



## **Selection Criteria for Team Canada: 2025 IVF Va'a World Distance Championships in Brazil**

This document will outline:

- available Canadian entries
- two ways to qualify as a crew to represent Canada in V6
- detailed steps of the selection process
- the exemption process

Please read the entire document. Be aware that the selection criteria for Predetermined Crews has changed.

Note that the selection committee may go outside the process when suitable candidates are not available in the process for i) a certain position in the canoe or ii) candidates in the process are not of the caliber expected of a paddler at the World level. This applies to initial selections and replacements.

For a visual representation of the selection process please see the infographic at the end of this document.

### **Available Canadian Entries**

For the IVF Va'a World Distance Championships, each participating nation may enter one crew for each age class and gender, and one V1 paddler for each age class and gender. Official age categories are J16, J19, Open, Master 40s, Master 50s, Master 60s, Master 70s, Master 75s and Master 80s. This means that Canada can send one women's crew, one men's crew, one female V1 paddler, and one male V1 paddler per age category.

[Here are the Distance Race Rules for the International Va'a Federation.](#) They were last revised in May 2023, and it is possible that more revisions will occur prior to the 2025 event.

### **Two Ways to Qualify as a Crew to Represent Canada in V6**

Athletes can compete for the chance to represent Team Canada in 2025 in V6 at the IVF Va'a World Distance Championships as a Free Agent (FA) paddler or as a Predetermined (PD) Crew.

A Free Agent (FA) is an individual who would like to try out for a Team Canada crew spot independently. The top 6 Free Agents in each division (as determined by time trials and V6 evaluations) will be selected to make a crew in each division. All athletes vying for V6 seats at the October 19th time trials are considered Free Agents until their names are registered on a PD crew.

A Predetermined Crew (PD) is a group of up to 8 athletes who wish to continue the V6 selection process as a “crew” and will be vying for a V6 spot to race as Team Canada in Brazil. This crew can, but is not required to, be affiliated with any CORA club. A PD crew can roster up to 8 paddlers. All 8 must be registered during the registration period and **must** compete in the mandatory V1/OC1 time trial on October 19th. A paddler who has not completed the time trial cannot be added to the crew roster unless there are no other paddlers from the selection process available to fill the spot (approval from CORA IVF Committee required).

After the solo time trials, Predetermined Crews can be put together separately, and can race-off against the crew of selected Free Agents in their division for a chance to represent Canada in their given division rather than the crew of combined Free Agents. Note, paddlers who attend the solo time trials as Free Agents and are not selected for a Free Agent V6 crew may still join a Predetermined Crew.

#### **New for Brazil Selections:**

- To be on a PD crew each paddler must be no more than 10% slower than the average times of the top 3 paddlers in that age class for the October 19th time trial.
- Paddlers in PD crews must reside in the same region (For example: Okanagan or Vancouver/Fraser Valley). If paddlers are not within the same region, they must be within a reasonable commuting distance for regular crew training. PD crews are part of the selection process to encourage regional and club development.

Predetermined crews can only be registered after the mandatory solo time trial for all participants. All athletes are considered Free Agents until their name is registered on a PD crew. PD crews can be registered after the time trial until December 31st, 2024.

#### **Steps of the Selection Process**

##### **Step 1: Register by Midnight on Friday, October 4th, 2024**

Register for the selection process and pay the \$53 fee by [clicking here](#)

All paddlers participating in the selection process must be 2024 CORA members. If you are not a current member, purchase your membership here:

<https://www.canadianoutrigger.ca/store/become-a-member/>

## **Step 2: Participate in the solo time trial and meeting on Saturday, October 19th.**

Participation in the time trial is required for all participants, both V1 and V6.

### **V1 Selection Trial:**

Athletes wanting to earn a spot to race V1 in Brazil will need to attend the October time trial at Jericho and compete in a V1. This will select Canada's V1 racers in Brazil. If the candidate also wishes to qualify for the V6 process, this trial in V1 will also be used to qualify the athlete for the V6 process. To reiterate, if you are racing for a V1 spot, your V1 race will be equivalent to racing in an OC1.

### **V6 Selection Trial:**

Athletes wanting to participate ONLY in the V6 process can use a V1 or an OC1 for the October 19 time trial to qualify for the V6 process.

