

BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING PARA POWERLIFTING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SELECTION

NON-MANDATORY EVENTS

COMPETITION: Tbilisi 2023 World Cup

COMPETITION: 29th April – 2nd May (not inclusive of travel and pre/post competition stay)

LOCATION: Tbilisi, Georgia

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OVERVIEW

This selection policy has been created in line with British Weight Lifting's (BWL) UK Sport funded mission of sending British Para Powerlifters to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games with the potential of winning 1-3 medals and the vital requirement to enable and develop a sustainable Talent Pathway.

Furthermore, this policy supports the performance pathway by outlining expectations of non-World Class Program athletes who wish to represent Great Britain at non-mandatory international events which provide opportunity to qualify for a Paralympic Games.

This policy will support a talented, in-form team who are engaged with the performance pathway, who have the performance potential to achieve, improve or defend a top eight Paralympic qualification ranking and/or have a clear and unique developmental goal which is dependent upon attendance.

This event is not part of the mandatory qualification pathway for the Paralympic games and therefore as a result, BWL will select a team that reflects what is articulated above. Athletes who are not engaged at a minimum level with the performance pathway will not be eligible for selection. The below policy will outline the eligibility requirements and selection criteria for all potential team members.

This selection policy will facilitate participation of both senior and junior athletes aligned with the above introductory overview.

BWL reserve the right to amend this policy at any time.

Any updates or changes to this policy will be published online at <http://britishweightlifting.org/>. Any queries can be sent to tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org

1. GREAT BRITAIN ELIGIBILITY

This section outlines the eligibility requirements that an athlete needs to satisfy in order to be considered for selection.

- 1.1. Be a citizen of the United Kingdom and hold a valid British passport,
- 1.2. Be a current member of British Weight Lifting (BWL), in good standing and not in dispute with BWL and/or its affiliated bodies or partners,
- 1.3. Compliant with BWL's Anti-Doping Controls and Procedures
 - 1.3.1. Not under or serving any sanction relating to anti-doping infringements
- 1.4. Athletes must satisfy IPC eligibility rules and be able to obtain or hold an IPC License for each summer season ahead of the Paris Games,
- 1.5. Have gone through and been successful at National Classification assessment and/or International Classification assessment with either confidence in being successful at assessment or having achieved a 'confirmed' or 'review' sport status with respect to the latter,
- 1.6. Be a member of the World Class Program (WCP) or have been invited to engage with the BWL Performance Pathway and met the following engagement requirements over the last 6 months;
 - 1.6.1. Shared training programs and annual performance goals
 - 1.6.2. Provided or engaged with detailed training programs and training logs
 - 1.6.3. Can share planned learning objectives and plans for the event in question
 - 1.6.4. Shared training footage once per week, sent to an identified member of the BWL WCP coaching team which includes barbell pressing movements or exercises specifically requested.
 - 1.6.5. Train in Loughborough a minimum of once every three months with WCP coaching staff
- 1.7. Have performed in either BWL WCP performance testing organised by the BWL WCP or have competed in an approved BWL or World Para Powerlifting competition by British Weight Lifting within 12 weeks (84 days, day of competition being day 0) of selection taking place.
 - 1.7.1. Have met the BWL Minimum Qualifying Standard (MQS) at either of these events at a bodyweight agreed prior to the qualification event.
- 1.8. WCP members must have identified this event as a necessary consideration within their Individual Athlete Plan (IAP) prior to selection.
- 1.9. Athletes must send an expression of interest via email to Tom Whittaker tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org no later than **30/01/2023** and include a **proposed bodyweight category, performance target and rationale aligned with this selection policy.**

* BWL, at their discretion will consider reasons and evidence for not competing, testing or demonstrating performance capabilities within the necessary time frame, not

satisfying the BWL MQS, having minimal performance data to consider or not satisfying other eligible criteria completely. Reasons and evidence must be submitted to Tom Whittaker by email prior to the date of selection.

