QUALIFICATION SYSTEM
GAMES OF THE XXXIV OLYMPIAD – LA28

Paddle Worldwide (PWW)

SPRINT PADDLE

A. EVENTS	MEN (5)	WOMEN (5)
	Kayak Single (K1) 1000m	Kayak Single (K1) 500m
	Kayak Double (K2) 500m	Kayak Double (K2) 500m
	Kayak Four (K4) 500m	Kayak Four (K4) 500m
	Canoe Single (C1) 1000m	Canoe Single (C1) 200m
	Canoe Double (C2) 500m	Canoe Double (C2) 500m

B. QUOTA PLACES

B.1. Total quota places for sprint:			Total
QUOTA PLACES	115	115	230
HOST COUNTRY QUOTA	2	2	4
UNIVERSALITY PLACES	2*		2*
TOTAL	117	117	236*

* Two Universality places are available in Paddle sports (Slalom Paddle/ Sprint Paddle). The provisions for allocation of these places are set out in Section D.6.

B.2. Maximum number of athletes per National Olympic Committee (NOC)

QUOTA PLACES PER NOC	5 (Kayak)	5 (Kayak)	**10**
	3 (Canoe)	3 (Canoe)	**6**

B.3. Type of allocation of quota places

The quota places are allocated to the NOC through Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR) and Continental Qualification Competitions. The athlete quota places selected for the Olympic Games are not tied to the specific athlete who obtained the place on behalf of the NOC.

B.4. Maximum Entries at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028

B.4.1. An NOC can enter a maximum of two boats per event at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028.

B.4.2. Athletes must compete in the event(s) that they are entered in by their NOC by the time of Sport Entries Deadline. Athletes can compete in more than one event in the same category (e.g. Men's Canoe, Women's Canoe, Men's Kayak and Women's Kayak) but cannot compete in another category. The maximum number of athletes entered in a category of the relevant gender is set in table B.2.

B.5. Minimum Entries at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028

B.5.1. All athletes selected by an NOC must compete in at least one event at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. DNS (Did Not Start) is not a valid result, as the athlete would not have competed.

B.5.2. At the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028, NOCs with

two confirmed quotas in the same category must participate in a minimum of two events in the respective category;

three confirmed quotas in the same category must participate in a minimum of two events in the respective category;

four confirmed quotas in the same category must participate in a minimum of three events in the respective category;

five confirmed quotas in the same category must participate in a minimum of three events and two boats must participate in the singles event (K1) in the respective category;

C. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

All athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions), as well as the IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport and Guiding Considerations for International Federations and Sports Governing Bodies (the "Policy").

Only those athletes who respect and comply with the Olympic Charter, the Policy, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, the conditions of participation established by the IOC, as well as the rules or policies of Paddle Worldwide, may participate in the LA28 Olympic Games.

Additional IF Eligibility Criterion

C.1.1. To be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028, all eligible NOCs must participate in at least one event at any of the Olympic Ranking Competitions or Continental Qualification Competition.

C.1.2. To be eligible for a Universality Place the athlete must be appear on the PWW Sprint Paddle Olympic Qualification Ranking.

C.1.3. In order to be eligible to obtain quotas at a Continental Qualification Competition, the athlete must be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games LA28 by the entry deadline of the given Continental Qualification Competition the latest.

D. QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

D.1. For the purposes of this qualification system, "Continental Qualification Competitions" shall refer to the following:

a) European Olympic Qualification Competition
b) Pan-American Olympic Qualification Competition
c) Asian Olympic Qualification Competition
d) African Olympic Qualification Competition
e) Oceania Olympic Qualification Competition

D.1.1. The order of quota distribution is quota allocation based on Olympic Qualification Ranking positions first, direct qualification from Continental Qualification Competitions second.

D.2. Distribution of quotas by Olympic Qualification Ranking and at the Continental Qualification Competitions

D.2.1. The initial distribution of quotas based on the OQR positions and Continental Qualification Competitions' results will be as set out below, subject to:

I. the limits on maximum number of quotas as specified in **B.2** above; and
II. any subsequent reallocation of quotas in accordance with the provisions of this Qualification System.

