



ACA USA National Marathon Teams

Team Selection Criteria (draft v1)

The following process is used for selecting US Championship Team and US National Team members for ACA and ICF sanctioned marathon events. Exceptions to these guidelines may be approved by the ACA Marathon Competition Committee (MCC). Exception requests should be submitted in writing to marathoncc@americancanoe.net.

Goal

To select the best marathon athletes to represent the USA at international competitions.

Teams

The MCC selects athletes to the USA Championship Team in the Junior, U23 and Senior age groups. The team represents the USA at World Marathon Championships, World Cups and other events requiring registration through the ACA.

In addition to the USA Championship Team, up to ten competitors per class may be named to the USA National Team. These competitors will be eligible to race in any international events that members of the USA Championship Team choose not to attend.

Attendance of these teams at international events will be subject to competitor count limitations per class established by each event. If limits are imposed, preference will be given to team members with the best team qualification times.

The MCC does not officially select Masters participants for Masters World Championships. Registrations can be submitted directly to the event host. However, Masters are allowed to participate in the US Marathon Championships/Trials. In addition, training, qualification guidance, registration information, team logistics and other support may be provided by the MCC and affiliates of USA Distance Paddle Racing.

Selection Criteria

Team member selection will be based primarily on average race paces recorded at U.S. Marathon Championships and/or U.S. Marathon Team Trials in established craft, age and gender classes. See the next page for a list of established classes and minimum qualifying times.

The minimum qualification times for Junior, U23 and Senior classes have been established using 5-year average finishing times (slowest) in World Marathon Championships for 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, adjusted for degree of competition. The detailed analysis is available on the USA Distance Paddle Racing website, USADPR.org.

The minimum (unofficial) qualification times for Masters' age classes are based on the slowest average finishing times in World Masters Championships for 2022 – 2025, adjusted for degree of competition. The detailed analysis for these times can also be found on the USA Distance Paddle Racing website, USADPR.org.

USA Nationals/Trials - Qualification Times (kph) - Proposed Standards											
Age Group	Age Range	K1 Men	K1 Women	C1 Men	C1 Women	K2 Men	K2 Women	C2 Men	C2 Women	K2 Mixed	C2 Mixed
Junior	15 - 18	12.0	10.7	10.1	9.0	12.9	11.4	11.0	9.9	12.2	10.5
U23	19 - 23	12.2	10.9	10.9	9.2	13.0	11.5	11.1	10.0	12.3	10.6
Senior	24 - 39	12.2	10.9	10.9	9.2	13.0	11.5	11.1	10.0	12.3	10.6
Masters 1	40 - 49	10.2	9.4	10.0	tbd	11.3	10.6	11.0	tbd	10.2	tbd
Masters 2	50 - 59	9.5	9.0	9.5	3.1	11.1	10.1	10.3	tbd	9.7	tbd
Masters 3	60 - 69	9.0	8.7	8.8	tbd	10.7	9.3	9.8	tbd	9.7	tbd
Masters 4	70 - 79	8.8	8.2	8.3	tbd	10.1	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd
Masters 5	80+	8.6	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd

If a class has not been contested in the recent past, the MCC will determine an appropriate qualifying time based on similar classes.

The MCC may also consider additional factors in team selection, including but not limited to the following:

- Number of competitors in a class at World events (degree of competition).
- Injuries or sickness during trials
- Performances in races during the past 12 months
- Course conditions during trials – wind, current, boat traffic, obstructions and boat traffic

Competitors will not be required to end their participation in trials prior to completing a full course, even if lapped by a boat in their class or any other class.

Selection Exceptions

If an aspiring team member cannot participate in a current year U.S. Marathon Championships/Trials, they can apply in writing to the MCC at marathoncc@americancanoe.net for an exception to this requirement.

Exception qualifications may include race paces recorded at one of the following:

- U.S. Marathon Championships/Trials in the last 3 years
- World Marathon Championships in the last 3 years
- World Cup in the last 3 years
- Any other marathon event requiring ACA registration in the last 3 years.

Race results may also be provided for one or more races that are 10 km or longer. However, the MCC in its sole discretion may accept or reject exception requests based solely on races not sanctioned by the ACA or ICF.

Proof of race results must be provided with the exception request including course length, race conditions and overall time.

Selection Applications

Competitors who have an interest in being selected for the U.S. Championship Team or the U.S. National Team should notify the MCC at marathoncc@americancanoe.net at least 14 days before the scheduled trials or MCC vote, if no trials are scheduled. Contact information including email address, phone number (cell preferred) and mailing address is required. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Verbal notifications at team trials will not be considered official.

Team member selections will be made by a majority vote of the MCC. The vote will be held not later than 7 days after the most recent U.S. Marathon Championships/Team Trials. Selection exception requests must be received by the MCC at least 7 days prior to a vote. Voting dates will be announced at the same time as dates are announced for U.S. Marathon Champions/Team Trials.

In years when no trials are scheduled, team selection votes will be scheduled not later than May 1 with the date publicized on the USA Distance Paddle Racing website, USSADRP.org. In the case of no trials, all competitors who wish to be considered for the US Championship Team or US National Team must submit an application to the MCC, similar to an exception request, at least 7 days prior to committee votes.

Acceptances

Selections to the US Championship Team and US National Team will be announced within 7 days after the MCC votes are completed. The results will be posted on the USA Distance Paddle Racing web site, USSADRP.org, and may also be posted on the ACA web site.

Competitors selected to the US Championship Team or US National Team will be notified within 7 days following the MCC vote at the email address provided. Competitors will have 10 days from the date of the notification to accept or decline the selection by sending an email to marathoncc@americancanoe.net. If there is no response within 10 days, the selection offer expires and the next qualified competitor will be offered a place on a team.

Acceptances must include statements in the acceptance email that the competitor has read, understands and agrees to the following:

- ACA Code of Conduct
- ACA Athlete Code of Conduct (form requiring submission)
- Selection Criteria
- ICF Marathon Rules

The acceptance must also include a statement that the competitor will be able to participate with the team in competitions.

Team members must hold a current ACA Competition Membership and a current Competition License within 10 days of being notified of selection to the team.

Open Positions

If there are any open positions on the US Championship Team or US National Team after the initial team selection due to injury, sickness or other issue, the MCC may fill that position for the remainder of the current competition calendar based solely at its discretion.

Trip Logistics

The MCC will elect a group to manage the team trip to the Marathon World Championships, including registration, event transport, coaching, boat rental, food, accommodations and team captain responsibilities.