



British Weight Lifting Selection Policy

Para - Powerlifting

Award: Backing the Best (BTB – Para Powerlifting)

Date: March 2024 – March 2025

1. Purpose

This selection policy has been created to provide an opportunity for eligible British Para Powerlifters to access financial support from Sports Aid providing they demonstrate the potential to contribute towards:

- Paris 2024, the 2026 Commonwealth Games or LA 2028
- Medals at Major senior international events in the future.

British Weight Lifting (BWL) seek to select athletes who are likely to transition onto the funded BWL World Class Program (WCP) within three years of receiving this Backing-the -best (BTB) award. The BTB award, managed by sports aid, supports athletes who would face difficulties progressing through their sports performance pathway development system without critical financial help. This award should enable an athlete to thrive in their sport, regardless of their socio-economic background.

The value of the award is **up to £5000** and also includes various educational workshops discussing various topics from nutrition to lifestyle management.

The spending of this award should be planned and signed off between athlete (parent or guardian where appropriate) and BWL on things such as:

- Essential equipment/kit
- Transport costs to training and competitions
- Physiotherapy
- Nutrition support
- Medical expenses

The award is paid by BACS to the athlete in four instalments in April, July, October and January.

In January/February, nominated athletes will be contacted to provide further information about their financial situation to access their suitability for the award.

2. Minimum Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for Sports Aid:

- 2.1 Athlete must have submitted an application in writing which includes their BWL membership number and what eligibility criteria they meet via email to connor.macdonald@britishweightlifting.org and before 17:00, 15/12/2023
- 2.2 Athlete must be no older than 35 years of age - can be flexibility on a sport-by-sport basis based on specific sport performance pathways.

- 2.3 A member of British Weight Lifting (BWL) at the time of nomination,
- 2.4 Athlete must not be in dispute with BWL, affiliated bodies or stakeholders.
- 2.5 Compliant with the BWL and WPP/IPC Anti-Doping Controls and Procedures.
- 2.6 Display behaviours in-line with BWL's vision and values and consistently demonstrate appropriate performance related behaviours at BWL squad events based on WCP learnings:
- 2.6.1 Athletes with adequate performance levels and development trajectory,
 - 2.6.2 Athlete willingness and/or capacity to engage in a collaborative partnership with the WCP. This looks like proactive and clear communication followed by timely action in the pursuit of learning and optimised preparation and performance.
 - 2.6.3 The ability to balance the performance and personal demands of long-term engagement with the WCP. Athletes must develop themselves as people at the same time as well as recognise the investment of public money into their journey and give back through positive societal impact in the form for voluntary appearances and collaboration with the NBG and its commercial partners.
- 2.7 Athlete must be primarily living and training in the UK. They must have a valid British passport and/or be able to compete for Great Britain and/or. England. Athletes should be within the sport's defined Performance Pathway.
- 2.8 Be currently facing severe financial hardship and not able to meet the costs of competing in their sport.
- 2.8.1 Gross household income less than £55,000 (unless supporting multiple siblings and regional variations will be taken into consideration)
- 2.9 Athletes should be a member of a BWL Performance Pathway, specifically the **GB Development pathway** or be eligible for the Paris Paralympic games having satisfied the eligibility pathway to date.
- 2.10 Have competed in at least two competitions, either of which can be BWL approved or WCP hosted trial events or international events between 1st November 2022 and the 1st December 2023.

Not be receiving individual world class program funding. If they are receiving world class program funding, then they are seen as an emerging talent rather than an established senior athlete.

2.1.1 Characteristics of Athletes in Financial Hardship

The athlete may:

- Live a long distance away from their training venue and spend a considerable amount of money on petrol/ public transport each month.
- Have multiple siblings that their parents support financially but have a gross household income above £55,000. In this case, if an individual has 5 other siblings for example and a household income of £70,000, then they are still eligible to apply as it could be deemed as financial hardship as would struggle to support their children in high performance sport.
- Have a disability that requires expensive equipment for their sport.
- Have parents or guardians that have had their income reduced due a long term illness/disability.
- Have a disability that requires a personal assistant to enable them to play their sport.
- Have only been playing the sport for a short time but be on a steep trajectory to the high-performance level.
- Have recently lost a parent or guardian and requires extra support in various aspects of their lives.
- Attend a fee-paying school but be on a full bursary and/or scholarship.

