



British Weight Lifting (BWL) Diploma in Sporting Excellence Selection Policy (2026)

Overview

This selection policy has been created to provide an opportunity for athletes to apply to study the Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE).

Eligibility criteria

1. There is a maximum number of athletes that are eligible for the DiSE programme; this is subject to funding received on an annual basis.
2. Athletes must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for selection:
 - a. Athletes must be aged between 16-18 (aged 16 on 1st September 2026) or aged 19 to 24 if they have an education, health, and care (EHC) plan, when they start the programme.
 - b. Athletes must be enrolled on a full time state funded study programme and be studying towards an academic (e.g., A levels) or technical/vocational qualification (this however does not include a Sporting Excellence Professional Apprenticeship).
 - c. Athletes should be on the BWL talent pathway or be enrolling onto the talent pathway.
 - d. Athletes must be prepared to sign up to a 2-year programme (commitments will avoid A-Level exam periods).
 - e. Athletes should be a current resident in England (exceptions may be made for athletes who do not reside in England; please refer to section 4 of the eligibility criteria).
 - f. Athletes must be a current member of BWL.
 - g. Athletes must be compliant with the BWL anti-doping controls and procedures.
3. The requirement in paragraph 2b. "be enrolled on a state funded study programme", does not apply to students who attend a fee-paying school for their main study programme in the following circumstances:
 - a. The athlete (student) is in receipt of the school's means-tested bursary of at least 50% fee remission; or
 - b. The athlete (student) is in receipt of a talent/ability-based scholarship of at least 50% but were this not to be the case then they would have otherwise qualified for the school's means-tested bursary of at least 50% fee remission; or
 - c. At least 50% of the athlete's (student's) fees are being paid by a third sector organisation but were this not to be the case then they would have otherwise qualified for the school's means-tested bursary of at least 50% fee remission.
4. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own funding arrangements. There may be exceptional circumstances where, on occasion, individual Scottish or Welsh athletes wish to travel to or reside in England to study or train, when specialist

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provision is not offered locally. Applications from athletes in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be submitted to SportsAid on a case-by-case basis (provided they have met the other eligibility requirements).

5. SportsAid will consider other exceptional circumstances. Where BWL believes that an athlete, who would otherwise be ineligible, should be considered for DiSE programme funding for exceptional reasons, it will contact SportsAid to seek agreement before the athlete is awarded a place.
6. Weightlifting ability selection criteria:
 - a. Athletes must be able to demonstrate their commitment to improving their performance in weightlifting.
 - b. Athletes should demonstrate behaviours in-line with BWL vision and values.
 - c. Athletes must be prepared to enrol onto the BWL talent pathway or be currently enrolled on the talent pathway.

Selections

All selections are subject to the final approval of British Weight Lifting's selection panel. The selection panel will be chaired by BWL Chief Operating Officer and will comprise of:

- Kath Leonard, Chief Operating Officer
- Mark Hill, Education Development Manager
- Matt Keogh, Performance Pathway Manager

British Weight Lifting may also seek supporting advice from a recognised coach currently working within the pathway.

Athletes will be provisionally selected based on the minimum eligibility criteria. The following criteria will be applied to determine selection:

1. BWL will use data from BWL/IWF/EIF/WPPO licensed competitions and insight from BWL pathway coaches.
2. The maximum number of athletes that can be selected is subject to the funding received on an annual basis.
3. If the number of athletes qualified exceeds the maximum number, then the following criteria will apply to those athletes:
 - a. Each athlete's best performance during the selection period (05/09/2025 – 31/07/2026) will be expressed as a percentage of the "2026 International Minimum Qualification Standards" (Weightlifting) and "Great Britain Minimum Qualification Standards" (Para Powerlifting).
 - b. Percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number.
 - c. All athletes will be ranked using these percentages; the top ranked athletes will then be selected.
 - d. In the event of a tie in this ranking, the next best performance that was achieved between 05/09/2025 – 31/07/2026 at a BWL/EIF/IWF/WPPO event will be considered and the athlete with the highest percentage of the "2026 International Minimum Qualification Standards" (Weightlifting) and "Great Britain Minimum Qualification Standards" (Para Powerlifting) standards will be selected.
4. If the number of eligible athletes is less than the team size, the selection panel at their discretion, reserves the right to select athletes who have demonstrated a performance trajectory in-line with performance at future national/international junior and senior events.

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Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal their non-selection or de-selection in accordance with the “BWL Selection Appeals Policy”. A copy can be obtained by contacting the BWL main office.

The appeals panel will be chaired by BWL Chief Executive Officer and will comprise of:

- Matthew Curtain, BWL CEO
- Stuart Martin, Head of Weightlifting Performance
- Tom Whittaker, Performance Director, Para Powerlifting