



AUSTRALIAN CANOEING SPRINT CANOE / KAYAK



SENIOR TEAM SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

This document sets out the **guiding principles** upon which selection decisions will be made for all Senior squads and teams between 2018 and 2020.

This document **is not included in, nor does it form part of the documents governing selection to any AC team, namely the Selection Procedures Bylaw and applicable Selection Criteria Supplement.**

Whilst it is designed to provide long term understanding of Australian Canoeing's philosophy by which it will select its teams, there may be circumstances whereby the philosophy may need to be changed. These changes will be communicated in advance of or in conjunction with the relevant selection policy.

Overall philosophy:

Australian Canoeing has ambitious goals of winning medals at major International competitions, including the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The selection of athletes who have demonstrated the ability to perform on the International stage and to ensure those Athletes compete in events that provide Australia with the best chance of achieving success in Tokyo is an important part of the high performance strategy. The intention is to provide a clear, transparent and consistent selection process that allows Athletes and Coaches to optimise their preparation to perform when it matters. Essentially the objective of selection is to ensure we select the right Athletes, to the right Events, to allow them to perform at the right Time.

Guiding Principles:

1. The World Championships and Olympic Games are the benchmark events (**BME**) to be contested in each year. International Performance Standards (**IPS**) have been recognised as important by AC and will form part of the selection process. These events are the pinnacle of the sport and will be used to benchmark Australia's performance against the rest of the World.
2. Dependent on the ICF Olympic Qualification system for Tokyo, athletes/crews may be selected for an Olympic qualification event in order to qualify a boat for the Olympic Games. This will only apply if the boat/crew has demonstrated the ability to reach the required minimum International Performance Standards at the Olympic Games.
3. World Cup competitions are second tier events with two main purposes:
 - (a) Competition Preparation: competition used to adequately prepare athletes and the team to peak for BMEs each year. They may be used to trial different boats, crews or improve the competition specific conditioning of athletes through racing.
 - (b) Competition Experience: competition used to prepare 'performing' but lesser experienced athletes to higher competition levels (particularly in the first two years of the quadrennial cycle)
4. To be clear, the distinguishing factor between BME events and World Cups events are that athletes selected to compete in BME events should be aiming to be at their peak physical and

mental condition, whilst World Cups are an opportunity to improve competition readiness and/or competition experience.

5. Each year, Australian Canoeing will select a World Cup squad that may compete at various ICF World Cup events. Following the World Cups, Australian Canoeing will then select a World Championship Team to compete at the BME event (including World Championships and/or Olympic Games). Selection to the World Cup Squad does not guarantee selection to the World Championship Team.
6. Australian Canoeing is not obliged to fill the required number of quota positions for BME or World Cup events if, according to the principles above, there is no valid or required reason to do so.
7. All athletes should be exposed to an appropriate standard and quantity of competition that is commensurate with their athletic maturation. Whilst it is important and beneficial to expose developing athletes to a certain amount of high level competition, athletes/crews will be required to meet international performance standards at either domestic selection opportunities or world cups events to demonstrate they are internationally competitive.
8. Australian Canoeing will be aiming to fill all available Olympic Games quota positions. Nevertheless, the IPS have been recognised as important by AC and will form part of the selection process, meaning AC is not obliged to fill all quota positions if performances do not warrant inclusion.
9. Throughout the Olympic cycle, boats that are most likely to win medals at BME events will be prioritised and identified at the time of selection. Selection to these events will take precedence over events that are less likely to win medals and have more of a development focus.
10. The Selection Panel may consider selecting athlete(s) to more than one Event, and will consider each decision on a case by case basis to maximise the performance outcome of the Team against the nominated competitor/s in the relevant event.
11. Performing during Australia's domestic season does not always correlate with performing at a BME event later in the year. In fact, it is often considered counterproductive in terms of allowing adequate recovery from the previous season and to allow appropriate periodisation of training during the early phases of conditioning. Hence, athlete performances closer to the BME event will be considered favourably in selecting for the BME event.
12. AC is of the belief that outstanding results in major international competition is a strong determinant for future success and will be recognised as important by AC and will form part of the selection process.
13. AC believes that to build a strong K4 crew, athletes first need to demonstrate strong performances in smaller boats (with an emphasis on the K2). Once a pool of athletes has been identified, individual strengths, team boat skills and crew compatibility will be assessed within national team camps and international competitions, with the aim of gaining consistency and more time spent training and competing together.

14. AC recognises that there may be extenuating circumstances that may prevent an athlete from meeting the selection requirements, and AC reserves the right to recognise specific instances where this may be taken into account.
15. Given the complexity of Sprint Canoeing, with multiple Events performed in variable conditions and involving single and team boats, AC recognises that a wide range of factors need to be taken into account during the selection process, as opposed to only considering performances across the line.
16. The requirement for excellent planning and commitment by athletes and their coaches is paramount to achieving the programs outcomes. To be eligible for selection and funding, athletes will need to have an IPP in place each year.
17. Athletes, and all stakeholders, should understand that this Philosophy Statement does not form part of the selection criteria for the Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups or any other selection event. It has been produced as a guide to understanding the rationale behind selection decisions.