

**USA CANOE/KAYAK (USACK)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2016 OLYMPIC GAMES
CANOE SLALOM
APRIL 3, 2015**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

- 1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athletes must be a national of the United States at the time of the 2016 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team Trials and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

- 1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 42).

- 1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

Any event associated with these procedures will be governed by the following rules:

ICF Rules

<http://www.canoeicf.com/icf/Aboutoursport/Canoe-Slalom.html>

USA Canoe Slalom Racing Rules

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Canoe-Kayak/Racing-Rules>

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

Athletes must be a member and in good standing with USA Canoe/Kayak.

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

2015 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom National Team Trials
Charlotte, NC - USA April 10-12, 2015
(Qualifying event for the 2015 Slalom World Championships)

2015 ICF Slalom World Championship
London, GBR – September 16-20, 2015

2016 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team Trials Event 1
Charlotte, NC, April 9-10, 2016
U.S. National Whitewater Center

2016 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team Trials Event 2
Oklahoma City, OK, May 6-7, 2016

1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

The 2015 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom National Team Trials will be an open event to all USA Canoe/Kayak members, in good standing.

Athletes are selected for the 2015 ICF Slalom World Championships (September 16-20, 2015) through the 2015 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom National Team Trials.

The 2016 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team Trials Events (1 & 2) will be open events to all USA Canoe/Kayak members, in good standing.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team nominees (include maximum Team size).

- 1.3.1. A maximum Team size of 1 Kayak Man (K-1), 1 Kayak Woman (K-1W), 1 Canoe Man (C-1) and 1 Two Man Canoe (C-2) can be entered into the 2016 Olympic Games if all athlete quota slots are qualified at the two Olympic Qualifiers.

Points awarded to athletes only apply to that boat class and cannot be transferred across classes. A C-2 boat only earns points if that crew remains intact as that Team. If the original crew does not paddle together both athletes lose their accumulated points.

- 1.3.2. **2016 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team Trials Events:** Athletes/boats can accrue points towards 2016 U.S. Olympic Team selection based on their overall result at each of the Olympic Team Trials Events. Fixed point values will be awarded in each category as shown below:

	2016 Olympic Team Trials - Event 1	2016 Olympic Team Trials - Event 2
1 st place	3 points	3 points
2 nd place	2 points	2 points
3 rd place	1 point	1 point
4 th and lower place	0 points	0 points

- 1.3.3. **2015 ICF Slalom World Championships:** Athletes/boats can accrue points towards 2016 U.S. Olympic Team selection based on their finish at the **2015 Slalom World Championships**. Points will be awarded according to each athlete/boat's final race result as follows:

Top 3 overall finish	5 points
4 th to 10 th overall finish	4 points
Best US athlete and: K1 - 11 th -20 th place, C1&K1W - 11 th -15 th place, C2 - 11 th -12 th place.	3 points

- 1.3.4. **Overall Olympic Selection System Scoring:** Individual USA athletes/boats will be ranked according to the greatest number of total points accumulated by adding together the two single highest point scores from the three events: the **2015 ICF Slalom World Championships and the two (2) 2016 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team Trials Events.**

This ranking will determine the order in which boats will then be nominated for available qualified places on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team.

In the case of a tie, if the boat that qualified the Olympic quota slot is one of the tied boats, they will be nominated to the Olympic Team.

If two other athletes/boats are tied, the boat with the higher placing final result from the 2016 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team Trials - Event 2 will be ranked higher for Olympic Team consideration.

Example 1:

<u>K1 M class</u>	World Championships 2015	Olympic Trials - Event 1	Olympic Trials - Event 2	Total points collected
Athlete A	20th - 0 points	1 st - 3 points	1 st - 3 points	6 points
Athlete B	12 th - 3 points	2nd - 2 points	2 nd - 2 points	5 points

Athlete A is selected to the Olympic Team.

Example 2:

<u>C1M class</u>	World Championships 2015	Olympic Trials - Event 1	Olympic Trials - Event 2	Total points collected
Athlete A	14th - 0 points	1 st - 3 points	1 st - 3 points	6 points
Athlete B	9 th - 4 points	2nd - 2 points	2 nd - 2 points	6 points

Athlete B qualified the quota slot for the US at the World Championships and he is selected to the Olympic Team (Section 1.3.4. above)

Example 3:

<u>K1W class</u>	World Championships 2015	Olympic Trials - Event 1	Olympic Trials - Event 2	Total points collected
Athlete A	11 th - 3 points	3rd - 1 point	3 rd - 1 point	4 points
Athlete B	DNR	1 st - 3 points	2 nd - 2 points	5 points
Athlete C	15th - 0 points	2 nd - 2 points	1 st - 3 points	5 points

