

## World Class Programme Prospect Support - 2021

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### 1. Introduction

The ongoing challenges of the pandemic are resulting in a significant impact to the development and performance opportunities for all athletes at all stages of the pathway.

Talented athletes in their last year of juniors or at the beginning of an U23 career in 2019 have been impacted and missed significant opportunities to develop their paddling in 2020 and 2021 at a critical period in their journey. There have been significant restrictions in the training environment placed on young athletes compared to their peers on the World Class Programme (WCP) which has now started to affect transitions towards elite performers in the Paris cycle.

Therefore, it is proposed to provide a new level of support to be defined as '**WCP Prospect Support**' to a targeted group of talented athletes, identified by the Performance Director and coaching team, who are most likely to challenge for a WCP place through the 2021 season. This support would commence on 01/04/2021 and conclude on 31/12/2021, subject to ongoing Athlete Development Reviews. This support is in addition to, and aimed at, complementing Home Nation Programme Support where an athlete is already on a programme.

The purpose of this document is to outline the opportunity to help support the development of talented athletes in 2021 who are close to qualifying for the World Class Programme (WCP) and haven't been able to earn a place due to:

- a) The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic
- b) No opportunity to race since 2019
- c) Limited number of WCP places available

This new level of support is to be offered in 2021 as a direct response to these challenges.

### 2. WCP Prospect Support – Athlete Places

WCP Prospect Support places will be provided across the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. Selected athletes will have WCP Prospect Support status for the 2021 season from 01/04/2021.

British Canoeing will be able to offer a maximum of 11 WCP Prospect Support places for the World Class Programme. The exact split of available places in each discipline will be determined by the Performance Director and Head Coach once all applications have been considered.

The principles of WCP Prospect Support will be consistent throughout the WCP but there will be an essential degree of flexibility within each discipline to take account of the capacity and the availability of resources along with the specific events/classes targeted for Paris and LA.

### **3. WCP Prospect – Support and Commitment**

It is proposed that athletes will be subject to dispensations granted under the terms of the DCMS Elite Athlete definition. The provision available will vary between disciplines and is subject to Covid-19 restrictions but as an overview the type of support that is going to be available to athletes within this group may include:

- a) Coaching support through a National Centre. (Holme Pierrepont for Sprint and Para, LVWWC for Slalom)
- b) Strength and Conditioning guidance through a National Centre. (Holme Pierrepont for Sprint and Para, LVWWC for Slalom)
- c) Access to a daily training environment (Holme Pierrepont for Sprint and Para, LVWWC for Slalom) Water, Gym, boat stores, training group. (Covid-19 guidelines, numbers on water and Elite Training Centres permitting)
- d) Support of up to £2000 contribution to the cost of attending international competitions, training camps or equipment purchases.

### **4. WCP Prospect Support – Eligibility Criteria**

Athletes will need to demonstrate one or more of the qualification criteria outlined below, to be considered for WCP Prospect support:

- a) Achieved a WCP Matrix qualification standard in 2019 as a junior/U23 and will still be an U23 in 2022.
- b) A member of a selected GB U18/U23 European/World Championship team in 2019 and will still be an U23 in 2022.
- c) On a UK Sport funded Talent Transfer programme.
- d) Evidence of being on track to achieve World Class Programme qualification criteria in Paris and LA Events/Classes and have demonstrable evidence of progression.

## 5. WCP Prospect Support – Application Process

Athletes are invited to apply in writing to [laura.duffin@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:laura.duffin@britishcanoeing.org.uk) setting out:

- How they meet the Eligibility Criteria set out above in section 4 (including any supporting performance evidence);
- What benefit the WCP Prospect Support would provide

Applications must be received by **23 February 2021**

## 6. WCP Prospect Support – Decision Making

- Decision for WCP Prospect Support will be made by the Performance Director after consultation with the Head Coach, U23 Lead Coach and Home Nation Lead.
- The assessment for the decision will be based on the Performance Director's assessment of athletes with the best prospect for achieving significant international results in a Paris event. Prevailing conditions or constraints may need to be considered, such as location of athlete, location and capacity of available support and the current covid-19 restrictions.
- This a one-off situation to reflect the unique challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Decisions made on WCP Prospect Support will be at the discretion of the Performance Director.

Athletes will be notified of the outcome in writing by **09 March 2021**

## 7. WCP Prospect Support – Request for Review

- If an athlete is dissatisfied with the outcome of the decision made, they may make a Request for Review of the decision.
- A Request for Review may only be made on the following grounds:
  - a) The Performance Director showed bias, an abuse of his discretion or made a decision that no reasonable decision maker could make;
  - b) The decision has not been made in accordance with the requirements as set out in this WCP Prospect Support document.
- An athlete wishing to make a Request for Review must do so in writing to the Head of Governance within 48 hours of the decision being communicated to them. The Request for Review must clearly set out which ground(s) detailed above the Request for Review is based upon and the manner in which the ground(s) have been met.

- Having considered the Request for Review, the Head of Governance will either uphold the original decision or conclude that the application should be reconsidered. The Athlete will be notified in writing of the outcome within five days of receipt of the Request for Review.
- The decision of the Head of Governance will be final and binding.

3rd February 2021