- Have a parent, guardian or sibling who has a long-term illness that requires the athletes to take on caring responsibilities and is unable to do part-time work to support their sport.
- Have been injured while training or competing and requires financial help to overcome the injury.
- Is experiencing any serious mental or physical condition that prevents them from working to support their sport.

This is not an exhaustive list and should only be used as an example of possible situations

3. Selection Criteria

- 3.1 The selection panel will convene to select athletes during the week beginning 18/12/2023 (subject to change by BWL). The selection process will be conducted by a BWL selection panel. The Selection process will take place as outlined below
- 3.2 BWL Para-Powerlifting have been offered been offered up to (5) Backing the best awards for individuals from households with an annual income of less than £55k p/annum
- Individuals in receipt of a TASS awards are not eligible for Sports Aid
 - Individuals in receipt of a TASS award are eligible for Backing the best
- 3.3 If the athlete achieves the minimum eligibility criteria (2.0), they will be considered for selection
- 3.4 At BWL's discretion an athlete who has not met eligible criteria 2.6, 2.7, 2.9 and 2.10 may be considered if there is a surplus of award spaces after all other eligible athletes have been reviewed for selection
- 3.5 BWL selection panel must determine the athlete's performance potential to medal at international championships events (see section 1) in the future considering the following;
- 3.5.1 *The athletes recent international or domestic competition performance standard if this took place within the 8 weeks prior to selection.*
- 3.5.2 *The athlete's current predicted 1RM based on recent training data/footage collected by BWL.*
- 3.5.3 *The athlete's development trajectory based on progress documented to BWL during 2022/23 training processes**
- 3.5.4 *The athlete's engagement with BWL Squads & Camps*
- 3.6 If the number of athletes who submit applications is greater than the maximum number of full awards (3.1), the selection panel at their discretion reserves the right to select the athletes who have demonstrated the greatest potential to medal at Paris 2024, the 2026 Commonwealth Games or LA 2028.
- 3.7 Athletes must consistently display performance related behaviours, which provide the selection panel with confidence that they have the capability to achieve their development objectives.

The selection panel at their discretion reserves the right to deselect an athlete at this stage if reasonable doubts exist about any athlete's behaviour, which they feel could negatively impact;

- 3.7.1 The athlete's ability to achieve performance or development objectives
- 3.7.2 The experience or engagement of other BWL Pathway squad members
- 3.7.3 The reputation of BWL

*Development trajectory will be calculated using two performances in competition or trials which are at least 6 months apart. The most recent performance prior to nomination deadline on the 1st December 2023 and the first performance in excess of 6 months ago will be used to calculate trajectory. The difference in load lifted at each event will be divided by the number of whole months (4 x 7 days = 28days) between each moment in time.

3.8 After the BWL selection panel has convened and endorsed the nominations by the 15th December, the BTB awards manager will contact nominees between January – February to gather further information about their financial situation in order to assess their suitability for the award. In March, the successful nominees will be contacted.

4. Obligations

Selected athletes will be required to:

- 4.1 Attend agreed team camps or activities
- 4.2 Wear appropriate apparel as specified by BWL at all camps/events
- 4.3 Submit training information as requested by BWL
- 4.4 Commit to competing in at least 3 competitions in the year*

If engaging on social media platforms, continually promote a positive message about the sport in Great Britain.

*If an athlete removes themselves from selection for competitions, their BTB support may be reallocated.

5. Selection Panel

The selection panel will comprise of;

1. BWL Performance Director
2. BWL Lead Performance Coach
3. BWL Pathway Development Coach

Other members of BWL may be in attendance in a non-voting capacity to supply background information and technical or medical information.

All conflicts of interest will be declared. A conflicted individual will not vote on that particular selection but may participate in the general selection discussions, at the discretion of the Chair of the Panel.

In the event of a tied vote the Performance Director will cast the deciding vote.