



British Rafting National Selection Policy 2024

The British Canoeing Rafting Discipline Committee (British Rafting) has issued the following British Rafting National Team Selection Policy. This policy is in place for the fair, credible and robust selection of teams to represent Great Britain at international level events for the 2024 raft race year.

The policy is intended to maximise the opportunity for success for those athletes with the potential to succeed at both national and international level, ensuring Great Britain is represented by the strongest and best prepared team.

Ahead of the selection event, we wish all athletes good luck for a successful competition year built upon the behaviours, dedication, personal goals and teamwork required to succeed.

Andy Steel - Chair, British Rafting

SECTION 1 - Overview	4
Selection Policy Purpose.....	4
British Rafting National Selection Policy Objectives	4
British Rafting International Selection Panel.....	4
SECTION 2 - Eligibility for Selection	6
Selection Event Eligibility.....	6
Selection Eligibility	6
Competitor Age Eligibility	7
Remaining Eligible and Deselection	7
Permitted named athlete changes to selected teams	7
Anti-Doping.....	8
SECTION 3 - Selection Policy 2024	9
2024 International Rafting Federation major events	9
Selection Race Details 2024.....	9
Selection meeting and announcement of 2024 Great Britain Master, Open, U23 & U19 Teams	9
Race format and categories.....	9
Race Discipline Scores, Order and Schedule	9
Point allocation and ranking.....	10
Judges and Jury	10
Course Design	10
Contingency.....	11
Event communications.....	11
Protests.....	11
Performance Standards.....	11
Available and Released places	12
COVID-19 (Coronavirus) considerations.....	12
IRF Event Registration	13
Funding and Participation	13
Deselection	13
Mitigating circumstances	14
Paddler agreement.....	15
Appeals Procedure	15
Conflicts of Interest.....	15

Data Protection	15
Policies.....	15
Communications	16
APPENDIX 1 - Eligibility Policy.....	17
APPENDIX 2 - BRITISH CANOEING APPEALS PROCEDURE	18

ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS	
IRF	International Rafting Federation
ISP	British Rafting International Selection Panel
Athlete	British Rafting term for any individual within a team (synonymous with Competitor)
Category	Gender classification
Championship	International Rafting Federation competition at European or World level
Competition	An event incorporating raft racing usually at a single site within a specified period of time
Competitor	International Rafting Federation term for any individual within a team (synonymous with Athlete)
Crew	British Rafting collective term for athletes who form a raft race team
Discipline	The different types of racing (Sprint, Head-to-Head, Slalom, Downriver/Endurance)
Division	Age group classification
GBR Raft Race Team	A team who has met all the criteria of this selection policy and been selected to represent Great Britain in the IRF European and/or World Rafting Championship(s)

SECTION 1 - Overview

Selection Policy Purpose

The purpose of this Selection Policy is to clearly state the processes that will lead to the selection of the best teams of athletes for each International Rafting Federation event in 2024.

British Rafting National Selection Policy Objectives

- 1 To win medals at International Rafting Federation World and European Rafting Championships
- 2 To propose credible, safe and competitive GBR Raft Race teams in as many categories as possible at International Rafting Federation World and European Rafting Championships
- 3 To become and then maintain Great Britain Raft Teams across all categories as one of the top five medalling nations at International Rafting Federation World and European Rafting Championships
- 4 To encourage the development of Great Britain Raft Race teams at International Rafting Federation World and European Cups
- 5 To support the long-term athlete development required for international success

This policy may be amended or supplemented by the British Rafting International Selection Panel at its discretion in order to achieve the above objectives and where it is necessary to address exceptional circumstances. Every effort will be made to ensure as much notice as possible is given to all persons affected by any change.

British Rafting International Selection Panel

For the last twenty-five years, the British Rafting Committee (formerly English White Water Rafting Committee) has been responsible for Great Britain Team Selection through the formation of an International Selection Panel. The British Rafting International Selection Panel (ISP) are appointed by, and report to, the British Rafting Committee, who in turn report to the British Canoeing Board.

The ISP are responsible for proposing and agreeing the selection policy on an annual basis and for selecting the teams to represent Great Britain in accordance with this policy. The British Rafting Committee play an integral part in producing the draft selection policy for consultation within the sport.

Members of the ISP are selected based on their experience and competency. The level of experience required relates to previous experience of selection/GBR Raft Race Team matters, current knowledge and first-hand practical experience of the sport at a national and international level. The ISP retains overall authority for all aspects of the selection policy including ratification of selection venue(s) and date(s) and the ultimate responsibility for selecting teams to represent Great Britain at Masters, Open, Under 23 and U19 levels.

Members of the ISP are not eligible to compete as named athletes in the selection event. Limited to one per team, an ISP member can be a named non-paddling reserve (for the selection event). Subsequent to the selection event, the ISP member may compete in an IRF event if the team has been successful in selections.

