



AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (ACA)  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2020 TOKYO PARALYMPIC GAMES  
PARACANOE  
2/5/2020  
**AMENDED 12/16/2020**  
**AMENDED 6/8/2021**

Following the IPC’s announcement that the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games have been rescheduled to take place August 24- September 5, 2021, this notice, and the changes contained in this document, serve as the American Canoe Association’s amended Athlete Selection Procedures. Reference given to the “2020” Paralympic Games and related areas such as the Paralympic selection process, Paralympic qualification system, Paralympic Team, and Paralympic Trails will stay consistent through these procedures. The ACA utilized best efforts to keep the general process outlined in these selection procedures intact as much as possible, however, there has been unavoidable, necessary changes. Specifically, upcoming dates/deadlines referenced in red within these selection procedures. The IPC has confirmed that all quota places already assigned for the Tokyo 2020 Games will remain unchanged.

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire until after 6 March ~~2021~~ **2022** (six months after the conclusion of the Games).

1.1.2. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Paralympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee

(NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the Panam Sports Constitution (Article 30.5-6).

1.1.3. Minimum International Canoe Federation (ICF) standards for participation (if any):

Competitors must reach their 15th birthday by ~~31-December-2020~~ December 31, 2021.

Competitors must have competed at the 2019 ICF Paracanoe World Championships and/or the ~~2020~~ 2021 ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 Championships.

Competitors must be internationally classified with a sport class status either “Confirmed” or “Review with fixed date” after ~~31-December-2020~~ December 31, 2021.

Athletes must complete ICF online anti-doping education:

<http://www.canoeicf.com/pure-paddling-performance>.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- ~~• Athletes must have a valid Competition individual ACA membership and be in good financial standing with the ACA.~~
- Athletes must be a member in good standing with ACA at the time of registration for the ACA Paracanoe Paralympic Team Trials (in 2021).
- Register and compete at the ~~2020~~ ACA Paracanoe Paralympic Team Trials (in 2021) if applicable.
- Pay all unfunded expenses for the ~~2020~~ 2021 ICF Paracanoe World Championships and Cup 1 (Paralympic Qualifier).
  - Withdrawal from these competitions may result in forfeiture of all or part of the participation fees according to host organizers’ deadlines.
- Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Athletes age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy prior to competing in any National or International competition in 2021.

- Athletes who will be age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony must complete the U.S. Center for Safesport’s online training prior to competing in any National or International competition in 2021. ~~the 2020 ACA Paracanoe Team Trials and complete any additional or updated training as required by U.S. Center for Safesport when required.~~

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

~~The 2020 ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Championship Trials will be held at the Lake Lanier Olympic Venue, Gainesville, GA, 16-19 April 2020.~~

~~The 2020 ICF Paracanoe World Championships, Duisburg, Germany, 21-24 May 2020.~~

If needed, the ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Cup 1 Trials (in 2021), Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota, Florida, March 19-21, 2021 (the Trials).

Force Majeure – the contingency plan for the ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Cup 1 Trials (in 2021):

- If, for some reason, the ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Cup 1 Trials (in 2021) are cancelled, the ACA will organize the 2021 ACA Paracanoe Qualifier competition. The exact date and location of this event will be confirmed and communicated via email and the website, at least, 30 days prior to the event date.
- The ACA will take the highest degree of care to document a fair race and outcome at the 2021 ACA Paracanoe Qualifier competition, including race video, more than one observer, and if possible, officiated and sanctioned competition.

The 2021 ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 (Paralympic Qualifier), Szeged, Hungary, May 12-16, 2021.

If needed, the ACA Paracanoe Last Chance Qualifier – a “race-off” competition. The exact date and location of this event will be confirmed and communicated via email and the website, at least, 30 days prior to the event date.

- In case, the ICF allocates quota to the U.S. within 15-30 days prior to the Games entry date, the ACA will organize the ACA Paracanoe Last Chance Qualifier as a “race-off” competition and the exact date and location of this event will be confirmed and communicated via email

and the website, at least, two weeks prior to the event date. The ACA will take the highest degree of care to document a fair race and outcome at the ACA Paracanoe Last Chance Qualifier – a “race-off” competition, including race video, more than one observer, and if possible, officiated and sanctioned competition.

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

The ~~2020 ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Championship Trials~~ the ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Cup 1 Trials (in 2021) are open to all ACA members who register and meet the eligibility requirements in Section 1.1.

Athletes must register for the ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Cup 1 Trials (in 2021) with an email to the ACA GM, High-Performance Programs [rsribar@americancanoe.com](mailto:rsribar@americancanoe.com) by COB on January 15, 2021. Please use the email subject title: “[Registration: ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Cup 1 Trials \(in 2021\)](#)”. Due to the global pandemic, the ACA only organizes trials in events for which three or more athletes register by January 15, 2021.

- Athletes competing in events in which fewer than three eligible athletes register by January 15, 2021, automatically qualify to compete in the 2021 ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 (Paralympic Qualifier).

The ~~2020~~ 2021 ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 (Paralympic Qualifier) ~~World Championship~~ team will be determined by the results of ~~the 2020 ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Championship Trials~~ (the Trials).