2. DISPUTES

Any claim, action, suit, arbitration, proceeding, investigation, complaint or prosecution to which the Athlete is a party or materially involved details of which it appears necessary (in BWL's sole discretion) to make available to the Selection Panel.

For example only (and without limitation to BWL's discretion) if an athlete is under investigation for and/or charged with conduct which:

- A) (if convicted) amounts to criminality for which a custodial sentence may be given and/or criminality which harms or places in danger other individuals; or
- B) would bring or brings BWL and/or the sport into serious disrepute;

then details of this kind of Dispute may be notified to the Selection Panel if BWL believes it will ensure factors such as (and without limitation) fairness, safety of any other individuals participating in or attending the Event (or training and preparing for the Event) and/or the reputation of: BWL, the sport and/or the Event.

3. GREAT BRITAIN MINIMUM QUALIFYING TOTALS

SENIOR AND NEXT GEN MEN

Weight Class	49	54	59	65	72	80	88	97	107	107+
Senior MQS (KG)	133	140	150	162	169	174	182	189	197	204
Next Gen MQS* (KG)	93	101	109	115	122	128	134	138	142	143

SENIOR AND NEXT GEN WOMEN

Weight Class	41	45	50	55	61	67	73	79	86	86+
Senior MQS (KG)	71	79	87	90	92	94	96	99	102	103
Next Gen MQS* (KG)	50	53	57	62	65	69	71	73	76	78

- Rookie standards are the same as Next Gen standards above.

4. SELECTION

In order to represent Great Britain, athletes must first satisfy eligibility requirements in section 1.

4.1. Selection Process Overview

The selection panel will convene to select athletes on the 28/02/2023 aligned with WPPO entry rules and regulations and this selection policy. Selection is provisional until any appeals have been resolved.

All athletes who have satisfied the eligibility criteria will be considered for selection. WCP members must have identified this event as a necessary consideration within their Individual Athlete Plan (IAP) prior to selection to be considered.

WCP athletes will be considered first followed by non-funded performance pathway athletes.

The qualification period in which competition performance will be assessed is from 01/08/2022 to the 26/02/2023.

Further conditions for any selected athlete may be set prior to the event as part of confirmation of fitness and maintenance of selection procedures,

Any conditions will be agreed in writing and will be assessed at an agreed time or times. Failure to meet them may result in de-selection from the team. Refer to section 6 for information regarding deselection.

An athlete is with their rights to appeal any de-selection between selection and departure for the event.

BWL, at their discretion, reserve the right to select an athlete who has not met all the necessary eligibility criteria or selection requirements should it directly or indirectly support the Paris Paralympic Games objective of winning 1-3 medals or growth and sustainability of the performance pathway.

If returning from injury or illness, the injury or illness should have been communicated and supported with medical documentation. Communication of any injury or illness should be sent to Tom Whittaker at tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org immediately ahead of selection. Any athlete in this situation should have provided training plans, shared learning objectives and evidenced training capabilities that suggest a return to pre-injury/illness form prior to selection.

4.2. Athlete Selection

From the eligible cohort that this policy determines, where a limit on team size occurs, decisions will be made on which athletes attend based on the following selection criteria.

The selection panel will consider several criteria in order to separate athletes where necessary:

- 4.2.1. **Medal potential at the Paralympic Games:** Does the athlete have a history of winning Paralympic or World Championship medals and are their current performance levels within the qualification period aligned with this occurring again at the Paris Paralympic Games.
 - 4.2.1.1.1. Where more than one athlete meets the above criteria, the athlete likely to win the highest medal will be selected i.e. gold over silver and silver over bronze
- 4.2.2. **Qualification rankings potential:** Does the athlete have a development trajectory using competition and training data that suggests a top 8 qualification ranking could be achieved, improved or defended.
 - 4.2.2.1.1. Where more than one athlete meets the above criteria, an athlete who can defend a vulnerable ranking will be selected over an athlete who can achieve a top 8 qualification ranking for the first time.
 - 4.2.2.1.2. However, an athlete who can achieve a top 8 qualification ranking for the first time will be selected over an athlete who can improve an existing top 8 ranking which is considered robust and unlikely to fall out of the top 8 should they not attend.