If an ISP member is required to paddle as a reserve during the selection event, mitigating circumstances must be submitted to the ISP and/or Jury (dependent on when it is known they are required to paddle) and a conflict of interest must be declared prior to the ISP member getting on the water.

In any instance of an ISP member being listed as a named reserve, they must not judge, interfere or otherwise influence the selection event and must declare a conflict of interest at the earliest opportunity.

The ISP for 2024 will consist of the following members (all with voting rights):

Chair:

- Mark Diamond (IRF Judge, British Rafting Race Director 2022, 2023)

Core members:

- Jacob Steel (Former Raft Racer, IRF Judge 2022, 2023)
- Luke Dorbin (British Rafting Committee representative, British Rafting Safety Officer, former Raft Racer)
- TBC
- TBC

Secretariat (no voting rights):

The Secretariat to the ISP shall be a member of the British Rafting Committee who is responsible for convening the ISP, ensuring they are provided with all necessary information to make decisions in a timely manner and will be responsible for reporting all business to the British Rafting Committee and to teams following the decision(s) of the ISP. The Secretariat has no voting rights.

- Andy Steel (British Rafting Committee representative, British Rafting Chair, GB1 Open Men team member 2019 – 2023, GB1 Masters Men team member 2023, IRF Judge, British Rafting Race Director & Head Judge)

Observer (no voting rights):

The British Rafting Committee also has a non-voting appointed observer who attends all ISP meetings and is copied on all correspondence.

- Gemma Wiggs (British Canoeing Events & International Affairs Manager)

Meeting formalities:

In the event of a member(s) of the ISP being unable to attend a meeting, best efforts shall be made to reschedule the meeting(s) within appropriate timeframes to the selection event. If the meeting cannot be rescheduled, the remaining ISP members may proceed to meet provided at least three voting panel members can attend and where those three members are from the Chair and Core members.

In the event of a tied decision during a meeting, the Chair shall have the Casting Vote.

All communications relating to selections should be sent via email to selections@britishrafting.com

SECTION 2 - Eligibility for Selection

Selection Event Eligibility

The British Rafting National Selection 2024 event is open to all raft race teams from across the globe. Any team who does not meet all of the conditions as set out in this National Selection Policy will not be considered for selection as a GBR Raft Race Team i.e. international teams may compete, but they will not be awarded any GBR Raft Race Team status.

All teams competing at the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event must register (purchase tickets) prior to the event - regardless of nationality or desire to be a GBR selected team. The registration process will be available from early November 2023 and will close at 23:59 on Sunday, 3rd December 2023. All entries must be made through the British Canoeing booking portal, providing full details for each team member. No late registrations will be accepted. Raft race crews remain responsible for registering for the competition before entry limits are reached.

Selection Eligibility

To be considered for any 2024 GBR Raft Race Team, all athletes within each team must meet all the following eligibility conditions:

1. Meet age and nationality criteria for international competitions (see Appendix 1 - Eligibility Policy)
2. Pay the selection registration fee on or before the published or amended deadlines
3. Be a member of British Canoeing at the point of registration for selection and remain so for the duration of the raft race calendar year
4. Upon selection, every athlete must agree to the British Canoeing Athlete Code of Conduct and sign a British Rafting Great Britain Team Participation Agreement at least two weeks prior to any travel to competition(s)
5. Subject to the “Exceptional Selection Eligibility” section below, Crews must register, attend, and compete in the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event.

Exceptional Selection Eligibility

In exceptional circumstances, the ISP may consider, at their own discretion, applications for selection outside of the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event.

- Any crew unable to register or attend the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event, but still wishing to be considered for selection, must submit Mitigating Circumstances to the ISP up to two weeks prior to commencement of the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event.
- Any crew who has registered but are no longer able to attend or compete in the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event, but who still wish to be considered for selection, must submit Mitigating Circumstances to the International Selection Panel prior to commencement of the first race of the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event.

Any application for Exceptional Selection Eligibility must comply fully with Selection Eligibility points 1 through 4 inclusive. The ISP will not ordinarily accept applications for selection from any crew unable to register, attend, or compete in the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event unless the mitigating circumstances can be vigorously and robustly evidenced. Any decision must remain within the remit of the IRF Race Rules and this Selection Policy, namely the Policy Objectives.

An Exceptional Selection Eligibility applies only to non-attendance at the selection event. Any escalations regarding racing during the event itself must be raised directly with the Jury as outlined in the IRF Race Rules

IMPORTANT:

Any athlete or team found to be abusing or attempting to abuse the Exceptional Selection Eligibility will be severely reprimanded in addition to all teammates being banned from all UK and international raft race competitions for a period of not less than 24 months.

