

British Rafting National Team Selection Policy 2017

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SECTION 1 - Overview

British Rafting Raft Team International Selection Panel

For the last twenty years, the British Rafting Committee (formerly English White Water Rafting Committee) has been responsible for GBR Team Selection through the formation of an International Panel. The International Selection Panel is appointed by and reports to the British Rafting Committee.

The British Rafting International Selection Panel is responsible for proposing and agreeing the selection policy on an annual basis and for selecting the Great Britain teams against this policy. The British Rafting Committee play an integral part in helping to formulate the draft selection policy for consultation within the sport.

The members of the International Selection Panel are selected on the basis of experience and competency. The level of experience required relates to previous experience of selection/GB Team matters, current knowledge and first hand practical experience of the sport at a national and International level. The panel retains overall authority for all aspects of policy including selection venues and dates and for selecting all Great Britain representative teams at Master, Open, Under 23 and U19 levels.

The International Selection Panel for 2017 will consist of the following members (all with selection panel voting rights on all matters related to selections):

Chair: Etienne Stott (GB Slalom Olympic Gold Medalist)

Core members:

- Deb Cook (International Rafting Federation - Board Member)
- Frances Kohn-Hollins (Former GB Womens Team Member)
- Hannah Burgess (Independent Representative)

The British Rafting Committee also has a non-voting appointed observer: Luke Dorbin (British Rafting Vice Chair) who attends all International Selection Panel meetings and is copied in on all correspondence as an observer.

Abbreviations and Definitions

ISP	International Selection Panel
Championship Competition	International Rafting Federation race competition at European or World level
Competition	All events completed at a site on a weekend
Discipline	Event within a Race (Sprint, Head-to-Head, Slalom, Downriver/Endurance)
Category	Age group and gender classification
Phase	Run1, Run2, Semi-Final, Final
IRF	International Rafting Federation

SECTION 2 - Eligibility & Qualification for GBR Selection

To be eligible to race in any 2017 GBR Team Selection series crews must meet the following conditions, enter the race and register by the published deadlines:

1. Meet age and nationality criteria for international competitions (see Appendix 1 - Eligibility Policy)
2. Pay the Selection event registration fee on or before the published deadline

IMPORTANT: All athletes - U19, U23, Open & Master athletes wishing to be considered for selection to a 2017 Great Britain team will be required to register for selection. The registration process will be available by early February and MUST be completed by 23:59 on 03rd March 2017. No late registrations will be accepted. Paddlers remain responsible for entering the competition before entry limits are reached. Entering the race is not registration.

International Eligibility

Selection will be subject to eligibility in accordance with competition rules laid down by the International Rafting Federation (IRF) and the British Rafting Committee.

- The first year anyone can compete at World and European Open/U23/U19 Championships is the year in which their 15th birthday falls
- The last year an U19 may compete in World and European U19 Championships is the year in which their 19th birthday falls
- The last year an U23 may compete in World and European U23 Championships is the year in which their 23rd birthday falls

- The first year a master can compete at World and European Master Championships is the year in which their 40th birthday falls

Athletes may enter more than one age category. However, the race may be run with age categories being combined therefore entering more than one category may not be possible. Specifically this relates to the Head-to-Head discipline.

British Canoeing reserves the right to deselect an athlete who has been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under British Rafting/IRF rules. This includes doping offences.

SECTION 3 - Great Britain Team Selection Policy 2017

Events All Teams 2017

European Championship Mtkvari River, Georgia 22 - 28 May 2017
 World Championship Yoshino River, Japan 03 - 09 October 2017

Selection Meeting and announcement of 2017 Great Britain Master, Open, U23 & U19 Teams

Following a meeting of the International Selection Panel, team selections will be announced on www.britishrafting.com by 20:00 on Tuesday, 14th March 2017.

Selection Race Details 2017

Holme Pierrepont National Watersports Centre Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th March 2017

Selection will take place in the following age categories:

<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
U19	U19
U23	U23
Open	Open
Master	Master

Selection Race Format

International Rafting Federation Raft Rules: the race format will abide by the published International Rafting Federation Race Rules www.internationalrafting.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Race-Rules-March-2016.pdf

Race Discipline Scores:

Discipline	Score available
Sprint	10%
Head-to-Head	20%
Slalom	30%
Downriver	40%
Overall	Combined total of all

Where there is more than one team per age and gender category, those teams in each age and gender category will compete against each other. Where there is only one team in any single age and gender category, all single age and gender category womens teams will compete against each other and all single age and gender category mens teams will compete against each other.

