

Report to the National Coaches Association

Jeff Houser –Representative to the High Performance Committee

To say the 2020 has been a challenging year would be a serious understatement. We have all had to suffer the restrictions and threats under the global pandemic, and I am heartened by the leadership shown by CKC and the stakeholders of our sport that show we will emerge stronger, and focused on ensuring a bright future for canoeing.

The year began with a full review of draft 2020 Criteria , followed by coach and athlete feedback and consultation sessions. – a process that, while never easy, then stretched out and continues even now as new information comes forward from the ICF, Sport Canada, the Pan Am Federation to name the major players. COVID-19

The HPC met (mostly virtually) many times as the situation evolved due to the global pandemic, and where in May, we would usually be working to approve selections to various teams, we instead had to make the necessary – and heartbreaking- decision to cancel competition plans for 2020. This was by no means a decision taken lightly and was made in consultation with Sport Canada, the ICF, and Canoe Federations in many other countries.

With the Tokyo2020 now scheduled to take place in 2021, and the rest of the 2020 season cancelled, The HP committee began the process of reviewing 2021 selection criteria, including adjustments that had never been previously considered to manage the possibility of cancellations of any of the National, Continental, or Global qualifying events. It should be clear that no decisions are taken lightly; Committee members all seek out information to inform committee decisions, and there is always open discussion and concern for how the actions of the committee may affect the coaches and athletes.

The decision was made early on to request of Sport Canada, the extension of the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for 2019-20 National Team for 2020-21. That request was made moot once Sport Canada did the same for all sports unable to host meaningful selection events. In response, Graham approached Sport Canada and requested and was granted two extra AAP Cards for Womens Kayak (2 members of the Pan American Games Gold Medal K4), and we began an immediate review of AAP Carding criteria for 2021.

Draft 2021 criteria has now been posted for some time and I thank those who have offered feedback.

I am always available for discussion (on anything related to our sport, not just criteria), or to act as an intermediary to bring your concerns forward, and to do so without bias if I am unable to address your issues or answer your questions.

In Sport,



Jeff Houser

Coaches Representative to the CKC High Performance Committee