



## ACA USA National Marathon Teams Team Selection Criteria

The following process is used for selecting 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](mailto:marathoncc@americancanoe.net).

### **Goal**

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

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### **Team**

The MCC selects athletes to the US National 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. The MCC may also select (unofficial) Masters members of the team.

There will be no limit on the number of athletes that can be selected to the US National team in an age, craft and gender class.

The number of US National Team entries in a race at Worlds and other international events will be limited to two (2) with a race defined by an age, craft and gender class. Priority consideration for race entry selection will be based on finishing times at Trials or similar recent events. Race entry limits will not apply to Masters.

Attendance 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 may be submitted directly to the ACA and event host. However, Masters may 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 to Masters with preference given to (unofficial) members of the US National Team.

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### **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 long course 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 short course qualification times have been established using a similar methodology and 6-year average finishing times (slowest). The detailed analyses are available on the USA Distance Paddle Racing website, [USADPR.org](http://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.

### Long Course

USA Nationals/Trials - Long Course Qualification Times (kph)											
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

### Short Course

USA Nationals/Trials - Short Course Qualification Times (kph)					
Age Group	Age Range	K1 Men	K1 Women	C1 Men	C1 Women
Junior	15 - 18	11.9	11.3	tbd	tbd
U23	19 - 23	tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd
Senior	24 - 39	13.4	11.7	10.6	9.0

If a K1 or C1 class has not been contested in the recent past, the MCC will determine an appropriate qualifying time based on similar classes. If a K2, C2 or short course has not been contested in the recent past, the team positions may be filled with K1 or C1 long course qualifiers.

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 and obstructions

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 Process

Athletes who have an interest in being selected to the U.S. National Team may indicate their interest when registering for the U.S. Marathon Championships/Trials. They will be asked a question similar to the following:

“Would you like to be considered for selection to the US National Marathon team that will be competing in World Marathon Championships and other international competitions?” Select (yes or no)”

A link will be provided to the Team Selection Criteria on the USADPR.org website.

If an interested athlete cannot attend the Trials or a Trials is not scheduled for the current calendar year, the athlete may notify the MCC at [marathoncc@americancanoe.net](mailto:marathoncc@americancanoe.net) of their interest at least 14 days before a scheduled MCC vote.

Contact information for interested athletes should be provided to the MCC, [marathoncc@americancanoe.net](mailto:marathoncc@americancanoe.net), including email address, phone number (cell preferred) and mailing address. If there is a Trials, this information may be collected during registration. 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. Dates for MCC votes will be posted on the USADPR.org website.

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### **Selection Exceptions**

If an aspiring team member cannot participate in a current year U.S. Marathon Championships/Trials, they may apply in writing to the MCC at [marathoncc@americancanoe.net](mailto: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.

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### **Acceptances**

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

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

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### **Open Positions**

If there are any open positions on the 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.

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### **Trip Logistics**

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