

American Canoe Association

Slalom and Kayak Cross

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2028 Olympic Games

March 11, 2026

Revised July 16, 2026

TO: Members of American Canoe Association

FROM: American Canoe Association

RE: Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games

To provide information in a timely manner, the American Canoe Association is releasing this **revised** Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games (Games). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2028 Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released by American Canoe Association (ACA) once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been approved by the USOPC.

I. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must comply with all International Canoe Federation (IF) eligibility requirements posted [here](#) (see Qualification).
- 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.
- Athletes must adhere to all ACA, USADA, USOPC, WADA, IF and International Olympic Committee (IOC) 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](#).

II. International Canoe Federation Qualification System Overview:

- The maximum Team size can be three (3) men and three (3) women; however final Team size will depend on earned IF quota. IF quotas are awarded by quota places to National Olympic Committee (NOC).
- The IF Qualification System can be found here (see Qualification):
<https://www.olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/los-angeles-2028-olympic-games>

III. Anticipated Evaluation Events:

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the 2028 Olympic Games will be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events, which include D1. Phase 1, D2. Phase 2, and D3. Phase 3 events from the [Canoe Slalom Qualification System](#), as well as Olympic Team Trials. Please note that Evaluation Event dates and locations may change and will be updated once confirmed.

EVENT NAME (Phase A)	DATE/LOCATION
2026 World Championship	July 20-25, 2026, Oklahoma City, OK
2026 Slalom & Kayak Cross World Cup #4	September 4-6, 2026 - Paris, France
2026 Slalom & Kayak Cross World Cup #5	September 11-13, 2026 – La Seu, Spain
2027 Slalom & Kayak Cross World Cup #1	June 4 -6, 2027 – Prague, Czech Republic
2027 Slalom & Kayak Cross World Cup #2	June 11 -13, 2027 – Augsburg, Germany
2027 Slalom & Kayak Cross World Cup #3	August 13 – 15, 2027 – Lee Valley, England
2027 Slalom & Kayak Cross World Cup #4	August 20 – 22, 2027 – Pau, France
2027 Slalom & Kayak Cross World Cup #5	September 30 – October 3, 2027 – Montgomery, AL
2027 World Championship	September 7-12, 2027 – La Seu, Spain
EVENT NAME (Phases B-E)	DATE/LOCATION
2028 Olympic Team Trials (required) (Phases B & C)	TBD
2028 Continental Qualification Competition (Phase D)	TBD
2028 Global Qualification Competition (Phase E)	TBD

Once selection procedures for the competitions listed above are complete, they will be posted on the [American Canoe Association Slalom & Kayak Cross Page](#).

IV. Anticipated Team Nomination Process:

US Olympic Team nomination will be separated into two steps across five Phases (A-E).

Step 1:

Initial Olympic Team nominations will be calculated at the conclusion of the two 2028 USA Olympic Canoe Slalom Team Trials competitions (Phases B & C) where points will be accumulated from Phases A-C. The athletes with the highest number of points from Phases A-C will be nominated to the 2028 Olympic Team for quotas earned through Phase A. (See Step 2 for phases D-E).

Phase A: 2028 ICF Olympic Qualification Rankings (5 out of 9 designated international races)

Earn Olympic Phase 1 quota	5 points
MK1 and WK1: placing 1st–6th in Olympic Qualification Ranking of D1. Phase 1 MX and WX: placing 1st–3rd in Olympic Qualification Ranking of D1. Phase 1 MC1 and WC1: placing 1st–10th in Olympic Qualification Ranking of D1. Phase 1	4 points

**Athletes cannot combine points in Phase A. They will earn either 5 or 4 points based on the criteria outlined in the above table.*

**The athlete's final ranking at the conclusion of the Final Ranking event, the World Cup in Montgomery, AL, will be used to calculate points for Phase A.*

Phase B: 2028 USA Olympic Canoe Slalom Team Trials – Competition 1

1 st place	3 points
2 nd place	2 points
3 rd place	1 point
4 th place and lower place	0 points

Phase C: 2028 USA Olympic Canoe Slalom Team Trials – Competition 2

1 st place	3 points
2 nd place	2 points
3 rd place	1 point
4 th place and lower place	0 points

The final ranking of athletes for the Olympic selections will be determined by the points each athlete accumulates through Phases A-C. An athlete with highest number of points will be nominated.

Step 1 Tiebreaker Criteria:

If two or more athletes have accumulated the same number of points from Phases A-C:

1. The athlete with the highest number of [ICF Olympic Qualification Ranking points](#) will be nominated.
2. If a tie still exists, the athlete with the higher placing finish in Phase C will be nominated.

Step 2:

Phases D-E include Olympic quota races where earned quota places will be allocated to the NOC. Additional information will be outlined in the full Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games including:

1. How athletes will be selected to participate in these competitions; and
2. How athletes will be nominated to the Games if quota places are earned at these competitions.

V. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the IF rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2028 Olympic 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 ACA Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games. Once complete, the approved Athlete Selection Procedures will be posted at [American Canoe Association Slalom & Kayak Cross Page](#).

For questions about the 2028 Olympic Games selection process, please contact Jed Hinkley, Competition Director, jhinkley@americancanoe.org.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
ACA High Performance Director	Jedediah Hinkley		8/15/26
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Jonas Ecker		8/12/2026