

PARALYMPIC SELECTION POLICY



**PARALYMPIC
SELECTION POLICY
2015- 2016**

Challenging Best

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SECTION 1 - OVERVIEW

The purpose of this document is to outline the 2015 and 2016 policies for selection onto British Canoeing (B.C.) Paracanoe National Teams and the selection policy for the nomination of athletes for the Paralympic Games 2016.

1.1 The 2016 International Panel (Selection Committee)

Since January 2005, the BC Board has been responsible for Great Britain (GBR) canoeing team selection through the formation of an International Panel (IP) for both Canoe Sprint and Canoe Slalom disciplines.

The IP is a separate entity to the Performance Department.

The Canoe Sprint IP is appointed and governed by the BC Board as outlined in BC committee regulations which also defines its remit.

IP Responsibilities include:

- Proposing and agreeing the selection policy for the OG16;
- Proposing and agreeing the selection policy for all other GBR canoeing teams;
- Communication of selected teams within 24 hours of IP meetings.

All core members of the IP have voting rights at IP meetings where selection policy is reviewed. IP members with voting rights for each section are shown on the right of Table 1 below. In the event of a tied vote the Chair of the IP has the casting vote. For the 2016 season the core IP members are:

Table 1: International Panel for 2016		IP Members with voting rights		
	Role	Olympic Team	Para Olympic Team	Junior and U23 Championships
Alan Williams	BC International Team Manager Chair IP	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Anderson	BC Performance Director	Yes	Yes	Yes
Alex Nikonorov	BC Head Coach – Sprint	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roland Lawler	Sprint Racing Committee (SRC) Appointee	Yes	Yes	Yes
Steve Harris	BC Programme Manager – Para canoe	Yes	Yes	
Heather Williams	BC Talent Pathway Manager Junior and U23 meetings			Yes
Ian Wynne	BC Lead ODP Coach Junior and U23 Meetings. Plus Canoe athletes.			Yes
Paul Dimmock	Independent observer.			

NB: The Chair of the SRC may attend IP meetings as a non-voting observer.

Additional persons with specific knowledge to a class and BC performance staff can be invited by the IP to attend IP meetings in order to advise and provide relevant evidence on performance with reference to the published policy. These invitees will have no voting rights. Scheduled IP meetings will be published in December 2015.

All IP members and any persons asked to advise and provide evidence on athlete performance must promptly declare in writing to the IP if they have an interest (e.g. family connection or coaching involvement) with any athlete being considered for selection.

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1.2 Introduction to the Selection Process

A draft list of events will be published in the Racing Yearbook. Additional information will also be published on the British Canoeing website. www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

British Canoeing recognises that the ICF as well as the IPC may alter the selection process and/or rules over the next 2 years. This selection policy is subject to these conditions and may need to be modified to adapt for these changes.

SECTION 2 – PARACANOE NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE

2.1 Eligibility for Selection to any G.B Team including the Paralympic Games

Any athlete wishing to be considered for selection must be a full member of British Canoeing (BC). In addition, upon selection they must sign the B.C. Athlete Agreement and must comply with BC and International Canoe Federation (I.C.F) rules on nationality.

NOTE: An athlete is not allowed to race for two Nations in the same year. Athletes who are not British passport holders must have been released from their own National Governing Body.

They must:

- Attend the Paracanoe assessment day
- Race at National selection events
- Must have reached a performance standard (see Fig 1- Paracanoe performance standards)
- In addition, athletes must hold a National Classification in their given event to be eligible for selection in that event. For Paralympic selection, athletes must hold a Confirmed International Classification status or a Classification status under review but with a review date post September 2016 to be eligible for selection.

Selection to represent GB at International Paracanoe events will be based on the ICF disability classifications and classes.

The current classes raced internationally are 200m K1 Men, V1 Men (KL1,KL2,KL3) K1 Women, V1 Women (KL1,KL2,KL3)

The Paralympic events are:

K1 Men KL1	K1 Women KL1
K1 Men KL2	K1 Women KL2
K1 Men KL3	K1 Women KL3

The Non-Paralympic events are:

V1 Men VL1	V1 Women VL1
V1 Men VL2	V1 Women VL2
V1 Men VL3	V1 Women VL3

Paralympic Classifications

L3 – Legs, Trunk, Arms: Athletes who have use of their legs, trunk and arms. Eligible athletes may typically be: amputee, neurological impairment equivalent to lesion at S1, cerebral palsy class 8 (CPISRA)

L2 – Trunk, Arms: Athletes who have some trunk movement but are not able to propel the boat through hip rotation due to significant weakened function of the lower limbs.

