



## **British Weight Lifting (BWL) TOKYO 2020 Paralympic Games Selection Policy**

### **PREFACE**

The Great Britain Powerlifting Team ("the Team") for the 2020 Paralympic Games ("the Games") will be nominated by British Weight Lifting (BWL) to the British Paralympic Association (BPA) who endorse the final selection. The nomination of athletes will be made in accordance with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Qualification criteria and the BPA/BWL eligibility criteria. The following Paralympic Games Selection Policy ("the Policy") will determine those athletes who are eligible and the process through which they will be nominated for selection.

### **QUALIFICATION OVERVIEW**

Qualification places are awarded to the BPA upon ratification of the qualification rankings after the qualification period has ended. Qualification slots are awarded to named athletes who achieve the necessary qualification ranking at IPC Sanctioned international events by the end of the qualification period. The qualification period begins at the World Para Powerlifting (WPP) European Open Championships in May 2018 and ends after the 11<sup>th</sup> Fazza World Cup in Dubai in April 2020 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.

- Men and Women must have achieved a top 8 Paralympic Games Qualification Ranking at the time qualification ends

The BPA will accept named slots based on the criteria set out in this policy.

### **PURPOSE**

This policy has been established to select a group of British Powerlifters, capable of winning 1-2 medals at the Paralympic Games, aligned with UKS sport funding targets and demonstrate developmental progress of the BWL Para Powerlifting World Class Program (WCP)

The policy is based on the following premises:

- Nominated athletes will be those who have the potential to contribute to BWL's key performance objectives laid out by UK Sport and the BPA's overall team performance targets.
- BWL will consider nominating athletes who have adhered to the 2017-2020 qualification pathway laid out by WPP and in addition, achieved the minimum WPP Minimum Qualification Ranking by the end of the designated qualification period ( 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020), assuming all eligibility criteria laid out in this policy is met.
- Athletes who are considered potential competitors at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020 who have not had the opportunity to formally qualify through primary pathways due to extraordinary circumstances, preventing them from achieving what BWL would have predicted with confidence to have been a Minimum Qualification Ranking may be put forward for a Bipartite Invitational place on the grounds that the most credible team and best Powerlifters in the world should compete at the Paralympic Games.

- Athletes will have to work with the BWL Performance Director, World Class Program staff and nominated medical staff in all matters designed to assess their fitness to compete in the months leading up to and post selection.

The above are not the selection criteria but general principles with which this document is centred around.

## 1. ELIGIBILITY

Athletes must satisfy BWL, BPA and IPC eligibility criteria set out below in order for a nomination to be made to the BPA for the games.

- 1.1. The following outlines BWL requirements necessary to become eligible for nomination to the BPA for the Games.
  - 1.1.1. The athlete must hold a valid British Weight Lifting (BWL) membership for the year 2020-21 and have a history of membership for each year that they have engaged in the Tokyo qualification pathway for
  - 1.1.2. The athlete must be in good standing with BWL and their affiliated bodies and be eligible to compete for Great Britain in International Competitions under the rules of WPP
  - 1.1.3. The athlete must hold a valid British Passport with over 6 months of validity remaining from the last day of the Paralympic Games 2020
  - 1.1.4. The athlete must be available for all training camps and competitions in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games
  - 1.1.5. The athlete must be a participant in BWL's anti doping program, including UK Sport's online whereabouts system, and be registered on this if necessary, as soon as the athlete confirms their intention to seek nomination
  - 1.1.6. Agreeing to any other criteria set out in this selection policy, and signing the BPA Team Members and the BWL Team Members Agreement
- 1.2. The BPA'S eligibility requirements are outlined in the BPA's Games Qualification and **Eligibility** handbook which can be accessed upon request from Tom Whittaker at [tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org](mailto:tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org)
- 1.3 The IPC requirements are outlined in the IPC Qualification guide (Link below: Section 17)

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/181220125920631\\_2018\\_12\\_20%2BTokyo%2BQG.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/181220125920631_2018_12_20%2BTokyo%2BQG.pdf)

- 1.3.1. The athlete must be internationally classified with either a 'Confirmed' sport class or a 'Review' sport status with a review date after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020
- 1.3.2. The athlete must hold an active WPP Athletes License for 2020
- 1.3.3. The athlete must have achieved the necessary WPP Minimum Qualifying Standard (MQS) at or between the 2018 WPP European Open Championships and the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 (Appendix 2)

- 1.3.4. The athlete must have competed at the necessary approved WPP events between 2017 and 2020 in accordance with the qualification pathway:
- The 2017 WPP World Championships
  - The 2018 WPP European Open Championships
  - The 2019 WPP World Championships
  - 1 X WPP sanctioned competition between the 1st January and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Should an athlete miss a mandatory event, medical evidence will have had to be submitted in advance in an application to WPP for mitigation. It is at WPP's sole discretion whether or not mitigation is granted, and eligibility maintained. There is no opportunity to appeal.

