

**Great Britain Wheelchair Fencing**  
**Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Selection Policy**

## **Introduction**

This Selection Policy outlines the process by which British Disability Fencing (BDF) will determine their athlete nominations for the ParalympicsGB Team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games (the Games). This Policy is owned by the BDF, and has been approved by the Performance Management Board (PMB) for the Wheelchair Fencing World Class Programme.

## **Objective**

The primary aim of this policy is to maximise medal success at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games by creating and converting medal opportunities.

The Paralympic Games are the primary performance event for the World Class Programme during the 2016-2020 Tokyo cycle.

Nomination of wheelchair fencing athletes for selection to represent ParalympicsGB at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games will be made according to the process set out in this Policy.

All nominations on selection to the ParalympicsGB team require ratification by the British Paralympic Association (BPA). Therefore, the achievement of the criteria described in this policy document is only an 'eligibility for nomination', and not automatic selection.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

### **1. Eligibility**

To be considered for nomination to the BPA, wheelchair fencing athletes must:

- a. meet all eligibility requirements to compete for Paralympics GB at the Games as set down by the BPA, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) and BDF.
- b. have a confirmed classification status.
- c. have completed anti-doping education and not be serving a ban from competition as a result of being found guilty of a doping offence or other breach of ethical conduct, nor be in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport;
- d. sign and adhere to the BPA Team Member Agreement once their nomination is ratified by the BPA.
- e. have signed and adhered to the BDF Code of Conduct;
- f. Have achieved the qualification standards set by IPC/IWAS. Further details of the most current version of the IWAS Qualification Process for the Games can be found at:

[https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/2019\\_08\\_02%20Tokyo%20QG.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/2019_08_02%20Tokyo%20QG.pdf)

- g. have competed in at least three internationally sanctioned IWAS Wheelchair Fencing competitions between 1 November 2018 and 31 May 2020.

### **2. Composition of Nomination Panel and nomination criteria.**

The Nomination Process for Wheelchair Fencing for the Games is as follows:

- a. All decisions in relation to the nomination of athletes for ratification/selection by the BPA shall be made by a Nomination Panel. This Nomination Panel shall comprise:
  - i. **Chairperson** (the Wheelchair Fencing Team Leader at the Games). The Chairperson shall be entitled to one vote in the selection and will be responsible for ensuring and documenting that due process is followed, and that nominations are made in adherence with this policy. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote.
  - ii. **GB Lead Coach.** The GB Lead Coach shall be entitled to one vote and shall be responsible for compiling results and other relevant performance details [from IWAS] on all athletes being considered for nomination in order to confirm the athlete meets the nomination criteria (such data to be provided to the Nomination Panel prior to the Nomination Meeting).
  - iii. **PMB BDF Representative.** The PMB BDF Representative shall be entitled to one vote and is responsible for assisting the GB Lead Coach in compiling any necessary results and rankings data from IWAS in advance of the Nomination Meeting.
  - iv. **Recording Officer.** The Recording Officer is not entitled to vote and will not be involved in the nomination discussions other than to provide advice on non-technical matters. The Recording Officer will be responsible for documenting details of the Nomination Meeting, including any decisions as appropriate.
  - v. **BPA Independent Observer.** The BPA Independent Observer will not be entitled to vote, but will provide an independent overview to ensure due process is followed. The BPA Independent Observer will not be a member of the BDF or PMB.
- b. On or around 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, a meeting of the Nomination Panel will take place to consider all nominations.
- c. An athlete shall be considered for nomination if the athlete meets the eligibility criteria and:
  - I. has been allocated an individual IWAS Qualification Slot through a dual weapon ranking or an individual weapon ranking, providing they have a track record of medal winning performances at IWAS World Cup competitions during the Tokyo 2020 qualification period where the competitive field is of a standard comparative to that of the Paralympic Games.
  - II. may be considered for team selection if three or more athletes have qualified across both category A and B within the same gender **or** if the BPA has been allocated an additional IWAS team slot to make up a team.
  - III. In the event that 3 or more athletes for 1 gender have been allocated an IWAS Individual Qualification Slot, the nomination of three athletes to compete in one or both team events at the Games will be made by the Team Leader and Lead Coach, who may consult other members of the Games time coaching team and medical team.
  - IV. Where only 2 athletes have qualified directly through an IWAS Qualification Slot **BUT** the BPA has received an additional invitational Qualification Slot for

a 3<sup>rd</sup> team athlete, the nomination of this additional team place will be made at the absolute discretion of the Nomination Panel following recommendation from the Lead Coach, based on performance factors related to team event performance in the stated weapon.

