

NKOA QUALIFICATION PROCESS FOR THE IVF 2006 WORLD VA'A SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The qualification process for the 2006 Worlds has been decided. The main points are:

- Teams will be selected by NKOA selectors from squads in each age category. There will be no self-selected teams competing at the 2006 Worlds, although it is possible that a team starting out as a self-selected team could become a NKOA selected team.
- W1 paddlers will be selected primarily on the basis of times recorded at the 2006 National Sprints.
- The minimum required standard for selection will be that the paddler/ team must be competitive at the Worlds level. Paddlers/ teams will not be selected merely to make up quota numbers.

Selection Process

1. The selection process is open to any individual, but paddlers must be selected to compete at the Worlds. This is not only important to ensure the best paddlers and teams compete at the Worlds, but is also important to satisfy SPARC criteria in our quest to become recognised as a Performance Sport.
2. Each paddler who wishes to compete at the Worlds individually or in a team must complete a paddler nomination form (see separate document). That registers the paddler as a contender for a Worlds place, and allows Head Coaches/Selectors the opportunity to interact with that paddler and monitor his or her progress up to the selection stage. Nomination forms should be submitted by December 15 2004. Late nominations may be accepted after that date at the Chairperson of Selector's discretion only.
3. Head Coaches/Selectors will be appointed by NKOA by the end of November 2004. Expressions of interest are currently being sought for these positions (see separate document). A Chairperson of Selectors will also be appointed by NKOA.
4. In order to assist in the selection process a W2 time trial will be held during the 2005 Nationals at Lake Karapiro. Nominated paddlers are strongly encouraged to take part in this time trial. Further W2 time trials may be held during 2005, if considered appropriate by the Head Coaches/Selectors.
5. Head Coaches/Selectors will circulate suggested training programmes to all nominated paddlers and will be conducting training camps from February – September 2005, venues to be advised. Paddlers are asked on the nomination form whether they would wish to attend these training camps. It is expected that these camps will be used primarily as a means of trying out different combinations and getting paddlers together from different clubs or regions.
6. There will be a sprint event (W6 and W12 teams only) at Labour weekend, October 2005, venue to be advised. All nominated paddlers should attend this event. The Head Coaches/Selectors will be looking more at paddlers rather than teams, although the way combinations of paddlers are working together will also be a factor in final paddler selection.

7. The Head Coaches/Selectors will select squads of paddlers in each age category after the Labour weekend event. Teams who ultimately paddle at the Worlds will be selected from these squads.
8. Not everybody who wishes to will be able to compete at the Worlds. The selection process will involve a minimum standard being set (see below) – which will ensure competitiveness at this important event. NKOA has not therefore adopted a process of simply filling up the quota spots available. The quota will only be filled if paddlers or teams meet the minimum standard.
9. The only exceptions to this process will be the possibility of paddlers based overseas being selected, and changes which may be brought about by paddlers in squads having to be replaced through non-performance or injury.
10. The Head Coaches/Selectors and their assistants will conduct a training schedule for squads from November 2005 up to the March 2006 Worlds. This will include a training camp at Lake Karapiro immediately after the January 2006 Nationals. Teams will be selected from the squads in each of the age categories. The aim will be to have the best possible teams put together.
11. W6 paddlers will be selected to compete at the Worlds in one W6 500m category and one turn (1000m or 1500m) category. Those who compete in W1 only may be selected to compete in more than one category. Similarly, those who compete in W12 only may be selected to compete in more than one category.

Selection Standards for W1, W6 and W12 Paddlers

Paddlers and teams are expected to be able to meet sprint times which should ensure competitiveness at the Worlds. Guideline times are as follows. They have been derived from a range of national and international events (see separate table). These times will be reviewed, adjusted as necessary and finalised in late January 2005, after the 2005 nationals.

PROVISIONAL QUALIFYING TIMES	J16	J19	Open	Masters	Snr Mstrs
W1 500 Men	2.37	2.28	2.21	2.28	2.39
W1 500 Women	2.57	2.51	2.45	2.51	2.59
W6 500 Men	2.05	2.01	1.54	2.01	2.07
W6 500 Women	2.19	2.18	2.16	2.18	2.22
W6 1000/ 1500 Men	5.18	5.02	7.30	5.02	5.20
W6 1000/ 1500 Women	5.42	5.28	8.13	5.28	5.55
W12 Men	2.04	2.00	1.53	2.00	2.07
W12 Women	2.17	2.15	2.10	2.15	2.26

W1 selection will be based primarily on times taken at the 2006 Nationals. If a paddler with proven potential to obtain a medal at the Worlds is unable to attend these Nationals the Head Coaches/Selectors will have the discretionary authority to select that paddler.

For W6 and W12 teams other criteria used by the selectors will be specialist positions in the canoe (e.g. steerer) and ability to blend with the rest of the team.

It is possible that self-selected teams, or other teams arranged through clubs or regions, may end up being NKOA selected teams. However, if that team cannot meet the sprint times expected then it is likely that paddlers in that team will either not be competing at the Worlds, or if they do, it may be in a different team combination. Even if the team is meeting the sprint times NKOA selectors may decide to alter the team composition if an even better time may be possible. Paddlers who do want the best chance to stay together in a team should therefore seriously consider now whether their current team combination is the best possible one to proceed through the selection process.

Development Teams

The Selection Committee has arranged a special category for “development teams”. These are for paddlers who will be aged between 20 and 23 at the 2006 Worlds. While the World Sprints does not have an Open 23 category, NKOA wishes to encourage paddlers in that age group. A Development Category will therefore be supported through the 2005 Worlds training process.

The rationale is to allow a transition period for those paddlers who are between 20 and 23, so no longer juniors, but who would struggle to break into the top 2 open teams of a national selection. This category creates a pathway for juniors to reach the goal of open representative teams and will allow these paddlers get to learn from the other more experienced open paddlers.

Development teams will be given the opportunity to qualify for Worlds Open selection.

Communication

Paddlers are asked on their nomination form for the best means of communicating with them. All information supplied by paddlers, and all information collected during the selection process, will be confidential to that paddler, the Coaches/ Selectors and one NKOA administrator.

Each paddler who puts in a nomination form will be contacted and advised of details of training programmes, training camps, etc. He/ she will also be provided with statistical information about how they performed relative to other times in the W2 time trials, etc.

The Selection Committee welcomes any questions there may be about this process. Questions and answers will be summarised on the wakaama.co.nz website for everyone's information.

Send any questions to Peter Reaburn at peterr@catobolam.co.nz

SELECTION PROCESS DIAGRAM

