

**2016-17 Paralympic WCPP Selection Policy – Athletes’  
Frequently Asked Questions**



**What is the World Class Performance Programme?**

British Athletics receives National Lottery money from UK Sport and we use it towards the World Class Performance Programme (or WCPP). We offer places on the Paralympic WCPP to athletes with the potential to win medals at the Paralympic Games. This stipulation is key to our ability to fund any athlete via the WCPP – if we do not believe that an athlete has genuine global medal potential, they cannot become a member of the WCPP, regardless of their world ranking, British ranking or competition performances.

**How many athletes will you fund?**

The numbers of athletes we can support via the WCPP is limited by our funding agreement with UK Sport. These numbers will be set at the beginning of the Tokyo cycle, and will be reflective of the number of athletes that UK Sport believes we need to fund to meet our medal targets for Tokyo.

We have a maximum number of athlete places for both the Podium and Podium Potential programmes, and for financial reasons, we cannot exceed these numbers. We want to support as many athletes as possible, but where we do not believe sufficient athletes have ongoing medal potential, we may leave spots unfilled. If there are more athletes eligible for selection than there are places available, it will be up to the Selection Panel to decide which of these athletes is best equipped to win medals at future Paralympic Games.

**Why is it so complicated?**

We have to be realistic - athletics (particularly Paralympic athletics) is a complicated sport with many varied disciplines, so one size can't fit all. We want you to know what is expected of you to get on and then stay on the WCPP, and what will happen if you get injured or have a temporary drop in form. We also want to be clear how former WCPP athletes can get back on the programme. All of this makes for a complex programme, but we have tried to make the policy as straight forward as possible, whilst still abiding by the legal requirements that such policies demand.

The next three questions relate to individual athletes, rather than relay squad members.

**How do I get on the WCPP for the first time?**

There are six main steps:

1. You have to commit to competing for GB&NI / ParalympicsGB at both the IPC Athletics World Championships and the Paralympic Games, and you have to be eligible to do so in the eyes of IPC Athletics. You also have to meet a range of other eligibility requirements, such as not currently serving a suspension for a doping violation, not being a student at an NCAA university in the United States (or having

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special dispensation to receive funding), and not having brought British Athletics into disrepute.

2. You must have at least an IPC Athletics review level classification which can be clearly evidenced by medical diagnosis (see below for further information on this point). Athletes must be eligible to represent GB & NI at the Paralympic Games, and they are not eligible until such time as they have an IPC classification.
3. You must compete in an event which features on the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games medal event programme. Remember, the key aim of the Paralympic WCPP is to win medals at the Paralympic Games – if your event won't be staged in Tokyo, you can't win a medal and we won't be able to support you. As it stands, the Tokyo medal event programme has not been confirmed – as such we will assume the Rio medal event programme will be repeated for Tokyo, until such time that the IPC confirm otherwise.
4. You then need to produce performances that mean you match the requirements set out in the “Selection Criteria”. For Podium levels, this primarily relates to performances at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. For Podium Potential, IPC Athletics world rankings are the prime consideration.
5. The WCPP is not about rewarding past success (though this helps us to predict the future), so you then have to satisfy us that you will be in the right physical condition to repeat, and hopefully exceed, your performances in 2016/17 and future years.
6. Finally, you will need to be prepared to sign an Athlete Agreement for each period when you'll be receiving funding. A new version of this document will be produced in conjunction with UK Sport soon – we will publish this document on the British Athletics website as soon as it is ready

**I'm already on the WCPP, what do I need to do to stay on?**

In line with new athletes described above, you will have to:

1. Commit to competing for GB&NI / ParalympicsGB at both the IPC Athletics World Championships and the Paralympic Games, and you have to be eligible to do so in the eyes of IPC.
2. Have at least an IPC Athletics review level classification which can be clearly evidenced by medical diagnosis (see below for further information on this point).
3. Compete in an event which features on the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games medal event programme.
4. Satisfy us of your future fitness.
5. Be prepared to sign the required Athlete Agreement.
6. Crucially, you will also need to have met all your individual performance targets and conditions for 2015/16 as well as satisfying the requirements outlined in the “Selection Criteria” (Section 2 of the Selection Policy) and “Retention Criteria” (Section 3 of the Selection Policy). If you did, and you meet the other conditions above, you'll be kept on the WCPP. If you didn't meet all your individual performance targets and conditions, or fail to satisfy the “Selection Criteria” for reasons such as injury, illness or pregnancy, then we don't guarantee you will keep your place on the WCPP. However, we promise to look carefully at your situation, your previous performances and your ongoing potential before deciding whether to offer you a place. This process is described in Section 4 of the Selection Policy.