Start order for Sprint, Slalom and Downriver will be the same: The start list will be completed as follows:

- U19
- U23
- Masters
- Open

Competitor team order for each discipline will be based upon:

- Random draw from a hat for the Sprint
- All other disciplines will be in reverse order of overall points

The Races will be structured in the following format:

	Morning Session (back to back)	Afternoon Session (back to back)
Day 1	Sprint, Head-to-Head	Slalom
Day 2	Downriver	-

Points allocation and 2017 Team Selection ranking:

There will be a results table for each age and gender category. There will be an overall results table for all teams for comparability only - ranking in this table will not affect selection in the individual age and gender categories.

The eligibility to race is determined by the published qualification process contained in this selection policy and confirmed in Section 2.

Calculating the overall 2017 Selection results:

- The best of each age category will be selected in their respective group. For example, if a U19 team beats U23 team, the U19 team takes the U19 place
- Teams not competing in all disciplines will keep any points achieved
- Ties in points decided using, in order:
 1. Winner of slalom
 2. Best discarded result in slalom
 3. Fewest penalties in slalom best run

Overall points will be published after each discipline.

Course Design

The course designers will be one member of the International Selection Panel and one British Rafting coach of the following:

- Thomas Quinn (current GB U19 Womens and GB Open Womens coach)
- Luke Dorbin (current Red Rose Rafting coach)
- Dan Daley (current GB U23 Mens coach)

The names of the International Selection Panel will be placed in a hat and one name will be selected randomly. The names of the above British Rafting coaches will be placed in a hat and one name will be selected randomly. The appointed Head Judge will be involved directly in the course design proposals.

All events will be timed using synchro stopwatches and experienced and, where practical, IRF qualified judges.

The Sprint, Head-to-Head, and Slalom start and finish will be clearly marked the night prior to the race (Friday, 10th March 2017).

The final slalom course design will be hung and approved by the Judging Panel one (1) hour prior to the first slalom start. Final pole adjustments can only be made by the course designers (or delegated to the appointed race judges) in consultation with the Head Judge.

The proposed start line for Sprint, Head-to-Head and Slalom is the exit of the start pool and finish at the groin below the Tardis feature.

The Downriver shall run from the lock put in, up to Inlet Gate, down the course to the rafting get out, run over to the canal and paddle back up in multiple laps - dependent on river flow. The Endurance will finish at the groin line of the Tardis feature. The Course Design group will publish the final Downriver course on the night of Friday, 10th March.

Contingency

The International Selection Panel retains the right to adapt racing to ensure a fair process in line with the following principles and processes:

The chief judge will have the responsibility to measure wind conditions and make necessary decisions relating to the timetabling of the event. The chief judge and International Panel will also have the responsibility to make any adjustments to the timetable following any delays. Should local conditions threaten the planned racing then the chief judge reserves the right to amend the race format/schedule in any way necessary to complete fair racing.

Examples of such amendments could include:

- Early morning/ Evening racing under floodlights
- Taking results from first runs in slalom
- Counting results from runs where a whole class/race run has been completed fairly
- Reducing start intervals
- Changing order of events
- Single run races/multiple races in 1 day

This is not an exhaustive list and all other options are also able to be considered to complete a fair selection series in accordance with the specific challenge(s) identified. The minimum number of disciplines that the 2017 GBR Team Selection race will include is three (3).

For International Selection Panel announcements refer to www.britishrafting.com and during the event important information will be posted at race control and on the British Rafting Facebook page.

Protests

The British Rafting National Team Selection 2017 event will adhere to the [International Rafting Federation Race Rules](#) regarding Protests. Namely Section M. *Protests* (pages 28 through 29 inclusive). The exceptions to this are:

- Section M (8) is replaced with: Protest fee shall be £50 GBP. Protest fees must be submitted along with the written protest or the protest will not be accepted. No cash, no protest!
- Section M (11) is invalid for this event and as such will not be used in any official dealings
- Section M (13) is invalid for this event - all appeals will be conducted according to the Appeals Policy (see Appendix 2 of this document)

Application of Performance Standards in Selection Decisions

Upon completion of the 2017 selection race, The International Selection Panel will consider the final results to select the Masters, Open, U23 & U19 teams. In selecting teams, the panel will review crew compliance with all sections of this Selection Policy.