Eligible athletes may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following: Bilateral around knee amputation, or significantly impaired quadriceps, or neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3, or an incomplete lesion at L1, or combination of the above such as one leg with the around knee amputation and one leg with significant quadriceps impairment; or classification by CPISRA as eligible to be in class 5.

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L1 – Arms: Athletes who have no trunk function, or those who have shoulder function only. Eligible athletes will be able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders and is likely to have poor sitting balance. Eligible athletes may typically have a disability equivalent to at least one of the following: Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CPISRA), Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10

These Paralympic Classifications are based on the *ICF Paracanoe Classification Rules and Regulations* and any rule changes imposed by the ICF supersede this document.

2.1.1 Paralympic Games Eligibility

Athletes must be British Passport holders to be eligible to compete for ParalympicsGB. An exceptional circumstance can be made to the IPC should the BPA deem this appropriate. Any athlete who has competed for another nation or does not hold a British Passport must satisfy the criteria outlined in the IPC Handbook, Chapter 2, Section 3.1 - http://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/141217162301917_2014_12+sec+ii+3+1+-+ipc+policy+on+the+nationality+of+competitors.pdf

For selection to Paralympic Games, athletes must have competed in the event in which they wish to be selected at the 2015 or 2016 World Championships.

2.2 Nomination for Selection

The Paralympic Programme Staff team will meet immediately post-racing at the designated Selection Regatta to decide the most appropriate team for nomination to the I.P. by the Paralympic Programme Manager.

The I.P. will accept athlete nominations from the British Canoeing Paralympic Programme Manager along with any other relevant supporting evidence (see 7. below). Performance times and tabled results for Paracanoe competitions will be used as evidence to support nomination for G.B. Team selection.

In the case of Paralympic Games selection, nominations will be made to the BPA who will then ratify the nominations and select to the ParalympicsGB team.

2.3 Gold Medal Time Percentage Table and Other Supporting Evidence

The selection standards and criteria required for inclusion into the GB Paracanoe Team are presented in their relevant section. As part of the overall selection process the G.B. section coaches may assess the overall performance for each nominated athlete using the Gold Medal Time Percentage Table (The 2016 table will be updated and presented following the 2015 World Championships). This tool enables the assessment of athlete's performance corrected for environmental conditions and a clear assessment of each athlete's eligibility with reference to a minimum performance standard as a percentage (108%) of gold medal time (G.M.T.). Please note that the G.M.T. refers to a Worlds Best International time and not the winning time of the selection race.

2.4 Notification of Selection

Notification of selection will be carried out as soon as possible after the I.P. finalise their decision. This will be done by a variety of means that could include internet, email, letter, text and telephone.

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SECTION 3 - PARACANOE TEAM SELECTION 2015

3.1 2015 Selection Policy Objectives

The 2015 Selection Policy and Team selection will be based upon the following B.C. priorities.

Priority Order

1. To challenge for medals and focus on medal delivery in Rio
2. Finish in the top 6 in each Paralympic event at World Championships 2015 and qualify NPC slots in all Paralympic events.
3. Confirm maximal athlete international classifications as early as possible in 2015
4. Support Non-Paralympic Events at European and World Championships 2015

3.2 Basic Selection Criteria

Athlete Assessment

Athletes wishing to be considered for 2015 selection will need to enter the 2015 Paracanoe Assessment day which will take place on 21 March 2015 at HPP. The day will consist of two 200m on water Time Trials (TT), the best time of which will be used to enter athletes into finals for the 2015 National Regattas. The best 3 athletes in each category will be entered into finals at the 2015 National Regattas. In the event of unfilled places within a final, other athletes may be considered. Only athletes in these finals will be eligible for selection to the GB Team. Exceptional athletes identified through the Talent Programme or through performance in Paddle-ability races may be considered for inclusion into Regattas.