### **V1/V6 Selection Meetings:**

Following the time trial, all athletes will be required to attend a meeting to discuss the next steps in the selection process. It is difficult to lay out the next steps currently as we do not know how many athletes we have or which age categories they represent.

## **Step 3: OC6 Evaluations & Camp on October 20th-21st.**

V6 Evaluations: For Sunday's OC6 Evaluations, paddlers will be sorted into V6 crews based on their registered racing category for the World Distance Championships. This will allow the CORA IVF Committee coaches to evaluate each paddler's adaptability to a crew environment and allow paddlers to gain exposure and make connections with other paddlers from the same racing category. Paddlers will receive feedback from the coaches.

After the V6 evaluations on Sunday, October 20th, the coaching committee will release some paddlers. A paddler is released if they do not show exceptional V6 skills that compensate for slow time trial results. The remaining paddlers will continue on to the OC6 camp on Monday, October 21st.

After the OC6 Evaluations and Camp, the V6 crews composed of Free Agents will be selected.

#### **Step 4: Identification of PD Crews**

After time trials, Predetermined Crews can register for consideration to race-off. The application deadline is December 31st, 2024.

PD athletes/crews who do not meet the time trial standards and geographic location requirements (as outlined above) will not be permitted to compete in the race-off.

#### **Step 5: April 5/6, 2025: Race-Off and Training Camp**

Race-Off: On the weekend of April 5-6, 2025, there will be a V6 race-off in Vancouver for any category where there are multiple entries, whether more than one PD crew or a PD crew and a FA crew. The winner of this race off will be named as Team Canada for that category. To ensure fairness, equal canoes, whether spec or unlimited, will be provided to all crews participating in the race-off.

Training Camp: All selected crews will have a training camp this weekend. Those crews successful in their race off will join the camp following the race off.

#### **Exemption Process for October 19th - October 21st Selection Event**

The acceptable reasons for an exemption from the October solo trials and associated V6 selection activities are very limited. With the trials/evaluation date announced in December 2023 and further updated to include the third day in June 2024, athletes have had the ability to plan optional activities around this weekend. The reason must be something unavoidable and unplanned for that has a critical and serious implication to the athlete's performance and personal health, such as serious acute injury, professional obligations, non- elective surgery, death in immediate family, for example. Examples of unacceptable reasons include: a birthday party, flight or ferry expenses, unable to get ferry reservation, anniversary dinner, competing in another event, unable to source a canoe for trials, etc.

For those seeking an exemption, CORA IVF Committee will examine the following information:

- a) The reason for exemption request
- b) 2022 Samoa Trials participation and results
- c) 2024 Nationals small boat race participation and results
- d) Paddling resume and previous IVF and international experience
- e) 2024 Season participation and results.

V6 Exemption Requests (for paddlers trying out for V6 spots):

For a V6 exemption, both individual and crew participation and results will be taken into consideration.

V1 Exemption Requests:

For a V1 exemption, V1 race experience and results will be collected and, if the exemption is granted, a challenge race may be required against the winner of the given category from the October time trial. The challenge race will be held at the April V6 race-off or at an earlier date if agreed upon by all parties. If the trial winner is not already required to attend the April V6 trials, the approved exempt paddler may need to race-off at a time and location of the trial winner's choosing, on approval by the CORA IVF Committee.

Those applying for an exemption must email [sherry@canadianoutrigger.ca](mailto:sherry@canadianoutrigger.ca) outlining their request prior to October 4th (last minute exemptions will be considered if received prior to trials).

All paddlers applying for an exemption must be a registered participant in trials, pay the trials fee and be a current CORA member. The request must include all of the following information (failure to include a section may result in your request not being processed):

- a) Reason for request
- b) Age category (and, if applicable, if the paddler wishes to be considered for an alternate or additional age category)
- c) State if the request is for V6 only, V1 only or V6 and V1.
- d) Did you participate in the 2023 trials process for Samoa? If yes, state results
- e) Did you participate in 2024 CORA Distance Nationals small boat race? If no, why not? If yes, state results including craft, placing in category, overall placing, time and distance.
- f) List past IVF participation and results including craft and category.

[Click here to officially apply for an exemption for any of the October 19-21 selection activities.](#)

Please note that paddlers who cannot attend the April 5/6 selection activities will need to apply for exemptions at a later date.

Please see the next page for a flow chart of the selection process.