Any new athlete (those who have not undergone international classification) may have been deemed eligible for Tokyo having not attended the 2017 World Championships should their sport class status have been assigned after the 2017 World Championships and prior to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Upon being internationally classified, new athletes must have attended all mandatory qualification events thereafter.

- 1.3.5. In order to compete in the WPP Powerlifting competition at the Paralympic Games the athlete must be 16 years old by the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year on the Paralympic games.

## **PARALYMPIC MINIMUM QUALIFICATION RANKING**

- 1.3.6. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 male and female athletes must be ranked 8<sup>th</sup> or higher on the WPP Minimum Qualification Rankings for The Games in standard slots or acquire this ranking after male and female athletes of the same nationality have been removed leaving only 1 athlete per nation remaining\*

***\* Please note that there is a time period post the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 where athletes from other nations who have achieved top 8 rankings in several weight categories will elect to choose from the classes which they have qualified in. For example:***

- ***Where there are two athletes from a nation in the top 8 of a given class, only 1 can only remain. The other, if having qualified top 8 in another class may choose that other class, potentially moving athletes in 9<sup>th</sup> position or below into a revised top 8 slot, given there can only be 1 athlete per nation in any one bodyweight class.***
- ***Equally, athletes may be kept from achieving top 8 rankings if rival competitors choose to remain in a given class. Furthermore, if one of two top 8 athletes from a given nation do not have an alternative top 8 ranking in another class, that NPC must decide which athlete attends The Games. This will potentially move athletes with lower ranking into top 8 ranking positions.***

## **2. SELECTION**

- 2.1. At the end of the qualification period all athletes who have satisfied the eligibility criteria in section 1.1 and 1.2 will become eligible for selection consideration. However, decisions on final nominations will be made at the BPA's and BWL's discretion taking into consideration the following:

- Maximum team size being 8 eligible male athletes and 8 eligible female athletes with a maximum of 1 qualified athlete per medal event. Exceptions may only be granted via the Bipartite Invitation Commission Allocation method.

**2.2.** In the event that BWL have more than 8 British males or 8 females meeting the Paralympic Minimum Qualification Ranking of top 8 (see section 1.3.6) or BWL have more than 1 British athlete achieving a top 8 qualification ranking in a given class, BWL will first consider the Paralympic medal potential of each athlete for the Tokyo 2020 games and reference the Paralympic Qualification rankings to nominate the athletes who have the best chance of meeting the medal objectives laid out at the beginning of this policy. For clarity, athletes in this situation will be selected who;

- 2.2.1. Have a history of winning medals at World Championships within the current Paralympic cycle and/or have occupied a top 3 Tokyo Qualification ranking within the current Paralympic cycle.
- 2.2.2. If both athletes have World Championship medal winning pedigree from the current Paralympic cycle or have had a top 3 Tokyo qualification rankings within this cycle, the athlete with training and competition data evident of winning the best medal will be selected. Gold is prioritised over silver and silver is prioritised over bronze. Only training data from 2019 and 2020 will be used for decision making purposes in this situation. BWL staff must have collected this data directly from the athlete in training they were present at.

It is at the discretion of BWL and the BPA to select an athlete in this situation who has demonstrated Paralympic medal potential but are not in form due to, for example illness or injury at the time of selection.

**2.3.** Where there are more than 8 British men or women with top 8 rankings and/or there are more than 1 British top 8 ranked athlete in a given class and these athletes do not have clear medal potential evidenced by a history of winning World Championships medals within the current Paralympic cycle or having held top 3 Tokyo qualification rankings within the current cycle, selection will be based on the athlete's international competition performances in 2020 prior to qualification ending. For clarity;

- 2.3.1. Athletes in this situation who do not have clear medal potential but hold a top 8 ranking, their international competition performances achieved between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 will be used to make selection decisions. The athlete who has lifted the heaviest weight at a WPP international competition with-in this time period will be selected. †\*

**† The reasons for this are as follows:**

- ***There are not enough or regular international competitions for all athletes to attend to compare international competition development trajectories in a fair and reasonable way***
- ***This selection policy aims to select athletes capable of delivering to their maximum physical potential at a designated point in time. The requirement to deliver a performance early in 2020 reflects the demand placed on athletes to develop physical qualities, stay fit and healthy and showcase their abilities at the Paralympic Games.***
- ***This is a period of time where performance level is considered indicative of the performance level likely to be achieved at The Games.***

