Event Limit could become members of USA CSL Senior National A Team in that event.

Using Equation 11, Table 6 can be extended (*Step 4*) to include the Standard Event Limits, as shown in Table 7.

2026	Column 1 Race Results	Column 2 EF Table	Column 3 Step 1	Column 4 Step 2	Column 5 Step 3	Column 6 Step 4
Event	Best Score of the day (sec)	ICF Event Factor	Calculation Per Event (sec)	The Best Standard (sec)	Event Adjusted Baseline (sec)	12% Standard Event Limit (sec)
MK1	93.45	100.00%	93.45	90.51	90.51	101.37
WK1	101.37	112.00%	90.51	90.51	101.37	113.53
MC1	101.50	106.59%	95.22	90.51	96.47	108.05
WC1	114.05	120.43%	94.70	90.51	109.00	122.08

Table 7: Example Calculation of the 12% Standard Event Limits in seconds

13.4 Allocation of the CSL & CSLX National Team Places

There are two ways (Methods) by which an athlete can be named to the 2026 USA Canoe Slalom & Kayak Cross National Team.

13.4.1 Method 1

- 2026 USA Junior CSL & CSLX National Team
  - An athlete must finish the Team Selections with the result that is in the top three in their class
- 2026 USA U23 CSL National Team
  - An athlete must finish the Team Selections with the result that is in the top three and less than 20% off of the Event Adjusted Baseline, i.e., with the result that is smaller than the Standard Event Limit. Only Junior and U23 athletes' results are used to compute the Standard Event Limit for the 2026 USA U23 CSL National Team selection.
- 2026 USA U23 CSLX National Team
  - An athlete must finish the Team Selections with the result that is in the top three and an Individual time that is less than 12% off of the fast time in the Individual event at Team Selections.
- 2026 USA Senior CSL National Team
  - **A Team:** An athlete must finish the Team Selections with the result that is in the top three and less than 12% off of the Event Adjusted Baseline, i.e., with the result that is smaller

than the Standard Event Limit. All of the athletes' results are used to compute the Standard Event Limit for the 2026 USA Senior CSL National Team selection.
    - **B Team:** An athlete must finish the Team Selections with the result that is in the top five and less than 18% off of Event Adjusted Baseline.
- 2026 USA Senior CSLX National Team
    - **A Team:** An athlete must finish the Team Selections with the result that is in the top three and an Individual time that is less than 8% off of the fast time in the Individual event at Competition 2 of Team Selections at RIVERSPORT.
    - **B Team:** An athlete must finish the Team Selections with the result that is in the top three and an Individual time that is less than 10% off of the fast time in the Individual event at Competition 2 of Team Selections at RIVERSPORT.

13.4.2 Method 2

- 2026 USA U23 CSL & CSLX Team
    - If an athlete finishes in the top three at the U23 Team Selections and exceeds the Standard Event Limit for CSL or CSLX, this athlete can be named a member of the USA U23 National Team if he/she qualifies to the semi-finals at the 2026 ICF U23 CSL WCH or quarter-finals in CSLX.
- 2026 USA Senior CSL & CSLX Team
    - If an athlete finishes in the top three at the Senior Team Selections and exceeds the Standard Event Limit for CSL or CSLX A Team nomination, this athlete can be named a member of the U.S. Senior National A Team if he/she finishes in the top 30 at any of the 2026 ICF CSL WCH or WCS competitions, or top 32 in 2026 ICF CSLX WCH or WCS competitions.

14 SELECTION OF ATHLETES FOR THE 2026 ICF CSL & CSLX WCS and WCH

The procedures in this section describe how an athlete is selected to compete in all 2026 2026 ICF Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Cup Series and World Championships.

14.1 Available Places

The maximum number of event entries that have been allocated to the USA Team by the ICF for the 2026 ICF CSL WCS, WCH, and JR & U23 CSL competitions are as follows:

- MK1 3 Places
- WK1 3 Places
- MC1 3 Places
- WC1 3 Places
- MCSLX 3 Places
- WCSLX 3 Places

14.2 Allocation of Team Places

14.2.1 2026 ICF CSL & CSLX WCS and WCH Events

The places available are allocated to the top three performing athletes in each event from the 2026 U.S. CSL Team Selections.

14.3 Replacement of Ineligible Athletes

If after the conclusion of the 2026 Team Selections any boat fails to prove ICF eligibility for World Cup or World Championship participation, that boat is ineligible to compete and shall be replaced on the Team by the next highest National Team athlete (A or B) from the 2026 U.S. CSL and CSLX Team Selections.