Competitor Age 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 a Youth (U19) may compete in World and European U19 Championships is the year in which their 19th birthday falls
- The last year a Junior (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

Under IRF Rules, athletes may enter more than one age category. Whilst this is possible for the British Rafting National Selections 2024 event, some discipline races will be run with age categories combined therefore entering more than one age category may not be feasible without the use of reserves. Specifically, this relates to the Head-to-Head and Downriver disciplines.

In making their selection decision, the British Rafting ISP may select a team to race in an age category that they did not race in at the selection event. This will only be done in exceptional circumstances and where there is no other suitable team for GBR Raft Race Team selection in that age category. No team will be forced to "race up" with it being at the team's own discretion which age category to race in if the opportunity arises.

Remaining Eligible and Deselection

Crews not acting in compliance with this Selection Policy will automatically be deselected and their selection place may be offered to the next placed team in the selection results.

British Rafting and British Canoeing reserve the right to deselect any athlete found guilty of a disciplinary offence under British Canoeing, British Rafting or IRF rules, policies and/or procedures. This includes doping offences.

Permitted named athlete changes to selected teams

International Rafting Federation Race Rules permit changes to the named athletes within a selected team (IRF Race Rules B 12 b... *Teams must have a minimum of 4 for R6 or 2 for R4 of the original Team that participated in their National Selections...*).

British Rafting further define that for a crew to remain eligible following a successful selection decision, the crew must meet the following criteria at all times during the race calendar year:

- Every athlete in the crew attains/remains compliant with all elements of this National Selection Policy
- Where a team registers for selection (event or through Exceptional Selection Eligibility) with a named reserve, the team must have a minimum of 5 for R6 or 3 for R4 of the original team as the named athletes throughout the raft race calendar year
- All changes to the named athletes in a selected crew must be notified to the British Rafting International Selection Panel Secretariat in advance of the change occurring. This includes the addition of a reserve if no reserve was named at the point of selection

- If the athlete proposed to join the crew has already been selected in another GBR Raft Race Team for the same race calendar year, the ISP will accept the change unconditionally so long as it does not impede the other team from competing
- If the athlete proposed to join the crew has **not** already been selected in another GBR Raft Race Team for the same race calendar year, the notification must include details of the experience and qualifications of the athlete including competence in paddling and safety. The ISP may impose conditions on the crew and/or athlete including, but not limited to, attendance/completion of Anti-Doping workshops/qualifications
- Under exceptional circumstances, the British Rafting ISP may consider additional changes than the two permitted named athlete changes. Acceptance of such changes will only be made if the decision complies with the Policy Objectives as set out in this National Selection Policy. Furthermore, decisions of this nature will involve consultation with other selected teams in the same gender and age categories and the International Rafting Federation Sports & Competition Committee

Attendance at British Rafting Raft Race events

All selected teams must attend and race at a minimum of one (1) British Rafting Raft Race event within the same race calendar year in order to remain eligible for selection. Failure to do so will result in all named athletes of the crew being ineligible to be selected in the following raft race calendar year.

If the full team cannot attend, a minimum of 2 for R4 or 4 for R6 of the selected team is considered acceptable attendance.

The British Rafting National Selection event (regardless of year) is **not** considered to be a qualifying British Rafting Race event for the purposes of this criteria.

Anti-Doping

British Rafting is committed to IRF and British Canoeing Anti-Doping policies and promoting clean sport.

As the IRF is a WADA Code Signatory, it is mandatory for all athletes to have completed an accredited Anti-Doping workshop. All athletes from a team seeking consideration for selection must have attended a UKAD or British Canoeing run Clean Sport Workshop within the 24 months preceding their attendance at the IRF European or World Rafting Championship event or completed the online WADA ADEL course. Attendance is logged with British Canoeing. British Canoeing hosts several workshops throughout the year in person and online.

In exceptional circumstances, where an athlete has been unable to attend a Clean Sport Workshop in the 24 months preceding the event, completion of the British Canoeing endorsed Anti-Doping workshop may be considered. Mitigating circumstances should be applied for in this case.

SECTION 3 - Selection Policy 2024

2024 International Rafting Federation major events

European Championship	Vrbas River, Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina	May/June 2024 TBC
World Championship	TBC	TBC

**** NOTE:** It is a possibility that the European Rafting Championship 2024 will become the World Rafting Championship 2024. Therefore, if this is the case, only teams selected as GB1 will be able to represent Great Britain during the 2024 calendar year. British Rafting will provide an update as soon as there is any further information from the IRF.

Selection Race Details 2024

Lee Valley White Water Centre, Waltham Cross – Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December 2023

Selection meeting and announcement of 2024 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 Wednesday, 13th December 2023.

Race format and categories

International Rafting Federation Race Rules: the race format will abide by the published International Rafting Federation Race Rules: <https://www.internationalrafting.com/racing/race-rules/>

Should updates to the IRF Race Rules be published prior to the commencement of the selection event, the updated race rules shall supersede these referenced in this national selection policy.