Athlete C is the winner of Olympic Trials - Event 2 and is selected to the Olympic Team (Section 1.3.4. above)

According to the ICF Olympic Qualification System for Rio 2016, an athlete that qualifies and is selected by their National Olympic Committee (NOC) for the Olympic Games can participate in more than just the one (1) event (boat class) that they qualified in Canoe Slalom at the Olympic Games as long as no other athlete/boat from their NOC is in that event at the Olympic Games. In the case where USACK does not obtain Athlete Quota Places in all four 2016 Olympic Slalom events, athletes who have been selected to the Olympic Team may have the opportunity to compete in the events for which USA boats were not otherwise qualified. These athletes/boats will be determined by their overall finish in USACK Olympic Selection in that event. If they did not take part in the USACK Olympic selection in that event, this will be determined by an additional race between those athletes as agreed upon by the USACK Slalom High Performance Committee and the USACK Olympic coaching staff.

1.4. Method of ranking the events (boat classes) from the 2015 Pan American Games - Continental Qualification allocation of the athlete quota places.

According to ICF Qualification System for Rio 2016, only 2 athlete quota places can be allocated to an NOC/NF at the Continental Qualification - 2 individual events or one C-2 boat. Each NOC/NF ranked in position to qualify more than 2 athlete quota places after Continental Qualification will have to decide which 2 athlete quota places they will accept after the conclusion of the 2015 World Championships.

The information below describes how events will be selected if all athlete quotas are not qualified at the 2015 Slalom World Championships, but were qualified at the 2015 Pan American Games - Continental Qualification.

This method will only be used to rank the events in which the athlete quota places were not qualified at the 2015 World Championships.

- 1.4.1. In the case where US athletes have placed high enough to qualify more than 2 athlete quota places at the 2015 Pan American Games – Continental Qualification, (example: 1st place finishes in K-1, C-1 and C-2) USA Canoe/Kayak will rank events (boat classes) using the results from the 2015 World Championships in London to determine which 2 athlete quota places to accept.

Only those National Federations (NFs) that did not qualify an athlete quota in that event at the 2015 World Championships will be counted in this ranking. Only the highest ranked boat per NF will be counted. The best placed US athlete/boat among the other best-placed athletes/boats from other non-qualified NFs at the 2015 World Championships – Global Qualification at each event will be used.

The event with the highest-ranking place among the non-qualified NFs in this event will be ranked first. The event with the second highest-ranking place among non-qualified NFs in this event will be ranked second, and so on.

In order for the C-2 event to qualify athlete quota places at the Pan American Games – Continental Qualification, the C-2 event must be ranked first among other events at the 2015 World Championships. If not, the two events will come from two of the individual boat classes.

- 1.4.2. In case of a tie between the events, the highest ranked US athlete's (in the tied event) ICF Ranking as of September 1, 2015 will be used to determine events order. The event of a US athlete with the lower ICF Ranking points will be ranked first.

Example of the ranking of the events after the 2015 World Championships:

Event/boat class	K1 Men	K1 Women	C1 Men	C2 Men
Number of NFs to qualify quota places at 2015 Worlds	Top 15 NFs	Top 15 NFs	Top 10 NFs	Top 8 NFs
US ranking among other NFs at the 2015 Worlds	as 18 th NF	as 17 th NF	as 15 th NF	as 12 th NF

US ranking among the non-qualified NFs at the 2015 Worlds	3 rd	2 nd	5 th	4 th
Ranking of the events/boat classes	2 nd	1 st	4 th	3 rd

Using the example above, the US did not qualify any athlete quota at the Global Qualification (2015 World Championship). In the case where US athletes have placed high enough to qualify more than two (2) athlete quota places at the 2015 Pan American Games – Continental Qualification, (example: 1st place finishes in K-1, K-1W, C-1 and C-2) USA Canoe/Kayak will rank events (boat classes) as in the example above and will accept Olympic quota in K-1W and K-1M.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

No Athletes will be selected to the team through discretionary selection. All slots will be awarded through accumulation of points acquired at all the tryout events or through the replacement process outlined below in Section 4 below.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

N/A

2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection

committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, USA Canoe/Kayak has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Canoe/Kayak may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Canoe/Kayak:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Canoe/Kayak CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Canoe/Kayak. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Canoe/Kayak, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of USA Canoe/Kayak's Code of Conduct (Attachment A).

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Canoe/Kayak's Bylaws Article 13 and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Canoe/Kayak Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, ICF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Replacement athlete/boats will be chosen from the next eligible athlete/boat in that class according to the final ranking of the 2016 USACK/USAWS Olympic selection as outlined above in Section 1.3 "Overall Olympic Selection System Scoring".