14.4 Deadline to Declare Intention to Compete

Athletes must confirm their intention to participate in the ICF CSL and CSLX World Cups 1, 2 and 3 and World Championships during the 2026 USA CSL Team processing on March 30th, 2026. The deadline for confirmation for the ICF CSL and CSLX World Cups 4 and 5 is July 1, 2026.
The schedule for the 2026 ICF CSL WCS and WCH Events is as follows:

- World Cup 1 (May 29 – May 31, 2026) Tacen Slovenia
- World Cup 2 (June 5 – 7, 2026) Prague, Czech Republic
- World Cup 3 (June 12 - 14, 2026) Augsburg, Germany
- World Championships (July 19-25) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- World Cup 4 (September 4 – 7, 2026) Paris, France
- World Cup 5/Final (September 11 – 15, 2026) La Seu, Spain

This schedule is subject to change. Updates to this list are provided at:
canoeicf.com/event-calendar

14.5 Failure to Confirm

If a boat fails to confirm participation during USA National Team processing on March 30, 2026, a replacement boat shall be nominated according to the rules set forth in Section 20 – Replacement of Athletes.

14.6 Nomination to Compete for Athletes Who Did Not Compete in the 2026 Team Selections due to injury, illness or pregnancy.

In the event an Athlete has a long-term injury or illness (which prevents the Athlete from being able to train and/or compete for eight (8) or more consecutive weeks) or is pregnant during the National Team selection period and as a result has not met National Team criteria, they may request to be considered for the National Team by emailing ACA High Performance leadership. An Athlete requesting special consideration per this provision will be subject to “Discretionary Consideration” associated with the National Team. Discretionary consideration will be based on a variety of factors to ensure that ACA is investing in the most qualified athletes with the greatest potential. ACA High Performance will consider factors such as Athlete's competition results inside and outside of the selection period, data analytics, pre-injury or illness performance trajectory as well as medical analysis that suggests that full recovery is possible and is capable of achieving National Team Program objectives. Athletes may be encouraged to submit a medical description of the injury or illness, anticipated rehabilitation time, and estimated return to full and uninterrupted training and competition by their treating physician.

15 SELECTION OF ATHLETES FOR THE 2027 CANOE SLALOM AND KAYAK CROSS NATIONAL TEAM

- Due to the proposed Olympic Qualification System, any athlete ranked in the top 15 of the Olympic Qualification Rankings at the completion of the 2026 WCS will be automatically qualified for the 2027 Senior National Team A Team.

16 SELECTION OF ATHLETES FOR THE 2026 ICF JR & U23 CSL & CSLX WCH

This section describes how athletes are selected to compete at the 2026 ICF Jr & U23 Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross World Championships in Krakow, Poland from July 8 – 13, 2026.

- MK1 3 Places
- WK1 3 Places
- MC1 3 Places
- WC1 3 Places
- MCSLX 3 Places
- WCSLX 3 Places

16.1 Allocation of Team Places

16.1.1 The 2026 ICF Jr & U23 CSL & CSLX WCH

The places available are allocated to the top three performing athletes in each event from the 2026 USA Jr & U23 CSL WCH Team Selections.

16.2 Replacement of Ineligible Athletes

If after the conclusion of the 2026 Team Selections any Junior or U23 boat fails to prove ICF eligibility for the ICF Jr or U23 CSL or CSLX WCH participation, that boat is ineligible to compete and shall be replaced on the U.S. Jr or U23 WCH Team by the next highest eligible ranked boat from the 2026 Team Selections.

16.3 Deadline for Junior and U23 Athletes to Declare Intention to Compete

Deadline for confirming participation at the 2026 ICF Jr & U23 CSL & CSLX WCH is one week after the posting of the final results on the final day of the 2026 Junior Team Selections. The intention must be sent via email to ACA Competition Director.

16.4 Travel and Lodging during the 2026 ICF Jr & U23 CSL & CSLX WCH

Eligible boats must declare their intention to travel and lodge with the U.S. Team at the 2026 ICF Jr & U23 CSL & CSLX WCH in Krakow, Poland, before or during the 2026 National Team processing on March 30, 2026. All athletes must make a deposit to cover estimated expenses by June 1, 2026. These expenses will include lodging, transportation, coaching fees, ITO fees, and accreditation fees.