Racing will take place in the R4 (four athletes) format in the following categories:

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

Race Discipline Scores, Order and Schedule

Discipline	Score available
Sprint	10%
Head-to-Head	20%
Slalom	35%
Downriver	35%
Overall	Combined total of all

Dependent on the number of teams entered, all women’s teams will compete against each other, and all men’s teams will compete against each other.

Start order for Sprint, Head-to-Head, Slalom and Downriver will be the same: The start list is as follows:

- U19
- U23
- Masters
- Open

Competitor team order for each discipline will be based upon:

- Random draw by allocated bib number for the Sprint
- Reverse order of Sprint points for Slalom
- Head-to-Head start order shall be on Sprint rankings
- Downriver will be in reverse order of overall points

Event races are scheduled as follows:

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

Point allocation and ranking

There will be one results table for each category of men and one for each category of women.

Calculating the overall 2024 Selection results:

- The ISP will consider the overall results and offer selection to teams based on their overall ranking for example, if a U19 team beats the top ranking U23 team, the U19 team will be offered selection as either U19 or U23. The U19 team will then choose which age category to be selected in
- Teams not competing in all disciplines will keep any points achieved in the disciplines they have competed in
- Where teams are tied in points, the following tie break criteria shall be applied in the order stated:
 - i) Best discarded result in slalom
 - ii) Fewest penalties in slalom best run

Judges and Jury

The Head Judge shall be an IRF Qualified Judge and where possible will be of IRF Chief Judge status.

The Jury shall consist of two other Judges and where possible be of IRF General Judge or higher status.

Course Design

The course designers shall be responsible for the setting of the Sprint, Head-to-Head, Slalom and Downriver race configurations. The course designers will be the Head Judge and two randomly selected British Canoeing Raft Race Coaches who cannot be racing in the selection event.

All races will be timed using timer beams and/or synchro stopwatches and experienced and, where practical, IRF qualified judges.

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 Whack feature. The Sprint, Head-to-Head, and Slalom start and finish will be clearly marked the night prior to the race (Friday, 08th December 2023).

The final slalom course design will be hung and approved by the Jury not less than 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 Downriver will commence with a Sailing Start from the volleyball pitches side of the lake. Teams will then navigate a series of buoys around the lake before reaching the bottom steps of the Olympic course where they will run the boat to the top of the Olympic course. Teams will then navigate the Olympic course back to the Start Line. Downriver will be not less than three laps for all age categories (number of laps may be differentiated at Jury discretion by age categories but not by gender). The Downriver will finish at the groin below the Whack feature. Teams finishing ahead of other teams must vacate the area at the bottom of the course immediately so as not to hinder those teams still racing behind them.

The final configuration for Downriver will be published on the evening of Saturday, 9th December 2023.

Contingency

The ISP retains the right to adapt racing to ensure a fair process in line with the following principles:

The Head Judge will have the responsibility to measure weather conditions and make necessary decisions relating to the timetabling of the event. The Head Judge and/or ISP will also have the responsibility to make any adjustments to the timetable following any delays. Should local conditions threaten the planned racing then the Head Judge reserves the right to amend the competition format/schedule in any way necessary to complete fair racing.

Examples of such amendments could include, but are not limited to:

- 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 one day

This is not an exhaustive list, and all other reasonable and proportionate options will be considered where such options ensure a fair event can be completed in consideration of the specific challenge(s) identified. The minimum number of disciplines that the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event will include is three (3).

Event communications

For ISP announcements refer to www.britishrafting.com. During the event important information will be posted at Race HQ and on British Rafting social media (@britishrafting on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

Protests

The British Rafting National Selection 2024 event will adhere to [the International Rafting Federation Race Rules](#) regarding Protests. Namely Section *M. Protests*. Exceptions to this are:

- Section M (5) 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 (8) is invalid for this event and as such will not be used in any official dealings
- Section M (10) is invalid for this event - all appeals will be conducted according to the Appeals Policy (see Appendix 2 of this document)

Performance Standards

Upon completion of the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event, the ISP will consider the final results to select the GBR Raft Race Masters, Open, U23 & U19 teams. In selecting teams, the panel will review athlete 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 Stadium Raft Guide](#) assessment, their crew can 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 and U23 teams) or Grade 4 (Open and Masters teams)

Where the ISP are unsure of crew competence in these areas, they may require teams to prove their competence before, during or after the selection event.

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.

The British Rafting ISP in making their selection decision(s) may consult on crew competencies with the Race Director, Safety Director and Head Judge.

Available and Released places

Under International Rafting Federation Race Rules, Great Britain may enter up to two (2) crews at each IRF European Rafting Championship and up to one (1) crew at each IRF World Rafting Championship per gender and age category. This results in a maximum number of sixteen (16) and eight (8) crews respectively.