- d. Following the Nomination Meeting, the Chairperson will forward all athlete nominations to the PMB for their approval. The PMB reserves the right to check and challenge these nominations.
- e. Once approved by the PMB, the Chairperson will forward the approved nominations to the BPA for formal ratification.

### 3. Summary Qualification Time Line (indicative timelines which are subject to change)

Date	Milestone
1 November 2018	Start of the IWAS Qualification Period
31 May 2020	End of the IWAS Qualification Period
6 June 2020	IWAS confirms the allocation of qualification slots to NPCs
8 June 2020	Nomination Panel meet to discuss the nomination of athletes to the BPA for ratification. PMB informed of nominations by Chairperson of Nomination panel. The nomination panel will discuss nomination of an additional team athlete place in the event of Great Britain being reallocated an unused qualification slot by IWAS.
9 June 2020	All nominated and non-nominated athletes to be notified of nomination decisions.
10-12 June 2020	Appeals period. All eligible athletes must submit an appeal by 5pm on 12 June in accordance with the BDF Selection Appeals Policy.
	Appeals heard according to the timelines and process set out in the BDF Selection Appeals Policy
	Selection Panel to re-sit to reconsider nominations in light of appeals made
	Nominations forwarded to the BPA for formal ratification and Paralympics GB selection
20 June 2020	NPCs to confirm the use of allocated slots to IWAS
27 June 2020	IWAS confirms the reallocation of unused qualification slots. NPC to confirm use of any reallocated slots by Great Britain prior to 3 <sup>rd</sup> August.
3 August 2020	Deadline for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Organising Committee to receive Sport Entries

### 4. De-Selection and Replacements

- a) The BPA will make formal entries with the Tokyo Paralympic Games Organising Committee at the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) on 3 August 2020. Prior to the date of the DRM, BDF retains the right to deselect an athlete selected pursuant to this policy, in the event that (a) such athlete(s) is in breach or has failed to adhere to all provisions within this policy or any agreement referred to in this policy (i.e. the BPA

Team Member's Agreement or the BDF Code of Conduct); or (b) the athlete(s) suffers an injury or illness which leads the Nomination Panel to conclude in their reasonable opinion that such athlete(s) will not be able to perform to the best of their ability at the Games.

- b. Selected athletes must demonstrate an uncompromised commitment to training preparation for peak performance at the Games, as determined by their Coach and approved by Performance Manager. If for any reason an athlete is unable or unwilling to fulfil this commitment, they may be withdrawn from the team following consultation with the BPA.
- c. Selected athletes are expected to attend all programmed activities in preparation camps on a full-time basis. No athletes are permitted to undertake any activities that are not directly relevant to the preparation camp, this includes external media, sponsorship or social activities, without the permission of BDF. Failure to attend could result in non-selection or withdrawal from the team following consultation with the BPA.
- d. The nomination of a replacement athlete must also conform to the selection policy.
- e. After the DRM has been completed, de-selection and selection of a replacement athlete is only allowed in accordance with the IPC's Late Athlete Replacement Policy (or any revised or amended IPC policy dealing with athlete replacement). This primarily provides for replacement in the case of injury and/or illness.

## **5. Appeals Process**

- a) Prior to DRM, any athletes may appeal their non-nomination or de-selection under this Selection Policy after being notified of any selection decision according to the procedure laid out in the "BDF Selection Appeals Policy". Athletes wishing to seek advice regarding the appeals process are advised to contact the British Athletes Commission (BAC) at [www.britishathletes.org](http://www.britishathletes.org).
- b) In the event that the BPA refuses to ratify a nomination by the Panel, the athlete may appeal this decision in accordance with any relevant BPA's appeals policy which can be provided upon request.

## **6. Confidentiality**

All athletes, officials, panel members or any other persons connected with any selection decision shall keep all matters relating to any selection decisions confidential, and shall not announce any selection decisions until after the final team is announced by the BPA.

## **7. Amendments**

In the event that any unforeseen circumstance makes any provision of this policy unworkable or ineffective to promote the purpose of the policy, the PMB will be entitled to amend this policy so that the aims can be secured. Any amended version will be made available on the BDF website.

