



TEAM PNG

# Team PNG

## Athletes Selection Policy



## PNG CANOEING ASSOCIATION

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background –

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC) has developed this policy for the selection of athletes to represent PNG at respective Games from 2021 to 2024.

The (Games) being considered under this selection policy are:

- 2023 Pacific Games

The PNGOC is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the National Olympic Committee for Papua New Guinea. The IOC is the supreme authority in all matters concerning the Olympic Games.

PNGOC is also recognised by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the Pacific Games Council (PGC) as members of the respective bodies. The CGF is the supreme authority in all matters concerning the Commonwealth Games as is the PGC the supreme authority in all matters concerning the Pacific Games.

The PNGOC has the sole and exclusive authority to determine its representation at the Games.

The PNGOC wishes to promote awareness and clear understanding of the process for nomination of Athletes by the National Federations (NF) and selection by the PNGOC for Team PNG (the Team) to compete in the Games.

The NF and its athletes wish to have a clear understanding of the process for nomination and selection of Athletes for the Team, and has agreed to the terms and conditions of this Policy for that purpose.

This Policy sets out the application, nomination and selection process by which eligible Athletes may be considered for nomination by the NF, and selection by the PNGOC, for Team PNG.

This Policy also sets out the procedures that must be followed for any appeal against a decision by the NF regarding an Athlete's nomination or non-nomination or a decision by the PNGOC regarding an Athlete's selection or non-selection to the Team.

This policy is to be referred to in the nomination criteria to be adopted by each National Federation (NF) for all athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to Team PNG to compete in the Games.

## 1.2 Purpose –

For PNGOC to select a team that:

- Has high performing athletes to represent Team PNG at the Games.
- Has a high percentage of Teams meeting the Performance Standards.
- Achieves the targets set out by PNGOC for the respective games.

# 2. Process

This policy has been adopted by the PNG Olympic Committee.

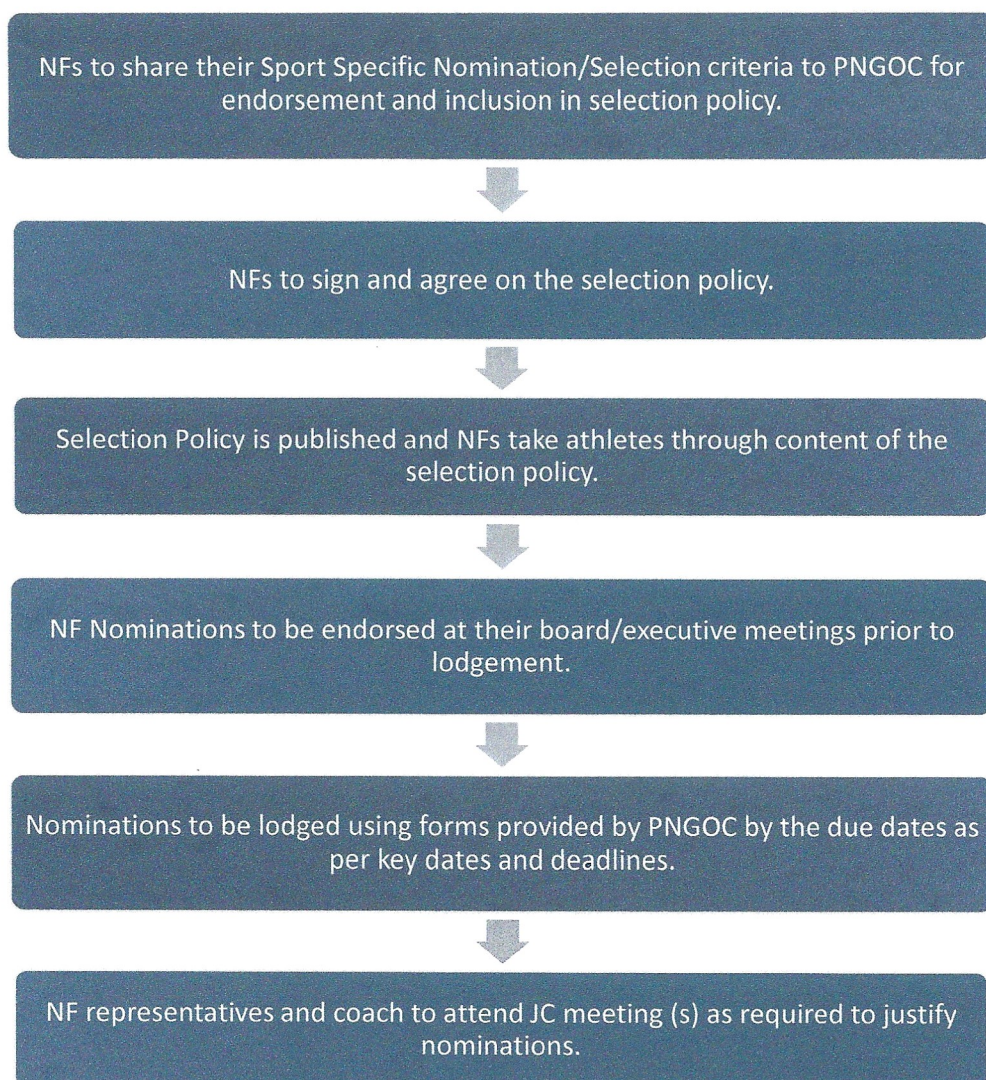
NFs must nominate athletes in the sport for selection for Team PNG for the Games, by the due dates.