Athlete Selection

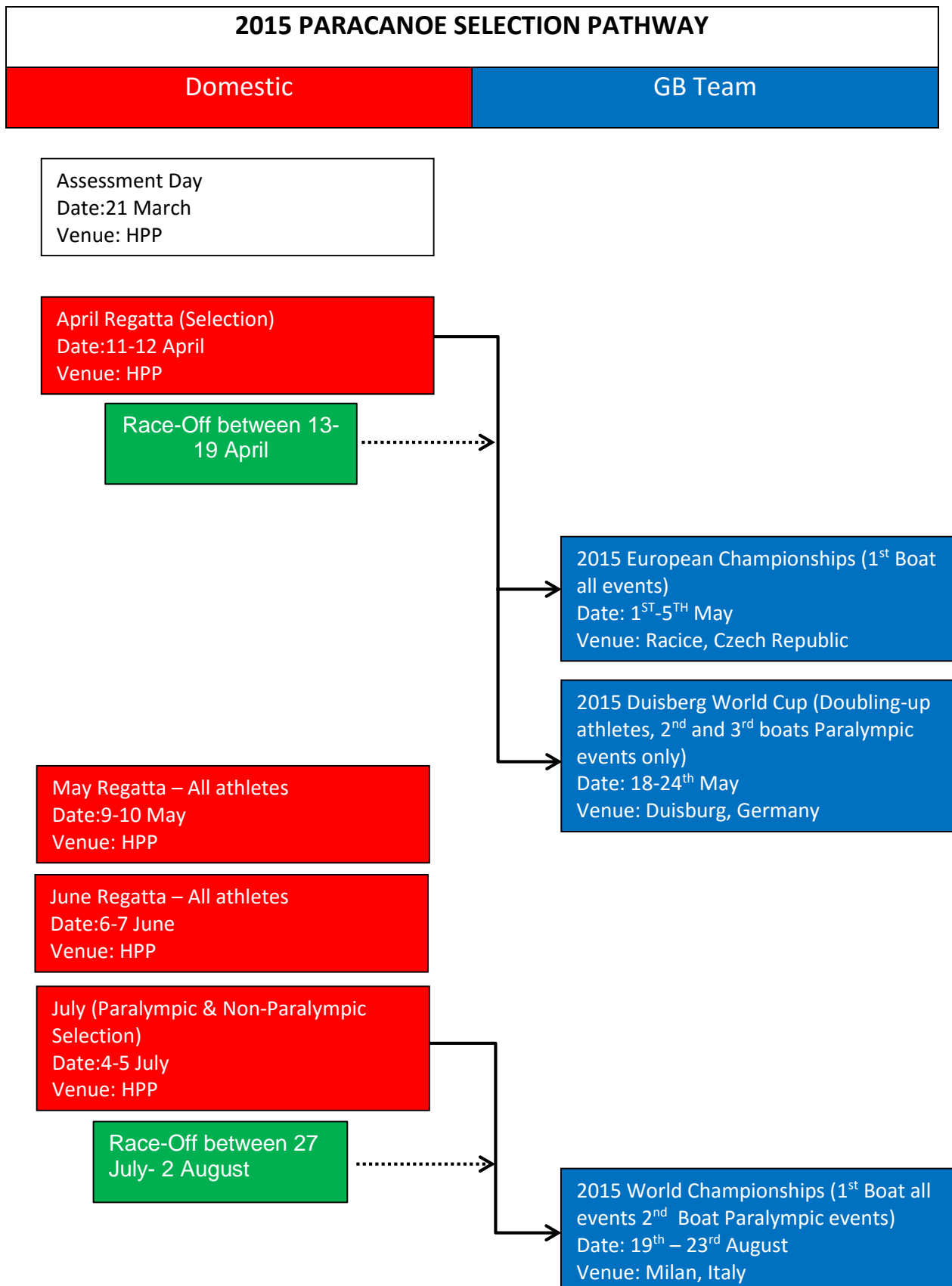
To be automatically selected for any International competition, athletes must achieve the required Performance Standard in their event as well as fulfilling all other selection requirements. Athletes that do not achieve the Performance Standard may be selected at the discretion of British Canoeing and the I.P. Athletes must have an established consistent track record in training and racing performance that statistically demonstrates their performance based upon performance analysis training data and other objective data such as ICF World Ranking for the previous period.