**\* Where, based on Paralympic Minimum Qualification Rankings and competition development trajectories there is evidence neither of 2 athletes in the same class are on track to lift a medal winning**

***load, BWL will consider maximising team size and highest possible placings if selecting both athletes in different classes is possible.***

**2.4.** The Selection Panel shall convene for the first time on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 (See Appendix 1 for Timeline of Critical Events)

2.4.1. The panel shall consist of the following members:

- 1) Chair of the BWL High Performance Committee (Chairperson)
- 2) BWL Performance Director
- 3) BWL Assistant Coach
- 4) Member of the BWL Performance Committee
- 5) Member of the BWL Performance Committee

2.4.2. A member of the BPA and BWL's UK Sport Performance Advisor may also be in attendance in an observatory, non-voting capacity and will ensure that the provisions of this policy are properly adhered to

2.4.3. Any member of the selection panel that has a conflict of interest, including but not limited to, an athlete, or a coach will declare a conflict of interest, remove him/herself and not seek to influence others regarding the discussions and voting. Should there be an abstention or absence of any panel member for any reason the deciding vote shall fall to the Chair of the BWL High Performance Committee.

**2.5.** Athletes nominated by BWL to the BPA will be conditional upon satisfying the eligibility criteria as defined above and demonstrating form and fitness as described below (section 5)

**2.6.** Regardless of any other provision no athlete will be nominated to the BPA at the time of nomination if they are injured or unfit, unless they can show medical evidence to the selection committee that on a balance of probabilities they will be able to compete in the Paralympic Games to a level that was indicated by their recent, pre injury competition performance standard or competition development trajectory from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. BWL in these circumstances will be entitled to impose conditions should they see fit (see section 5).

**2.7.** Additional obligations for selected athletes:

- Attend all designated BWL or BPA orientation days and Team Launch
- Inform the BWL Paralympic Performance Director immediately should preparation be interrupted in any way subsequent to nomination
- Inform the BWL Performance Manager of intentions to go on holiday or to have a break from training. Any break should be agreed by the BWL Performance Manager

### **3. BIPARTITE INVITATIONAL COMMISSION APPLICATION METHOD**

BWL through the BPA in accordance with WPP guidelines can nominate male and/or female athletes for 1 of 2 Bipartite Invitational slots available in each medal event (class). Nominations for these places will be based on but not limited to:

- The circumstances under which the athlete was unable to qualify via the primary WPP Qualification Pathway will be considered. For example, if an athlete became injured prior to the qualification period ending and was unable to secure the ranking he or she would otherwise have likely secured if fully fit they may be nominated. The athlete must have achieved the WPP Paralympic MQS (Appendix 2) within the WPP Qualification Period. This decision is made at the discretion of BWL utilising

competition development trajectories over the last 4 years as well as acknowledging all other eligibility and selection criteria outlined in this policy.

- The athletes' qualification ranking based on final publication by the WPP on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- The athlete's potential of medaling at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games based on rate of progression over the last 12 months prior to selection
- The athlete's potential to medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games provided they have achieved the WPP Paralympic MQS and are developing at a rate aligned with performance trajectories of other GB athletes who have won major world medals in the past.
- Number of years in the sport and age
- The athlete must have met the WPP Minimum qualifying standard at an international WPP sanctioned powerlifting competition (Appendix 2)
- Athletes who are suitable to be nominated for Bipartite Qualification places will be nominated during the period spanning the 4th May 2020 to 11th May 2020, at which time the application period for Bipartite qualification places ends. These nominations will be made via the BPA who must agree to all Bipartite nominations prior to the applications being sent off to the WPP on the 11th May 2020

#### **4. TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

Athletes are prohibited from making any announcement to the public, the press or other media regarding nomination or selection unless and until such selection has been officially notified by the BPA to BWL and any official joint press conference (if organised) by the BPA and BWL has taken place

#### **5. PRE SELECTION FITNESS**

Prior to BWL nominating the athlete to the BPA and subsequently to WPP, BWL retain the right not to nominate any eligible athlete who has failed to prove their form or fitness or has otherwise failed to adhere to the terms of this selection policy. All athletes must give BWL and the BPA confidence that performance levels indicated within competition development trajectories between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 is still attainable a games time.

The final WPP International qualification event in April 2020 will serve as the pre-nomination fitness test.