The Justification Committee (JC) of the PNGOC will review the nominations and make the final selection in line

with this policy and the NF nomination/selection criteria.

## 2.1 Nomination Process – National Federations

The process for NFs to nominate athletes in their respective sports is as follows



A National Federation must not represent that a nomination of a candidate guarantees or secures selection to the sport or within the team.

*It is recommended that the NF nomination/selection panel includes independent representation and that one position is given to the Head Coach.*



## 2.2 Selection Process – Justification Committee

The JC has the task of ensuring the nominated candidates become the right team or individual to fulfil the PNGOC overall vision. This means selecting the right people that give Team PNG the best chance of achieving our Games goals. The JC may request additional advice from external specialists where required.

Any discretion used by JC must be transparent, accountable, and logical and acted upon in good faith.

Outcomes of all selection processes will be communicated both verbally and in writing by the JC to the NF.

## 2.3 General Criteria & Eligibility (For all Athletes)

- 2.3.1** Must be a Papua New Guinean Citizen with a valid Papua New Guinea (PNG) passport (with a six month minimum expiry as at the conclusion of the Games);
- 2.3.2** Must meet all eligibility requirements set out in the International Olympic Committee Charter, Commonwealth Games Federation Charter, Pacific Games Charter and rules applicable to the respective Games, this policy, and any requirements of the sport.
- 2.3.3** Must complete all required documentation correctly and in a timely manner.
- 2.3.4** Must adhere in full to all general Team PNG policy, athlete's agreement and PNGOC policy including satisfactorily meeting event requirements. This will include completion of all medical, fitness and other testing protocols not yet conducted or still underway at time of squad selection. *The candidate will be notified in writing of areas they need to address if non-compliant. If after such notification the candidate still fails to meet criteria, the candidate can be removed from consideration of selection.*
- 2.3.5** Must be fully vaccinated under the existing COVID19 environment, or where the athlete is exempt, proof of certificate of exemption from an approved authority. The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee retains the right to independently verify authenticity of all certificates provided by the athlete(s).
- 2.3.6** Willingness to engage in and encourage participation in PNGOC and Team PNG activities and programs.
- 2.3.7** Must agree to the terms of this Selection Policy.
- 2.3.8** Must sign and agree to the terms of the athlete agreement before and during the Games.
- 2.3.9** Have achieved Performance Standards (as set out in clause 3.1 and 3.2) within the timeframe as pointed out for the respective Games.

## 2.4 Physical Fitness, Injury Monitoring and Wellbeing –

All nominated athletes must submit to medical and physical assessments and examinations as follows

- 2.4.1** All athletes must report any injury, medical condition or medication / treatment of an injury or medical condition to the National Head Coach & Team PNG appointed medical personnel, where it has an impact on the athletes' ongoing training plan.
- 2.4.2** All athletes must comply with set physical and medical assessments as set out by PNGOC and JC requirements.



- 2.4.3** All athletes must provide any information required by PNGOC in relation to a medical or physical assessment, injury or medical condition.

## **2.5 Exclusions –**

A nominated athlete can NOT be considered for selection for any sport in the following circumstances. If the candidate:

- 2.5.1** is currently serving a ban imposed by the National Federation; or
- 2.5.2** is currently serving a ban imposed by any Regional or International Federation; or
- 2.5.3** has been involved in activity that contradicts the policies and laws of the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA), PNG Sport Anti-Doping Organisation (PNGSADO) and the event's governing body, anti-doping policies and laws; and is not currently serving a ban for anti-doping related offences.
- 2.5.4** is convicted of a criminal offence.
- 2.5.5** is not fully vaccinated under the existing COVID19 environment or is unable to provide a satisfactory proof of exemption certificate from an approved authority.

A nominated athlete May be excluded from consideration if the candidate:

- 2.5.6** breaches general team policy such as behaviour or conduct bringing sport in PNG and Team PNG into disrepute;
- 2.5.7** does any action that is contrary, inconsistent with or opposing to the brand, values, best interest or image of PNGOC and Team PNG;
- 2.5.8** does not comply with all agreements such as General Team Policy including areas such as gambling policy, social media guidelines and formal guidelines set by PNGOC, Team PNG Chef de Mission and Management.

## **Consideration of Extenuating Situations –**

In the case of illness or other reasonable circumstances that prevent the candidate from fulfilling their requirements, written notification to the JC must be made prior to or within reasonable time of the failure to comply. This can include, but is not limited to, attendance at daily training, camps, testing, international and domestic events, training and development and other key events as per calendar. With relevance to an overseas based athlete, a case by case decision will be made by the JC in consultation with the Chef de Mission if needed.

## **3. Selection Overview Sport Specific requirements**

### **3.1 Performance Standards – The Athlete**

The Performance Standards for the Athlete in a Team shall be used as the main criteria for selection for the various Games. Factors considered for selection include:

- 3.1.1** commitment to training and preparation for games.
- 3.1.2** no disciplinary issues.
- 3.1.3** has met requirements outlined in 3.3 below.