Replacements in a C-2 will be chosen from the next eligible C-2 according to the final ranking of the 2016 USACK Olympic selection system outlined above in Section 1.3. "Overall Olympic Selection System Scoring"; replacement athletes in K-1, K-1W or C-1 will be chosen from the next eligible athlete in line in their respective class, following the final ranking of the 2016 USACK Olympic selection system outlined above in Section 1.3., "Overall Olympic Selection System Scoring".

If an athlete in a K-1, K-1W or C-1 is removed from the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team, that athlete will be replaced by the next eligible athlete from the same category. If an athlete in a C-2 is removed from the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team, the entire C-2 will be replaced by the next eligible athletes/boats from the same event/class.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

See Section 4.1.1. above

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Canoe/Kayak will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2016 Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USOC Code of Conduct:

<http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman/Games-Information.aspx>

2016 USA Canoe/Kayak National Team Agreement and Code of Conduct (Attachment A).

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Canoe/Kayak in the following locations:

7.1. NGB/HPMO Web site: www.usack.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

7.2. Other:

N/A

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before:

June 24, 2016

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

A mandatory training will occur for all 2016 USA C/K Slalom Olympic Team members, prior to the opening of the Games, at the Olympic site in Rio de Janeiro.

This training will occur as the training schedule of the Olympic whitewater facility allows. The detailed schedule will depend on the yet to be determined accessibility and operation of the official venue.

This mandatory training period and others will be announced to Olympic Team members a minimum of 30 days before taking place.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, ICF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, ICF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom High Performance Committee (HPCSL) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures.

HPCSL members:

Silvan Poberaj – National Team Coach

Rafal Smolen – National Team Coach

William Irving – HPCSL Chair

Scott Shipley – HPCSL Athlete Member

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Canoe/Kayak Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Canoe-Kayak/About-Us/Bylaws>

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, as applicable, and/or ICF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, as applicable, and/or ICF rules and regulations will be distributed to the

affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Canoe/Kayak. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.



14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Canoe/Kayak may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org
- <http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx>

15. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Canoe/Kayak.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB/HPMO President or CEO/Executive Director	Wade Blackwood		4-4-2015
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Rafal Smolen		4/4/2015
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Aaron Mann	DocuSigned by:  ADA4F7E0F5024CE...	4/4/2015

* If the USOC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USA Canoe/Kayak, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, USA Canoe/Kayak must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

2016 USA CANOE/KAYAK CODE OF CONDUCT

ATHLETE PLEDGE

I pledge to uphold the spirit of the USA Canoe/Kayak (USACK) Code of Conduct (the "Code"), which offers a guide to my conduct as a member of the USA National Team (the "Team"). I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code.

I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of my selection to the Team.

As a Member of the Team, I hereby promise and agree that I:

- will abide by all published rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by USACK;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) or the International Canoe Federation rules;
- am not currently serving a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors;
- will not participate or assist in any gambling or betting activities associated with any event related to my sport or my participation;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of International Canoe Federation;
- should I be chosen for an international team that requires a passport, I am in possession of a valid USA passport, that will not expire prior to six months following the conclusion of the international competition;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior or verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;
- will follow my Team's written rules, including by way of example, written rules regarding curfew, required attendance at team meetings and prohibitions on the release of confidential team information;
- am aware that USACK sponsors, suppliers and licensees provide critical support for the Team and, in recognition of this fact, I will wear designated USACK apparel at all official Team functions and events;
- will not conceal or cover-up any USACK sponsor, supplier or licensee brand or other identification appearing on my USACK apparel;
- will abide by the rules of the International Canoe Federation concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used in competition or on visible body tattoos.
- agree to be filmed and photographed by the official photographer(s) and network(s) of USACK under conditions authorized by USACK and give event organizers and USACK the right to use my name, picture, likeness, and biographical information before, during and after the period of my participation in these activities to promote the activity in which I participate or to promote the success of the team on which I compete; in no event may USACK or the event organizers use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in my USACK apparel or equipment or the use of the USACK logo for the purpose of trade, without the prior written consent of the USACK;
- understand that if I require legal representation because I am accused of a doping violation or am accused of criminal misconduct, or if for any other reasons I require the services of an attorney, I will be personally responsible for payment of such legal fees and expenses;
- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, USACK and the United States; and
- will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and the Olympic Movement.

ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

I may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kathleen (Kacie) Wallace via phone at 719-816-5000 or via email at athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org, for further information regarding my rights under this Code that are not answered by USA Canoe/Kayak.

PARTICIPANTS' AFFIRMATION

I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being selected to participate as a member of the Team.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Date

USA CANOE/KAYAK

CANOE/KAYAK

NGB Name

Sport

PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION (For Participants Under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)

Signature

Date

Printed Name (Parent/Guardian)

Date

Relationship (Parent or Guardian)