Events	Quotas Available
Men	
K1 1000m	15
K2 500m	18
K4 500m	44
C1 1000m	14
C2 500m	26
Total men	**117**
Women	
K1 500m	15
K2 500m	18
K4 500m	44
C1 200m	14
C2 500m	26
Total Women	**117**
Total (Men + Women)	**234**

Quotas places	Qualification events
D.3. **81 Men** **81 Women** (total 162 athletes)	**D.3. Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR) – Refer to ANNEX** **D.3.1.** The Olympic Qualification Ranking consists of 10 Event Rankings by Nation (ER), one for each event on the Olympic Programme. These Event Rankings by Nation (ER) are based on the results by Nation so the accumulated points are not nominal. **D.3.2.** The distribution of the 162 quotas that are available from the Olympic Qualification Ranking is set out in the table below, subject to the limits set out in **Section B.2.** and any subsequent reallocation in accordance with this qualification system.

MEN / WOMEN

Events	Olympic Qualification Ranking	Host Country Places	Total
	Men		
K1 1000m	6	1	7
K2 500m	8		8
K4 500m	44		44
C1 1000m	5	1	6
C2 500m	16		16
Total Men	**79**	**2**	**81**
	Women		
K1 500m	6	1	7
K2 500m	8		8
K4 500m	44		44
C1 200m	5	1	6
C2 500m	16		16
Total Women	**79**	**2**	**81**
Total (Men + Women)	**158**	**4**	**162**

The ranking period runs from 20 April 2026 to 31 December 2027.

MEN / WOMEN

D.3.3. The order of allocating quotas from the Olympic Qualification Ranking

Quota allocation in the kayak categories begins with the K4 quotas, which is followed by the K2 quotas and K1 quotas are the last ones to be allocated.

Quota allocation in the canoe categories begins with the C2 quotas, which is followed by the C1 quotas.

D.4.

36 Men

36 Women

(total 72 athletes)

D.4. Continental Qualification Competitions – Refer to ANNEX

D.4.1. Only those NOCs are eligible to enter boats in a category at the Continental Qualification Competitions, which have not obtained any quotas from the OQR in the respective category.

D.4.2. An athlete may compete in one or more events at a Continental Qualification Competition.

D.4.3. However, an athlete may obtain only one quota for their NOC by direct qualification at the Continental Qualification Competitions.

D.4.4. Should any quota at a Continental Qualification Competition need to be determined other than by the results of direct competitions between athletes in the same race, the distribution of quotas will be to the athlete(s) with the fastest time in the preceding phase of the event.

D.4.5. In case the quota at a Continental Qualification Competition is determined by direct ranking and the results on the last qualifying position are tied, the respective Event Ranking standings at the locking of the OQR will be observed to break the tie.

D.4.6. A minimum of three NOCs must contest each quota at the Continental Qualification Competitions for the event to be eligible. If there are less than three NOCs in an event, then the quota(s) will be reallocated to Olympic Qualification Ranking according to the following:

1. In K2/C2 events, the available quotas will be allocated to the next eligible ranked NOC on the K2/C2 Event Ranking, omitting the NOCs which already obtained at least one quota from the OQR in the respective category.
2. In K1/C1 events, the available quotas will be allocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOCs on the K1/C1 Event Ranking, omitting the NOCs which already obtained two quotas in K2/C2 events at the Continental Qualification Competitions in the respective category or already obtained at least one quota from the OQR in the respective category.

D.4.7. The initial distribution of quotas available at the Continental Qualification Competitions will be as set out in the table below, subject to:

(i) the limits on maximum quotas as specified in **B.2.** above; and

(ii) any subsequent reallocation of quotas in accordance with the provisions of this qualification system

MEN / WOMEN

Events	Europe	Pan-America	Asia	Africa	Oceania	Total Quotas
Men						
K1 1000m	2	2	2	1	1	8
K2 500m	2	2	2	2	2	10
C1 1000m	2	2	2	1	1	8
C2 500m	2	2	2	2	2	10
Total Men						**36**
Women						
K1 500m	2	2	2	1	1	8
K2 500m	2	2	2	2	2	10
C1 200m	2	2	2	1	1	8
C2 500m	2	2	2	2	2	10
Total Women						**36**
Total (Men + Women)						**72**

D.5.