Subject to Selection Eligibility, Exceptional Selection Eligibility and Mitigating Circumstances the results of the British Rafting National Selections 2024 event will identify top crew for the IRF World Championships in each category. Crews outside the top crew may be selected as non-travelling reserves.

In the event of one of the selected crews declining a place at the IRF World Rafting Championships then the reserve(s) will be next in line to take up the place(s) in order of the selection points table.

If a selected crew declines a place at an IRF World Rafting Championship, they must inform the British Rafting ISP Secretariat no less than ten (10) weeks prior to the start date of the competition they are declining so that reserve crews have sufficient time to make travel arrangements. Failure to notify the ISP within this time period, or provide mitigating circumstances, will result in the team being banned from competing at any other raft race events in that race year and ineligible to be selected as a GBR raft race team in the immediately following raft race year.

The British Rafting ISP may additionally recommend IRF Euro Cup events for certain teams regardless of their Great Britain Raft Race Team selection outcome.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) considerations

Government guidance will be followed at all times in terms of deliverability of the selection event and ability for individuals to compete or not. Whilst the selection event is planned to run as outlined in this policy, it remains likely that some adjustments may be required in order to determine representative teams in the timeframes required which will have to respond to prevailing circumstances at the time.

In determining if selection can proceed, British Rafting and the ISP will use the following principles:

- Base decisions on government guidance
- Put athlete and volunteer health and wellbeing first
- Make decisions regarding selection in the most transparent and fair way given the constraints / challenges presented by COVID19

In order to deliver a selection process to most effectively select representative teams, examples of contingency measures that may be put in place are listed below:

- Changes to race dates and/or venue(s)
- Adjustment to format of racing
- Limits on coaching, support staff and or spectators
- Closed event with a limited number of officials and competitors
- Use the outcome of 2023 team selection processes until a fair selection process is possible

This is not an exhaustive list and other scenarios may be considered.

Any athlete found to be in breach of government guidance, including local lockdown restrictions or requirements to self-isolate, will be removed from any selection process.

SECTION 4 - General Information - 2024 GBR Raft Race Teams

IRF Event Registration

Registration for GBR Raft Race teams seeking to compete at the International Rafting Federation World Rafting Championship and/or European Rafting Championship will be coordinated centrally through British Rafting. No team will be permitted to register directly with the IRF or the event organiser. The IRF will reject any GBR entries that have not been submitted by British Rafting.

British Rafting will confirm all team registrations with the ISP to ensure each application for registration is compliant with all criteria of this selection policy.

British Rafting will coordinate non-refundable registration fee payment with the IRF and/or event organiser - as such, no team registration will be accepted for consideration until the registration fee has been paid in full and in clear funds to British Rafting. If a team withdraws their registration after the IRF event registration closing date, the IRF will retain the non-refundable registration fee and the team will not receive any refund.

In exceptional circumstances, in addition to the registration fee British Rafting may impose a security deposit on a team which will be returned to the team upon competitive attendance at the event to which they have applied to register. The security deposit will not exceed £100 GBP per athlete in the crew.

Funding and Participation

International Rafting Federation and British Rafting events are not part of the British Canoeing Olympic programme and currently have no source of funding. British Rafting and British Canoeing will provide selected athletes support for communication and liaison purposes but coaching and travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the individual athletes. Selection to a Great Britain Raft Race Team is to specific identified races in accordance with the prevailing selection policy. Selected paddlers will be required to fully fund the costs of transport, travel, accreditation, food, accommodation and any other related training and participation costs.

Athletes under the age of 18 selected to a Great Britain Raft Race Team will be required to agree in advance with the British Rafting ISP that an appropriate designated adult will accompany them. This must be agreed at least one (1) month prior to the start of the first IRF competition.

All athletes putting themselves forward for selection for a Great Britain team are expected to hold a valid passport with a minimum of six (6) months validity.

All athletes travelling to IRF Competitions must either hold appropriate insurance cover for competitions or take out British Canoeing Travel Insurance that provides cover for competition.

Deselection

British Rafting and British Canoeing reserve the right to deselect any athlete found guilty of a disciplinary offence under British Canoeing, British Rafting or IRF rules, policies and/or procedures. This includes doping offences and for those under the age of 18, any breaches of British Canoeing, British Rafting or IRF rules, policies and/or procedures by their parent(s)/guardian(s).

The British Rafting ISP reserves the right to withdraw athletes from identified competition(s) based on injury/illness or lack of commitment to training. Such decisions will only be taken following consultation with appropriate coaches and/or medical reports.

Mitigating circumstances

Mitigating circumstances are defined as being circumstances that are unplanned, unexpected, unavoidable and unforeseen.

When considering mitigating circumstances, the decision of the British Rafting ISP is final and binding. Any athlete who enters these mitigating circumstances processes accepts that the decision will be final and binding and is not subject to appeal.

