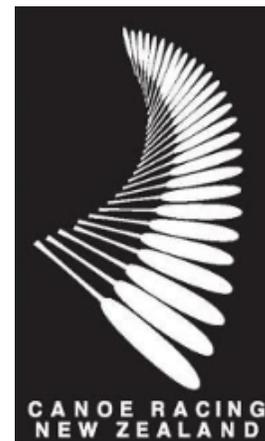


CANOE RACING NEW ZEALAND

SELECTION POLICY – 2026 ASIA PACIFIC CUP CAMPAIGN



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. **Aims:** The aims intended by CRNZ in selecting Athletes to compete in the 2026 Asia Pacific Sprint Cup Campaign are as follows:
- to provide development and international racing opportunities for young athletes.
 - to provide campaign experience for young athletes in preparation for participation in U18 and U23 World Championship selection and campaigns.
- 1.2. **CRNZ Selection Regulations:** You should read this Policy in conjunction with the CRNZ Selection Regulations (“**Regulations**”). In particular, you should be aware of:
- the process you need to follow if you feel you have been affected by Exceptional Circumstances (see clause 10 of the Regulations); and
 - the process you must follow if you wish to make an Appeal in respect of any aspect of the Selection process (see clause 11 of the Regulations).
- 1.3. **Variation to Selection Regulations:** This Policy varies the CRNZ Selection Regulations by following a different process for Nomination and Selection of crew combinations than that specified in the Regulations. This change has been made in order to achieve the aim of this Policy.
- 1.4. **Definitions:** Where a word is capitalised it will have a definition. Definitions can be found in Appendix 1 of the Regulations.
- 1.5. **Regatta and Events:** This document sets what you need to do to be selected to compete in the Asia Pacific Campaign in the following categories:

| | Female | Male |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| U16 | Up to 8 Kayak Athletes | Up to 8 Kayak Athletes |
| U18 | Up to 8 Kayak Athletes Up to 3 Canoe Athlete | Up to 8 Kayak Athletes Up to 3 Canoe Athlete |
| U21 | Up to 8 Kayak Athletes | Up to 8 Kayak Athletes |

Events:

Athletes will be organised into team boat events based on assessment of compatibility seen during sessions run at the CRNZ Asia Pacific Camp and any previous Performance Pathway Camps.

K1/C1 entries will consider the following factors:

- A. performances and data from racing across the 2025/2026 season (the use of data and performances at the CRNZ Sprint Nationals will also be considered provided the individual entry deadline permits it);
- B. The schedule structure and team boat entries
- C. any one or more of the Nomination Factors set out in clause 6.3 of the Regulations.

- 1.6. Athletes who wish to be considered for Selection must complete an Athlete Application form by the Application Date set out in the table at clause 1.7 below (see clause 4.1 of the Regulations). This form is available on the CRNZ website.
- 1.7. **Important Dates:** The following are the key dates for this Policy:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Application Closing Date | 31st January, 2026 |
| Tikitapu 2 - Opportunity to perform | 31st January – 1st February, 2026 |
| Team Informed of Selection | 17th February, 2026 |

1.8. **Other key dates within the Campaign:**

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CRNZ Asia Pacific Camp (HP Kayak Centre - Karapiro) | 17th - 20th March, 2026 |
| Asia Pacific Competition Lake Tikitapu, Rotorua, New Zealand | 1st - 3rd May 2026 The team will gather for competition preparation on Tuesday, 28th April, 2026 |

1.9. **Cost:** The Asia Pacific Cup will be held in Japan this upcoming season. The **estimated** costs for this campaign are included in the table below.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Proposed Asia Pacific Camp: Karapiro (1 x 3 night camp - March 2026) | \$300.00 |
| Asia Pacific Campaign: NZ (May 2026) | \$ 1600.00 |
| Uniform Costs | \$ 310.00 |

2. PROCESS

2.1 **Outline:** In order to be selected, you need to:

- (a) meet all of the Eligibility Criteria – see Part 2 of the Regulations; and
- (b) earn Nomination – see clause 3 below and Part 3 of the Regulations
- (c) Meet the Performance Criteria below (clause 4 of this Policy) – see Part 4 of the Regulations (subject to any Exceptional Circumstances).