- The maximum ~~2020 2021~~ ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 ~~Championship~~ team size is six (6) men and six (6) women kayak slots, four (4) va`a men, and two (2) va`a women.
  - Additionally, two (2) v`a men and four (4) va`a women may compete at ~~Worlds~~ the World Cup 1 in non-Paralympic events.
- At the Trials, athletes will be grouped by discipline, sport class, and gender and compete over a standard 200-meter racecourse. ~~Races may be combined if less than three entries.~~ The first and second place athletes in each gender and sport class in each Paralympic event (KL1/2/3 plus VL2/3 Men and KL1/2/3 plus VL2 Women) will be nominated to compete at the ~~2020 2021~~ ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 ~~World Championships~~.

The ACA Paracanoe Last Chance Qualifier – a “race-off” competition is open to eligible ACA members as defined in section 1.3. This competition is organized only if a “race-off” is needed.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).

The qualification slot is allocated to the NPC, not to the individual athlete. An athlete can only obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC. An NPC can be allocated a maximum of one (1) qualification slot per medal event. An NPC can obtain a maximum of five (5) male and four (4) female slots. ~~An individual athlete may qualify only one qualification slot.~~

~~Additional~~ Quota allocation criteria can be found ~~on~~ in the IPC approved qualification guide: <https://www.canoeicf.com/paracanoe-paralympics/tokyo-2021/qualification>  
[https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/tokyo\\_2020\\_qualification\\_criteria\\_para-canoe.pdf](https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/tokyo_2020_qualification_criteria_para-canoe.pdf)

Country slots obtained for the USA at the ~~2020~~ 2021 ICF Paracanoe **World Cup 1 (Paralympic Qualifier) World Championships** (or any country slot from the 2019 Paracanoe World Championships which is assigned to the USA) will be allocated by the ACA to athletes per the following process:

- The top American finisher who earned the country slot for the USA at the ~~2020~~ 2021 ICF Paracanoe World Cup 1 **Championships or at the 2019 Paracanoe World Championships** will be nominated to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Team unless:
  - If an athlete fails to advance to the round where the quota is awarded and posts a “significantly faster” time than a team-mate who does advance and secures a quota, the ACA **GM, High Performance Programs** will bring the two athletes together for a final “race-off” at **the ACA Paracanoe Last Chance Qualifier**.
  - The athlete who did not advance will be deemed “significantly faster” by multiplying their time by 1.02 and if the product is faster than the advancing athlete’s time at the same level (heat or semi- final).
  - If an athlete’s time in a different final (for example Final B or Final C) is likewise “significantly faster” than the time which earned the quota, a “race-off” will be held.
  - If both athletes are in the same heat/semi-final/Final, racing head-to-head, no “race- off” is required.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable): NONE

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

N/A

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

N/A

2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

N/A

2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

N/A

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the ACA has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the ACA may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the ACA:

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the ACA CEO/Executive Director.

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:  
<https://www.americancanoe.org/page/AthleteCodeofConduct>

- 3.1.5. Reclassification by the IPC/ICF such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him or her for the Team.
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IPC/ICF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the Team from the program of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the ACA's [grievance process](#) ([www.americancanoe.org/Grievance](http://www.americancanoe.org/Grievance)), ~~Bylaws Appendix X, Section 2~~ and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable NGB/HPMO Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

~~[www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Info/Athlete-Conduct](http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Info/Athlete-Conduct)~~

~~[www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-and-Competition](http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-and-Competition)~~

[www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents](http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents)

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, Panam Sports, IPC, WADA, IF, 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 ACA SafeSport policies, as applicable.

#### 4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

The next highest placed eligible athlete (see 1.1.) at the ACA Paracanoe Paralympic and World Cup 1 Trials will be nominated to the Team.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

~~The next highest placed eligible athlete (see 1.1.) at the 2020 ACA Paracanoe Trials will be nominated to the Team~~ The same replacement process outlined in Section 4.1.1. will be used, provided the Local Organizing Committee allows replacements after the Entries by Name are submitted or as determined in accordance with the ICF Paracanoe Qualification System [https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/qualification\\_criteria\\_tokyo\\_2020\\_paralympics\\_paracanoe\\_nov\\_2020.pdf](https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/qualification_criteria_tokyo_2020_paralympics_paracanoe_nov_2020.pdf).

## 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 date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## 6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic Games and are included as attachments:

- ACA Code of Conduct:  
<https://www.americancanoe.org/page/AthleteCodeofConduct>

## 7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the ACA in the following locations:

### 7.1. ACA Web site: [www.americancanoe.org](http://www.americancanoe.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

### 7.2. Other: Links to these selection criteria will be distributed through social media and e-mail lists.

## 8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:



~~10 July 2020~~ July 10, 2021

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

N/A

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, WADA, IF, 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, IF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

ACA Paracanoe Committee

Deborah Page, Chairman

Janet Whitaker, Vice Chairman

Larry Gioia, Secretary

Cathy Bohlman, Member

Kelly Allen, Athlete Representative

Brandon Holiday, USOPC AAC Alternate Representative

Rok Sribar, ACA GM High-Performance Programs (contribution to the amendments)

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The ACA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.americancanoe.org/Grievance>

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, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

#### 14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

The Athlete Ombudsman 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 Ombudsman Office:

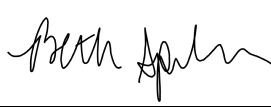


PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usaathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usaathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

#### 15. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) 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 Executive Director (NGB)	Beth Spilman		6/28/21
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) Representative*	<del>Emily Wright</del> Kenny Kasperbauer		6/28/2021
GM, High Performance Programs	Rok Sribar		6/28/2021

\* 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 ACA, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.