## 3.2 Performance Standards – The Team

The following Performance Standards for the Team shall be used as the main criteria for selection of a Team for the various Games. It shall however, be used in combination with PNGOC's *National Federation and Athlete tiering system policy* and other factors such as demonstrated improved performances and results at key international competitions, athlete commitment to training and preparation for games and no disciplinary issues.

Performance history of the team shall also be from various international events from the last twenty-four months prior to the commencement of the respective games.

### 3.2.1 2022 Pacific Mini-Games

3.2.1.1 The Team eligible for the Pacific Mini-Games shall be ranked in the top 5 in Oceania and top 3 in the Pacific to be considered for final selection.

3.2.1.2 Must be capable of achieving a medal placing in their respective sport.

### 3.2.2 2023 Pacific Games

3.2.2.1 The Team eligible for the Pacific Games shall be ranked in the top 5 in Oceania and top 3 in the Pacific to be considered for final selection.

3.2.2.2 Must be capable of achieving a medal placing in their respective sport.

### 3.2.3 2024 Olympic Games

3.2.3.1 The Team eligible for the Olympic Games shall be ranked in the top 3 in Oceania and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Pacific to be considered for final selection.

3.2.3.2 Must be capable of achieving a placing in the top half of their respective sport.

## 3.3 Events / Competitions & Fitness, Physiological criteria (Elite focus) –

The following criteria will be used as a part of the JC review process for all athletes for Team PNG.

### 3.3.1 Training & Competition Plan

Each National Head Coach has submitted a training and competition plan. Attendance and ongoing commitment to this plan is vital for inclusion in selections for the final team. Attendance records for training and activities will be recorded and submitted to JC.

### 3.3.2 Sport Specific Criteria

PNGOC recommends that NFs provide information on the following to support the selection of athletes for Team PNG:

- Previous international and national performances
- Current international and national performances
- Current level of skill and physical fitness (sport specific requirements attached)
- Current or potential injury or condition that will impair, inhibit or prevent the participant's performance to the expected elite level
- Composition and balance of the team based on position coverage (where applicable)



- Which competitions and/or trials where selections will be made
- Period of when selections will be done
- How the NF has communicated the selection criteria to the athletes

### 3.3.3 Events

PNGOC recommends that selections be made through the following events as submitted by National Federation's:

- International events – Oceania/ Pacific Championships
- National Championships
- National League/ Provincial League
- HP Camps, selection camps and targeted training sessions
- Selection trials

## 3.4 Events / Competitions & Fitness, Physiological criteria (Best of Rest focus)

Should the full team requirements not be met from the standards and criteria set out in above, then a policy of *Best of the Rest* will apply. This is where PNGOC may decide to endorse athletes who have not met the standards and criteria laid out in this policy whose inclusion in Team PNG is within the allowable athlete allocation numbers and is in line with PNGOC's Games' goals.

This will be done on similar grounds as the criteria above, i.e.

- 3.4.1 Event and competition performance
- 3.4.2 Results from Specific Testing Data
- 3.4.3 Results from Medical and Physical assessments
- 3.4.4 Other factors considered by selectors to be important
- 3.4.5 PNGOC's *NF and Athlete tiering system policy*

Discretion will be used in this situation where the data and information is more objective and less definitive.

## 4. Appeal Process

An athlete who fails to be selected for the squad or final team pursuant to the criteria set out in this policy may appeal against omission.

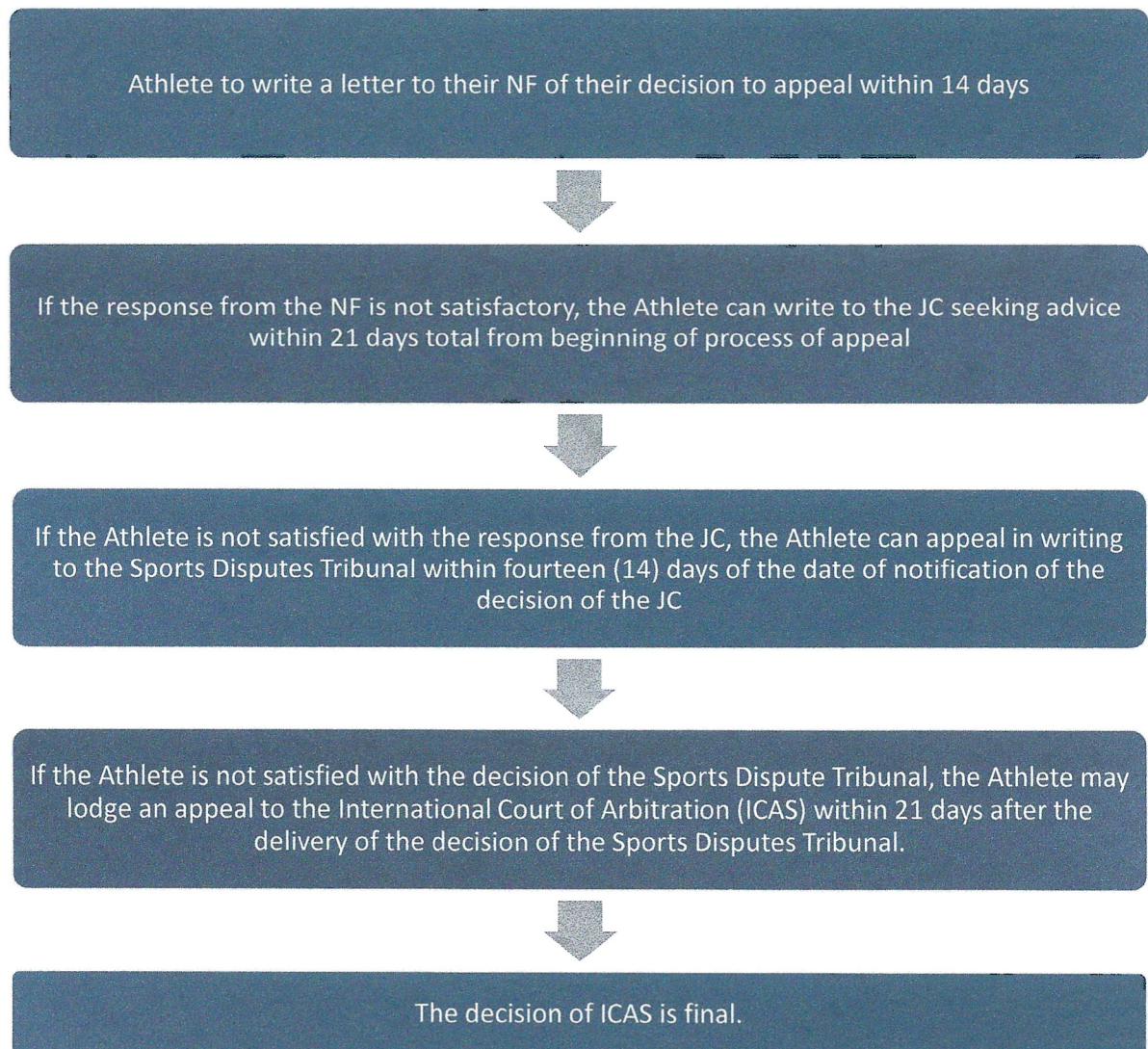
The only grounds for such an appeal are that the JC, in making their final decision, failed to comply with this policy.

