



High Performance Committee 8.5.2025 Report of Discussions and Developments

Attendance	Wyatt Allen Liam Corrigan Yaz Farooq Genevra Stone Josy Verdonkschot Stephen Hap Whelpley (Chair)
Agenda	Trials Review Continued Competitive Standard Time Discussion Selection Camp Review (selections, execution, athlete feedback, coxswain selection, selector DAS Allocation Discussion

The meeting was called to order at 1:35PM.

Trials Review

Chief High Performance Office Josy Verdonkschot noted that the top performers across the majority of events posted competitive times. The High Performance Committee (HPC) and Josy discussed the results and what athletes were accepting their trials bids for the World Championships (Worlds). From this, there was a discussion about the intention and execution of Trials that also involved a review of the Competitive Standard Time.

As outlined in the selection procedures for this year, the bid for Worlds could be accepted by the first place finisher of an event. If not, the second place crew would have the opportunity to accept the bid. Beyond that placement, the Chief High Performance Officer would make the determination of whether or not a crew would compete at the World Championships. With first and second place crews declining in the Men's Single and Men's Pair, the decision defaulted to Josy. The HPC discussed with Josy that the Competitive Standard Time (CST) of 92.5% for Senior Trials was not an appropriately set CST. While it is apparent in the results, the weather recordings for the day were substantially more helpful than what the forecast had predicted. Crews experienced a significantly lighter wind than the forecast predicted. As a result, Josy noted that the CST was not a reliable measurement for a competitive crew in this instance. As such, the remaining crews in the two aforementioned events were not selected to the team.

Off of this conversation, the HPC noted: 1) we need to make sure to have the appropriate considerations for athlete development as it pertains to the selection of the World Championship team and 2) the CST process needs further refinement to ensure that it is done consistently and accurately with clear communication. Development is key. However, the skillset of the athlete still needs to match the requirements of the challenge or experience. This is something that needs further review and consideration in terms of where the bar is set.

In regards to the CST, it is a challenge to select the CST prior to the start of racing considering the influence meteorological changes can have on the sport. As such, it is important to set the CST appropriately high since it can be adjusted lower after racing, but cannot be made more difficult after racing.

Continued Competitive Standard Time Discussion

Adding onto the conversation around CSTs, the HPC discussed the application of them on the U23 and U19 levels. At this time, U23 and U19 athletes do not have enough competition in small boats due to cultural decisions (predominantly coxed eight racing) and timing of trials. The HPC discussed the timing of trials for U23s and U19s as well as future opportunities to promote more small boat racing and participation..

The discussion returned to setting an adjusted but still challenging CST based on the forecast in order to allow for the ability to lower the CST once weather was recorded throughout racing. Forecasts are predictors and not certainties, so it is imperative to let people know the CST standard prior to racing is also just a forecast. A forecast that cannot be raised post-racing, but could be lowered post-racing.

Selection Camp Review

Through athlete representatives, the HPC received feedback that communication needed to improve during the selection camp. Athletes would prefer the direct and public communication of results. The HPC suggested setting clear expectations at the start of camp on how things will be communicated. For example, the public posting results, and the private discussion of individual execution.

At the time of the camp's conclusion, Josy noted that 3 men were selected explicitly for the eight, 4 men for the four, 4 men for the quad, and 2 men for the double. The coaches and Josy felt sculling selection was clear for this World Championship. Men's sweep selection could not be completed during camp. While the intention of camp was to complete the selection of all crews, it proved necessary to broaden the search for one additional sweep rower in light of the new World Rowing schedule that prohibited doubling up in the eight and the quad. Josy informed the HPC that this means quickly looking at some limited remaining options for one more starboard to avoid doubling up from the quad. All 4 from the U23 World Champion BM4- were invited to camp. The HPC and Josy discussed how this was not an acceptable conclusion to camp, what extenuating circumstances led to it, and how it could be avoided in the future.

In Women's sculling, the selection of athletes was clear, but the prioritization of boats took some additional time. In the end, the women's double was improved from the World Cups, and a new women's quad was selected.

Thanks to the World Cup campaign, women's sweep selection had a clear priority of the W4-. While a check was done to see the feasibility of doubling up athletes from the four into the eight, the selection of athletes for the eight was straightforward.

In addition to reviewing how selection went for each sex and discipline, the HPC and Josy spoke about some overarching areas for improvement throughout the selection camp. The requirement for camp boats to hit CST needs to be further defined. Some boats had to hit the CST standard during camp while other boats achieved it in a lineup or a comparable lineup at the World Cups. Furthermore, some crews matched the standard in training while others did it in a racing scenario. Either way, the HPC agreed it was good to have all boats, whether selected at camp or trials, meet the same CST standard. However, how that is done needs further refinement. Next, the HPC noted that coxswain selection has improved in recent years, but still needs further clarity and objective criteria. Additionally, the HPC agreed that how the final selection is made between coaches, athletes, and a selection panel needs a consistent process. Lastly, there needs to be additional clarity

around the role of a Selector. The HPC and Josy believe that it is a good addition to selection, but it needs to play a definitive and intentional role for the sake of the process and the selector.

Direct Athlete Support

Athletes were added to Direct Athlete Support (DAS) who won trials and were nominated to the team. Additionally, Olympians who returned to full participation on the team had their stipends increased. Additionally, the rest of the team selected at Selection Camp were added to DAS if not already on it.

Some athletes had their stipends increased based on exceptional World Cup performances.

Olympians not fully participating in selection at this point were removed from receiving DAS stipends.

Meeting adjourned early due to scheduling with Chula Vista at 2:31PM.