If a crew is unable to contest selection at the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event, the British Rafting International Selection Panel reserves the right to provide a further opportunity to qualify to compete at the 2024 IRF European and/or World Rafting Championships, subject to the following condition:

- Certificated evidence of illness or other mitigating circumstance must be presented to the ISP prior to the commencement of the selection event

Following is a non-exhaustive list of circumstances **unlikely to be accepted** as mitigating circumstances:

- Medical circumstances without supporting medical documents or retrospective medical evidence
- Medical circumstances which do not relate to the selection events in question
- Minor illness or ailment, which in a work situation would be unlikely to lead to absence from work
- If there is a reasonable case that the circumstances were foreseeable and/or preventable
- Financial issues
- Religious Observance (i.e. fasting, leaving before sundown etc)
- Holidays/family events
- Transport difficulties such as delayed flights, strikes or traffic jams, athletes are expected to plan accordingly
- Late disclosure of circumstances on the basis that the athlete did not feel comfortable bringing the circumstances to the attention of the British Rafting ISP prior to the selection event
- Poor time management (pressure of work)
- Missing events due to misreading of event timetable or oversleeping
- A long-term condition where treatment or additional support/arrangements are in place to mitigate

COVID19 (Coronavirus) considerations for mitigating circumstances

- If an athlete wishes consideration of any issue that they are aware of 14 days or more before the first day of the selection event, it will only be considered if the ISP is notified at least 14 days prior to the first scheduled day of the selection event
- Within 14 days of the selection event, only matters arising within this period will be considered under exceptional circumstances
- For both the above there must be previous track record of performance at British Rafting raft race events to be eligible for consideration

Exceptional circumstances will only be considered if the situation could not be foreseen or avoided. The nature of COVID19 requires quick decision making based upon as many facts as are available at a given time.

Due to likely time constraints, any decisions taken by the ISP due to COVID19 is final and binding (no appeal).

Examples of considerations could include:

- Local lockdown or restrictions on travel
- A requirement to self-isolate according to government regulations

The following circumstances will not be considered acceptable exceptional circumstances:

- Inability to train in the lead up to selection
- Requirement to quarantine following travel abroad

As with all mitigating circumstances, where mitigating circumstances are able to be established, it does not automatically entitle the athlete to selection.

Paddler agreement

Upon accepting selection, paddlers must sign the British Rafting Great Britain Team Athlete Agreement at least two weeks before travelling to the first IRF event of the 2024 competition calendar.

Appeals Procedure

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 ISP 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 an individual's right to privacy. All data gathered during the selection process will only be utilised for the purposes of an athlete's participation in a Great Britain Raft Race Team. This may include administering their event/race entry and certain information may be published as part of the results and rankings of the event/race.

Any personal data will be processed and stored in compliance with the British Canoeing Data Protection Policy and in accordance with all applicable Data Protection laws in effect at the time of publication of this National Selection Policy, including but not limited to, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR.

Further information on British Canoeing's approach to privacy and data protection, including British Canoeing's privacy notices, policies and contact details, can be found in the website's Privacy Centre (www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/privacy-centre). Should an athlete wish any data British Canoeing hold relating to them to be deleted at any point, they should contact British Canoeing at GDPR@britishcanoeing.org.uk.

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 ISP / British Rafting Committee the Chair of the ISP / British Rafting Committee will be available to speak informally to athletes and in the case of minors, parents / legal guardians.

- End of 2024 policy -

APPENDIX 1 - Eligibility Policy

1. Eligibility for National Team Selection:

- b) At the point of registration for British Rafting National Selection 2024, all potential GBR Raft Race Team athletes 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
- c) All athletes whose team is selected to represent Great Britain MUST be a Member of British Canoeing PRIOR to registration for the British Rafting National Selection 2024 event and continue to hold such membership throughout the 2024 Raft Race calendar year

2. Eligibility 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 be independent Members of British Canoeing regardless of the outcome or expectations of their performance at the British Rafting National Team Selection 2024 event

APPENDIX 2 - BRITISH CANOEING APPEALS PROCEDURE

Guidance Notes:

Whilst selection decisions are made in good faith, every athlete should be able to appeal a selection decision if there are grounds to do so (see paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 below). If you're unsure about why a decision has been made, your coach, parent/carer or another trusted person may be able to give you some advice. If you subsequently believe you have grounds to appeal the decision, this Appeals Procedure sets out how you can do this and what process will be followed.

If you wish to appeal a decision and would like some guidance you are advised to seek support from your coach, parent/carer, discipline Welfare Officer or other trusted person to help you.

1. CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

1.1 This Selection Appeals Procedure ("the Procedure") is referenced in all non-Olympic discipline selection policies published by the British Canoeing Discipline Committees and applies to international team selection decisions for major international competitions (such as World Championships) in non-Olympic disciplines.