The development trajectory of an eligible athletes needs to be positive. This means recent performance improvements need to have been made at multiple competitions.

See Appendix A for the anticipated top 8 standard reference. This will be used in conjunction with current Paralympic Games Ranking standards. Where there is significant non-linearity, reasonable adjustment will be made when considering an athlete. As well as current field depth, including the ongoing participation/presence of rival athletes who establishes this standard in the last cycle.

- 4.2.3. **Development Trajectory:** Does the athlete have a development trajectory aligned with qualification for the following Paralympic Games. In this situation, the athlete must have clear developmental

and learning objectives planned for this event and agreed with the World Class Program performance team.

4.2.3.1.1. Where more than one athlete meets the above criteria, the athlete with the steepest development trajectory will be selected using competition, performance testing and training data to estimate potential and rate of development. The rate of development will be calculated using the first performance testing or competition event the athlete competed in during the qualification period and the last performance testing or competition event participated in within the qualification period. The change in kilos lifted will be divided by the number of whole months (4 x 7-day weeks) between the two events in order to compare rates of progress.

The above considerations are listed in the order in which they are prioritised.

All athletes will receive verbal confirmation of the decisions made. A selection agreement and code of conduct shall follow by email to selected athletes which they must sign and return to confirm selection and their understanding of the grounds on which selection is confirmed and continued selection is maintained (see sections 5, 6, 7).

All athletes should be aware that self-funding is not permitted.

3.3 Selection Panel

The selection panel will be made up of the following individuals:

- Member of the BWL High Performance Committee (selection panel Chair)
- BWL Paralympic Performance Director
- WCP Lead Performance Coach

All conflicts of interest will be declared and in the event of a conflict, the chair of the selection panel will declare that individual unable to vote, but they may contribute to selection discussions.

4.2.3.2. Where there is a tied vote the Chair of the selection panel has the authority to make the final decision.

BWL's UK Sport Performance Advisor may attend the selection meeting in a non-voting capacity to support the application of this selection policy.

A representative of the British Athletes Commission may also be in attendance in a non-voting capacity to support the application of this selection policy.

5. TIMELINE OF CRITICAL EVENTS

Publication of selection policy on the **week beginning the 16/01/2023**,

Expressions of interest from athletes must be sent to Tom Whittaker tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org no later than **30/01/2023** and include a proposed bodyweight category, performance target and rationale aligned with this selection policy.

BWL qualification period ends on the **26/02/2023**

The selection panel will convene on the **28/02/2023**, to provisionally select eligible athletes based on this selection policy,

By the **01/03/2023**, athletes will be notified by telephone as to whether they have been provisionally selected pending any appeals. All selected athletes will receive a selection agreement and code of conduct outlining the conditions of their selection which will need to be returned to Tom Whittaker at tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org by **10/03/2023**.

- All non-selected athletes have the right to appeal.

The appeal period begins the day after athletes are informed about provisional selection decisions. The deadline for appeal submission is **06/03/2023 by 23:59:59** (all eligible athletes will be informed on the same day or next day where possible). A copy of the appeals policy can be downloaded from the BWL website here <https://britishweightlifting.org/performance/para-powerlifting-performance>

The **day after which all appeals must be submitted**, provisionally selected athletes will be informed if they could be affected by any of the appeal submissions,

Any update to this time line of critical events will be disclosed immediately to all considered athletes as specific dates are confirmed.

6. GREAT BRITAIN CONFIRMATION OF FITNESS

6.1. Pre-Selection

Prior to selection, any athlete who has satisfied eligibility requirements but has or there is any doubt surrounding their current performance potential, may, where deemed appropriate by the BWL Performance Director, be required to undergo physical testing to provide further information for consideration. Any performance or medical review would be performed by a member of the BWL WCP performance team and/or a doctor identified by the WCP. The performance review test will be the bench press exercise to WPPPO competition rules.

