

USA Wildwater – Senior Team Selection Changes to Procedure for Bye Requests

Background:

Our current bye procedure was written for years in which team trials occur in the spring. The decision of the Wildwater Committee to move team trials to the fall requires that we update our bye policy. We will also need to clarify how to handle byes for the 2011 team since this is a transition year and we completed team trials in August 2010.

The outdated Bye Procedure was follows:

3.B.3. National Team Trials are normally treated as the only way that an athlete can earn a berth on the USA Wildwater Team. In the event that an athlete is unable to attend National Team Trials, the athlete must complete the following criteria to be **CONSIDERED** by the WWC:

- The athlete should petition the board by January 15th, but never later than 60 sixty days prior to the date of National Team Trials.
- The athlete must propose an alternative plan for qualifying for the team prior to USA Team Trials at the time of petition. This plan must be submitted to the WWC in writing and must contain a means of proving verifiable race results that may earn the athlete a berth on the USA Wildwater team.
- The WWC will analyze the proposal, along with the results obtained, and will then determine if a sufficient standard has been reached to merit selection for the USA Wildwater National Team without attendance and qualification at the National Team Trials.
- Decisions will be made on an individual basis and selection of one individual on one occasion does not guarantee selection of this, or any other individual, at any other time.
- The athlete should have both qualified for and competed internationally for the US National Team within the 3 calendar years prior to the date of the petition. The WWC will waive this requirement only in extreme circumstances.

The New Bye Procedure is:

Amendment 3.B.3.B Bye Procedure Clarification (updated Dec 2010):

The purpose of this Amendment is to clarify the bye process and to cover the granting byes in years when Team Trials occur in the summer or fall of the year before international competition, beginning with the selection of the 2011 competition team.

Having well attended Team Trials are vital to the integrity, survival, and validity of our sport. Therefore, National Team Trials are normally treated as the only way that an athlete can earn a berth on the USA Wildwater Team. In the event that an athlete is unable to attend the (Senior) National Team Trials, the athlete must meet and complete the following criteria to be **CONSIDERED** by the WWC:

- The athlete shall have both qualified for, and competed internationally for, the US National Wildwater Team within the 3 calendar years prior to the date of the petition.
- An athlete cannot be granted byes on consecutive teams for any circumstances (without qualifying through Team Trails and competing internationally). Under no circumstances can an athlete receive more than two byes in their lifetime.
- The athlete must apply in writing to the Wildwater Committee for a bye no later than two weeks **before** Team Trials occurs. (Note: Because 2011 is a transition year, athletes have until Jan 15th 2011 to complete bye requests for the 2011 Sr. Team).

- All requests should be submitted in writing to the Wildwater Committee Chairman who will make an initial review. Requests that meet the criteria below will be forwarded to other Committee members for consideration. The application must include:
 1. The reason for the request (i.e. the hardship or unavoidable event that precludes the athlete from attending Team Trials).
 2. Verifiable performance results that prove the athlete would earn a berth if they could attend Team Trials.
 3. A plan to show ongoing development and fitness as part of their alternative plan to earn a berth and qualify for the team. The plan must include races/training camps that the athlete will participate in and some method of measuring performance against athletes who qualify for the team.
 4. The athlete must commit to attend at least one of the Team Training Camps provided for US Team members between Trials and international competition.
- If a bye request is granted by the WWC, the **athlete must complete the following** process in order to earn their berth on the Team:
 - They must complete the plan they outlined in their bye request (according to the criteria outlined above).
 - They must provide race results and evidence of completing their training plan to the WWC on an ongoing basis.
 - Failure to complete the bye process or compete internationally as planned will result in disqualification from consideration of bye requests from the athlete in any future years.

Decisions will be made on an individual basis and selection of one individual on one occasion does not guarantee selection of this, or any other individual, at any other time. A bye may be granted provisionally, pending acceptable results from alternative selection methods or dependant on the number of paddlers qualifying at team trials.