1.2 For the avoidance of doubt, selection Appeals in the Olympic disciplines (Sprint, Paracanoe, and Slalom) will be managed in accordance with the British Canoeing Competition Selection Appeals Procedure as referenced in the applicable selection policies.

1.3 Selection will take place in accordance with the applicable selection policies as published from time to time by the relevant Discipline Committee. In this Procedure all policies are referred to as the "Selection Policy". Any athlete ("the Athlete") wishing to lodge an appeal under this Procedure must be fully familiar with the provisions of the Selection Policy.

1.4 This Procedure is intended to be accelerated in nature to enable any appeal to be resolved as quickly as is reasonably possible. Due to the nature of selection for major events, decisions often need to be taken close to the time of the event to which the selection relates. There is considerable potential for impact on athlete preparation related to the outcome of the appeal, both with regard to the Athlete, as well as any athlete who is at risk of being deselected or otherwise adversely affected by the appeal.

1.5 Accordingly, the aim of this Procedure is to return a decision on appeal as soon as possible after the original selection decision has been announced. The key stages of the appeal process are as follows:

Selection Decision Announced

↓ 2 working days

Deadline to submit Request for Review

↓ within 7 working days

Deadline to submit Notice of Appeal

↓ within 8 working days

Appeal Decision / Final Selection Outcome

1.6 The British Canoeing Director of Governance shall have the power to adjust the timescales within this Procedure. If timescales are adjusted, this will be communicated to all interested parties at each relevant stage of the appeals process. If the Athlete believes the timescales should be adjusted, they should notify the Director of Governance at the earliest opportunity and/or communicate this within the Notice of Appeal.

2. BINDING AGREEMENT

Guidance Note: given the short timescales and the need for certainty for the benefit of all athletes and the selected team, this section 2 explains that this Procedure is the only opportunity for you, as an athlete, to challenge a selection decision. Due to the time constraints, there is no further right of appeal to other bodies or courts. It is important if you are going to challenge the selection decision that you make all your arguments.

2.1 This Procedure is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each Athlete and British Canoeing (referred to as "the Parties") as to how selection decisions are to be challenged. The Parties agree to submit any dispute, concerning any matter connected with or arising out of selection issues, to binding arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Procedure.

2.2 The Parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of this Procedure, or any decision made under this Procedure, before any court of law or other dispute resolution body. The Parties will treat all decisions under this Procedure as final and binding upon them.

2.3 The Parties agree that this Procedure is to be treated as an arbitration procedure under Part 1 of the Arbitration Act 1996 ("the Act") and the provisions of clause 2.1 above amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of section 6 of the Act. The seat of the Arbitration shall be England.

If an Athlete wishes to challenge a selection decision, then the following two stage process will apply:

3. STAGE 1 - FORMAL REVIEW

3.1 A written request for a formal review may be submitted, in the first instance, by the Appellant Athlete to the Discipline Committee Chair who will carry out a review in consultation with the relevant Selection Panel.

3.2 This request must be submitted within 2 working days (or an earlier date if that has been decided and communicated by the Director of Governance) of the selection being formally announced and must identify the grounds of appeal upon which they intend to rely, as set out in paragraph 5, provide an outline of the Athlete's argument and provide any evidence or information relied on to support this.

3.3 Within 5 working days (or an earlier date if that has been decided and communicated by the Director of Governance) of receiving the Appellant Athlete's request the Discipline Committee Chair will advise in writing the outcome of the review and the decision reached and will provide brief written reasons.

4. STAGE 2 - NOTICE OF APPEAL

4.1 If following the formal review an Athlete wishes to appeal a selection decision, they must submit a written Notice of Appeal, which shall be sent to the British Canoeing Director of Governance.

The Notice of Appeal must be received within 2 working days of receipt of the outcome of the Stage 1 Review above.

4.2 Failure to submit the Notice of Appeal on time will result in no further action being taken and the Athlete shall lose the right of appeal. The Director of Governance may, at their absolute discretion, decide to admit a Notice of Appeal received after the deadline in exceptional circumstances. It shall be the responsibility of the Athlete to prove the exceptional circumstances.

4.3 The Notice of Appeal must set out the grounds of the appeal and include full details of which ground(s) in paragraph 5 the appeal is based upon and the precise manner in which the ground(s) have been met. The Notice of Appeal should be as comprehensive as possible and include any documents or written evidence upon which the Athlete relies, as it will form the basis of the remainder of this Procedure.

5. GROUNDS OF APPEAL

5.1 An Athlete shall only be entitled to appeal on one or more of the following grounds:

- 5.1.1 there has been a failure to follow the Selection Policy as published;
- 5.1.2 the Selection Panel has reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact;
- 5.1.3 the Selection Panel (or any member of the panel) has shown actual bias when making the decision; and/or
- 5.1.4 the decision is one that no reasonable decision maker could ever have reached.