Fig 1- GB Paracanoe Performance Standards 2015

Class	Classification	Performance Time	Gold Medal Time (GMT)
MEN K1	KL3	41.54	38.461
	KL2	44.05	40.79
	KL1	53.33	49.375
MEN V1	VL3	53.34	49.391
	VL2	52.48	48.596
	VL1	59.34	54.944
WOMEN K1	KL3	53.68	49.7
	KL2	57.38	53.128
	KL1	59.63	55.213
WOMEN V1	VL3	62.58	57.948
	VL2	64.38	59.61
	VL1	64.82	60.016

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3.3 2015 Guide to Selection



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3.4 Selection to 2015 European Championships (Racice) and Duisburg World Cup

Selection for European Championships and Duisburg World Cup will be based upon results at April Regatta. Selection will be over 2 races and the finishing position in each race will be recorded.

The best position achieved by each athlete will then be taken into account to organise athletes into their final selection position. When no clear winner is identified, a race off will occur as close to the selection regatta as possible.

e.g.

Example 1. Athlete A wins race 1. Athlete A wins race 2. Selected to European Championships

Example 2. Athlete A wins race 1. Athlete B wins race 2. Race-off between athletes A and B.
Winner selected for European Championships

European Championships

Programme rationale for racing at European Championships

1. Race practice
2. International Classification
3. Opportunity for Matrix result.

Selection-

1st Boat in all 12 events (Paralympic and Non-Paralympic)

World Cup

Programme rationale for racing at World Cup

1. To maximise International Classification opportunity for Programme Athletes
2. Race practice

Selection

Athletes will be selected for Paralympic events only.

- Priority 1. 2nd Placed athletes at April Selection
- Priority 2. 3rd Placed athletes at April Selection

Selection for 2nd and 3rd placed boats for Duisburg will be based on best result (position) at April Regatta. In the event of a tie there will be a race-off.

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Example 1.

Athlete	Result Race 1	Result Race 2	Position in Selection
A	1	1	1
B	2	2	2
C	3	4	Race off with Boat D
D	4	3	Race off with Boat C

Example 2.

Athlete	Result Race 1	Result Race 2	Position in Selection
A	1	2	Race-off with Boat D (winner 1 st , loser 2 nd)
B	2	4	3
C	3	3	4
D	4	1	Race off with Boat A (winner 1 st , loser 2 nd)

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3.5 Selection to 2015 World Championships (Milan)

The ICF have changed the rules for the 2015 season to allow 2 entries per event at World Championships. 2 boats will be selected based on performance standard in Paralympic events. 1 boat per event will be selected based on performance standard in non-Paralympic events. In exceptional circumstances 2nd boats in non-Paralympic events may be considered. 12 different athletes will be selected for Paralympic Events wherever possible based on Performance standard. This is to qualify the maximum number of NPC slots and maximise medal opportunities at the Rio Paralympic Games. This is in line with the IPC qualification criteria.

Selection for World Championships will be based upon results at July Regatta. Selection will be over 2 races and finishing position will be recorded. The athletes will then be placed in order based on best position into a final selection position. When no clear 2 boats are identified, a race off will occur as close to the selection regatta as possible.

e.g.

Example 1. Athlete A wins race 1. Athlete A wins race 2. Selected to World Championships

Example 2. Athlete A wins race 1. Athlete B wins race 2. Race-off between athletes A and B. Winner selected for World Championships

In the event of injury or illness, an athlete who is demonstrating a positive performance trajectory towards gold medal time and cannot compete at the July Regatta for World Championships selection may be given a race-off opportunity.

*If it is deemed that the weather conditions are not conducive to fair competition, the Paracanoe Programme in conjunction with the International Panel may provide an additional race opportunity.

3.7 Selection for 2016 Brazil Warm Weather Training Camp

The Paralympic Programme aims to hold a warm weather training camp in January 2016.

If this camp takes place, athletes qualifying Paralympic event slots at the 2015 World Championships will automatically be nominated for the training camp. Additional athletes may be nominated to attend the camp if they have demonstrated an evidence based performance standard in Paralympic events with potential to medal at Rio.

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SECTION 4 - PARACANOE TEAM SELECTION 2016

4.1 2016 Selection Policy Objectives

The 2016 Selection Policy and Team selection will be based upon the following B.C. priorities.

