



# BWL Para-Powerlifting International Team Formation 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 a sustainable World Class Program (WCP) with systems, processes and a culture that effectively support consistent medal winning performances at Paralympic Games in the future

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 the largest possible group of athletes to remain eligible for the games and demonstrate the performance levels and necessary behaviors to become or remain a member of the WCP in the future.

This selection potential allows athletes to aspire to and access international events should they meet the necessary eligibility requirements outlined in the 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.

British Weight Lifting will clearly articulate on what grounds development trajectories have been considered, either Tokyo 2020 or Paris 2024 in mind.

## 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 where possible other talented athletes to use these competitions to tailor an individual athlete plan/competition strategy to accelerate their long-term development and Paralympic qualification prospects where there is a clear performance rationale/need.

These events will not be accessible via published selection processes, but a team will be selected at the discretion of the BWL High Performance Committee (Appendix 1) to ensure selection of each athlete includes an adequate performance rationale aligned with these principles. For guidance, evidence via competition performance development trajectory that an athlete has the potential to; achieve a top 8 qualification ranking, to protect or improve a top 8 qualification ranking where there is need, intention to test planned strategies and learning

that have been prepared domestically or have a competition development trajectory aligned with winning medals in Paris 2024 form the decision-making process as to whether an athlete is sent to non-mandatory Tokyo qualifier.

For clarity, a rationale formed via a need to test individual strategies must have been planned, communicated with the BWL Performance Director and there must be evidence preparation and practice of such strategies have taken place domestically 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.

### Eligibility and Selection

For eligibility and selection criteria for non-mandatory events please see Appendix 3

### Other

#### Home Nation Athlete Selection

Home Nations wishing to send athletes to Tokyo non-mandatory international competitions must communicate this desire to BWL 12 weeks ahead of the non-mandatory event in question.

## 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

Selection for events in addition to mandatory competitions will be at the sole and special discretion of BWL based on the principles within this document. See Appendix 3 for further detail regarding eligibility and selection criteria for Tokyo non-mandatory events

Event name	Year/Date	Event considered mandatory	Event considered at discretion
		<i>Aligned with WPP Qualification Pathway. BWL will select using a selection policy specific to this event, open to all members who are classified and eligible to represent GB</i>	<i>Selection at discretion of High-Performance Committee to support individual athletes with Para Games potential</i>
8 <sup>th</sup> Fazza, Dubai World Cup	27/02-03/03/2017	No	Yes
Egar, Hungarian World Cup	04-07/05/2017	No	Yes
World Championships, Mexico City, Mexico	02-08/12/2017	Yes	No
<b>European Open Championships, France</b>	<b>24-29/05/2018</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Asian Open Championships, Japan</b>	<b>08-12/09/2018</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> Fazza, Dubai World Cup	08-12/02/2019	No	Yes
Egar, Hungarian World Cup	25-28/04/2019	No	Yes
World Championships, Astana, Kazakhstan	13-19/07/2019	Yes	No
11 <sup>th</sup> Fazza, Dubai World Cup	16-22/04/2020	Yes	Yes

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

Additional competitions will be added as WPP update the annual competition calendar

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](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.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Milestone details</b>	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

### **Eligibility – To be considered for selection**

- Be a citizen of the United Kingdom and hold a valid British passport that expires at least 6 months after the day of departure
- 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
- Compliant with BWL's Anti-Doping controls and procedures at BWL's discretion and direction
- Athletes must satisfy IPC eligibility rules and have **purchased an IPC License** for the 2018 Summer Season via BWL
- Have gone through and been successful at National Classification and/or International Classification assessment with either (A) confidence in being successful at international assessment established or (B) having already achieved a 'confirmed' or 'review' sport status for 2018
- Have competed in a BWL or IPC WPP approved competition since the 2018 European Championships

In accordance with IPC rule 4.1 athletes may be entered into a weight class that they did not qualify in when specific entry and team size rules and regulations can apply. These rules may be utilised by BWL during the selection process at their discretion if doing so increases the likelihood of meeting UK Sport annual performance milestone targets, establishing Tokyo 2020 top 8 rankings and/or winning medals at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

British Weight Lifting will take into consideration athlete preferences but will select athletes for weight classes that increase the likelihood of athletes finishing with the highest Tokyo ranking possible.

BWL, at their discretion will consider reasons and evidence for not complying with the above eligibility criteria. Reasons and evidence must be submitted to Tom Whittaker by email as soon as possible after the mitigating incident.

**Please be aware which competition is likely to be the last opportunity to demonstrate progress at prior to teams being selected. Selection will take place approximately 10 weeks prior to the event in question.**

### **Selection Criteria**

Upon meeting eligibility criteria for non-mandatory events athletes will be considered for selection with the following selection considerations in mind, given the event is not mandatory;

- Is this non-mandatory competition an opportunity to test and learn from planned individual athlete development strategies aligned with the principle of **individuality and developmental need**.
- The athletes most recent performance outcome (last 12 weeks) and development trajectory since the 2018 European championships aligned with challenging for a top 8 Tokyo ranking and improving or defending their existing top 8 ranking aligned with the principle of **individuality and developmental need**. Is there evidence of a strategic Tokyo 2020 qualification opportunity?

- Does the athlete have a trajectory aligned with contributing to milestone targets in the next Paralympic Cycle and winning medals in Paris 2024
- Injury status, history and evidence the athlete has managed their health well in the last 6 months
- Has a positive track record of successfully making weight for the bodyweight class selected in
- Has demonstrated the necessary behaviours (regular communication, collaboration, seeking and providing feedback, taking on board constructive criticism) to operate within a group of individuals without directly or indirectly negatively affecting another team members performance at home and or overseas
- Evidence of mitigating circumstances for not satisfying all eligibility criteria is considered and must be submitted immediately after the mitigating incident prior to selection