In the event an athlete is absent from this final international qualification event or in addition BWL reserve the right to request any Tokyo 2020 eligible athlete to undergo a medical review at any time during the 6-week period prior to nomination to the BPA. Any medical review would be performed by a Doctor identified by BWL, in collaboration with the WCP support team in order to assess the health status of the athlete, acquire a diagnosis, prognosis and estimated return time to training and peak performance in order to ensure the athlete can perform to a level their competition development trajectory suggested was likely at The Games, prior to injury or illness.

Any cause for concern over injury, illness, strength or body composition/weight arising from an examination or otherwise may lead to the athlete needing to demonstrate their fitness by undergoing a performance test regardless of whether they have done so recently. The performance test would be the bench press competition lift to WPP competition rules.

Any decision not to put an athlete forward for nomination on the ground of ill-health, lack of fitness or a return to fitness timescale that is not aligned with competition development trajectory performance expectations at The Games will be confirmed in writing after verbal communication to the athlete by BWL.

## **6. POST SELECTION FITNESS**

At the request of BWL all selected athletes may undergo or have requested of them reasonable medical assessments or physical testing to ensure performance levels are maintained in order to perform credibly and to the best of their ability at the Games. BWL is entitled to request any reasonable method to determine a level of good health and high-performance capability, which may include but not limited to; dental and/or General Practitioner (GP) review, musculo-skeletal assessments, body composition assessment, competition performance, squad meeting attendance and training performance.

All selected athletes will be medically reviewed in the 4 weeks leading up to the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM). This will be done in conjunction with any medical/fitness related investigation required by the BPA. In the event that there is cause for concern after any investigation the athlete in question may be asked to demonstrate their performance capacity regardless of whether they have done so previously and/or recently.

All nominated athletes will be expected to attend an agreed schedule of preparation camps where they must demonstrate, through their training performance and training plan, that they are on target to, as a minimum lift equal to their personal best.

## **7. DESELECTION AND REPLACEMENT**

Prior to the DRM BWL retains the right to deselect any athlete under the following circumstances;

- Illness, injury or not fit to travel abroad and compete
- Violation of any existing sport specific Team Agreement/Code of Conduct
- Proven disciplinary infringement
- Doping infringements incompatible with sport specific Team Agreements, Codes of Conduct and membership of ParalympicsGB

If de-selection occurs prior to the DRM athletes will be informed verbally and in writing to explain the decision-making process. This information will be sent by BWL. All pre-DRM appeals are made to BWL. The date of the DRM is to be confirmed but will be on approximately the 15/08/2020.

After the DRM BWL can advise ParalympicsGB to deselect any athlete in accordance with this policy. De-selection will be considered based on the following:

- Illness, injury or not fit to travel abroad and compete
- Violation of any existing sport specific Team Agreement/Code of Conduct
- Proven disciplinary infringement
- Doping infringements incompatible with sport specific Team Agreements, Codes of Conduct and membership of ParalympicsGB

If de-selection occurs post DRM athletes will be informed verbally and in writing to explain the decision making process. This information will be sent by ParalympicsGB. All post DRM appeals are made to ParalympicsGB.

### **WPP Late Athlete Replacement Policy**

After sport entries close on the 3rd August 2020 prior to the DRM, athlete substitutions will only be considered for an NPC in extraordinary circumstances. Substitutions may only be made due to withdrawal as a consequence of injury, illness or other special circumstances. The substitute athlete must have met the conditions of eligibility as outlined for the respective sport and submitted a completed application for accreditation and signed the IPC Eligibility Code Form.

Absolutely NO substitutions will be permitted after the official NPC sport entries sign-off conducted at the DRM.

## **8. ULTIMATE AUTHORITY**

This is a BWL selection policy however the BPA have ultimate authority in final selection decisions relating to the Paralympic Games. BWL has agreed its selection policy in conjunction with the BPA. Should the BPA choose not to endorse a nomination made by the Sport, it is BWL not the individual that holds responsibility to pursue any appeal.

## **9. APPEALS**

- 10.1. Athletes have the right to appeal their non-selection in accordance with the "BWL Appeals Policy". A copy can be obtained by contacting the BWL main office. Appeals may only be made on the grounds that the procedure outlined in this policy has not been adhered to
- 10.2. The notice of appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £250, payable to BWL, as a contribution to administrative cost of processing the appeal
- 10.3. Any appeal to de-selection prior to the DRM must be made in accordance with the BWL appeals policy. Any appeal post DRM shall be dealt with in accordance with the BPA's appeals policy and shall be heard under a fast track process conducted by Sports Resolutions UK

## **10. NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO APPLY**

- 11.1. The desire of eligible athletes to be considered for selection has been assumed upon positively accepting selection for the WPP European Open Championships in May 2018. Athletes should email Tom Whittaker at [tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org](mailto:tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org) if they do not wish to be put forward should they meet all BWL, BPA and WPP selection criteria.