There is no right to appeal where a sanction or ban exists in relation to WADA or International Federation.

**Appeals** – Appeals can be made through the standard sports appeal process, with ultimate arbitrator being the International Court of Arbitration (ICAS).

### **Scenario 1 - Athlete is not nominated by the NF**

Process for an athlete to appeal if they haven't been nominated by the NF is as follows:

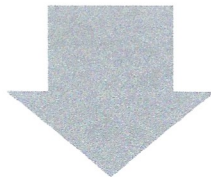




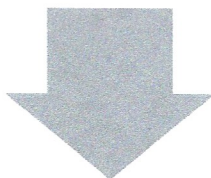
### **Scenario 2 - Athlete is excluded by the JC**

Process for an athlete and/or the NF to appeal if the athlete is excluded by the JC is as follows:

If the Athlete and / NF is dissatisfied with the decisions of the Justification Committee, the Athlete and / or NF can appeal in writing to the Sports Disputes Tribunal within fourteen (14) days after the date of notification of the decision of the JC.



If the Athlete is dissatisfied with the decision of the Sports Dispute Tribunal, the Athlete may lodge an appeal to the International Court of Arbitration (ICAS) within 21 days after the delivery of decision.



The decision of ICAS is final.

The appeal process will not be extended beyond 21 days. A final decision is to be made in due course but no later than the due date for final nominations.

***Indemnity: - It is a condition of nomination and participation in selection that PNGOC and its directors, officers, employees, servants, and agents be indemnified from and against all claims, demands, action, proceedings, costs and expenses including legal costs and liabilities to third parties arising out of incidents of any breach by the National Federation, and/or athletes.***

We, the undersigned are in agreement of this Selection Policy to select athletes to represent PNG at respective Games from 2021 to 2024.

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.

Auvita Rapilla  
Secretary General  
PNG Olympic Committee



Name of NF Executive

Pole Kassman

Signature of NF Executive



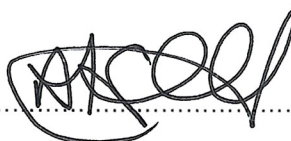
NF Executive Position

President

Name of Witness

TONY GREEN

Signature of Witness



Address of Witness

5107 Lot 2 Eagle St Lae



# Team PNG - Performance Standards (Team Sports)

Games			
Year	2022	2023	2024
Games	Pacific Mini Games	Pacific Games	Olympic Games
Host City	Saipan	Honiara	Paris
Host Country	Northern Mariana Islands	Solomon Islands	France
Date	June 17-25	July 14-28	July 26-Aug 11
Performance Standards			
Oceania	Top 5	Top 5	Top 3
Pacific	Top 3	Top 3	1st
Selection Policy Criteria - Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team has Demonstrated improved performances and results at key international competitions over the past 24 months (Prior to commencement of Games). Includes improved performances from Pacific Games 2019</li> <li>• Capable of achieving a medal placing in their respective sport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team has Demonstrated improved performances and results at key international competitions over the past 24 months (Prior to commencement of Games). Includes improved performances from Pacific Games 2019</li> <li>• Capable of achieving a medal placing in their respective sport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team has Demonstrated improved performances and results at key international competitions over the past 24 months (Prior to commencement of Games)</li> <li>• Capable of achieving a placing in the top half of their respective sport</li> </ul>
Selection Policy Criteria - Athlete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to training and preparation for the Games</li> <li>• No disciplinary issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to training and preparation for the Games</li> <li>• No disciplinary issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to training and preparation for the Games</li> <li>• No disciplinary issues</li> </ul>

