



BWL Para Powerlifting 2022 Commonwealth Games Selection Policy

Team England

1. Preface

The England Para Powerlifting Team (“the Team”) for the 2022 Commonwealth Games (“the Games”) will be nominated by British Weight Lifting (BWL) to the Commonwealth Games England (CGE) who will make the final selection. Nominations will be made in accordance with this Commonwealth Games Selection Policy (“the Policy”) as laid out below.

2. Purpose

This Policy has been established to select a team that can medal and place in the highest positions possible at the Commonwealth games.

This event plays an important role in preparing athletes via a major multisport Games experience, which, from BWL’s perspective is an integral experiential pre-cursor to winning medals at future multi-sport games.

This policy has been based on the following principle:

- That the team of English athletes will be nominated based on the WPPO qualification ranking for the Commonwealth Games and the WPPO and CGF Athlete Allocation System

All selected athletes must continue to demonstrate the ability to train without restriction, therefore showing appropriate fitness in the months leading up to the Games. Athletes must work with the England Team Leader, England Coaches and nominated medical staff in all matters designed to assess their fitness to compete to the best of their ability.

The above considerations are not the selection criteria but are included here as a guide to the general strategic principles that have formed this policy.

3. Qualification Pathway

The Commonwealth Federation and World Para Powerlifting (WPPO) have set out an Athlete Allocation System whereby an athlete has to achieve a World Para Powerlifting Commonwealth ranking in order to be nominated and then selected for The Games.

Athletes can establish their Commonwealth ranking between the 1st of January 2020 and the 25th April 2022 by attending World Para Powerlifting recognised Competitions. The results at which, within this time period will contribute to the World Para Powerlifting Commonwealth ranking list (“the Commonwealth ranking list”). The Commonwealth ranking list can be found here <https://www.paralympic.org/powerlifting/rankings>.

The Commonwealth ranking list will be used to allocate slots to the top eight (8) athletes per medal event utilising the AH formula point scoring system. At the end of the qualification period the list will be updated by WPPO and The CGF so only two athletes per nation are included per weight category in each medal event, aligned with maximum team size limits per nation outlined in the Athlete Allocation Method.

Athletes qualify themselves as an individual via this ranking method, as opposed to achieving a quota slot for distribution by BWL and CGE across an eligible cohort.

There are 4 medal events, 2 male and 2 female. CGE can take a maximum of 2 individuals per class, a maximum team size of 8 individuals.

Men’s Medal Events (2)

- Lightweight – up to and including 72.00kg
- Heavyweight – over 72.00kg

Women’s Medal Events (2)

- Lightweight – up to and including 61.00kg
- Heavyweight – over 61.00kg

The other selection pathway is via the Bipartite Invitation allocation method. These slots will be issued by WPPO and CGF to athletes of widely and regularly practising CGA's who have not otherwise earned a slot-allocation via the top 8 ranking method.

There are 2 Bipartite Invitation slots per medal event in addition to 8 primary slots awarded via the Commonwealth ranking list.

4. Eligibility

To be considered for selection under this Policy, an athlete must be eligible to represent Commonwealth Games England under theirs, World Para Powerlifting's (WPPO) and other BWL rules, including but not limited to:

1. Being a citizen of the United Kingdom and holding a valid British passport that will not expire for 6 months after the conclusion of the Games.
2. Being a current member of and not in dispute with BWL, and/or its affiliated partners and bodies
3. Having expressed their interest in gaining selection by completing and returning the Expression of Interest Form by the 20th of January 2021,
4. Being eligible to represent England at the Commonwealth Games under the rules of the CWF & World Para Powerlifting,
5. Be internationally classified with a confirmed sport class status or review with a fixed review date of 2023 or later, at the sport entries deadline of the 29th of June 2022,
6. Hold an active WPP license for the summer 2021 and 2022 seasons,
7. Competed at the WPPO World Senior and/or Junior Championships 2021,
8. Have competed in at least 1 additional recognised BWL or WPP competition within the qualification period of 1st January 2020 and 25th April 2022,**
9. Have met the CGF's eligibility standards in accordance with the CGF Constitution; and have complied with the minimum age regulations as stipulated by WPPO.
10. Being a participant in the BWL's anti-doping programme, including UK Sport's online whereabouts system and Clean Games pre championships education as necessary,
11. Achieving a top 8 Commonwealth games ranking, as published by WPPO considering all commonwealth nations and their eligible athletes, by the end of the qualification period after competing at any of the events listed below, as outlined above*,