Any decision not to consider an athlete on grounds of ill health or injury having satisfied eligibility requirements will be confirmed in writing to the athlete after verbal communication by BWL. Athletes are entitled to appeal these decisions; see section 8 for more information.

6.2. Post Selection

At the request of BWL, all selected athletes may undergo or have requested of them, reasonable physical testing to ensure performance levels at the time of selection are at least maintained.

BWL is entitled to request any reasonable method to determine a level of good health and performance capability, which may include but is not limited to; A review by a medical Doctor, musculo-skeletal assessment and/or body weight/composition assessment.

7. GREAT BRITAIN DE-SELECTION

Prior to departure, BWL retains the right to de-select any athlete under circumstances such as;

- 7.1. Illness, injury or not fit to travel abroad and compete at the level they qualified at
- 7.2. Non-compliance with post selection fitness testing or requests to prove/establish good health
- 7.3. Any doping infringement incompatible with BWL Anti-Doping policies and procedures
- 7.4. Not complying with an agreed schedule of engagement prior
- 7.5. Non-disclosure of training related information that may contribute to the development of competition strategy or whether the athlete is on track to perform as anticipated at the time of selection
- 7.6. Ongoing or newly developing disciplinary procedures or investigations into historical or current conduct
- 7.7. Any sanction applied to an individual such as an anti-doping rule violation

If de-selection occurs the athlete will be informed verbally and in writing to explain the rationale.

- 7.7.1.1. An athlete may appeal any decision to de-select by following BWL Appeals policy and procedures which can be found here <https://britishweightlifting.org/performance/para-powerlifting-performance>

8. GREAT BRITAIN OBLIGATIONS

Selected athletes will be required to;

- 8.1. Sign a selection letter and code of conduct which, upon signing confirms the athletes understanding of the grounds up on which selection is maintained and the standards of behaviour expected of them respectively.
- 8.2. Attend agreed team camps, training days or activities prior to the competition
 - 8.2.1.1. Training camp dates will be confirmed upon expression of interest being provided
- 8.3. Adhere to specified travel and accommodation arrangements organised by BWL
- 8.4. Compete in the bodyweight category they are selected in
- 8.5. Wear appropriate apparel as specified by BWL at all camps, events and the competition
- 8.6. Establish an agreed performance target with the BWL Paralympic Performance Director for this event
- 8.7. Inform the BWL Paralympic Performance Director immediately should their preparation be interrupted in any way after selection
- 8.8. Submit training and bodyweight information as requested by BWL
- 8.9. Should an athlete engage with social media, they should continually develop a social profile which reflects well on themselves and the sport domestically and internationally

9. GREAT BRITAIN APPEALS

Athletes have the right to appeal their non-selection or deselection in accordance with the BWL Appeals Policy. A copy can be obtained at the following link <https://britishweightlifting.org/performance/para-powerlifting-performance> . Appeals may only be made on the grounds that:

- There has been a failure by BWL to apply the applicable selection criteria: and/or
- There has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the applicable selection policy
- A decision was made based on error of fact

- A decision was biased

A Notice of Appeal must be submitted no later than **23:59:59 on the 06/03/2023**

The appeals panel shall convene within 3 working days of this notice of appeal deadline. In any event no later **than 23:59:59 on the 09/03/2023**.

Appeal panel decision outcomes will be communicated by **23:59:59** on the **10/03/2023**,

Appendix A – Anticipatory top 8 Paralympic ranking standard

The following are informed estimates using current and historic end of cycle qualification standards.

These will be continually updated throughout qualification.

Women's

Class (up to kg)	Anticipated Top 8 Qualification Standard - Paris 2024 (kg)
41	95
45	97
50	98
55	100
61	105
67	112
73	114
79	116
86	125
86+	126

Men's

Class (up to kg)	Anticipated Top 8 Qualification Standard - Paris 2024 (kg)
49	150
54	162
59	175
65	182
72	187
80	192
88	202
97	215
107	217
107+	230