**Annexures:**

1. PNG Canoeing Selection Policy
2. PGC Charter –
  - a. Article 25 - Athlete Eligibility
  - b. Regulation 5 – Maximum number of entries for Va'a
  - c. Regulation 6 – Regulations relating to Team Sports Va'a
3. Olympic Games – Paris2024
  - a. Qualification System





## **PNG Canoeing Association**

### **Handbook for Crew Selection**

## Papua New Canoe Association (PNGCA) Team Selection Criteria (V6)

- **Vision**

We will provide paddlers, crews and clubs of an international standard that will dominate our sport throughout the Pacific

- **Mission**

To deliver excellence in our sport by developing and growing clubs, paddlers and technical staff through a well-structured plan, regular regattas, national titles and international events.

- **Values**

Reliability: We do what we promise

Dedication: Committed to our sport

Integrity: Doing the right thing

Excellence: National excellence/Internationally competitive

Safety: Taking care of our people & environment

Respect: Courtesy & consideration in the things we do

Expertise: Knowledge in our sport

Leadership: Living our values

- **2022 Mini Pacific Games Overview:**

The 2022 Northern Marianas Mini Games will take place in June 2022. It is the PNG Canoe Association's intent to put forward the most competitive team possible using available resources, processes and infrastructure and within the confines of COVID 19 'Niu Pasin' requirements.

- **Selection Process Objectives**

- To develop the strongest, cohesive & most competitive TEAM PNG with a view to medal in all categories.
- To provide all paddlers with a fair & equitable opportunity to make TEAM PNG.
- To build a process that encourages interest, a competitive spirit, a strong work ethic and commitment and desire to win in the lead up to TEAM PNG selection and in team preparations thereafter.

- **Code of Conduct**

In keeping with the PNGCA Vision, Mission & Values all executives, coaches, paddlers, family, supporters & stakeholders are to adhere to and follow a code of conduct, namely;

- **All stakeholders**

- Treat all club members & guests with respect, honesty & fairness.
- Show respect for self, other members, competitors and the va'a family
- Show respect for the coaches, officers and board members of the club
- Show respect for the environment, the ocean and marine life
- Show respect for the sport and culture of va'a.



- Show respect for the equipment and property
- Volunteer for, participate in and support club activities, events, and races.
- Uphold the health and safety of all stakeholders.
- **Coaches:**
  - Be respectful to paddlers.
  - Give sufficient notice of programmes, requirements & schedules and criteria.
  - Encourage an environment of open communication with paddlers and answer questions.
  - Mediate conflicts between paddlers that affect the success of the paddling program.
  - Be prepared to seek help from the PNGCA Executive & Team Management and abide by their decisions.
  - **Paddlers:**
    - Strive to achieve your personal best; work hard for your team and yourself.
    - Treat all fellow paddlers as you would like to be treated.
    - Accept feedback, constructive criticism, and instruction with an open mind and an attitude of wanting to improve your paddling skills.
    - Keep the best interest of the team and your crew before personal aspirations.
    - If you have been selected to TEAM PNG you are committed to training, healthy lifestyle choices, the seat you have been assigned to in a crew, and to race to the best of your abilities.
    - Coach decisions are not questioned, second-guessed, or ignored by paddlers; unless paddler or crew safety is a concern.
    - Discuss any disagreements directly with your Coach in a constructive manner, one-on-one and on-land.
    - Acknowledge that the Head Coach and the assistant Coaches are volunteers and approved by the PNGOC & PNGCA Executive to lead and direct the activities of TEAM PNG paddlers.
    - Paddlers are expected to solve off-the water issues or disputes with a fellow paddler through direct communication.
    - Paddlers are expected to solve on-the water issues or disputes with a fellow paddler with assistance from the coaching staff.
    - Paddling while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited.
    - Any violation of the code of conduct are grounds for disciplinary action including suspension and expulsion from TEAM PNG as per *Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGCA)* guidelines & regulations.

- **Crew Selection Process**

- **Eligibility**

- Citizen of Papua New Guinea
- Payment of membership fees to affiliated PNGCA club.
- Valid club affiliation to PNGCA.
- Financial in terms of paying set portion of levy for athletes as set by Team PNG; Compatibility and gelling with the team, both on and off the water;
- Attitude, attendance, effort shown during training and assistance given with Club and PNGCA activities, (e.g., fundraising, etc.) and general squad and club training sessions;
- Attendance at the PNGCA annual National Championships;
- Attendance at training camps, nominated training sessions and trials;
- Paddling experience (must be over the age of 16 years, though exceptional circumstances may apply);
- Paddling technique, strength and endurance, including health and fitness levels (the PNG HPS assist with assessment of individual athletes)
- Complete all PNGOC standard fitness testing requirements, etc. as scheduled by the PNGOC OC & JC;
- Adherence to the appropriate standard of conduct that is expected of someone representing PNG and the sport of Va'a (Athlete Code of Conduct).