3. NOMINATION

3.1 **Pre-conditions:** Athletes must fulfil the following pre-conditions:

- (a) Complete an application for nomination
- (b) Compete in the 2026 Tikitapu 2 regatta (Blue Lake) in the K1 events in the age category that they are eligible and wanting to be selected to race at the 2026 Asia Pacific Cup (May 2026). This includes:
 - i) U16 Athletes must compete in the U16 K1 Event;
 - ii) U18 Athletes must compete in the U18 K1/C1* Event; and
 - iii) U21 Athletes must compete in the Open K1 Event.

*Where no Under 18 category is held, athletes must compete in the Open Event. Age group results will be extrapolated from this event

3.2 **Team List Nominated post the selection event (Tikitapu 2):** After the CRNZ Tikitapu 2 Event, CRNZ will nominate a Team List comprising the following:

- i) Top 4 ranked U16 athletes in the U16 K1 500m in both males and females events.
- ii) Top 4 ranked U18 athletes in the U18 K1 500m in both males and females events.
- iii) Top 4 ranked U21 athletes in the Open K1 500m in both males and females events.
- iv) Top 2 ranked U18 athletes in the U18 C1 500m in both males and females events.

3.3 **Possibility of Nominating Additional Athletes:** The Lead Coach may, in consultation with Selectors, nominate extra Athletes (up to a maximum of 8 Athletes per category).

- i) In determining any such invitations, CRNZ will consider performance proximity to the top ranked athletes across both the K1 500m and K1 200m events.

3.4 **Nomination Factors:** Subject to clause 3.3, the relevant Lead Coach, in consultation with Selectors, will consider the following factors when nominating athletes for crew combinations during the Campaign:

- (a) The purpose of the Campaign in regard to providing development opportunities for young athletes;
 - i) The Asia Pacific Cup is set to be held in New Zealand in 2026. To ensure the development opportunity is beneficial for the development of each individual selected, a number of factors will be considered. These factors include:
 - (1) Athletes finishing time in proximity to the winner of the age category
 - (2) Athlete training/competing age and readiness for an international campaign
 - (3) The number of events an athlete is likely to be entered in based on their rank and level of performance
- (b) Performances and data from the 2025 New Zealand Nationals, 2026 Tikitapu (Blue Lakes) 2 regatta.
- (c) Any of the Nomination Factors set out in clause 6.3 of the Regulations.

4. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND SELECTION

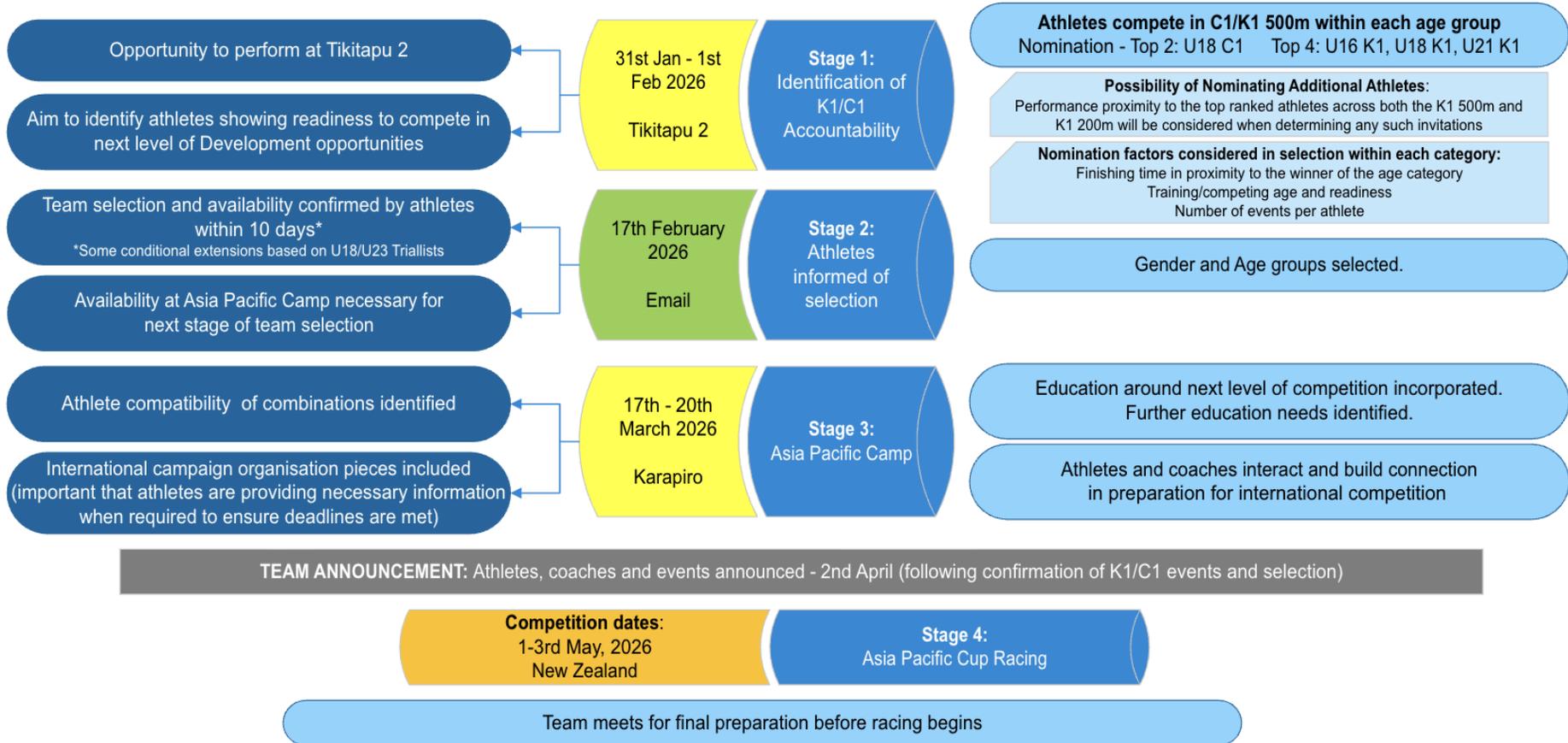
- 4.1 **Performance criteria:** There are no Performance Criteria for the Asia Pacific Regatta. Athletes who earn Nomination will automatically be Selected.
- 4.2 **Replacement Athletes:** If an Athlete who has been selected elects to decline from the Asia Pacific Campaign, CRNZ has a discretion to (but is not required), select another Athlete in his/her place. If necessary, CRNZ will use the process outlined in clause 3.4 to select further Athletes.
- 4.3 **Selection:** If Selected, you must:
 - A. complete a CRNZ Athlete Agreement within 10 working days of the Selection date unless informed of extension based on U18 and U23 trial commitments; and
 - B. confirm to CRNZ within 10 working days of the Selection Date that you are willing to pay any cost associated with attending the Regatta(s) for which you have been Selected unless informed of extension based on U18 and U23 trial commitments; and
 - C. attend the Asia Pacific Training Camp from the 17th - 20th March, 2026 at Lake Karapiro.

5. QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS

- 5.1 **Queries:** You can address any queries regarding this Policy to the CRNZ High Performance Director in the first instance.
- 5.2 **Complaints:** You can address any complaints regarding the implementation of this Policy to the CRNZ High Performance Director or the CEO in the first instance.

2026 Asia Pacific Cup Team Selection Process

PRE-CONDITION: Athletes indicate availability to trial, select and nominate PRIOR to February 1st, 2026



APPENDIX 1

Guidelines for Medical Clearance of Athletes Following Injury or Illness Canoe Racing New Zealand (CRNZ)

Purpose and Scope

These guidelines outline the processes by which Canoe Racing New Zealand (CRNZ) athletes must obtain medical clearance following injury or illness prior to participation in international events. The intent is to ensure that athletes are medically, physically, and functionally prepared to train and compete safely and effectively.

1. General Principles

Athletes may be selected for national teams under a range of circumstances, including situations where preparation or performance has been affected by injury, illness, or other extenuating factors.

Where selection has been made contingent upon recovery from an injury or illness, the athlete must demonstrate full and documented recovery prior to international travel or competition.