Priority Order

1. To challenge for medals and focus on medal delivery in Rio
2. Finish in the top 6 in each Paralympic event at World Championships 2016 and qualify NPC slots in all Paralympic events if not already complete
3. Confirm additional athlete international classifications if required
4. International race practice
5. Support Non-Paralympic Events at World Championships 2016

4.2 Basic Selection Criteria

Athletes wishing to be considered for 2016 selection will need to enter the 2016 Paracanoe Assessment day which will take place in March 2016 at HPP (Date TBC). The day will consist of two 200m on water Time Trials (TT), the best time of which will be used to enter athletes into finals for the 2016 National Regattas. The best 3 athletes in each category will be entered into finals at the 2016 National Regattas. In the event of unfilled places within a final, other athletes may be considered. Only athletes in these finals will be eligible for selection to the GB Team. Exceptional athletes identified through the Talent Programme or through performance in Paddleability races may be considered for inclusion into Regattas.

Athlete Selection

To be automatically selected for any International competition, athletes must achieve the required Performance Standard in their event as well as fulfilling all other selection requirements. Discretionary selection may be made for athletes that do not reach the performance standard by the British Canoeing I.P. They must have an established consistent track record in training and racing performance that statistically demonstrates their performance based upon performance analysis training data and other objective data such as ICF World Ranking for the previous period.

Potential situations where this would apply include:

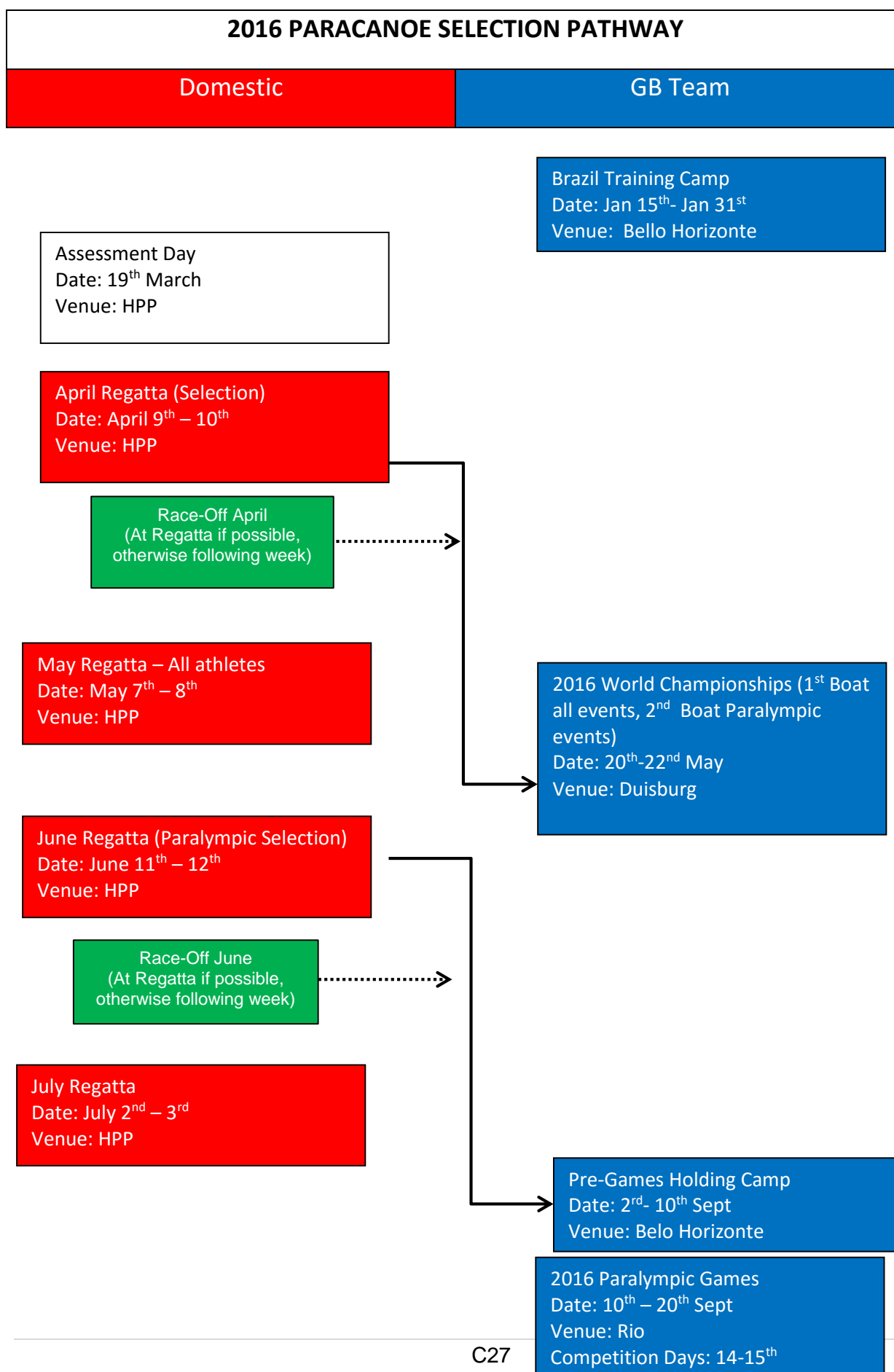
- Environmental conditions
- Injury/Illness

