

American Canoe Association
PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2027 Pan American Games
Canoe Slalom

July 29, 2026

To provide information in a timely manner, the American Canoe Association (ACA) is releasing this Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2027 Pan American Games (Games). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2027 Pan American Games Athlete Selection Procedures for Canoe Slalom. Additional communication will be released by the ACA once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been approved by the USOPC.

A. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must comply with all Pan American Canoe eligibility requirements which will be posted here: https://www.panamsports.org/en/documents/?doc_category=games
- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- The age at which a competitor can compete is the year in which they turn 15. That is, athletes born in 2012 or earlier.
- Athletes must adhere to all ACA, USOPC, USADA, WADA, and Panam Sports anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.
- Athletes must comply with the [USOPC Background Check Policy](#) and [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

B. 2027 Pan American Games Qualification Overview:

At the conclusion of the 2026 Pan American Canoe Slalom Championships, quotas for athletes will be awarded based on the rankings of the top three (3) eligible athletes from each National Olympic Committee (NOC). 2027 Pan American Games quotas will be assigned to the respective NOC, not to the athlete who earned the quota at the 2026 Pan American Championships.

The Pan American Games qualification guide is anticipated to be posted here:

https://www.panamsports.org/en/documents/?doc_category=games

C. Anticipated Evaluation Events:

Athletes being considered for nomination to the 2027 Pan American Games may be evaluated on their performance at the events listed below.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 Pan American Canoe Slalom Championships (Tie Breaker)	31 July - 2 August 2026 (Kananaskis River, Alberta, Canada)
2027 ACA National Team Trials	Anticipated Spring 2027 (TBD)

2026 Pan American Canoe Slalom Championships:

A National Olympic Committee may enter an unlimited number of athletes in the 2026 Pan American Championships. However, athletes must meet the Pan American Canoe and [International Canoe Federation](#) eligibility requirements to be entered into this competition.

- If more than three (3) athletes are entered in an event, the top three (3) from the 2026 ACA National Team Trials will be designated as those eligible to earn quotas.

2027 ACA National Team Trials:

ACA National Team Trials is an open-entry event for all athletes who meet [International Canoe Federation](#) eligibility requirements.

Nomination to the 2027 Pan American Games Team:

The winner in each event at the 2027 ACA National Team Trials will be nominated to the 2027 Pan American Games Team until all Slalom and Kayak Cross quota is fulfilled.

- If an athlete wins more than one event (where the USA has earned a quota for the Pan American Games) at the 2027 ACA National Team Trials, and the [Pan American Games qualification guide](#) does not permit the athlete to compete in multiple events, the athlete must select which event they will compete in at the 2027 Pan American Games.
 - The athlete must select their event no later than two weeks after the 2027 ACA National Team Trials via email to jhinkley@americancanoe.org.
 - The event that was not selected by the athlete will be filled by the next highest-placing athlete in the event from the 2027 ACA U.S. National Team Trials provided a quota has been earned.
- If two or more athletes are tied after the 2027 ACA US National Team Trials, the athlete that placed higher at the 2026 Pan American Championships will be nominated to the 2027 Pan American Games Team. A Did Not Finish (DNF) or Disqualification (DSQ) will not be counted as a result at the 2026 Pan American Championship for the purpose of a tie breaker.
- If neither of the tied athletes received a result at the 2026 Pan American Championship, the athlete with the better result in the prioritized event at the 2027 ACA National Team Trials will be

nominated to the team. The Slalom Committee will designate the prioritized event a minimum of two weeks prior to the 2027 ACA U.S. National Team Trials and post on the American Canoe Website.

D. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on Pan American Canoe and Panam Sports rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2027 Pan American Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2027 Pan American Games. Once approved, the Athlete Selection Procedures for Canoe Slalom will be posted at <https://americancanoe.org/competition/teams/olympic-paralympic/slalom/>

For questions about the 2027 Pan American Games selection process, please contact Jedediah Hinkley, Competition Director, at jhinkley@americancanoe.org.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
ACA Slalom Competition Director	Jedediah Hinkley		7/29/2026
ACA 10 Year Athlete Representative	Jonas Ecker		7/30/2026