



In Partnership with

To whom this may concern,

Selection Process for SA SUP Athletes for 2026

We write to formally announce and clarify the selection process for South African Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP) athletes set to represent our nation in the international events of 2026.

These events include:

- The **International Surfing Association (ISA) SUP World Championships** in **TBC**
- and the **International Canoe Federation (ICF) SUP World Championships** in Sicily, Italy, slated for 14-18 October 2026.

The SA SUP Team for the ISA World Championships will be announced in July, subject to ratification by both SSA and SASCOC. Selection will be based on the outlined process to identify the top-ranking athletes. The team composition for this event is as follows:

- Two men and two women for SUP surfing, technical, and distance categories.
- One man and one woman for the SUP sprint race.
- One junior girl and one junior boy for the SUP technical race.
- One man and one woman for the prone technical and distance races.

The ICF SUP World Championships allow athletes to compete individually. However, those aspiring to qualify for National or Federation Colours must adhere to the process stipulated below. The team selection for this event will also be announced in July 2026. The team composition is based on junior and open athletes for team points, with National Colours awarded by SASCOC if selected and ratified. Master athletes, selected based on outlined criteria, will be awarded Federation Colours by Canoeing South Africa. The team composition for this event is as follows:

- 4 Athletes for long distance races - Junior and open athletes
- 4 Athletes for technical races - Junior and open athletes
- Top three athletes' scores will count towards team results.

Selection Process 2026

1. Nomination:

All eligible athletes aspiring to represent South Africa at both the ISA and ICF SUP World Championships are required to formally nominate themselves for consideration. This initiates the evaluation process where qualifications, performances, and suitability for team selection will be assessed.

2. Ranking:

Athletes will undergo assessment and ranking based on their performance in selected SUPSA Sanctioned events across racing and surfing disciplines. A detailed points breakdown is available in Addendum 1.

a. Racing Criteria:

- Participation in a **minimum of three races selected by SUPSA** as sanctioned events is mandatory.
- There will be sanctioned races, selected by the selection committee from the 2025 and 2026 calendar which will count towards the points for National SUP Racing ranking for SUP and Prone athletes.
- Athletes with only two race participations may submit their time for a suitable distance as specified in the table below:

Category	Sprint	Long Distance
Junior	200m	10km
Open	200m	16km
40+	200m	16km
50+	200m	10km

- Each race result's time and speed shall be subjected to comparison against the qualifying criteria for each respective category as stipulated below, thereby warranting qualification accordingly.

Category	Long Distance km/h	Technical km/h	Sprint km/h
Junior Girls	7	8	9
Junior Boys	8	9	10
Open Women	8	9	10
Open Men	10	11	12
40+ Women	7	8	9
40+ Men	8	9	10
50+ Women	7	8	9
50+ Men	8	9	10

b. Surfing Criteria:

- Athletes must participate in a **minimum of two officially sanctioned surf competitions**.
- There will be sanctioned competitions, selected by the selection committee from the 2025 and 2026 calendar which will count towards the points for National SUP Surfing ranking for SUP athletes.
- It will be at the selection committee's discretion to use event results from 2025.

- Rankings will be based on performance in these competitions.
- Additionally, performance evaluation will be conducted by the team coach and an anonymous judge, considering factors such as technique, skill level, and overall suitability for selection to the team based on their surfing capabilities.

3. Exemptions:

- Athletes residing outside South Africa with a valid South African passport may submit three times from international races, local races or time trials, provided they present valid evidence.
- Similarly, athletes competing in international races during the current or preceding calendar year may submit their times for consideration, provided they meet the specified criteria.
- Athletes achieving medals in international races or competitions during the preceding or current year are eligible for selection, subject to active participation and self-nomination.

For any inquiries or clarifications regarding the selection process, athletes are encouraged to contact us via supsapresident@gmail.com.

We are confident that this selection process will facilitate an equitable evaluation of all eligible athletes, culminating in the formation of a competitive South African SUP Team for 2026.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to promoting excellence in SUP sports.

Yours sincerely,

Anja Burger

SUPSA President & SA SUP Team Manager

Stand-Up Paddling South Africa

Addendums

Addendum 1: Points for rankings

General rules regarding ranking points for the National SUP Racing Title (section 5.12 in the SUPSA Racing Rulebook):

5.12.1 Points will be given to all finishers in each division in all SUPSA sanctioned races. All eliminated competitors in the SUP Technical racing heats to get points. All Distance and Downwind participants not finished when the field is “swept” to receive points equal to the number of entries +1.

5.12.2 The overall ranking points for the national SUP racing title in the applicable division, to be counted and totalled for year-end rankings, are determined by a participant’s best points from a predetermined number of sanctioned races in the racing regions. Any other race points will be discarded. The number of races that will count will be determined prior to the announcement of the following year’s event calendar.

5.12.3 The points system to be used for racing ranking points is:

First place	0.7 points
Second place	2 points
Third	3 points
Fourth	4 points
Fifth	5 points
Sixth	6 points
Seventh	7 points
Each place thereafter	add one point
Did not finish (DNF)	number of entries + 1
Disqualification (DQ)	number of entries + 2
Did not compete (DNC)	Max. number of entries in an event in previous year + 2

5.12.4 If there is a series-score tie between two or more paddlers, each paddler’s race scores shall be listed in order of best to worst, and at the first point(s) where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the paddler(s) with the best score(s). No excluded scores shall be used.

5.12.5 If a tie remains between two or more paddlers, they shall be ranked in order of their scores in the last race. Any remaining ties shall be broken by using tied paddler’s scores in next-to last race until all ties are broken. These scores shall be used even if some of them are excluded scores.

General rules regarding ranking points for eligibility to qualify for the National Team (section 5.26 in the SUPSA Surfing Rulebook):

5.26.1 Competitors may accumulate ranking points in any SUPSA sanctioned SUP surfing events held in a calendar year. Competitors ranking points from their best placings at a number of events to be determined by SUPSA each year shall determine the order in which they shall be eligible to be considered for selection for the National Team.

5.26.2 The points system to be used for SUP surfing ranking points is:

First place	0.7 points
Second place	2 points
Third	3 points
Fourth	4 points
Equal Fifth	5 points
Equal Seventh	7 points
Equal Ninth	9 points
Equal Eleventh	11 points
Each place thereafter	according to placing
Did not finish (DNF)	number of entries + 1
Withdraw from contest (DNF)	number of entries + 1 points
Disqualification (DQ)	number of entries + 2
Did not compete (DNC)	Max. number of entries in an event in previous year + 2

5.26.3 In the event of a series tie, each paddler's placing shall be listed in order of best to worst and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favour of the paddler with the best score.

5.26.4 Position on the final SUPSA points rankings for a particular year in a particular age division shall determine the order in which team members are considered for selection for the National Team for that year. SUPSA shall also consider other relevant criteria when selecting the national team, such as international results and each athlete's attitude and potential, impact of selection on overall team performance, as well as taking transformation objectives into account.