

AOCRA IVF World Sprint 2024

“Highway to Hilo”

Selection Policy 2024

1. IVF World Sprint 2024 “Highway to Hilo” Event

The IVF World Sprint 2024 Hilo will include 2 events hosted within these Championships.

1. World Elite Championship
 - All V1 events & divisions
 - Para, J19 and open (men & women) V6 in 500, 1000 or 1500 (turns) and V12 500.
2. World Club Championship
 - A World Club Championship – Club teams from a country will compete against other club teams for the title of “Club Champion”.
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Note: Competitors participating in the Elite competition will be allowed to join their club crew however are limited to 3 elite competitors per V6 entry or 6 elite competitors per V12 entry.

Final selections in the Elite category will take into consideration club regatta teams and look to ensure there is no impact on these teams from Elite team selections.

Number of entries allowed per country for World Elite categories:

1 team – V6 Junior 19 Male

1 team – V6 Junior 19 Female

1 team - V6 Open Male

1 team - V6 Open Female

1 team – V6 Para Mixed

1 team – V12 ParaMixed

1 team - V12 Junior 19 Male

1 team - V12 Junior 19 Female

1 team – V12 Open Male

1 team – V12 Open Female

Note : V12 team to be selected from the elite registered competitors.

V1 events: **3 entries per category** will be allowed (Additional entries may be earned based on

the medals received in a category at the prior World Sprints. A maximum of 6 is allowed - **For Australia this means we will have 4 entries in J19 women and Master 60 women)**

The number of entries allowed by each Member Federation in the World Club Championship event is as follows:

V6 events: **6 entries per gender and division**

V12 events: **3 entries per gender and division**

2. AO Vision and Goals for the Campaign

AOCRA's vision for the IVF World Sprints Hilo 2024 is to provide the opportunity for our members and clubs to participate in a unique and memorable journey that allows them to develop and improve as a paddler on the water, and as a person off it.

AOCRA is committed to establishing and endorsing a fair and unbiased selection policy. The aim of the policy is to ensure all athletes receive an equal opportunity to be selected to participate in the IVF World Sprints 2024 provided they have satisfied the necessary selection or qualification criteria and standards as outlined in this document.

It is important to state from the outset that AO require members chosen to represent AO and Australia in international competition must be of the character and moral standard suitable to represent our organisation and our country.

To be very specific AOCRA will not send athletes to represent AO and Australia that have not met the high behavioural standards either in their dealing with fellow paddlers or in their dealings with the administrators of our sport.

This policy may be amended or supplemented by AO at its discretion in order to achieve the above objectives and specifically where matters arise, which, in the sole opinion of the AOCRA Board, have not been provided for in this policy or where the literal application of the policy would not achieve the above objective.

3. Purpose

The primary purpose of this selection policy is to provide guidance and direction for AO and members regarding selection for AO Teams and AO Individuals to compete in International IVF competitions.

It is intended that this policy will outline the process by which AO will identify and select athletes that will represent AO at competitions.

4. Expectations of paddlers representing AO

Paddlers selected to represent AO MUST display the following attributes and will be required to sign an athlete agreement, which outlines the General Selection criteria:

- a) Must adhere to the policies of AO and be strong ambassadors for the organisation whilst representing AO and at all other times, this includes being in good standing with their Club, Zone and National bodies.
- b) Have satisfied the requirements of AO, their club and zone bodies to meet the eligibility criteria, i.e. being financial members of their current club and have satisfied all requirements to participate in regatta's, that is: huli, swim and tread tests, training and development as signed off by the club coach.
- c) Accept the expectation and responsibility of being a positive role model for AO and all teams representing AO.
- d) Declare any injury or potential injury that may impair or prevent their performance.
- e) In accordance with the AO policies and National Integrity framework declare all medicines or drugs being taken that may affect performance
- f) Display the highest level of skill and physical fitness appropriate to the event that they are to compete in.
- g) If selected, paddlers will attend all required camps and or workshops associated with their selection. Failure to do this without reasonable cause may result in their removal from the team.
- h) Paddlers must exhibit character beyond reproach that is consistent with representation of Australia at an International event.

