



**CANOE KAYAK
CANADA**

**It's Who We Are.
C'est Notre Nature.**

SLALOM HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE STATEMENT
25 April 2019

Oklahoma Team Selections 2019

The 2019 National Team selections races were carried out in Oklahoma City at Riversport Adventure Center in combination with US National Team Trials April 12-14. Canada fielded 26 entries while the US fielded 42 entries. Canada supplied eight judges and four video review cameras which made a positive contribution towards ensuring a fair competition. The timing and scoring operations were run at a high standard and contributed to the overall success of the selection races. The goal of this event was to select Nationals Teams for the 2019 international season while also giving our athletes the opportunity to train and compete on an artificial whitewater facility. The Oklahoma whitewater course utilizes the Rapid Blocs® plastic obstacles system that is also used at the London and Rio de Janeiro whitewater courses. The Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic whitewater facilities will also utilize the same Rapid Blocs® obstacle system found in Oklahoma. In addition, this combined selection event enabled Canadian athletes and coaches to assess athlete performances against a larger field comprised of the best junior and senior Canoe Slalom athletes from across North America. The last competition where this occurred was in 2015 where US athletes competed at Canadian Team Trials in Minden Hills, Ontario. CKC has previously held Canadian selection races in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia in 2006 and in Charlotte, NC in 2007, 2008, and 2012.

Team Selection and Performance

The CKC High Performance Review determined that there needs to be higher standards for carding, team selection and that most international competitions take place on artificial whitewater courses. The decision to hold team trials on an artificial whitewater facility is consistent with these recommendations. In addition, the 2019 Senior National Team Performance Benchmarks and selection criteria were updated to reflect a senior national team performance standard to identify athletes who demonstrate the potential to advance to semifinals at World Cups and World Championships. An analysis of the relative gap from the fastest race run to the slowest qualifying race run across the four Olympic events at the World Cup and World Championships between 2017-2019 was conducted to develop the 2019 Performance Benchmarks.

It is disappointing that only four Canadian competitors met the 2019 Senior National Team Performance Benchmarks. In comparison, only five Canadian competitors met the 2018 Senior National Team Performance Benchmarks.

2019 Senior National Team Selection Policy Update

A group of National Team athletes and coaches set a goal in early 2017 of qualifying four athletes and winning two medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. This is an ambitious goal that reinforces a common desire to qualify entries in all four Olympic events while also aspiring to reach for the podium. Unfortunately, this objective is at risk if Canada does not send a competitive team to the 2019 World Championships and Global Qualification Event for Tokyo 2020 Athlete Quota Places.

The Slalom High Performance Committee has decided to revise the 2019 Senior National Team Selection Criteria to guard CKC's objective of sending a full team to the Tokyo Olympic Games. A second Senior National Team Selection event will occur at the 2019 National Championships in Minden Hills, Ontario on August 18. This decision gives athletes a second selection opportunity to meet the Senior National Team Performance Benchmarks and to fill unused National Team positions at World Cup 5 and the Senior World Championships. More details will be released on the selection format in early May.

Seu D'Urgell Training Camps

CKC is planning multiple training camps in Seu d'Urgell to support athlete preparation for the 2019 World Championships. The following athletes are invited to train with the National Team in the Seu d'Urgell as we prepare for the Global Qualification Event.

- Trevor Boyd, men's kayak
- Keenan Simpson, men's kayak
- Spencer Pomeroy, men's canoe
- Yannick Laviolette, men's canoe
- Liam Smedley, men's canoe
- Florence Maheu, women's kayak
- Haley Daniels, women's canoe

World Cups 3 and 4

Participation at World Cup 3 and 4 is not included in CKC's Senior National Team competition schedule. Consequently, participation at World Cups 3 and 4 remains open in a top down fashion to athletes based on Oklahoma Team Trials rankings. There is no requirement for athletes to satisfy the 2019 Performance Benchmarks to participate in World Cups 3 and 4. CKC is developing a plan to provide a minimum level of support for athletes planning to attend these events.

International Canoe Federation (ICF) Entries

The 2019 ICF Canoe Slalom Competition Rules (Section 2.2) specify that National Federations may enter three boats per event at World Cup and World Championships. There is no risk of diminishing Canada's entries if Canada does not send a full team to compete in World Cups and World Championships this season.