- WPPO Manchester World Cup – February 2020
 - WPPO Manchester World Cup – March 2021
 - WPPO Manchester World Cup – May 2021
 - WPPO 2021 Fazaa Powerlifting World Cup - June 2021
 - WPPO Senior and Junior World Championships - December 2021
 - Any competitions in 2022, prior to the end of qualification will be added to the list as they become viable.
- 12.** Complying with any other CGF, WPPO and/or CGE eligibility requirements including (but not limited to) anti-doping and nationality requirements and signing the CGF Entry and Eligibility form.
- 13.** Agreeing to the Confirmation of Fitness requirements and any other criteria set out in this selection policy and signing the CGE Team Members' and the BWL Team Members' Agreement.

* WPPO and CGF may consider any valid, personal, and or extenuating circumstances for not being compliant with the above eligibility requirements. All decisions made by IPC WPP and CGF are final with no opportunity for protest or appeal.

An example would be poor health or injury meaning a qualification performance was not delivered within the qualification period.

An athlete would need to submit a written outline of the issue inhibiting attendance at all of the qualification events and provide signed medical evidence to validate the information. Evidence should be sent to Tom Whittaker at Tom.Whittaker@britishweightlifting.org prior to the world championships in order for an exemption request to be applied for to WPPO.

**It is important to note that athletes must qualify for and be selected to represent Great Britain at events capable of establishing Commonwealth Games rankings and eligibility. Policy and selection processes for those events are published separately. For example, the 2021 World Championships.

5. Selection Panel

The panel shall consist of the following members:

- (1) Chair of the BWL Performance Committee (Chairperson)
- (2) BWL Paralympic Performance Director
- (3) Team England Team Leader

(4) Team England Coach

Each member of the selection panel has 1 vote.

Any member of the selection panel that has a conflict of interest will take no part in the meeting. An independent substitute will be brought in to replace them.

Where there is not a consensus on the selection of or between athletes the Chairperson of the meeting will make the final decision aligned with the policy. If the Chairperson of the meeting has a conflict it will be deputised to the Team England Team Leader.

6. Selection Criteria

The below criteria will be used to work through the eligible athlete cohort and determine who is selected.

The criteria to nominate an athlete are as follows:

1. The athlete must satisfy the eligibility criteria in section 4.
2. The athlete must have a top 8 Commonwealth games qualification ranking at the end of the qualification period based on WPPO's published ranking list. This list includes all eligible athletes from Commonwealth nations. For the avoidance of doubt, an English athlete ranked 9th will not be offered a slot unless top 8 athletes from other nations do not accept slots offered and England have not already accepted 2 slots in the weight class in question.
3. The athlete must be one of the two highest ranked English athletes in order to be nominated CGE.

7. Selection Process

Any athlete with a top 8 Commonwealth ranking in multiple body weight classes will have a discussion with the BWL Performance Director in person or over the phone in order to establish which class is identified as the class they are nominated for. This conversation will take place between the 15th and 22nd April 2022. This decision will be made with the policy's Purpose in mind and confirmed in writing to the athlete.

Ultimately, in these circumstances it will be up to BWL to nominate a specific class with the policy's Purpose in mind.

When the slots which WPP0 and CGF confirm for each bodyweight class are accepted or rejected the athlete will be informed by telephone or in person on the same day (3rd May 2022).

Any reasons for non-selection will be communicated at the same time over the phone or in person and followed up in writing.

See section 11 regarding appeals. The period in which appeal can be submitted and resolved is from 00:00:01 on the 4th May – 23:59:59 on the 8th May 2022.

8. Team Announcement

Athletes are prohibited from making any announcement to the public or to the press or other media regarding nomination or selection unless and until such selection has been officially notified by the CGE to BWL and any appeals have been resolved and an official press conference by CGE and BWL has taken place.

The appeals period ends on the 8th May 2022 at 23:59:59, at which point all appeals will be resolved.

9. Confirmation or Fitness and Deselection

BWL retain the right to deselect or not to nominate an athlete who has failed to prove their form or fitness or who has otherwise failed to adhere to the terms of this selection policy.