5. Selection and Qualification

The selection and qualification process for World sprints will largely remain the same as previous sprint campaigns with teams and paddlers interested in attending the IVF world sprint championships needing to submit a paddler intent identifying if they wish to be considered for Elite V6 selection in para, j19, open (men and women), and or if they wish to qualify for V1 and in their club teams.

The Elite V6 selection requirements

The selection process for the elite V6 events will require all paddlers expressing an intent to paddle to participate in the national J19 and Open V1 national sprints competition and club V6 competition in either the J19 or Open divisions.

A squad of between 9 - 12 paddlers will be chosen for J19 Men and Women and Open Men and Women based on performances of paddlers competing at the 2023 national sprint competition during the V1 and V6 competitions. The current proposed schedule is that there will be a High Performance Meeting along with three training camps between national sprints in November and the World Sprint Championships in August with final camps, their locations and timing to be decided based on location and availability of coach / squad members and availability of facilities. Here is the proposed 2024 High Performance Schedule of Dates:

2024 Date	Activity	Location
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Saturday 9 March	HP Sprints Meeting with Competitors and Coaches	TBA
Sat & Sun 11 & 12 May	HP Sprint Training	TBA
Sat & Sun 15 & 16 June	HP Sprint Training	TBA
Sat & Sun 13 7 14 July	HP Sprint Training	TBA

With final teams chosen using the following criteria and attributes prior to the competition:

- Superior Physical skills and Technical Paddling Ability
- Positive attitude
- Crew Blending
- Attendance to training camps and adherence to training program
- Coachability
- Capacity for work and performance at the appropriate standard during the campaign

Paddlers wishing to be considered for selection to the AO Elite V6 teams must also satisfy the following criteria to be eligible:

- a) Must be registered members of AOCRA
- b) Must be full financial members of an affiliated club with no outstanding monies or payments.
- e) Paddlers must have exhibited behaviour that reflects the core values of AO as set out above in this policy.
- f) meet the AOCRA RULES for Competitor Eligibility:
 - For competitors to be eligible for International Va'a Federation sanctioned events a paddler must be an AOCRA member and an Australian Citizen or a continuous resident of Australia for a minimum of 6 months (documented evidence, such as a stamped passport or Australian driver's license will be required as evidence).
 - To be selected as an Australian representative a paddler must not have represented another IVF country at an IVF Event for a period of at least 2 years before their selection.
 - You must have been a continuous member of AOCRA for past 12 months minimum
- h) Be able to pay the associated costs for their involvement with the team
- i) Not use any prohibited substance or commit any other doping offence under the AO and Sports Integrity Australia anti-doping policy
- j) All Elite V6 & V12 competitors are available in Hawaii on 12 August 2023 ready to participate in the Course Familiarisation schedule

The qualification process for V1 and club teams

V1 all divisions – The first 3 paddlers across the line who have expressed an intent to qualify for the world championships in each category, division and gender will qualify and represent Australia. If any paddlers withdraw, their spot will be offered to the next paddler in finish order

who have expressed an interest in qualifying. Paddlers cannot seek to qualify for the World championships in more than one age division in V1.

Examples to assist in V1 & elite selection nominations:

- Master 40 paddler wanting to seek selection in Elite V6 - must paddle open V1 and can paddle Master 40 V1 if also seeking selection in V1 for world sprints or looking to challenge for national championship.
- Master 40 paddler who is 49 this year and turns 50 in 2024 and wants to seek selection for V1 at world sprints – can paddle Master 40 at AOCRA national sprints 2023 for national title and in Master 50 V1 seeking selection for world championships 2024 (in this instance paddlers won't be considered for national championship in master 50 race).
- Master 40 paddler who is 49 this year and turns 50 in 2024 and wants to seek selection for V1 and Elite V6 at world sprints – must paddle open V1, can paddle Master 40 at AOCRA national sprints 2023 for national title and in Master 50 seeking selection for world championships 2024 (in this instance paddlers won't be considered for national championship in this race).