- **Crew Selection**

Crew selection will be determined by the process as outlined in the acronym **GAASEEC** In order of importance:

**G**elling

**A**ttitude

**A**ttendance

**S**trength

**E**ndurance

**E**xperience

**C**oach

- **Gelling**

Regardless of the strength of a paddler(s), the rhythm of the canoe is the most important aspect of paddling. A crew that gels, that is, paddles in rhythm, is efficient and an efficient boat is faster. A paddler that cannot keep within the rhythm of the canoe effects this efficiency and, consequently, the speed of the boat.



Combinations will be trialled, and this will include changing paddlers between crews and across seats to determine the best team that achieves optimum rhythm & efficiency.

- **Attitude**

This entails attitudes towards the canoe, the crew, the steerer, the squad and the squad coaches. The following will be looked at;

- Who is prepared to assist prior to, during and after training to make training easier for all members of the squad?
- The type of attitude a paddler brings to a canoe (how they interact with the others on and off the water).
- How well paddlers give and receive feedback within the canoe. (Nothing is more important than a positive attitude throughout the canoe).
- How paddlers take correction from the coach/coaches.
- Who is prepared to push themselves that extra bit for the other paddlers in the canoe?

- **Attendance**

This is self-explanatory. Aside from exceptional circumstances (family emergencies and injury), all paddlers must attend the minimum number of training camps. If for any reason a paddler may be in a position where they will need to miss more than 2 training sessions, they must discuss the situation with the Coach (preferably in advance of missing the 3rd training sessions).

- **Strength**

This is a very important component of paddling, though strength is irrelevant rhythm and positive attitude in the canoe. Canoe racing is about finding the strongest group of paddlers who can paddle in a rhythm together in a canoe.

In the canoe strength involves who can move the most amount of water in time with the other paddlers. It is often easy for an experienced steerer or coach to determine this, however if this is not possible a series of pull-outs (seat-paddling) will be used.

Supervised strength training & testing will be conducted in with assistance from the PNG HP Centre.

- **Endurance**

While the focus of team selection is on sprints where TEAM PNG Va'a historically excel, a paddler's endurance is paramount to the team if they are to contribute 100% throughout the events. This requirement applies to sprints and in marathons. Paddlers are expected to pull water over a long period of time. Changes in technique throughout the long paddles will be a key indicator of paddler endurance. Paddler's effort over the long training/trial paddles will be monitored using a smart strain gauge (if available) or racing equally placed paddlers on a first past the post OC1 race selection.

Supervised fitness training & testing will be conducted in with assistance from the PNG HP Centre.

- **Experience**

Experience contributes to a boat's gelling and synergy and the coach will assess the best combination for a boat considering the paddler's experience of the below seats

- Seat 1. The Stroker- This is the pace setter position in the canoe. The stroker, seat # 1, must be a strong paddler with a good sense of rhythm, timing, and be able to feel the canoe in the water. The stroker must know when to blend with the crew by increasing the stroke rate, increase or decrease the length of the stroke as conditions change, or when to add power within the stroke. All paddlers must follow seat #1, so it's very important that the stroker blends with the entire crew.
- Seat 2. The Caller- This position traditionally calls the changes in the canoe and sets up the turn during sprint races. The call should be done in a good strong voice. This is a tough sport and a weak call does little to inspire a crew. The change is called on 12-16 strokes but can be varied depending on the situation. Seat #2 must also know when, and when not to call a change during open water ocean racing situations. Knowing when to call a change at the start and finish of a race is very critical as well. Seat #2 must work closely with seat #1 by not rushing the stroker, keeping time, and by encouraging the stroker if they become fatigued. If the stroke is too quick, or out of control fast causing the canoe to feel choppy in the water, seat # 2 will help settle down the stroker to a longer more controlled stroke. Although it is tradition for seat 2 to call, it is not unusual for seat 3, 1 or the steersman to call the changes.
- Seats 3,4,5. Engine Room- These three seats are the power seats or engine room. These seats must be strong, have power and must keep the same rate as 1 and 2. These guys are the key to powering up out of the turn to get the canoe up and running again. All three seats protect the ama from popping. Seat #5 is very important to protect the ama in rough water situations, and helps the steersman when called upon.
- Seat 6. The Steersman- This seat is usually your most experienced paddler. The steersman is the Captain, leader of the canoe. This position controls the entire crew, and only this person should be heard talking in the canoe. The steersman will call out rate change or "timing" to keep everyone in sync with each other. The steersman should also encourage the crew when they are fatigued or falling behind in a competition.

- **Coach**

The coach will be guided in selection by assistant coaches and team management, but has the final say in crew selection. This is not negotiable. When selecting crews, the coach will point out to paddlers who they are up against for each seat. They will also let paddlers know which criteria they did not meet if they have been cut from a particular crew. All paddlers in the squad are encouraged to regularly discuss their progress with the coach. The coach should be informed about a paddler's preferred seat, but this final decision on seat placement is the coach's and the coach's alone.

- **Boats being used**

V6 legacy canoes from 2015 Pacific Games (PNG).