5.2 In order to ensure a timely and efficient appeals process only the grounds of appeal detailed in 5.1 will be permitted. The composition of the Selection Panel is not open to appeal unless 5.1.3 is being cited in the Notice of Appeal.

5.3 The right to appeal a selection decision 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 and selection criteria as stated in the Selection Policy. In reaching their decision the Selection Panel are acting as experts and athletes agree that in so doing the Selection Panel exercises judgement and discretion which are not in themselves capable of challenge. Athletes should therefore consider carefully whether any of the grounds of appeal at clause 5.1 exists before submitting a Notice of Appeal.

5.4 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published Selection Policy or, subject to grounds 5.1.3, against the actions of the Selection Panel, provided they follow the selection criteria published.

6. APPEAL PANEL

6.1 Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Director of Governance or their designee shall:

- 6.1.1 contact the Selection Panel to inform them of the Appeal, provide them with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Selection Panel provide any information used in the selection process which they wish the Appeal Panel to consider within 3 working days of receipt of the request; and
- 6.1.2 convene an Appeal Panel, which shall consist of 3 people, who shall be selected from British Canoeing's independent Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register, the details of which are further set out in the Schedule. Confirmation of the Appeal Panel will be disclosed to the Athlete following the receipt of the Notice of Appeal. No person who has been involved in the selection process shall be a member of the Appeal Panel.

6.2 The Athlete shall have the opportunity to challenge the composition of the Appeal Panel by submitting written objections within 1 working day of being informed of the Appeal Panel. British Canoeing shall review the objection, consider the issues raised and decide in its absolute discretion whether it is appropriate to alter the composition of the Appeal Panel.

6.3 Once appointed, the Appeal Panel will ordinarily determine the appeal based on the written submissions of the Athlete, and the Selection Panel without a hearing or the calling of witnesses or the giving of oral evidence. However, the Appeal Panel will have the power to set its own processes and give directions including requesting further information from the Athlete, Selection Panel or any other relevant party, setting up a video or telephone conference, determining if a hearing is required and if it is, establishing the date, time and place, and format to be followed in such a hearing.

6.4 The Appeal Panel will seek to reach its decision within 5 working days of its appointment in accordance with 6.1.2 and will inform all interested parties in writing.

7. REMEDIES

7.1 The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to;

7.1.1 reject the Appeal and confirm the selection decision.

7.1.2 only where the grounds set out in paragraphs 5.1.3 and 5.1.4 have been upheld, rescind the selection decision, and confirm the selection of the Athlete.

7.1.3 where the grounds in 5.1.1 or 5.1.2 have been upheld, quash the selection decision and remit the matter back to the Selection Panel identifying the errors they have found in the conduct of the selection process and requesting that a new decision is made within one week (or such shorter time as the Appeal Panel deem is reasonable in all the circumstances).

7.2 The cost and resource of administering the Appeal Panel will generally fall to British Canoeing unless the Appeal Panel directs otherwise.

8. MINOR AND NON-CONSEQUENTIAL BREACHES OF THIS PROCEDURE

A deviation from any requirement of this Procedure shall not invalidate the Procedure or the decision of the Appeal Panel unless there is a clear and significant risk that the deviation has affected the decision of the Appeal Panel. This shall not apply to the time limit for the Athlete to submit their formal appeal under paragraph 4 of this Procedure.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS AND PUBLICATION OF DECISION

9.1 Unless the Parties mutually agree to waive the right, all Parties are under an obligation of confidentiality in respect of this Procedure except for reasonable disclosure to family members and/or a trusted advisor in the case of athletes. Save as permitted under this Procedure none of the Parties will make any public statement or disclosure of the contents of any correspondence concerning any of the Parties during the course of any appeal heard under this Procedure.

9.2 British Canoeing shall be entitled to publish the outcome of the Appeal in such manner and to such extent as is necessary to inform all properly interested and affected parties of the status of the selection decision previously published and the resulting implications upon selection.

10. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THIS PROCEDURES

British Canoeing shall be entitled to amend this Procedure from time to time. Amendments shall take effect from the first date of publication of the updated Procedure on the British Canoeing website. British Canoeing welcomes comments about this Procedure or feedback on the process.

These should be sent to:

Director of Governance
Email: nancy.squires@britishcanoeing.org.uk
British Canoeing
Adbolton Lane
Holme Pierrepont
Nottingham
NG12 2LU

Schedule

Appeal Panel

The Appeal Panel shall be formed as follows:

Chair:

A legally qualified Chair shall be selected from British Canoeing's Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register.

Second and Third Panel Members:

The second and third members shall be independent persons selected from British Canoeing's Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register (a current list is available here: [Policies & Procedures \(britishcanoeing.org.uk\)](https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/policies-procedures)).

If members of the Disciplinary and Appeal Panel Register are not available British Canoeing shall have the discretion to appoint from outside this Register.