



British Weight Lifting (BWL) PARIS 2024 Paralympic Games Selection Policy

PREFACE

The Great Britain Powerlifting Team ("the Team") for the 2024 Paris 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.

BWL reserves the right to amend or vary this selection policy where necessary at any time. Any such amendments or variations will be clearly communicated to all parties through every means possible (e.g. direct to athletes/coaches/website etc).

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 a top 8 ranking and where required are selected from multiple top 8 British athletes in a given weight class so only 1 athlete per weight class remains. Named athletes must be nominated to and approved for selection by the BPA. The qualification period began at the World Para Powerlifting (WPP) World Championships in December 2021 and now ends on the **26th June 2024 (inclusive)**.

- To be considered, Men and Women must have achieved a **top 8 Paralympic Games Qualification** ranking once WPP publish an approved ranking list by the 28th June 2024.
- This ranking list will be used by nations to identify which classes they wish their athletes to compete in, where team size exceeds maximum Games time limits or multiple athletes hold top 8 rankings in the same class.

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 Para-Powerlifters, **capable of winning 1-3 medals at the Paralympic Games**, aligned with UK 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 at the Games, the BPA's overall team performance targets and future Paralympic medal success.
- BWL will consider nominating athletes who have adhered to the 2021-2024 qualification pathway laid out by WPP and in addition, achieved a WPP qualification ranking (top 8) by the end of the designated qualification period (**26th June 2024**), assuming all eligibility criteria laid out in this policy is met.

- Athletes who are considered potential competitors at the Games 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 top 8 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 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 2024** and have a history of membership for each year that they have engaged in the Paris 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. Good standing refers to no current disciplinary action being taken against the athlete by BWL or any un-resolved grievances between the athlete and an affiliated body.
 - 1.1.3. The athlete must hold a **valid British Passport with over 6 months of validity** remaining from the last day of the Games onwards.
 - 1.1.4. The athlete **must be available for all agreed training camps and competitions** in preparation for the Games
 - 1.1.5. The athlete must be a participant in BWL's anti-doping program, this may include UKAD 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
 - 1.1.7. Athletes competing for 1 slot with one or more other British athlete in their class, must be top 8 on the 28th June when WPP publish the provisional ranking list. ¹
- 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
- 1.3 The IPC eligibility requirements are outlined in the IPC Qualification guide (Link below: Section 18)

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/2023_11_07%20Paris%20QR_v1.6.pdf

¹ In order to be top 8 BWL will remove the lowest ranked athletes from other nations if there is more than one of them from a specific country, leaving one athlete per nation but all British athletes (2 or more).

- 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 **31st December 2024**
- 1.3.2. The athlete must hold an active **WPP Athletes License for 2024 at the time of selection**
- 1.3.3. The athlete must have competed at the necessary approved WPP events between 2021 and 2024 in accordance with the qualification pathway:
 - The 2021 WPP World Championships
 - The 2022 WPP European Open Championships
 - The 2023 WPP World Championships
 - At least 2 WPP international approved competitions between the 1st January and 26th June 2024

Should an athlete miss a mandatory event, supporting evidence will have had to be submitted in advance within an application to WPP for mitigation and ongoing inclusion within the eligible Paris cohort. 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 the Games having not attended the 2021 World Championships should their sport class status have been assigned **after the 2021 World Championships and prior to 1st October 2022**. Upon being internationally classified, new athletes must attend 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 1st January** of the year on the Paralympic games.

PARALYMPIC QUALIFICATION RANKING

- 1.3.6. On **July 5th 2024** male and female athletes **must be ranked 8th or higher** on the WPP qualification rankings for The Games in standard slots (Athletes may acquire this ranking after male and female athletes of the same nationality have been removed leaving only 1 athlete per nation remaining²)

² Please note that there is a time period **after the 26th June 2024, until the 28th June 2024** where nations that have athletes who have achieved top 8 rankings in several weight categories or where a nation has more than 8 male or 8 female athletes in top 8 rankings of more than 8 classes, must elect to choose a class for a specific athlete or from the 9 or more classes which they have qualified athletes in. Similarly if a nation has two or more athletes in the top 8 of a given class, they will have to communicate who they wish to nominate for that class. For example:

- Where there are two athletes from a nation in the top 8 of a given class, only 1 can remain. The other, if having qualified top 8 in another class may be nominated in that other class, potentially moving athletes in 9th position or below into a revised top 8 ranking, 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 rankings into top 8 ranking positions.
- Where a nation must select 8 male or 8 female athletes from more than 8 qualified slots in more than 8 classes, they will have to leave top 8 athletes at home due to team size limits. This means athletes in 9th or lower may shuffle up into revised top 8 ranking positions and be eligible for nomination once the final qualification lists are published on the 5th July 2024.

