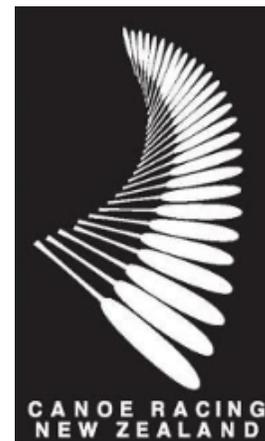


CANOE RACING NEW ZEALAND

SELECTION POLICY – 2026 ICF U18 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Aims: The aims intended by CRNZ in selecting Athletes to compete in the ICF U18 World Championships are as follows:

- provide international racing experiences that foster athlete growth and development;
- Identify and develop athletes with potential to progress within the CRNZ Performance Pathway;
- create development opportunities that act as a stepping stone toward progression into the CRNZ High Performance Team; and
- achieve outstanding results for New Zealand on the world stage.

1.2. CRNZ Selection Regulations: This Policy must be read in conjunction with the CRNZ Selection Regulations, which define eligibility, appeals, and exceptional-circumstance processes. Where inconsistent, the Regulations prevail. (“**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. Definitions: Where a word is capitalised it will have a definition. Definitions can be found in Appendix 1 of the Regulations.

1.4. Regatta and Events: This document sets the process to be followed to be selected to compete in the ICF U18 World Championship in the following Events:

A. Individual Athlete Specified Events		B. Crew Specified Events		C. Additional Events:
Event	Maximum number of boats per event	Event	Maximum number of boats per event	
WK1 500	1	WK2 500	1	CRNZ may select Athletes or Crews to compete in events other than those listed in the table above – see clause 7 of the Regulations.
MK1 1000	1	MK2 500	1	
WC1 200	1	WC2 500	1	
MC1 1000	1	MC2 500	1	
		WK4 500	1	
		MK4 500	1	

1.5. 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 1.6 below (see clause 4.1 of the Regulations). This form is available on the CRNZ website and linked [here](#).

1.6. Important Dates: The following are the key dates for this Policy:

Application Date	<i>Complete form to indicate availability to trial, be nominated and be selected</i>	31st January, 2026
Tikitapu 2	<i>Opportunity to perform (K1/C1 identification for crew boat and K1/C1 trials)</i>	31st January – 1st February, 2026
CRNZ Crew Boat and K1/C1 Trial	<i>Attend selection camp at Lake Karapiro to identify best crew boat combinations</i> <i>Opportunity to identify K1/C1 nomination in WK1 500 m, WC1 200 m, MK1 1000 m & MC1 1000 m</i>	23rd - 27th February, 2026 23rd February: K1/C1 trial racing (Crew and K1/C1 trialists) 24th - 27th February: K2/C2 & K4 trial racing
Team Informed of Selection	<i>Nominations have been confirmed by selectors</i>	23rd March, 2026

1.7. Other key dates within the campaign:

NZ Based Camps	<i>Team + Crew connection</i> Based at Lake Karapiro	Dates to be confirmed: 13th - 17th April (Following the NZ Sprint Nationals - this does not include the Sunday evening accommodation) Arrive for a 7:30am briefing, depart after 4pm. 20th - 23rd May Arrive before 2pm - depart after 3pm
International Camp and Competition	<i>Adjust to International time and environment</i> <i>Compete at World Championships</i> Halifax, Canada	15-16th June - 29th June, 2026 (Preparation Camp - TBC) 1st - 5th July, 2026 (Competition) (departure and return dates to be confirmed)

1.8. Cost: The U18 and U23 World Championship Campaign will be held in Canada this upcoming season.

Organisation for this campaign is still being finalised and the number of athletes and coaches will influence the overall cost per athlete. Listed below are estimated costs for the campaign

Proposed U18/U23 Camps: Karapiro 2 x camps (4 nights - April, 3 nights - May)	\$700.00
Junior Worlds Campaign: Halifax, Canada (June/July 2026)	\$12,000
Uniform Costs	\$ 310.00

1.9. Funding and Support: If you are selected, you will be eligible for the following funding and support from CRNZ:

U18 Team	CRNZ will provide coaching, training programs and logistics support. Athletes will be required to contribute to any additional camp and campaign costs. Specific amounts will be communicated once budgets have been finalised.
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2. SELECTION PANEL

- 2.1. Panel of three (3) to five (5) appointed by CRNZ.
 - 2.1.a. See CRNZ website for selectors involved in the process.
 - 2.1.a.1. Observers within this process
 - CEO CRNZ
 - High Performance Director or equivalent
 - CRNZ Athlete Committee delegate
- 2.2. Panel acts independently within this Policy and Regulations.
 - 2.2.a. Where the Lead coach contributes to discussion of nominations and selection, their input will be advisory only. Final selection decisions shall rest solely with the Selection Panel.
- 2.3. Conflicts of interest must be declared and managed per CRNZ policy.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. Athletes must:
 - a. Be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident eligible under ICF rules.
 - b. Be born between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2010.
 - c. Be a financial member of a CRNZ-affiliated club.
 - d. Submit the Athlete Application Form by 31 January 2026.
 - i. For all athletes under the age of 18, parental or guardian consent will be required for participation in trials, travel, and competition. Submitting an athlete application form and an athlete agreement incorporates a parental/guardian consent.
 - e. Have no outstanding financial obligations to CRNZ.
 - f. Comply with anti-doping and integrity requirements
- 3.2. Athletes must be available for all trials, camps, and competitions unless approved under Clause 9.