Similarly, if an athlete sustains an injury or illness **after selection**, they are required to demonstrate an appropriate and verifiable return to full training and competition readiness before departure.

For the purposes of this policy, a **significant injury or illness** is defined as any condition that:

- Prevents normal training or competition for **more than seven (7) consecutive days, and**
- Requires substantive medical or allied health input, **or**
- Impairs normal activities of daily living.

CRNZ reserves the right to determine whether an athlete has achieved a sufficient recovery standard to safely participate in international competition. Athletes unable to demonstrate appropriate training capacity prior to departure will not be approved for travel or competition.

2. Overview of the Clearance Process

The specific steps required may vary depending on the type and severity of the injury or illness. Not all steps will apply in every case (for example, Step 1 applies only when surgery has been performed).

However, **Steps 2–4 are mandatory** for all athletes returning from significant injury or illness.

- Steps 2 and 3 involve clearance to resume **modified** and subsequently **unrestricted** training.
- Step 4 requires successful completion of a period of **unmodified training and/or a pre-departure performance trial**.

All clearances must be documented and signed by appropriately qualified practitioners:

- **Medical practitioners** (for illness or general medical clearance).
- **Sports physiotherapists or medical practitioners** (for injury-related clearance).

Final approval for departure will be made by CRNZ following review of all medical and performance documentation.

3. Return from Injury – Key Milestone Steps

Step 1: Surgical/Medical Clearance (if applicable)

For athletes who have undergone surgery or other medical intervention, written clearance from the treating specialist or surgeon is required. The clearance must confirm the athlete is medically fit to resume training.

Step 2: Musculoskeletal Clearance – Return to Modified Training

A physiotherapist (or designated allied health practitioner) must provide written clearance confirming the athlete is safe to resume **modified paddling** in appropriate conditions. The clearance should specify any restrictions, progressions, or environmental considerations relevant to the athlete's discipline (e.g., whitewater for Slalom, K1/Crew boats for Sprint).

Step 3: Musculoskeletal Clearance – Return to Full Training

A subsequent physiotherapy clearance is required confirming the athlete can safely resume **unrestricted paddling and training loads** consistent with high-performance sport demands.

Step 4: Pre-Departure Training or Performance Trial

Once unrestricted training clearance has been achieved, the athlete must complete a **pre-departure verification of readiness**, which may include:

- A defined period of **unmodified training**, or
- A **performance trial** (e.g., time trial, course completion, or competitive assessment).

Evaluation will be conducted by a panel (minimum of two) comprising CRNZ and/or CRNZ Network High Performance Coaches or Support Staff. Performance outcomes will be benchmarked against pre-established criteria to confirm competition readiness.

Steps 2 and 3 must be completed by a CRNZ-contracted or Network practitioner authorised to act on behalf of CRNZ.

4. Return from Illness – Key Milestone Steps

Step 1: Documentation of Illness

Where selection or preparation is affected by illness or a chronic medical condition, athletes must provide medical documentation (e.g., medical certificate, diagnostic summary, or clinical report) sufficient for CRNZ to understand the condition and recovery expectations.

Step 2/3: Medical Clearance – Return to Modified/Unrestricted Training

A physician must provide written clearance confirming the athlete is medically fit to resume either modified or unrestricted training.

The clearance should outline:

- Current clinical status and any management or monitoring requirements;
- Training modifications or restrictions;
- Expected recovery timelines; and
- Whether further review is required prior to full training.

If a physician anticipates that an athlete cleared for modified training will progress to full training within a short timeframe (and no further consultation is clinically necessary), this should be clearly stated in the documentation.

Step 4: Pre-Departure Training/Performance Trial

As described in Section 3, Step 4 above.

5. Governance and Oversight

This clearance process has been developed and approved jointly by:

- The **CRNZ Medical Director (MD)**,

- The **National Performance Director**, and
- The **Lead Coach** associated with the relevant campaign.

All medical and performance documentation will be managed confidentially in accordance with relevant privacy and health information legislation.

For further information, contact:

CRNZ Medical Director - Dr Stephen Kara [stephen.kara@hpsnz.org.nz]

National Development Lead - Emily Willock [emily@crnz.org]