- **Rigging**  
Boats will all be rigged in the same manner pre-selection races. Paddlers may NOT alter the rigging.
- **Course**
- Standard va'a 250 metre courses with turning with lanes, turning buoys and flags.
- **Rules**  
*International Va'a Association 2021 Sprint Rules* (<http://www.ivfiv.org>)
- **Selection Committee**  
TEAM PNG Head Coach with guidance from assistant coaches and team management.  
PNGOC will be asked to attend & observe final selection race. The Head Coach has the final decision.
- **Selection Criteria**
  - **V6 Canoes**  
Monthly club regattas will be held in the lead up to the 2022 Mini Games. This is with the understanding that club coaches know & understand their crews best; where to place them for optimal performance and how to achieve the best result for their teams. Each club is expected to develop their best squads for the monthly regattas and to constantly improve upon them in the lead up to the squad selection which will consist of the first and second placed teams from the 2021 PNG National Sprint Titles plus each club's men's & women's first teams as selected by the respective club coaches (note; the first & second placed club national titles teams will already be in the winning clubs first teams). From this initial squad of 24 paddlers the TEAM PNG Head Coach will monitor the paddlers performances & team combinations through training session and regular racing which is expected to familiarise teams with the fierce competitive nature of the events as well as encourage excellent results. Working closely with the assistance & club coaches the TEAM PNG Head Coach will select the best final crews to achieve the best results.

It is understood that:

- key positions, primarily the steerer, may be best filled in by candidates from outside the winning club; including eligible paddlers living outside of Papua New Guinea
  - That paddlers selected for TEAM PNG are expected to commit and train and understand fully that they will be dropped if they are not 100% committed.
  - The team (plus reserves) that is selected second to the first TEAM PNG Team will be included in all TEAM PNG training and will act as reserves in case of injury, unavailability, member termination, etc. They will also be eligible to replace a seat in the first squad if they are proven to be more suitable. As such, they are expected to display the same commitment as the winning team.
- 
- **V12 Canoes**  
The V12 men's & women's teams for the Games will consist of the first & second V6 teams as selected by the Head Coach.

- **Marathon**

The marathon team for the Games will be selected from the most 6 most suitable paddlers from the 14-person TEAM PNG. This selection will be based on individual endurance, as determined by the coach during training sessions. However, the focus for TEAM PNG & TEAM PNG selection will remain on the sprint events as this is where TEAM PNG has historically excelled. Consequently, the 14 TEAM PNG paddlers, including the reserves, will be selected for their sprint skillsets rather than their marathon abilities.

- **V1**

V1 races occur before the V6 & V12 races and participation in these races will weaken the paddlers from fatigue and consequently effect the team performance in the team sprints. Consequently, the first-place reserve (13<sup>th</sup> paddler) will be entered into the V1 sprints and the second-place reserve (14<sup>th</sup> paddler) will be entered into the V1 marathon. Both are expected to train for these events

- **Selection notification**

At each stage of the selection the Coach will update the list and advise each Club. The respective Club Presidents will then notify their members directly.

- **Appeals**

Teams will be nominated on the selection criteria detailed above, however if a paddler feels that he or she should paddle in a specific team they have the right to appeal the team nomination and challenge for a position in any team. This process of appeal will follow the PNGOC rules and guidelines.

- Athlete to write a letter to the Coach within 7 days of the selection,
- If the response from the Coach is not satisfactory, Athlete to write a letter to the PNGCA Executive of their decision to appeal within 14 days of selection
- If the response from the PNGCA Executive is not satisfactory, the Athlete can write to the PNGCO Justification Committee (JC) seeking advice within 21 days total from beginning of process of appeal
- If the Athlete is not satisfied with the response from the JC, the Athlete can appeal in writing to the Sports Disputes Tribunal within fourteen (14) days of the date of notification of the decision of the JC
- If the Athlete is not satisfied with the decision of the Sports Dispute Tribunal, the Athlete may lodge an appeal to the International Court of Arbitration (ICAS) within 21 days after the delivery of the decision of the Sports Disputes Tribunal.

The decision of ICAS is final.

## ARTICLE 25

### Eligibility

1. An athlete to be eligible to compete in the Pacific Games or Pacific Mini Games shall:

- (a) Complete all entry and other applicable contractual documentation.
- (b) Not be currently under disqualification or suspension by the Council, or their respective PGA or International Federation or under the World Anti Doping

Code.

- (c) Comply with:
  - (i) The applicable rules and regulations of the Council and this Constitution
  - (ii) The applicable rules and regulations of the relevant International Federations subject to the provisions of this Charter
  - (iii) The provisions of the World Anti Doping Code.
- (d) Meet the following citizenship and residency conditions for inclusion in a team selected by the PGA to represent its Country/Territory:
  - (i) Be a citizen of the country/territory the athlete is to represent at the Games and be able to demonstrate residency in that country/territory.
  - (ii) For the purposes of this clause:

“citizen” means the holder of a current valid and applicable passport of the country/territory the athlete represents.

“applicable passport” for countries/territories is as follows:

American Samoa PGA – USA Passport  
Australia PGA (Associate member) – Australian Passport  
Cook Islands PGA – New Zealand Passport  
Fiji PGA – Fiji Passport  
Federated States of Micronesia PGA – FSM Passport  
French Polynesia PGA – France Passport  
Guam PGA – USA Passport  
Kiribati PGA – Kiribati Passport  
Marshall Islands PGA – Marshall Islands Passport  
Nauru PGA – Nauru Passport  
New Caledonia PGA – France Passport  
New Zealand PGA (Associate member) – New Zealand Passport  
Niue PGA – New Zealand Passport  
Norfolk Island PGA – Australian Passport  
Northern Mariana Islands PGA – USA Passport  
Palau PGA – Palau Passport  
Papua New Guinea PGA – PNG Passport  
Samoa PGA – Samoa Passport



Solomon Islands PGA – Solomon Islands Passport  
Tonga PGA – Tonga Passport  
Tokelau PGA – New Zealand Passport  
Tuvalu PGA – Tuvalu Passport  
Vanuatu PGA – Vanuatu Passport  
Wallis and Futuna PGA – France Passport

“residency” means that the athlete shall be a citizen of the country/territory the athlete represents and have resided for not less than five years (cumulatively, whether consecutively or not) at any time in that country/territory of the PGA.