4. PROCESS

- 4.1. **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 2 below and Part 3 of the Regulations
 - c. satisfy clause 3 of this Policy – see Part 4 of the Regulations (subject to any Exceptional Circumstances).
- 4.2. **Overview**

Application → Eligibility → Invitation → Performance Assessment → Nomination → Panel Approval

5. NOMINATION

- 5.1. **K1/C1 Specified Events**
 - 5.1.a. **Invitation to trial**

Eligibility via:

 - a. Top 3 U18 placing at Tikitapu 2 (WK1 500, MK1 1000, WC1 200, MC1 1000).
 - i. Within 3 % of the top U18 time in the event.
 - c. Direct invitation by CRNZ.
 - 5.1.b. **Trial Format**
 - a. Best-of-three race series; first to two wins nominated.
 - b. Lanes allocated to prevent wash riding.
 - c. Timing verified by official devices (rovers).
 - d. The top three within 2 % of the winner advance to the next race.

e. Different winners → deciding third race.

5.1.c. Trial Races of the same distance may be run concurrently where one or more competitors is eligible for multiple divisions in the same gender (for example U23 or U18).

5.1.d. If at any stage of the trial, an athlete declines to compete in the next phase of the trial, there will be no replacement athletes invited to take part in Trial races 1, 2 or 3.

5.2. Crew Boat Specified Events (K2/K4, C2)

5.2.a. Invitation to trial

Attendance at CRNZ Crew Boat Trial mandatory for nomination.

Eligibility for invitation is determined as follows:

a. Automatic Eligibility:

i. Achieved a top two (2) placing in the U18 category at Tikitapu 2 in one of the following events:

a. Must have recorded a time within 5% of the top U18 time in the respective event.

i. WK1 500m;

ii. MK1 500m;

iii. WC1 500m;

iv. MC1 500m;

b. Discretionary Invitation:

i. Athletes may also receive a direct invitation by CRNZ.

ii. CRNZ may, but is not obliged to, invite an additional two (2) to six (6) athletes to attend the trial.

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

5.2.b. Trial Format

The relevant CRNZ Lead Coach will provide Athletes with an outline of the Nomination Process at the Monday of the beginning of the Trial Week. The outline will contain the following information:

A. the approximate format of crew assessment trials; and

B. the Nomination Factors which the Lead Coach proposes especially to consider.

5.2.c. Nomination Factors

a. Crew Trial data and results.

b. Technical compatibility and team dynamics.

c. Attitude, coachability, and communication.

d. Other factors per Regulations Clause 6.3.

6 PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND SELECTION

6.1. Performance Criteria: Selectors must be satisfied that an Athlete or Crew has the potential to achieve at least a B Final placing at the 2026 U18 World Championships.

6.1.a Where domestic racing is used as evidence against the qualifying standard, a GPS-verified (rovered) course measurement will be used to confirm that the course is at race distance. If the distance is found to be inaccurate, this will be taken into consideration during the nomination process.

6.2. Multiple Events: Where an Athlete is being considered for Selection in multiple Events, the Selectors may, in their discretion, decide not to Nominate or Select an Athlete in one or more Events if they believe that participation in multiple Events may negatively affect that Athlete's performance in another Event. In exercising this discretion, Selectors shall consider:

A. the recommendations of the Lead Coach;

B. the schedule (including any draft schedule) for the Regatta, and the effect on the Athlete's performance of the workload of competing in multiple events;

- C. the aim of this Policy as set out in clause 1.1;
- D. the views of Athlete(s) affected; and
- E. any other factors that the Selectors consider relevant.

6.3. Selection: If Selected, you must:

- A. complete a CRNZ Athlete Agreement within 10 working days of the Selection date; 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.
- C. attend team and crew preparation camps.

7 QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS

- 7.1. Queries:** You can address any queries regarding this Policy to the CRNZ High Performance Director in the first instance.
- 7.2. 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 U18 + U23 World Championship Team Selection Process

PRE-CONDITION: Athletes indicate availability to trial, select and nominate PRIOR to January 31st, 2026

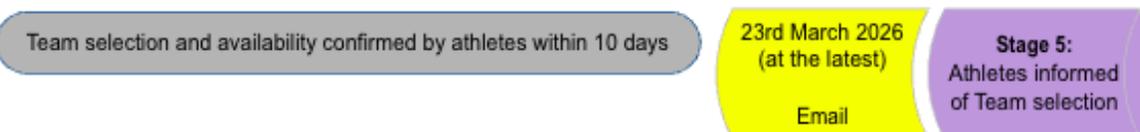


Stage 2: Athletes informed of progression into next stage of trial process via email (by the 3rd February 2026)



Stage 4: Nominations of crews and K1 meeting performance standard submitted for selectors review and confirmation

Crews selected based on ability to meet Performance Criteria.
Performance Criteria: Qualify for the B-Final



Stage 7: Full Team Announcement: April 2nd

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]

APPENDIX 2

B Final Average Qualifying Times

The qualification times listed below represent the average times recorded by boats that qualified for the B Final in each listed event. These averages were calculated using results from the past four Junior World Championships (Szeged 2022, Auronzo 2023, Plovdiv 2024, and Montemor 2025).

These times are used throughout the nomination and selection process to assess the proximity and potential of boats being trialled. Proximity to these benchmarks indicates the likelihood of meeting the Performance Standard referred to in clause 3.1 above.

JUNIOR WOMEN				JUNIOR MEN			
C1 200m	K1 500m	K2 500m	K4 500m	C1 1000m	K1 1000m	K2 500m	K4 500m
0:51.09	2:01.2	1:50.21	1:40.8	4:19.8	3:45.2	1:36.6	1:26.0

Note: The Junior Women's K4 500m event included a B Final only in 2022 and 2025. For 2023 and 2024, reference times have been included based on standard B Final qualifying placings.