

## Australian Canoeing

### Paracanoe direction and Paralympic focus

#### **Domestic Competition**

Australian Canoeing continues to encourage participation in paracanoe events at all levels domestically.

Domestic competitions will include Paracanoe Kayak and Va'a (V1) events over 200m as well as races over 500m and 1000m.

Current and future Paracanoe athletes are encouraged to continue the progression from beginner athletes to high performance athletes through the racing on offer by Australian Canoeing.

International racing experience and selection to the Australian Canoe Sprint Team is reserved for high performance athletes who have demonstrated ability to race at the elite level over the 200m distance.

#### **International Competition Strategy**

Paracanoeing has been included as a sport in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and the following events have been confirmed as the Rio 2016 Paralympic events:

##### **Men**

- Men's K1 KL1 (formerly K1 A - Arms Only)
- Men's K1 KL2 (formerly K1 TA – Trunk and Arms)
- Men's K1 KL3 (formerly K1 LTA - Leg Trunk and Arms)

##### **Women**

- Women's K1 KL1 (formerly K1W A - Arms Only)
- Women's K1 KL2 (formerly K1W TA – Trunk and Arms)
- Women's K1 KL3 (formerly K1W LTA - Leg Trunk and Arms)



In line with the program funding partners APC and AIS and Australia's Winning Edge Strategy, Australian Canoeing will prioritise its selection strategy and high performance resources on the Paralympic Kayak events.

Subject to a performance standard, selection to the V1 non Paralympic events will continue, however, funding and other resource support will be at the discretion of Australian Canoeing.

### **Paralympic Games Qualification**

A maximum of 3 men and 3 women can qualify for the Paralympic Games (1 athlete per Paralympic event).

To be eligible for selection by the APC, athletes must be internationally classified either with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2016 and have competed in the 2015 and/or the 2016 ICF Paracanoe World Championships.

The IPC qualification system can be found on this link: <http://www.paralympic.org/rio-2016/qualification>.

The key phases for Qualification for Rio 2016 in the 6 Paralympic events are:

1. ICF Classification Event – 9/10 May 2015 at Varsity Lakes QLD (provisional date TBC with ICF) to gain eligibility for 2015 World Championship
2. **ICF World Championship Milan ITA 19-21 August 2015** – to achieve top 6 nations in each event. (Up to 2 boats per nation may compete but only 1 boat can count for qualification purposes)
3. AC Paralympic Games nomination trials and AC Senior team trials Feb/March 2016 (date and location TBC)
4. ICF World Championship Duisburg GER 19-21 May 2016 – if not qualified at 2015 world championships, achieve top 4 amongst non qualified nations (subject to Host nation qualification and 3 continents)

### **Classification**

- At the national level, the current classification status of athletes remains valid for domestic competition in 2015.
- At the international level, all Paracanoe athletes who held "Confirmed" status under the previous system now hold "Review" status. All Review status athletes must be re-classified in order to compete at the 2015 World Championships in Milan, Italy.
- Selection to the world championship team for 2015 is subject to meeting the new classification guidelines set by the ICF.
- AC will host an ICF Oceania Classification Event in May 2015 (provisionally 9/10 May at Varsity Lakes QLD) for the purpose of having all athletes seen by the ICF classifiers prior to the World Championships 2015.
- The classes defined under the new system are KL1, KL2 and KL3. Non-Paralympic classes VL1, VL2 and VL3.

- Classification is not just for new athletes. All athletes with current AC or ICF classifications will also need to be re-seen and re-classed under the new guidelines.

### **The New Kayak Classification System**

**All persons interested in Paracanoe should carefully review The Paracanoe Kayak Classification Manual.** Three impairment types are eligible for Paracanoe:

- Limb Deficiency,
- Impaired Range of Motion
- Impaired Muscle Strength

There are three athlete categories: KL1, KL2 and KL3 (KL = Kayak Level). The categories LTA, TA and A no longer exist for Paracanoe. There are two notable differences between the old and new categories. Impairments of the upper limbs are not assessed for inclusion in the kayak. Neurological impairments are also not assessed for inclusion in the kayak.

### **The New Va'a Classification System**

The Paracanoe – Va'a Classification System is being finalized at this time and will be distributed in the near future. As is the case for the Paracanoe- Kayak, there will be three basic impairment types eligible for Paracanoe:

- Limb Deficiency,
- Impaired Range of Motion
- Impaired Muscle Strength

For sport development reasons, assessments are being developed for Upper limb impairments and a limited number of neurological impairments. Participation by persons with these impairments in the sport will permit the Study Team to include test subjects in the classification study. There are three athlete categories: VL1, VL2 and VL3 (VL = Va'a Level).

### **Additional selections to Milan world championships**

The ICF has recently announced that National Federations will be permitted two entries per event at ICF Events in each category. For Paralympic Qualification only one athlete result will count towards Qualification.

Under the AC selection criteria one athlete per event may be selected to the team for the world championships. AC will consider the selection of an additional athlete per event following the ICF Classification Event in May 2015 and subject to the Performance Guide below.

### **AC Para Performance Guide**

A performance guide based on the 2014 ICF and AC Classification will be used to inform 2015 selection decisions and will apply for both Paralympic and non-Paralympic events.

Under the AC senior team selection criteria available here, one boat per event may be selected to the team.

As a broad indicator or expectation, an athlete should demonstrate the potential to perform at finals level at the world championships. The Performance Guide below is based on current worlds best times and percentage field difference in the finals each year. It is expected in the lead up to the Paralympics, this standard will increase in Paralympic events.

Event	Craft	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Top 6	Top 9	Percentage Field Difference
<b>Men's LTA</b>	K1	39.208	39.467	39.962	40.956	42.541	8.5%
<b>Men's TA</b>	K1	40.928	41.872	42.906	44.662	46.517	11.21%
<b>Men's A</b>	K1	49.375	49.866	50.095	53.733	56.357	14.14%
<b>Women's LTA</b>	K1	49.700	49.813	51.247	54.576	55.873	12.42%
<b>Women's TA</b>	K1	53.128	53.505	55.235	56.686	1:05.980	24.20%
<b>Women's A</b>	K1	55.213	59.292	59.856	1:09.054	1:20.738	46.23%
<b>Men's LTA</b>							
<b>Men's LTA</b>	V1	50.368	51.369	51.806	52.956	1:00.313	19.74%
<b>Men's TA</b>	V1	48.596	49.613	52.356	54.192	55.926	15.08%
<b>Men's A</b>	V1	54.944	57.481	59.136	1:07.720	1:10.067 (8th)	27.52%
<b>Women's LTA</b>	V1	57.948	1:00.749	1:01.908	1:05.607	1:08.919 (8th)	18.93%
<b>Women's TA</b>	V1	1:00.358	1:02.565	1:03.666	1:07.268	1:11.070	17.75%
<b>Women's A</b>	V1	1:00.016	1:06.718	1:07.540	1:19.931	N/A	33.18%

#### AC Selection Panel for the Paracanoe Team

Richard Fox

Jim Murphy

Glenn Pyne

Christine Bain

#### Useful links:

New Classification documents - <http://canoeicf.com/icf/NF-Area/Paddle-Away-Updates.html>

Selection criteria - [http://teams.canoe.org.au/admin/uploads/9338f\\_ss-2015-sprint-senior\\_ratified\\_5%20Jan.pdf](http://teams.canoe.org.au/admin/uploads/9338f_ss-2015-sprint-senior_ratified_5%20Jan.pdf)

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