## Appendix 1 - Timeline of Critical Events

1. The WPP Powerlifting qualification period ends on the 23rd April 200 at which point no improvements to qualification rankings can be made for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.
2. On the 25<sup>th</sup> April WPP will publish the Paralympic Ranking List
3. The BWL selection committee will convene for the first time on the 27th April in order to provisionally nominate athletes and identify their bodyweight classes where necessary:
  - a. Athletes will be provisionally identified for nomination in the class which they have a top 8 minimum qualification ranking. In the event an athlete has qualified in more than one bodyweight class or there are multiple GBR athletes eligible in one class the decision of which class to nominate an athlete in or not will be made based on the policy explained above
  - b. Athletes who have achieved the Minimum Qualification Ranking in more than one class will have the opportunity to contribute to the BWL selection decision about their body weight class nomination. The athlete will be asked to sign a letter confirming the identified bodyweight class whether the meeting was attended by them or not. After this point there will be no opportunity for appealing this matter

The BWL Performance Director will inform athletes verbally on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 as to whether they have been provisionally nominated pending WPP's publication of qualification slots on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Athlete who are not nominated due to GBR competition for the single athlete slot per bodyweight class per NPC's will be informed at this stage as to whether BWL will nominate them for a Bipartite Invitational Commission place once the process opens on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

4. By the 1st May 2020 the BPA will inform WPP of which bodyweight class those athletes who have qualified in more than 1 will be considered for, as agreed upon on the 27th April 2020
5. On the 4th May 2020 WPP will confirm in writing to NPC's the allocation of Paralympic Qualification ranking slots
6. The BWL Selection Committee will meet again on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and make final confirmation of which athletes will be nominated to BPA for selection. The panel will also decide based upon the published list who should be nominated for Bipartite Invitational Application Commission places.

The BWL Performance Director will inform athletes verbally on the 6th May 2020 and later confirm via email or letter one of the following:

- i. Nominated via the final minimum qualification ranking method as required (top 8)
- ii. Not nominated via the final minimum qualification ranking method but nominated for a Bipartite Invitational Commission place on grounds described previously in the selection policy
- iii. Not nominated via the final qualification ranking method and not nominated for a Bipartite Invitational Commission place on the grounds that eligibility criteria has not been satisfied

Any athletes not put forward for a Bipartite nomination by the BPA at this stage will be informed. Any appeal against a Bipartite decision will be made by BWL to the BPA

7. Any appeal against these decisions is made by the athlete to BWL by the 7th May 2020 following the BWL Appeals process. The necessary documentation can be acquired from the BWL main office
8. The 8<sup>th</sup> May is the deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to received accredited application forms submitted by NPC's (Accreditation Long List)
9. The BPA submit all Bipartite Invitational Application Commission nominations to the WPP ahead of the final deadline for submission by the 11th May 2020

10. On the 11th May 2020 the BPA will confirm in writing to WPP the utilisation of allocated slots after any necessary appeals processes
11. On the 18th May 2020 WPP will confirm in writing the awarding of Bipartite Commission Invitations and confirm the re-allocation of unused qualification slots
12. The 3rd August 2020 is the deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to receive sport entry forms submitted by NPC's

## Appendix 2: WPP Minimum Qualifying Standard

<b>Men's Event</b>	<b>MQS</b>	<b>Women's Event</b>	<b>MQS</b>
Up to 49.00 kg	105 kg	Up to 41.00 kg	57 kg
Up to 54.00 kg	115 kg	Up to 45.00 kg	60 kg
Up to 59.00 kg	125 kg	Up to 50.00 kg	62 kg
Up to 65.00 kg	135 kg	Up to 55.00 kg	65 kg
Up to 72.00 kg	142 kg	Up to 61.00 kg	67 kg
Up to 80.00 kg	150 kg	Up to 67.00 kg	70 kg
Up to 88.00 kg	157 kg	Up to 73.00 kg	72 kg
Up to 97.00 kg	165 kg	Up to 79.00 kg	77 kg
Up to 107.00 kg	172 kg	Up to 86.00 kg	82 kg
Over 107.00 kg	180 kg	Over 86.00 kg	87 kg

Exceptions may be made via the Bipartite Invitation method.

*2020 WPP Paralympic Games Minimum Qualifying Standards for men and woman*