**I've been on the WCPP before, how do I get back on?**

You will need to satisfy all the same requirements outlined for individuals looking to gain membership of the programme for the first time. Additionally though, as the standards in athletics are increasing year on year, you will need to demonstrate that you have progressed since you were removed from the WCPP previously. Specifically, this means that you cannot be added at a level below which you were exited previously. Exceptions to this can be made at the discretion of the Head Coach, and only if you have changed event or class.

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**What about the relays?**

We only consider athletes as relay specific members of the WCPP if they have demonstrated success as a relay team at previous major competitions (in this case the 2016 Paralympic Games). It is also important to remember that due to limits on the number of athletes we can support, only strike-four athletes (i.e. athletes who competed in the final of the most recent major championships) will be supported via the WCPP.

Relay members are afforded the same WCPP benefits as individual members but only 1 funding level is available (Podium B).

**What data will you use to make these decisions?**

We primarily focus on data from two places, the IPC Athletics World Rankings, and the Powerof10 UK performance database. Where classes are “combined” in a single event (i.e. T53/54) we will always look at a combined world ranking to give us a better picture of the event as a whole.

For the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games (and all future Paralympic Games), results of combined field events will no longer be determined by a point score system. Therefore all combined class events (whether they are track or field) will be determined by performance alone.

**I have an IPC classification, is this enough to make me eligible for selection?**

The classification process is a complicated one and we believe that it is our duty to try and ensure athletes are competing on a level playing field. Therefore, we don’t just rely on the result of classification clinics to ensure athletes are in the right class and we ask that athletes work with us to provide medical evidence to underpin their classification.

If there is any doubt as to the validity of an athlete’s classification, and if we and/or the athlete is not able to provide this medical information, they may not be offered a place on the WCPP in 2016/17.

**What if I need a guide runner?**

British Athletics recognise that guide runners are integral to the success of visually impaired track athletes. Guide runners for T11 and T12 athletes who are offered a place on the WCPP will therefore also be offered funding provided they guided the athlete in question when they achieved the performance that qualified them for membership of the WCPP. This will be at a level equivalent to the athlete that they guide, but the exact amounts offered (in terms of monetary award and access to services), will depend on the level of support that is required (in terms of training and competition access) by the individual athlete.

**What are the different levels on the plan?**

We place all athletes into one of five levels on the WCPP – from A down to E (B only for relays). You will be allocated to a level by the WCPP Selection Panel who will be guided by the “Selection Criteria” (Section 2 of the Selection Policy). In general, the higher the level you are on the WCPP the more services become available to you and the higher priority you have to access the services.

**What is an APA and what do the WCPP levels mean financially?**

The vast majority of spend on WCPP athletes is indirect through:

1. Employed coaches.
2. Provision of world class training facilities.
3. Medical services including doctors, physiotherapy and soft tissue therapy services.
4. Comprehensive medical insurance.
5. Sports science support services.

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6. Championships teams including holding camps.  
Athletes also receive direct payments, known as an Athlete Performance Award (or APA). These payments are made so that athletes can spend less time working, and more time focussing on training. Athletes must complete a UK Sport Application form to access their APA. Their APA is paid directly to them by UK Sport and will be means tested.

Further information and advice on APA’s means testing, benefit payments and mortgage/rental references can be found at: <http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/our-work/investing-in-sport/how-uk-sport-funding-works>. Alternatively, you can contact a member of the UK Sport Investment Team.

**When will I hear if I am funded for 2016/17?**

The WCPP Selection Panel meets on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and we aim to publish a list of selected athletes on the British Athletics web site ([www.britishathletics.org.uk](http://www.britishathletics.org.uk)) within one working week. Successful athletes will be contacted via email and post prior to the announcement on the website. Those athletes exited from the WCPP will also be contacted in person prior to the announcement.

**Can I appeal against WCPP selection decisions?**

There is an appeals process, primarily for athletes already on the WCPP – see Section 7 of the Selection Policy for details – and you can only challenge the facts that we used to make our decisions, or question whether we properly followed the process described in the Selection Policy. It is not possible, or realistic, for us to consider appeals against the opinions of the Head Coach, his team or the Selection Panel.