However this is not an exhaustive list.

The Performance standards for 2016 will be published post 2015 World Championships and will be based on 108% GMT of the Worlds' Best time in each category.

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4.3 2016 Paracanoe Guide to Selection



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4.4 Selection for 2016 World Championships

Rule changes by the ICF allow 2 entries per event at World Championships. The Programme will aim to select a full team of 2 athletes per event in Paralympic events based on reaching performance standard. 1 athlete per event will be selected in non-Paralympic events based on meeting performance standards. In exceptional circumstances 2nd boats in non-Paralympic events may be considered. 12 different athletes will be selected for Paralympic Events wherever possible based on Performance standard.

Selection for World Championships will be based upon results at April Regatta. Selection will be over 2 races and finishing position will be recorded. The athletes will then be placed in order based on best position into a final selection position. When no clear winner is identified, a race off will occur as close to the selection regatta as possible.

e.g.

Example 1. Athlete A wins race 1. Athlete A wins race 2. Selected to World Championships

Example 2. Athlete A wins race 1. Athlete B wins race 2. Race-off between athletes A and B. Winner selected for World Championships

In the event of injury or illness, an athlete who is demonstrating a positive performance trajectory towards gold medal time and cannot compete at the April Regatta for World Championships selection may be given a race-off opportunity.

A 3rd placed boat may be selected ahead of a 2nd placed boat at the discretion of the B.C. International Panel. This situation will only take place if the 3rd placed boat has a competitive Rio trajectory and has not competed at the 2015 World Championships. This is for the purpose of fulfilling the IPC criteria of all athletes wishing to be considered for selection having to compete at either the 2015 or 2016 World Championships.

The programme holds the right to select athletes for non-Paralympic events based on the interest of enhanced Paralympic Games opportunities over and above selection position.

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SECTION 5 – SELECTION FOR RIO 2016 PARALYMPIC GAMES

5.1 Paralympic Selection Criteria

To be considered for selection under this policy, at the time of the ICF Paracanoe World Championships 2015 an athlete must be eligible to represent ParalympicsGB under BPA and IPC rules, comply with current I.C.F. and National Paralympic Committee (N.P.C.) rules and be compliant with B.C. and UK Sport anti-doping rules. Detailed information on these can be found on the British Canoeing website:

They must be:

- A British passport holder at the time of the Paralympic Qualifying competitions in 2015 & 2016 and the Paralympic Games
- As a condition of selection, athletes will be obliged to sign the BPA Team Members' Agreement

Nominations will be made in accordance with the regulations stated in the BPA-British Canoeing Paralympic Qualifying Protocol (PQP) and this Policy.

Entry to the Paralympic Games 2016 (PG16) is subject to qualification rules as agreed between the International Canoe Federation (ICF) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The British Paralympic Canoe Sprint Team for the PG16 will be nominated by the BC Sprint International Panel (IP) to the British Paralympic Association (BPA) for their approval and final selection to the Great Britain Paralympic Team (Paralympics GB).

5.2 Paralympic Selection Policy

Selection for Paralympic Games will be based upon results at 2015 World Championships and June Regatta 2016. Selection will be based on a points system with the first athlete to 2 points being nominated to the BPA for Paralympic selection.