2 Men

2 Women

(total 4 athletes)

Host Country Places

The host country will be provisionally allocated one quota in each of the following categories:

- Men's Kayak
- Men's Canoe
- Women's Kayak
- Women's Canoe

The host country must compete in the respective category (i.e. Men's Kayak, Women's Kayak, Men's Canoe and Women's Canoe) at the 2027 Sprint Paddle World Championships to be eligible, plus they must comply with the requirements outlined in section **C. Athlete Eligibility** of this document.

D.6.

2 athletes

(total 2 athletes)

Universality Places

Two Universality Places in single boats are made available to eligible NOCs at the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 in the sport of Paddle. These places can be attributed to Sprint Paddle or Slalom Paddle athletes.

To be eligible for a Universality Place the athlete must be appear on the PWW Sprint Paddle OQR.

On 1 October 2027, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will invite all eligible NOCs to submit their requests for Universality Places. The deadline for NOCs to submit their requests is 15 January 2028. The Tripartite Commission will confirm, in writing, the allocation of Universality Places to the relevant NOCs after the end of the qualification period for the sport concerned.

Detailed information on Universality Places is contained in the "Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games - Tripartite Commission Universality Places - Allocation Procedure" document.

E. CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of Qualification Places

E.1. Within 10 days following the date of conclusion and publication of the OQR, PWW will inform the respective NOCs of their allocated quota places. The NOCs will then have up to five working days from that notification to confirm to PWW:

a) That they wish to accept their allocated quota(s) or to return them to PWW for reallocation to another NOC;
b) Where they need to return provisionally allocated quota(s) in accordance to B.2 above; or

If a quota place is not accepted within the required time frame, the quota(s) will be returned for reallocation as outlined in section F.1 Reallocation of Unused Quota Places.

Confirmation of Host Country Places

E.2. The host country must confirm in writing to PWW within five days after their last qualification competition the use of its host country places.

F. REALLOCATION

Reallocation of unused Qualification Places

F.1.

F.1.1. Olympic Qualification Ranking

If an allocated quota is not confirmed by the NOC by the confirmation of quota place deadline or is declined by the NOC, the quota will be reallocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOC, not yet qualified, from the respective Event Ranking, according to **B.2.** This process will be repeated until all places are allocated. To the same event.

F.1.2. Continental Qualification Competitions

F.1.2.1. If one or more allocated quota from the Continental Qualification Competitions is not confirmed by the NOC by the confirmation of quota deadline or is declined/returned by the NOC then the quota will be reallocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOC in that event, not yet qualified. This process will be repeated until all quotas are allocated.

F.1.2.2. In the case where there are no more eligible NOCs that can obtain an athlete quota from the Continental Qualification Competitions, the highest ranked eligible NOC from that continent on the respective Event Ranking, not yet qualified, will be allocated the quota(s).

F.1.2.3. In the case there are no more eligible NOCs from a continent to obtain a place from the Event Ranking, the quota place will be allocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOC from the respective Event Ranking, not yet qualified, regardless of continental representation.

F.1.2.4. If an athlete quota place is not filled from the procedures outlined above, PWW Executive Committee will then reallocate the remaining quota place to the next highest ranked eligible NOC, not yet qualified in the sport of Sprint Paddle based on OQR.

Reallocation of unused Host Country Places	
F.2.	Where the host country obtains a quota in any category, the unused host country place will be reallocated to the next highest placed, unqualified eligible NOC on the K1/C1 Event Ranking in the respective category.
Reallocation of unused Universality Places	
F.3.	Any unused Universality place(s) will be reallocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOC from the PWW Sprint Paddle OQR that has not yet qualified any athlete quota in the Paddle sports (Sprint Paddle, Slalom Paddle).

G. QUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Period	Date	Milestone
Qualification	April 2026 – May 2028	Qualification period.
	24-26 April 2026	2026 ACC Sprint Paddle Asian Championships, Hefei, China
	8-10 May 2026	2026 PWW Sprint Paddle World Cup Szeged
	14-17 May 2026	2026 PWW Sprint Paddle World Cup Brandenburg
	11-14 June 2026	2026 ECA Sprint Paddle European Championships, Montemor, Portugal
	9-12 July 2026	2026 PWW Sprint Paddle World Cup Montreal
	13-15 July 2026	2026 COPAC Sprint Paddle Pan-American Championships, Montreal, Canada
	26-30 August 2026	2026 PWW Sprint Paddle World Championships
	8-12 October 2026	2026 CAC Sprint Paddle African Championships, Algiers, ALG
	3-6 December 2026	2026 OCC Sprint Paddle Oceania Championships, Adelaide, AUS
	5-7 March 2027	2027 OCC Sprint Paddle Oceania Championships, Cambridge, NZL
	27-30 May 2027	2027 Sprint Paddle World Series, Duisburg, GER
	24-27 June 2027	2027 European Games – Sprint Paddle, Istanbul, TUR