2. SELECTION

2.1. At the end of the qualification period all athletes who have satisfied the eligibility criteria in section 1.1 to 1.3 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. BWL will consider a class to have 2 or more British athletes in if on the 28th June, multiple British lifters are Top 8 after removing other athletes from nations where there are more than 1. Leaving only one athlete per nation but multiple British athletes. If more than one British athlete is in this top 8 list the following will be applied.

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 Paris games and reference the Paralympic Qualification rankings to nominate the athletes who has the best chance of supporting the medal objectives laid out at the beginning of this policy or achieving the highest medal position. 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 Paris qualification ranking within the last 1 year of the current Paralympic cycle, **from the 1st September 2023 to 26th June 2024.**

2.2.2. If both athletes have World Championship medal winning pedigree from 2021 or 2023 or have had a top 3 Paris qualification rankings between the 1st September 2022 and 26th June 2024, the athlete with competition data demonstrating the greater likelihood of winning the best medal will be selected. Gold is prioritised over silver and silver is prioritised over bronze. Only international competition data and competition development trajectories from 2022, 2023 and 2024 will be used for decision making purposes in this situation.

2.2.3. For clarity BWL will consider the following in establishing which athlete provides the greater level of confidence.

- The loads lifted in competition and the trajectory achieved
 - Trajectory will be calculated by dividing the amount of progress in kilos (converted into formula points using the upper limit of the weight class the athlete is being considered for) by the number of whole 7 days week between both points. A whole seven-day week is Sunday to Monday; therefore the count of weeks starts on the first Sunday after the first competition outcomes and ends on the last Saturday before the final competition outcome.
- The number of successful attempts at each competition (the number of successful attempts is indicative of achieving greater medal outcomes)
- The athlete's management of self, health and fitness prior to and while away at international events in order to deliver against pre-competition expectations.

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 no history of winning World Championships medals in 2021 or 2023, or never having held top 3 Paris qualification rankings between the 1st September 2021 and 26th June 2024, selection will be based on the athlete's international competition performances in that class in 2024 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 on the 28th June 2024, their **international competition** performance achieved at the final qualification event in Manchester, in June 2024, will be used to make selection decisions. The athlete who lifts the heaviest weight at this competition within the weight class of interest, will be selected as long as they are fit at the time of selection.³

The reasons for this are as follows:

- The primary purpose of the selection policy is to select athletes capable of meeting the sports performance goals (medals) at Paralympic Games.
- 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 earlier in 2021 reflects this demand and provides an opportunity for athletes to develop physical qualities, stay fit and healthy and showcase their abilities when it is important to do so.
- This is a period of time where performance level is considered most indicative of the potential performance level likely to be achieved at The Games.

2.4. The Selection Panel shall convene for the first time on the 27th June 2024 (See Appendix 1 for Timeline of Critical Events)

2.4.1. The panel shall consist of the following members:

- 1) Independent Chair of the BWL High Performance Committee (Selection meeting Chairperson)
- 2) BWL Performance Director
- 3) BWL Lead Performance Coach
- 4) Member of the BWL Performance Committee

2.4.2. The BWL CEO, A member of the BPA, BEAA 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 not be a majority decision due to either an abstention or absence of any panel member

³ Where, based on Paralympic 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.

for any reason the deciding vote shall fall to the Independent 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 **1st August 2023 to 26th June 2024**. 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 orientation/preparation days.
 - 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 2 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 5th July 2024
- The athlete's potential of medaling at the Paris 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
- Athletes who are suitable to be nominated for Bipartite Qualification places will be nominated during the period spanning the **5th July 2024 to 9th July 2024**, 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 **9th July 2024**.

