

World Class Programme Athlete Places 2021.

Following on from the confirmation that athletes' status on the programme will remain unchanged until 31st December, we now have further clarification from the British Canoeing Board regarding the intention for WCP athlete places for the 2021 season.

Given the exceptional circumstances presented to us by Covid-19 and that there is unlikely to be any fair international competition until May 2021, we can now confirm the following:

1. All current WCP athlete performance awards are confirmed through to 31st March 2021.
2. It is our intention to retain all current WCP athletes through to the end of the 2021 International season.

Please note, this is subject to:

- WCP athlete places, investment and agreement from UK Sport for the Paris cycle, confirmation of which is envisaged in December 2020*
- Athletes fulfilling athlete agreements within the WCP.

*We are putting processes in place to outline how athlete places will be reviewed in the event of a decrease in funding for athlete places within our UK Sport Funding Agreement from 1st April 2021.

This process will be shared within the next few months and if decisions need to be taken to reduce the number of athletes on any programme because of this, these will be made by the end of December 2020 and implemented from 1st April 2021.

Whilst we understand that this decision to retain the same athlete group on lottery funding throughout 2021 will disappoint some athletes who had ambitions to secure a lottery programme funded place in 2021, we believe that this is the fairest and most transparent option in these most unusual of circumstances. This also provides as much clarity as possible to allow athletes to prepare for the 2021 season.

Where capacity allows, we hope to support athletes who were on track to meet the World Class Programme Qualification Criteria during 2020 to join specific camps and/or sessions by invitation. Details of this will also be shared at a later date as these plans are developed.