Qualification	11-15 August 2027	2027 Sprint Paddle World Championships, Szeged, HUN
	2027	2027 CAC Sprint Paddle African Championships
	16-18 September 2027	2027 Sprint Paddle World Series, Komatsu, JPN
	23-26 September 2027	2027 Sprint Paddle World Series, Tokyo, JPN
	4-7 November 2027	2027 ACC Sprint Paddle Asian Championships, Ulsan, KOR
	2027	2027 COPAC Sprint Paddle Pan-American Championships
Confirmation and Reallocation	31 December 2027	OQR locked, allocation of OQR and continental quotas
	10 days after the PWW notification of quotas	The NOCs to confirm to PWW the use of the allocated quota places.
	Within 5 days of NOC quota responses	PWW to reallocate all unused quota places.
Qualification	2028	2028 Sprint Paddle African Qualification Competition
	2028	2028 Sprint Paddle Asian Qualification Competition
	9-14 May 2028	2028 Sprint Paddle European Qualification Competition
	2028	2028 Sprint Paddle Oceania Qualification Competition
	2028	2028 Sprint Paddle Pan-American Qualification Competition
Confirmation and Reallocation	TBC	The Tripartite Commission to confirm in writing the allocation of Universality Places to the NOCs (where applicable).
	8 June 2028	PWW to reallocate any unused quota places.
Sport Entries deadline	26 June 2028	**Los Angeles 2028 Sport Entries deadline**
Games Time	14-30 July 2028	**Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028.**

H. ANNEX

H.1. Principles of the Olympic Qualification Ranking:

- The ranking period runs from 20 April 2026 to 31 December 2027
- Points are awarded with the following multipliers:
    - 2026 and 2027 World Championships 1,5x
    - 2026, 2027 World Cups 1x
    - 2026, 2027 Continental Championships 1x (two competitions/continent, to be defined in section G – Qualification Timeline)
- The full list of Olympic Qualification Ranking Competitions is outlined in paragraph G.
- On the Event Rankings the maximum of eight best results (highest points) of each eligible nation are counted for during the ranking period.
    - these eight results must be from eight different competitions
    - out of these eight best results the maximum of six results are counted from competitions held on the same continent.
- If there are more than one boat entered in the same event from the same nation at the same competition, only the better placed boat may earn points.
- In the crew-boat categories Event Ranking points can be earned only in the respective events (K4-K4 500m; K2-K2 500m; C2-C2 500m). In the single-boat categories all single-boat events on the programme of the Olympic Qualification Ranking Competitions are counted for points, but at one competition only the best single-boat result (highest point) of each nation counts for the Event Ranking. Points are awarded according to the following table:

Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	1000	22	580	43	330
2	900	23	570	44	320
3	840	24	560	45	310
4	800	25	550	46	280
5	790	26	540	47	270
6	780	27	530	48	260
7	770	28	500	49	250
8	760	29	490	50	240
9	750	30	480	51	230
10	720	31	470	52	220
11	710	32	460	53	210
12	700	33	450	54	200
13	690	34	440	55	190
14	680	35	430	56	180
15	670	36	420	57	170
16	660	37	390	58	160
17	650	38	380	59	150
18	640	39	370	60	140
19	610	40	360	61	130
20	600	41	350	62	120
21	590	42	340	63	110

The rest from rank 64: 100

DNS - zero points

DNF - zero points

DSQ - minus one hundred (-100) points

DQB - minus three hundred (-300) points

- If an athlete is suspended or banned because of any anti-doping related reason or subject to other disciplinary sanctions, all Olympic Qualification Ranking points will be annulled for the athlete concerned and for the crew boats he/she raced in. The points for NOCs ranked after will be re-attributed.
- If two or more NOCs have equal points on the Event Ranking, the following tie-breaker rules decide in ranking them:

1. The NOC with the higher registered ranking point on the respective Event Ranking from the 2027 Sprint Paddle World Championships will rank higher.
2. The NOC with the higher registered ranking point from any results on the respective Event Ranking will rank higher.
3. The NOC with the higher most recent ranking point on the respective Event Ranking will rank higher.
4. The NOC with the higher overall points calculated from their three most recent ranking points on the respective Event Ranking will rank higher.