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 potential 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 1st January 2021 to 26th June 2024 or in excess of 2024 preselection performance standards are still attainable at games time.

The final WPP International qualification event of the qualification period 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 Paris 2024 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 or 2024 preselection 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 best in qualification since the beginning of 2024.**

7. DESELECTION AND REPLACEMENT

Prior to the DRM, BWL and ParalympicsGB, together retain 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 ParalympicsGB. All pre-DRM appeals are made to ParalympicsGB. The date of the DRM will be on or around the 15th August.

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.

IPC Late Athlete Replacement Policy

After sport entries close on the 5th August 2024 prior to the DRM, athlete substitutions will only be considered for an NPC in extraordinary circumstances. Substitutions may only be made due to withdrawal because 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

- 9.1. Athletes have the right to appeal their non-selection in accordance with the "BWL para-Powerlifting Paris Games Appeals Policy". A copy will be available for download from the British Weight Lifting website (<https://britishweightlifting.org/start-lifting/para-powerlifting>). **Appeals may only be made on the grounds that the procedure outlined in this policy has not been adhered to, there has been factual incorrectness, unreasonableness or unfairness that can be articulated.**
- 9.2. Any appeal to de-selection prior to the DRM must be made in accordance with the BWL appeals policy mentioned above. 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 due to WPP timescales for athlete nomination.

10. NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO APPLY

- 10.1. The desire of eligible athletes to be considered for selection has been assumed upon positively accepting selection for the 2022 **WPP European Open Championships**. Athletes should email **Tom Whittaker at 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 **26th June 2024** at which point no improvements to qualification rankings can be made for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.
2. On the **28th June 2024** WPP will publish the Paralympic ranking List
3. The BWL selection committee will convene for the first time on **Friday 28th June 2024** 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 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 a top 8 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 agreed in this meeting 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 **28th June 2024** as to whether they have been **provisionally** nominated pending WPP's publication of confirmed qualification slots on the **5th July 2024**. Athletes who are not nominated due to GBR competition for the single athlete slot per bodyweight class per NPC will be informed at this stage as to whether BWL will nominate them for a Bipartite Invitational Commission place. This process begins on the **5th July 2024**.

Should the Paralympic ranking list not be published until the late evening on the 28th, it is possible the panel shall not convene until Saturday 29th July 2024. Athletes will be informed immediately in order to continue the process as planned below.

4. Should an athlete wish to appeal a BWL decision not to nominate them the appeal should be lodged **prior to midday/1200hrs on the 1st July 2024 with BWL**. A copy will be available for download from the British Weight Lifting website (<https://britishweightlifting.org/start-lifting/para-powerlifting>)
5. If required, an appeals panel will meet in the afternoon of the **2nd July 2024** in order to consider the appropriate response to an appeal. Any appeal lodged will be communicated to those athletes whose provisional selection could be affected should the original selection decision be overruled. All parties will be informed of the appeals panel verdict on the **2nd of July 2024**.
6. On or by the **3rd of July 2024**, after any appeals have been concluded, the BPA will confirm with WPP which bodyweight classes athletes with more than one option should compete in
7. On the **5th of July 2024** WPP will confirm in writing to NPC's the allocation of Paralympic qualification ranking slots.
8. The BWL Selection Committee will meet again on the **5th July 2024** and make final confirmation of which athletes will be nominated to the 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 **5th of July 2024** and later confirm via email or letter one of the following:

- i. Nominated via the final qualification ranking method as required (top 8)
- ii. **Not** nominated via the final 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 have 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

Should the allocation of slots not be confirmed on the 5th, or confirmed late that day, it is possible the panel shall not convene until Saturday 6th July 2024. Athletes will be informed immediately in order to continue the process as planned below.

9. By the **9th July 2024** the BPA will confirm in writing to WPP the utilisation of allocated slots and will submit all Bipartite Invitational Application Commission nominations to the WPP
10. On the **12th July 2024**, WPP confirms in writing to the NPC's the awarding of Bipartite Commission Invitation slots.
11. The **5th August 2024** is the deadline for Paris 2024 Organising Committee to received sport entry forms submitted by NPC's