At the time of their conditional selection by the BWL selection panel, all athletes may be requested to undergo an examination with a nominated Medical Doctor and/or a physiotherapist to determine fitness status.

In addition to any other provision of this Policy, all selected athletes at the request of the BWL Performance Director may undergo medical, body composition/weight and performance assessments to ensure that they have maintained an adequate level of fitness to perform to the best of their ability at the Games. The athlete will be given a minimum of one week's notice wherever possible.

The Performance Director will be entitled to specify any reasonable method requiring a selected athlete to confirm their continued health and fitness, which might include, participating in certain competitions, attending meetings or squad training or undergoing a fitness assessment.

Any cause for concern over injury, illness, strength or body composition/weight arising from an examination or otherwise will lead to the athlete needing to demonstrate their fitness by undergoing a fitness assessment, regardless of whether they have done so previously. The athlete will be notified with at least one week notice and the assessment will be either or a combination of the following: the competition bench press movement if deemed safe by medical professionals, bodyweight assessment or medical examination/review.

If an athlete has an injury or, in the reasonable opinion of the BWL, lacks fitness prior to or after their formal selection to the Team by the CGE, then designated medical, coaching, sport science personnel and/or the England Team Leader (as appropriate) will be entitled to have an assessment made of the athlete's management of their injury and rehabilitation with a view to determining whether the athlete can achieve full fitness and perform to a standard equal to what the highest standard they delivered during the qualification period. A decision will then be made as to whether the athlete remains selected or is de-selected.

All nominated athletes will be expected to agree a schedule of engagement at the Loughborough high-performance centre prior to the event, aligned with their performance needs. At such moments the athlete must demonstrate through their training performance that they are on target to, as a minimum, lift equal to their best qualification period performance.

10. Additional Obligations

Selected athletes will be required to:

1. Inform the England Team Leader (ETL) immediately should their preparation be interrupted in any way subsequent to nomination
2. Inform the ETL of intentions to go on holiday or to have a break from training and that for any break from training to be agreed by the ETL

11. Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal their non-selection in accordance with the "BWL Para-Powerlifting Appeals Procedure". 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:

- a) There has been a failure by BWL to apply the applicable selection criteria;
and/or

- b) There has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the applicable selection policy
- c) A decision was made based on an error of fact
- d) A decision was biased

The notice of appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £100 payable to BWL, as a contribution towards administrative costs of processing the Appeal.

A Notice of Appeal must be submitted no later than 23:59:59 on the 5th May

The appeals panel shall convene within 2 days of receiving a Notice of Appeal. In any event no later than 23:59:59 on the 7th May.

Appeal panel decision outcomes will be communicated by 23:59:59 on the 8th May, ahead of the deadline for CGE to accept places offered on the 9th May.

12. Timeline of Critical Events

The following dates are a timeline of when key events will take place in the selection process, these are subject to change and will be updated accordingly

- 1st March 2022 - CGA deadline to submit Bipartite Invitation applications to CGF
- 18th March 2022 - Deadline for B2022 to receive accreditation application forms submitted by CGAs
- Between the 15th and 22nd April 2022 athletes who have top 8 Commonwealth rankings in multiple medal events discuss and agree the class they are to be nominated in with the Performance Director aligned with the policy's Purpose. This decision will be made with the purpose of this policy in mind. Ultimately, in these circumstances it will be up to BWL to nominate a specific class with the policy's Purpose in mind
- 25th April 2022 – Qualification period closes and,
- 25th April 2022 – Deadline for all CGA's to let the CGF know which medal events athletes will focus who have top 8 ranking on both medal events
- 2nd May 2022 - CGF to confirm with CGAs qualified slots
- 2nd May - CGF to confirm with CGAs Bipartite Invitation slots

- Athlete will be informed on the 3rd May 2022 if they have been awarded a Bipartite Invitation slot
- 3rd May 2022 - Selection panel will meet to nominate athletes to CGA
 - Athlete will be informed by phone and email on the same day
- The period between the 4th and the 8th of May 2022 will be used to resolve any appeals lodged against nomination decisions.
- 9th May 2022 - CGA deadline to confirm acceptance of qualified places
- 16th May 2022 - Re-allocation of returned places
- 23rd June – Deadline for BWL to confirm Entry by Name Information to CGE
- July 2022 - Delegation Registration Meetings