H.1.2. The distribution of K4 quotas

Men and women quota allocation is identical.

The top 11 NOCs from the K4 Event Ranking are allocated 4 quotas each. These NOCs must be from at least four continents.

H.1.3. The distribution of K2 and C2 quotas

Men and women quota allocation is identical.

NOCs that obtained K4 quotas are ineligible to obtain quotas from the K2 Event Ranking.

The top four NOCs from the K2 Event Ranking will be allocated two quotas each.

The top eight NOCs from the C2 Event Ranking will be allocated two quotas each.

H.1.4. The distribution of K1 and C1 quotas

Men and women quota allocation is identical.

The top six NOCs from the K1 Event Ranking will be allocated one quota each.

Of all the NOCs that obtained K4 quotas in one category, a maximum of five NOCs/category are eligible to obtain an additional K1 quota in the respective category. In case this number is reached, the K1 quota is allocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOC with less than four quotas in the same category.

The top five NOCs from the C1 Event Ranking will be allocated one quota each.

H.1.5. In the situation that the OQR needs to be locked at an earlier date than December 31st, 2027, the Olympic quota allocation will be based on reverted standings to the termination of the previous full season (December 31st of the previous year). In this case the number of Continental Qualification Competitions considered for the OQR must be equal for all continents.

H.2. Principles of the Continental Qualification Competition:

H.2.1. K2 events and C2 events (Men and Women)

Each continent will be allocated two quotas for double boats to be obtained at each Continental Qualification Competition. These two quotas will be allocated in each event to the highest-placed eligible NOCs.

H.2.2. K1 events and C1 events (Men and Women)

Europe, Pan-America and Asia will be allocated two quotas for single boats to be obtained by the top two eligible finishers at their respective Continental Qualification Competition. For the African and Oceanian continents, there will be one quota given to the highest-placed eligible NOCs at their respective Continental Qualification Competition.

H.2.3 Reallocation of quotas released through "doubling ups*" in different events

If an athlete qualifies for more than one quota in K2/C2 and K1/C1 at the Continental Qualification Competition, the athlete's NOC will be allocated only one of these quotas. This shall be the quota in K2/C2. The released quota will be allocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOC not yet qualified in the K1/C1 events of the same category.

H.2.4. Maximum Quota places at Continental Qualification Competitions

An NOC can qualify a maximum of two quotas in each category, that is, Kayak men, Kayak women, Canoe men and Canoe women at the Continental Qualification Competitions. The unused quota in any category will be allocated to the next highest ranked eligible NOC not yet qualified in the K1/C1 events of the same category.

H.2.5. In the situation that a Continental Qualification Competition cannot be held, the Olympic Qualification Ranking will be used to determine the quotas for that continent. Quotas will be allocated to the respective continent, for which the Continental Qualification Competition could not be held, in accordance with D.4.7. In such cases, the order of allocation is the following:

1. Two quotas will be allocated to the highest ranked, not yet qualified eligible NOC of the respective continent on the K2/C2 Event Ranking in each category, omitting the NOCs which already obtained at least one quota from the Olympic Qualification Ranking in the respective category. In case of Africa and Oceania, one quota will be allocated to the highest ranked, not yet qualified eligible NOC of the respective continent on the K1/C1 Event Ranking in each category, omitting the NOCs which already obtained at least one quota from the Olympic Qualification Ranking in the respective category. In case of Europe, Pan-America and Asia, two quotas will be allocated to the two eligible ranked, not yet qualified NOCs (one each) of the respective continent on the K1/C1 Event Ranking in each category, omitting the NOCs which already obtained at least one quota from the Olympic Qualification Ranking in the respective category.

***Doubling Up:** when an athlete achieves the qualification in more than one boat, he/she will only be counted once on the athlete quota, allowing another athlete to be allocated a quota.