V6 club competition - The first 6 club teams across the line who have expressed an intent to qualify for the world sprint championships in each age category and gender will qualify and represent Australia.

V12 club competition - The first 2 club teams across the line who have expressed an intent to qualify for the world sprint championships in each age category and gender will be offered the opportunity to represent Australia in V12 competition. If a club declines the offer, it will be offered to the next club in finishing order.

Paddlers wishing to qualify for V1 and club selection must also satisfy the following criteria to be eligible:

- a) Must be registered members of AOCRA
- b) Must be full financial members of and affiliated club with no outstanding monies or payments.
- e) Paddlers must have exhibited behaviour that reflects the core values of AO as set out above in this policy.
- f) meet the AOCRA RULES for Competitor Eligibility:
 - For competitors to be eligible for International Va'a Federation sanctioned events a paddler must be an AOCRA member and an Australian Citizen or a continuous resident of Australia for a minimum of 6 months (documented evidence, such as a stamped passport or Australian driver's license will be required as evidence).
 - To be selected as an Australian representative a paddler must not have represented another IVF country at an IVF Event for a period of at least 2 years before their selection.
 - You must have been a continuous member of AOCRA for past 12 months minimum
- h) Be able to pay the associated costs for their involvement with the team

i) Not use any prohibited substance or commit any other doping offence under the AO and Sports Integrity Australia anti-doping policy

j) All V1 paddlers are available in Hawaii on 13 August 2023 ready to participate in the Course Familiarisation schedule

6. Extraneous Factors

a) Illness/Misadventure/Extenuating circumstances

In considering the performance of paddlers at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy, the Selection Committee may in their discretion give weight to extenuating factors. Paddlers unable to participate at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy are required to advise the Director High Performance of this fact and of the reasons before the commencement of the events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under this policy. In the situation of illness or injury, paddlers will be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor. In the situation of bereavement, equipment failure, travel delays or other extenuating circumstances, a decision will be made by the Director High Performance and the AO Selection Panel on an individual basis.

7. AO Selection Panel and Process for Elite V6

The AO President and Board is responsible for the formation of the AO National Team Selection Panel based on recommendations from the Director of High Performance. The Selection Panel may consist of:

- Men and Women's Coaches
- Board Representatives
- Director of High Performance
- High Performance Team members and may include external selectors from AO (The High Performance Coaching Coordinator, and additional AO members as selected by the Director of High Performance).

If a member of the AO Selection Panel is actively seeking selection in a team they will only be able to advise on selections but have NO role in decision making into the selection of that team.

8. Notification to relevant parties

Notification of the successful paddlers will be given to relevant parties within AO as well as the paddlers themselves. Between 9 and 12 paddlers will be recommended for each squad elite V6 squad.

9. Removal from a selected team

Any member of the selected team, including the management will be deemed ineligible for selection in, or continued membership of the AO National Team if they:

- a) Breach or fail to observe this policy, the AO Constitution, By-Laws, Policies, Code of Conduct and Regulations.

- b) It is the informed opinion of the AO Selection Panel (after receiving advice from a medical practitioner) that subject to illness or injury the paddler is incapable of performing to the required standard.
- c) Breach or fail to fulfil a requirement of the AO Sport Integrity Australia Anti-doping policy.
- d) Breach of, or fail to observe the Paddler Intent contract

10. Appeals

A paddler may appeal where they believe, or can show, that the Selection Panel has erred by not complying with the procedures as indicated in this Policy. Such an appeal can only be made on procedural grounds NOT ON the merits of a particular selection decision.