For the avoidance of doubt the temporary absence of an athlete from the country/territory of their citizenship for purposes such as education and sports training, military service and health care and other legitimate absences of a like kind shall be considered as residency.

- (iii) The Executive Board shall have the discretion to waive the provisions of sub-paragraphs (d) (i)-(ii) above. These discretionary powers shall include, but are not limited to, utilising the prevailing eligibility rules of an International Federation where the following conditions are satisfied by the applicant International Federation no later than fifteen months prior to the Pacific Games:
  - (a) The Pacific Games event will be utilised as a qualification pathway event to World Championship, or Olympic Games, or Commonwealth Games events and thus limit the requirement for duplicate events within the Pacific region; and/or
  - (b) The Pacific Games event will provide participants with international ranking points to facilitate their further participation in international events; and
  - (c) The Pacific Games event will receive additional resources or assistance from the applicant International Federation beyond what is required under the Charter, including assistance with monitoring eligibility; and
  - (d) The adoption of the International Federation’s eligibility rules will not lead to distorted outcomes from the basic philosophy of the Pacific Games being facilitated for the benefit of the people of the Pacific.

In the event that a PGA believes the application of an International Federation’s eligibility rules leads to an unintended discriminatory outcome for one of its athletes, the PGA shall have a right of recourse to the Executive Board who shall have the power to resolve the matter in its discretion.

If applied, the International Federation’s eligibility rules shall be sent to all PGAs fifteen months prior to the Pacific Games.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the PGA to ensure that all competitors comply with this Constitution and its eligibility conditions. In satisfying the PGC requirements for entries of athletes it shall be a requirement that the PGA completes an Entry and Eligibility Conditions form, in the form contained in the regulations certifying that the competitor complies with this Article of the Constitution.
3. An athlete who has already competed in the Pacific Games or Pacific Mini Games for one PGA may represent another PGA at a future celebration of the Pacific Games provided that athlete complies with the provisions of this article and the approval of both PGAs.
4. A PGA shall be required to submit competitor entries by name at least 45 days prior to the commencement of the Games and each entry shall be accompanied by all necessary certification.
5. Late Entries by Name will not be accepted.
6. The OC shall be required to post, fax or email all entries by event, name and country on the official PGC website and to the PGAs, International Federations and Executive Board at the close of entries.
7. PGAs shall have 10 days thereafter to challenge to the Executive Board the eligibility of a competitor. A US\$50 bond must be posted by the challenging PGA to the PGC per challenge in order for it to proceed. The bond is refundable if the challenge is successful but is forfeited if it is unsuccessful. A PGA whose athlete is successfully challenged and is deemed ineligible to compete will be liable for a US\$100 penalty payable to the PGC at the Delegation Registration Meeting. If the penalty is unpaid, the PGA will not be able to compete in the sport in which the ineligible athlete was registered.
8. In the event of a challenge to an athlete's eligibility the Executive Board shall within 5 days refer the challenge to the Disputes Tribunal established by this Charter, for decision within a further 10 days from receipt of the last challenges. All Disputes Tribunal decisions should therefore be finalised at least 20 days prior to the commencement of the Games). The Disputes Tribunal's decision shall be final. No further challenges shall be considered thereafter.
9. In the event of a challenge to an athlete's eligibility, the burden of proof for residency shall rest with the sponsoring PGA rather than the challenging PGA. Documents proving residency must be submitted by the sponsoring PGA in the event of a challenge, and shall include where appropriate:
  - (a) School records certified by the school principal or the highest official of the relevant government ministry;
  - (b) Employment records certified by the employer or the highest official of the relevant government ministry for labour issues;
  - (c) Tax records;
  - (d) Official government birth or immigration records;
  - (e) Any other official government record which proves residence.

10. PGA delegation entries are required to be finalised (including satisfying all International Federation requirements), confirmed, and posted on the PGC and OC websites 20 days prior to the commencement of the Games.

## **REGULATION 5**

### **VAA**

#### **MEN**

V6 – Marathon  
V1 – Marathon  
V1 - 500m  
V6 – 500m  
V6 – 1,500m  
V12 – 500m

#### **WOMEN**

V6 – Marathon  
V1 – Marathon  
V1 - 500m  
V6 - 500m  
V6 - 1,500m  
V12 – 500m

#### **KAYAK EVENTS**

##### **MEN**

K1 – 500m  
K2 – 500m  
K1 – Marathon  
K2 – Marathon

##### **WOMEN**

K1 – 500m  
K2 – 500m  
K1 – Marathon  
K2 – Marathon

## **REGULATION 6**

### **VAA**

1 entry per event, with no more than 14 Men and 14 Women in total