17 MISSED COMPETITIONS

If an athlete confirms his/her participation in any event at any 2026/25 ICF sanctioned CSL or CSLX competition and later pulls out without a documented medical or family emergency, and thus

prevents another athlete from participating, that athlete will have their name dropped to the bottom of the priority list of all eligible athletes until the following Team Selections.

17.1 Deadline for Confirmation

Athletes must confirm their intention to participate in any ICF or other International Competition at least 30 days in advance of the competition, unless posted otherwise in this document.

18 OVERSIGHT OF SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process is overseen by the below members of the ACA, the ACA Canoe Slalom Committee, and the Canoe Slalom Athlete Representative to the ACA Board of Directors:

- ACA Competition Director
- Canoe Slalom National Team Coach
- ACA Canoe Slalom Committee Chair
- Sprint Athlete Representative to the ACA Board of Directors

The oversight of selection is to ensure that a proper process has been followed. Additionally, any question as to the interpretation of the selection process shall be determined by the selection process oversight individuals as described herein. If it appears that the selection method has not been followed, the committee will bring the complaint forward to the ACA Grievance Committee to determine a reasonable solution for correcting any wrongdoings.

19 DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

No athletes shall be selected to the 2026 U.S. CSL and CSLX Team through discretionary selection. All athletes will earn nominations to the ICF sanctioned competitions during the 2026 USA CSL & CSLX Team Selections, or through the replacement process outlined in Sections 20, with the exception of an athlete that is unable to compete in Team Selections due to injury as outlined in section 14.6.

20 REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

An athlete who is nominated to the 2026 US CSL or CSLX Team by ACA may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the ACA Staff:

- Voluntary withdrawal: Athlete must submit a voluntary withdrawal via email to the ACA Competition Director.
- Injury or illness as certified by ACA or USOPC approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved ACA physician (or medical staff), his/her injury shall be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- Violation of the ACA Code of Conduct or violation of the Athlete's Agreement.
- Violation of the ACA SafeSport Policy.

- Violation of the IOC, WADA, ICF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as applicable. In such instances, the adjudication process shall be managed through USADA.

An athlete who is removed from the 2026 U.S. CSL or CSLX Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing, as per the ACA's grievance process (see Section 30 for reference).

21 REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

21.1 Selection

The replacement athlete shall be selected through the 2026 Team Selections, taking the next ranked athlete by rank order. These athletes shall be considered the U.S. National Team Members if they meet all criteria as outlined in Section 13.4.

21.2 Performance Standard

An athlete must meet ACA defined Quality Standard (Standard Event Limit calculated using EAB) specified in Section 13.4.1 in order to be a replacement athlete for the 2026 ICF WCS or WCH competitions. In the case that there are no athletes meeting this performance standard, the available spots will not be filled.

22 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The documents required to be signed by each athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2026 USA CSL and CSLX Teams and to compete at National and International competitions shall be posted on the ACA website.

- ACA Code of Conduction
- ACA Athlete Agreement (for Senior Team athletes only)

23 PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

The approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) shall be published on the ACA website hTSPs://americancanoe.org/competition/teams/olympic-paralympic/slalom/ by January 1, 2026.

24 ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

25 SAFESPORT REQUIREMENTS

All National Team members must adhere to the ACA SafeSport Policy. All athletes (18 years and older) traveling to sanctioned national and international competitions must adhere to the ACA's SafeSport

Policy and complete the core online training modules at:
https://uscenterforsafesport.myabsorb.com/#/public-dashboard

OPTIONAL: minor athletes (17 and younger) have the option to complete age- appropriate minor athlete training at: https://uscenterforsafesport.myabsorb.com/#/public-dashboard

26 ACA GOVERNANCE AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

ACA Bylaws: https://americancanoe.org/community/about-us/2021-bylaws-revision/
Slalom Information: https://americancanoe.org/competition/teams/olympic-paralympic/slalom/
Grievance Procedures: https://americancanoe.org/grievance-process/

27 INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, 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, as applicable, and/or ICF rules and regulations shall be distributed to affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to ACA, as of January 1, 2026. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

28 ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete, and those questions are not answered by ACA, may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at athlete.ombudsman@USOPC.org
- teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman

29 SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the Athlete Selection Procedures set by ACA Slalom Committee. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by ACA.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
ACA Executive Director (NGB)	Beth Spilman	Beth Spilman	1/22/2026
ACA Competition Director	Jedediah Hinkley	Jed Hinkley	1/26/2026
Sprint Athlete Representative on ACA Board	Jonas Ecker	Jonas Ecker	1/26/2026