- a) Any appeal against a decision by the AO Selection Panel must be made to the AOCRA President in writing and emailed to secretary@aoocra.com.au or his nominee within 48 hours of the official announcement advising to successful paddlers
- b) The appeal must be lodged in writing setting out:
 - * particulars of the alleged failure of the Selection Panel
 - * grounds for which the appeal relies
 - * reasons or circumstances supporting the grounds of appeal
 - * must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$200.00 which will not be refunded if the appeal is upheld.
- c) The appeal may be withdrawn at any time in writing to the AOCRA President (or nominee)
- d) Upon receipt of an appeal, the AOCRA President (or nominee) will immediately advise the Review Panel and forward the appeal documents accordingly

11. Selection of AO Review Panel

The AO Review Panel will consist of three persons. These three will be selected from the Zone Presidents across Australia.

If one or more of the Presidents have been involved in the selection process and is a selected paddler, they will be ineligible to sit on the AO Review Panel. Zone Vice Presidents can sit on the AO Review Panel in place of the Zone President if a sufficient number of Zone Presidents cannot be obtained.

The AOCRA President shall appoint, in their discretion, the members of the AO Review Panel.

The AO Review Panel must convene as soon as practicable after the grounds of appeal are submitted. The AO Review Panel can convene via a virtual teleconference, audio visual link or similar. The meeting will be recorded and remain confidential to AOCRA Board.

Prior to the hearing, the Selection Panel will provide an overview of their reasons for not selecting the appellant.

The AO Review Panel will deliver its decision as soon as possible after the hearing and advise the appellant, the Selection Panel and the AOCRA President as soon as possible. This advising will also contain the reasons for their decision.

The AO Review Panel has no power of selection or re-selection. Their sole function will be to assess the matters set out in the appeal and can dismiss the matter or advise that it be returned to the Selection Panel for re-consideration.

12. Procedures for the AO Review Panel

The AO Review Panel will, at the earliest possible time, review the matter set out in the appeal documents, conduct appropriate inquiries and consider the matter within 5 days of receiving the notice. In that time a determination should be made to:

- a) Dismiss the matter as, in their determination, the matter has no merit; or
- b) The appeal is worthy of review and determination in accordance with this policy.
- c) The matter be referred to the Selection Panel, as the determination is that the selection decision was valid in accordance with the policy. If the matter warrants further review, the AO Review Panel will notify the appellant, the Selection Panel and the President AO and advise.
 - a) The appellant may address the AO Review Panel at a meeting (virtual teleconference or audio/visual link if necessary) within 2 days of the notification from the AO Review Panel
 - b) Advise details (time date place) of the meeting
 - c) The appellant must attend the meeting personally

The AO Review Panel shall conduct a hearing as indicated above, in any manner they determine appropriate to elicit all the necessary information. During the hearing they will:

- a) Allow both the appellant and the AO Selection Panel reasonable time to be heard and their views articulated
- b) Give due consideration to all information presented by both the appellant and the AO Selection Panel
- c) May question the appellant and the AO Selection Panel as they see fit to determine all the information pertinent to the matter

Following the completion of all submissions and information, the AO Review Panel will deliberate and arrive at a finding. The decision must be consistent with findings of the majority.

The AO Review Panel will notify the AOCRA President (or nominee) as soon as practicable.

If the determination of the AO Review Panel is that the appellant has supplied sufficient grounds to show that the allegation is correct, it may direct the AO Selection Panel to reconsider their “non-selection” of the paddler.

The AO Selection Panel is bound by the decisions of the AO Review Panel. Any subsequent selection decision by the AO Selection Panel pursuant to the direction of the AO Review Panel shall be deemed to be final, with no further appeal available to any person or persons in relation to that selection decision. There is no provision for costs to be awarded in regards to any of these processes. The decisions of the AO Review Panel may be disclosed by AOCRA Board at their discretion.

EFFECTIVE: September 2023

REVIEWED BY: AOCRA High Performance