1 point will be awarded to any athlete that achieves a medal and qualifies the NPC slot for the event at the 2015 World Championships. **Following the World Championships the following athletes have qualified the listed points towards Paralympic Selection:**

KL3 Men – Rob Oliver – 1 Point

KL3 Women – Anne Dickins – 1 Point

KL2 Women – Emma Wiggs – 1 Point

KL1 Women – Jeanette Chippington – 1 Point

1 point will be awarded for winning the first race at the 2016 June Regatta.

1 point will be awarded for winning the second race at the 2016 June Regatta.

When no clear winner is identified, a race-off will occur as close to the selection regatta as possible. Only athletes with points will be entered into the race-off.

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The first placed athlete in each Paralympic event in which an NPC slot has been qualified will be nominated to the I.P. The I.P. will then confirm their nominations to the BPA for Paralympic selection. The selection will be confirmed on the Final Selection Date (FSD). The FSD for Paracanoe will be Thursday 9th June. The second placed athlete in each event at either the June Regatta or following the Race-off will be named as Paralympic Reserve. Reserves can be named internationally by British Canoeing but BPA will not accept “nominations” for reserves. These athletes would only become recognised at the point of a deselection and new nomination being made.

For the Paralympic Games IPC rules state that there can be no changes made after the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) (normally held a day or two before the village opens).

SECTION 6 - GENERAL INFORMATION – APPLICABLE TO ALL G.B. TEAMS

Selection and De-selection

B.C reserves the right to deselect an athlete who has lost form, is suffering from illness or injury. In these circumstances the section coach will contact the Head Coach who will determine if a fitness trial is required. The Head Coach may request that the B.C medical officer or another appointee should conduct a fitness trial or test to determine ability to participate.

For the Paralympic Games the IPC rules state that there can be no changes made after the delegation registration meeting (DRM) which is normally held a day/2 days before the village opens.

6.1 Loss of Form or Illness

In the case of possible loss of form the Head Coach will arrange a water based test. The test will be appropriate for the conditions, periodization of training and the class. Following the fitness test the Head Coach will supply the IP with the results assessments against % GMT and any other supporting evidence to assess the level of performance. The IP will then determine whether the athlete will remain on the team. If the athlete is not fit to compete the IP will nominate the 2nd placed/Paralympic reserve athlete as a suitable replacement. This process can be applied to the 2nd placed/Paralympic reserve if required. In this situation the 3rd placed athlete from the selection process can be named and so on.

6.2 Disciplinary Offence under the BC Rules

B.C also has the right to deselect any athlete who has been found guilty of any disciplinary offence under the B.C rules. See athlete agreement and B.C. website.

6.3 Mitigating Circumstances

Should an athlete miss an event or suffer injury or illness the athlete in consultation with the section coach can ask the IP, with guidance by the Chief Medical Officer, to consider their mitigating circumstances. If this is illness or injury certificated detail must be given to the International Panel prior to the IP selection meeting no later than 24 hours before a British Canoeing selection race. In such a case the IP may allow the athlete a race-off opportunity. The IP has the sole discretion to invoke this clause. If mitigating circumstances are approved then details of the subsequent action would be provided.

The athlete must have an established consistent track record in training and racing performance that statistically demonstrates their performance above other athletes based upon performance analysis training data and other objective data such as ICF World Ranking for the previous period.

6.4 Contingency

The IP retains the right to adapt racing to ensure a fair process in line with the following principles and procedures.

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The IP will have the responsibility to measure weather conditions and make necessary decisions relating to the timetabling of the event. Should local conditions threaten the planned racing then the IP reserve 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
- Taking results from Semi Finals
- Reducing start intervals
- Changing location of racing

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.

6.5 Appeals

An athlete may appeal against non-selection if the IP

- a) Do not adhere to the agreed format and timetable for selecting teams or
- b) Do not advise an athlete of changes to the competition programme.

Appeals against non-selection must be made within 24hrs of notification and should be sent to the B.C Chief Executive who will determine whether there are reasonable grounds for appeal. If there are reasonable grounds to appeal the Chairman will convene an appeals panel to consider within 7 days.

The B.C Appeals Policy was approved by the BC Board in 2007. A copy of this policy is available on the B.C website www.Britishcanoeing.org.uk. There is no appeal process for athletes deselected under 6.6 below.

6.6 Anti-doping

Athletes must be compliant with the B.C. anti-doping policy at all times. The BC anti-doping Policy can be viewed at:

<http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/olympic-paralympic/how-we-work/anti-doping>