All teams putting themselves forward for selection for a Great Britain team must declare:

- In accordance with British Canoeing Level One Raft Guide assessment, their crew are able to reflip and all crew re-enter the raft in under two minutes
- All crew members are sufficiently competent to paddle on Grade 3 river (U19, U23 teams) or Grade 4 (Open and Masters)

Where the International Selection Panel are unsure of crew competence in these areas, they may request teams to prove their competence.

British Rafting strongly recommends all crew members to be qualified with [British Canoeing White Water Safety and Rescue](#) training and an appropriate (minimum) eight hour First Aid certification.

Subject to any Mitigating Circumstances the top two crews for the IRF European Championship and top crew for the IRF World Championship in each category within the appropriate team performance percentage criteria (where applicable) will be selected. Named reserve crews outside the top two/one are non-travelling reserves that will travel only in case of withdrawal of an entry.

Released places (Process for places released by selected athletes):

For all competitions in 2017 any released places will be offered in the following order:

1. Named reserves in that age category

SECTION 4 - General Information - 2017 GBR Teams

Mitigating circumstances:

If a crew is unable to contest selection the International Selection Panel reserves the right to provide a further opportunity to qualify to compete at the 2017 European and/or World Championships, subject to the following conditions:

- Certificated evidence of illness or other mitigating circumstance must be presented to the ISP prior to the commencement of the selection competition
- In such a case the ISP may identify a single race opportunity whereby the 3rd boat of the selection series and the identified athlete(s) would compete for a European Championship and/or World Championship place
- If this situation arises more detail would be provided following the ISP meeting immediately after the spring 2017 Selection competition
- The ISP has the sole discretion to invoke this clause if required and any decision is final
- The athlete/crew must satisfy the criteria stated below:
 - Medalist at the 2016 IRF World Championship

Funding

Selection to a Great Britain Team is to specific identified races in accordance with the prevailing selection policy. Securing funding will almost certainly be necessary and athlete contribution will be required.

Participation

All athletes putting themselves forward for selection for a Great Britain team are expected to hold a valid passport with a minimum of 6 months unexpired and hold a current European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Paddler agreement

Paddlers will be expected to sign up to the British Rafting Great Britain Team participation agreement on accepting selection at least two weeks before travelling to the first event.

Appeals Procedure

Please see Appendix 2 for the British Rafting appeals procedure.

Conflicts of Interest

British Rafting is committed to upholding high standards of integrity and as such any person who sits on the British Rafting Committee and/or International Selection Panel shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of and any vote in respect of any selection matter in which they have a conflict of interest. If a person is unsure whether they have a conflict or potential conflict they should consult the British Canoeing Head of Governance and Compliance.

Data Protection

British Rafting has adopted all British Canoeing policies. British Canoeing is a privacy conscious organisation and is strongly committed to your right to privacy. That is why they have drafted a Privacy and Data Protection Statement, which follows guidelines set out in the Data Protection Act 1998. It can be found on the British Canoeing website:

www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/privacy-statement

Please note that any data gathered in the course of selection will be used in accordance with this Statement and in particular will not be shared with any third party without your consent.

Policies

For the avoidance of doubt this selection policy operates in conjunction with all relevant British Canoeing policies and rules including but not limited to, Equality Policy, Anti-Doping Policy, Anti Bullying Policy and Anti Bribery Policy.

Communications

British Rafting is committed to providing open and informative communication in relation to selection. All teams will receive formal confirmation of the selection and for those athletes who wish to discuss the outcome of decision made by the International Selection Panel / British Rafting Committee the Chair of the International Selection Panel / British Rafting Committee will be available to speak informally to athletes and in the case of minors, parents.

- End of 2017 policy -

APPENDIX 1 - Eligibility Policy

1. Eligibility for National Team Selection:

- a) At the point of registration for British Rafting National Selection 2017 (Friday, 10th March), all competitors must meet either of the following criteria:
 - i) Hold a valid British Passport, OR
 - ii) Be able to provide proof of permanent residency in the UK for at least the last two (2) years
- b) All competitors whose team is selected to represent Great Britain MUST be, or become within four weeks of selection, a Member of British Canoeing

2. Eligibility for to compete in International Rafting Federation Championships:

- a) Only a Competitor, who is a member of their National Federation [British Canoeing], who in turn is a Member Nation of the IRF, is eligible to compete in an IRF A- or B-Level Event.
- b) A Competitor may not compete for more than one National Federation in any one calendar year. This rule does not apply in the case of changing residency or citizenship by marriage. In all cases of a change in residency or citizenship, once confirmed, the former National Federation has no right to prevent a Competitor from racing in an Event.
- c) If a Competitor wishes to compete for a Member Nation at an A- or B-Level Event and they do not hold a passport or official permanent residency in that nation, they must:
 - i) provide proof that they are permanently domiciled in that foreign nation to the satisfaction of the [International Rafting Federation] Sport & Competition Committee.
 - ii) Provide authorisation from their Federation of origin unless he/she has domiciled for 2 years or more in this foreign nation or has married a citizen from that foreign nation
 - iii) Have competed in the national selections of the foreign nation
 - iv) Bring such cases to the attention of the IRF before the announced deadline date for Team entries.

