



BWL Para-Powerlifting International Team Formation Overview and Philosophy

How Great Britain Para Powerlifting Teams are Formed

Background

British Weight Lifting (BWL) are recognised by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), World Para Powerlifting (WPP) and The British Paralympic Committee as the body responsible for selecting individuals to represent Great Britain in the sport of Para-Powerlifting. *

BWL will select teams in a way that is aligned with its strategic performance objectives and ambitions, which are:

- To win 1-2 medals at the Tokyo Paralympic Games
- To develop World Class Program (WCP) systems, processes and a culture that effectively support consistent medal winning performances at Paralympic Games

In order to select individuals for international representation BWL make decisions aligned with the following principles in order to achieve the objectives above:

- Sport specific requirements – Set by World Para Powerlifting (Appendix 2)
- Meritocracy
- Individuality and development need
- Resource availability

*only at a Paralympic Games will selection be signed off by the British Paralympic Association who lead the ParalympicsGB Team at Games Time.

Sport Specific Requirements – World Para Powerlifting:

To go to Paralympic Games athletes must compete at several mandatory events across the preceding 4 years to remain eligible prior to qualification ending and selection being completed (Appendix 2).

BWL aim to select individuals to form a Great Britain team at each of these mandatory competitions. Athletes will attend these mandatory events if there is evidence from international and domestic competitions that they can contribute to UK Sport funding

milestones* and there is further evidence to suggest they can deliver performances indicative of future Paralympic medal success.

Achieving these milestone targets helps secure funding for subsequent years and provides opportunities for a group wider than the WCP membership to remain eligible for the games and demonstrate the performance levels and necessary behaviors to be a member of the WCP in the future.

This broader selection potential allows athletes who aren't currently members of the WCP to aspire to and access international events should they meet the necessary eligibility requirements outlined in selection policies which BWL will publish for these mandatory competitions.

*milestone events are annual targets agreed with UK Sport that if achieved will demonstrate the agreed, necessary progress required to medal at the next Paralympic Games (Appendix 3).

Meritocracy

BWL will consider athletes for selection who achieve the necessary performance standards and display medal winning potential via competition development trajectories at international and/or domestic events. By competing domestically athletes not only have the opportunity to demonstrate progress but also support the growth and development of the sport. Performance standards are set for mandatory events, aligned with a level required to win Paralympic medals in the future and/or contribute to annual funding milestone performance targets. This validates subsequent selection of athletes who achieve this level as decisions are aligned with the greater purpose of the sport, outlined at the start of this document.

Once athletes achieve BWL minimum qualifying standards of performance, underpinned with an appropriate development trajectory and behaviors which are conducive to operating and co-operating within a larger team overseas, BWL may consider their selection aligned with the principle of meritocracy.

Individuality and developmental need

There are more international competitions than the mandatory events athletes need to attend in order to remain eligible for the Paralympic Games. However, BWL will prioritise sending athletes, at their discretion to these additional events based on individuality and developmental need* and if such an opportunity is aligned with winning medals at Paralympic Games (i.e. there is a strategic qualification opportunity to take advantage of). BWL will work with members of the WCP and use these competitions to tailor an individual athlete plan/competition strategy to accelerate their development and Paralympic qualification prospects where there is a clear performance rationale/need.

These events will not be accessible via published selection processes but at the discretion of the BWL Paralympic Performance Director in consultation with the BWL High Performance Committee (Appendix 1) to ensure selection of each athlete includes an adequate performance rationale. For guidance; evidence via competition performance development trajectory that an athlete has the potential to achieve a top 8 qualification ranking, need to protect or improve a top 8 qualification ranking and test planned strategies and learning that have clearly taken place domestically form the decision-making process as to whether an athlete is sent to non-mandatory qualifiers.

For clarity, a rationale formed from individual and developmental need must be planned and there must be evidence preparation and practice have taken place to then test at an international competition and subsequently learn from any outcome.

Resource Availability

BWL will select teams of a size that reflect reasonable, strategic and sensible use of funds available to meet the objectives outlined at the start of this document. This may mean athletes are not selected for every possible competition.

Appendix 1 – Competition/Event List

These events are those BWL must and/or may consider forming teams for to support its athlete's aspirations to qualify for and win medals at a Paralympic Games and achieve its Tokyo 2020 medal targets.

Events in addition to these will be at the sole and special discretion of BWL.

<i>Event name</i>	<i>Year/Date</i>	<i>Considered mandatory</i>	<i>Considered at discretion</i>
		<i>Aligned with WPP Qualification Pathway. BWL will select using a selection policy open to all members who are classified and eligible to represent GB</i>	<i>Selection at discretion of High Performance Committee and Performance Director to support individual athletes with Para Games potential; needs to be aligned with Tokyo targets and annual milestones</i>
<i>8th Fazza, Dubai World Cup</i>	<i>27/02-03/03/2017</i>	No	Yes
<i>Egar, Hungarian World Cup</i>	<i>04-07/05/2017</i>	No	Yes
<i>World Championships, Mexico City, Mexico</i>	<i>02-08/12/2017</i>	Yes	No
<i>European Open Championships, France</i>	<i>24-29/05/2018</i>	Yes	No
<i>Asian Open Championships, Japan</i>	<i>08-12/09/2018</i>	No	Yes
<i>10th Fazza, Dubai World Cup</i>	<i>16-21/02/2019</i>	No	Yes
<i>Egar, Hungarian World Cup</i>	<i>02-05/05/2019</i>	No	Yes
<i>World Championships, Astana, Kazakhstan</i>	<i>30/06-06/072019</i>	Yes	No
<i>11th Fazza, Dubai World Cup</i>	<i>16-22/04/2020</i>	Yes	Yes

Events in bold are competitions at which results will contribute towards Tokyo Qualification Rankings for Tokyo eligible athletes.

Appendix 2 – World Para Powerlifting Qualification Pathway

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/180130142909224_Appendix+1_World+Para+PO_Qualification+Pathway_2017-2020_S.pdf

Appendix 3 – Annual Milestone targets

These targets are agreed by UK Sport and are indicative of the progress required to remain on track to meet medal targets in Tokyo 2020.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Milestone details	1 x top 5 – 1 medal 2 x top 8 at the 1 x top 10 At the World Championships	2 x top 5 + 1 x top 8 1 x top 10 Using Tokyo Qualification Rankings (1 athlete per nation) published using the results from the European Open Championships 2018	1-2 medals 1 x top 5 1 x top 8 At the World Championships	1-2 medals at the Paralympic Games