NOTES:

- 1) British Rafting strongly recommends all competitors to become independent Members of British Canoeing regardless of the outcome or expectations of their performance at the British Rafting National Team Selection 2017 Event
- 2) British Rafting has taken steps to fully align with British Canoeing policies and procedures. As a result the British Rafting National Team Selection Event 2018 will require all competitors at the selection event to already be British Canoeing Members

APPENDIX 2 - Appeals Procedure

If there is dissatisfaction with a decision of the British Rafting International Selection Panel this two stage process will apply (this process applies to all British Canoeing selections):

3. REVIEW:

- d) A written request for a formal review is submitted in the first instance to the Chair of the Selection Panel who will carry out a review with the Selection Panel.
- e) This must be done within 48 hours of the selection being announced or communicated to the athlete whichever is later.
- f) Within 24 hours the Chair of the Selection Panel will advise in writing the outcome of the review and the Selection Panel decision.

4. APPEAL

- 2.1 Where required the time limits set out below for appeal and decision can be accelerated by the Head of Governance and if this is required it will be communicated with the outcome of the formal review and the Selection Panel decision under 1.3 above.
- 2.2 If following the review the athlete wishes to formally appeal the decision then a written notice of appeal must be submitted to British Canoeing Head of Governance within 48 hours of receiving the outcome of the review.

5. NOTICE OF APPEAL

- 3.1 The Notice of Appeal will set out the ground of the appeal and will include full details of the basis of the

appeal including the precise manner in which the appellant alleges the selection criteria have not been followed. The Notice of Appeal should be as full as possible as it will form the basis of the remainder of this procedure.

6. GROUNDS OF APPEAL

- 4.1 The sole grounds of appeal against the decision of any selection panel will be that there has been a failure to follow the applicable selection criteria or that the selection panel reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact. This Appeals process is provided on these limited grounds only and must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the selection panel where they have followed the proper procedure.
- 4.2 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published selection criteria and therefore against the actions of the selection panel, provided they follow the selection criteria.

7. APPEAL PANEL

- 5.1 The Head of Governance and Compliance will convene a three person Panel to determine the appeal.
- 5.2 The Appeal Panel shall contact the Chairman of the Selection Panel to inform him of the Appeal, provide him with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Chairman provides any response which he wishes to make on behalf of the Selection Panel within 24 hours of receiving the notification.
- 5.3 The Appeal Panel will determine based on the written submissions of the athlete and the Selection Panel/Committee without a hearing or the calling of witnesses or the giving of oral evidence. It will seek to reach its conclusion within 5 working days of receipt of the Notice, and will inform all interested parties in writing.
- 5.4 The Appeal Panel will be entitled to rescind the decision of the selection Panel and confirm the selection of the Athlete only in clear cases where the Selection Policy has not been followed and it is plain that had it been followed the Athlete would have been selected.
- 5.5 The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to confirm the decision of the Selection panel and reject the Appeal.
- 5.6 The Appeal Panel may also quash the selection decision and remit the matter back to the Selection Panel identifying the errors they have identified in the conduct of the Selection process and requesting that a new decision is made within one week.
- 5.7 At its discretion the Appeal Panel may also make an award for appeal costs up to a maximum of £200.

8. FINAL AND BINDING

- 6.1 This is intended to be an accelerated process to enable any challenge to be resolved as quickly as is reasonably possible. Due to the nature of selection for events, decisions often need to be taken shortly before the events to which the selection relates. Furthermore, there is a considerable potential for 'knock on' to athlete preparation related to the outcome of the appeal.
- 6.2 The aim of this process is to return a decision on appeal in a timely manner. If the athlete fails to adhere to the time limits set out in this process he or she will have lost their right of Appeal under this procedure, save in wholly exceptional circumstances which will be judged by the CEO of British Canoeing in their absolute discretion.
- 6.3 Further this it is intended to be conclusive and therefore any athlete who enters into this appeal process accepts that the decision will be final and binding.