

**2018-19 Paralympic WCP Selection Policy – Athletes’
Frequently Asked Questions**



**BRITISH
ATHLETICS**

What is the World Class Programme?

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

How many athletes will you support?

The numbers of athletes we can support via the WCP is limited by our funding agreement with UK Sport. These numbers were set at the beginning of the Tokyo cycle, and are reflective of the number of athletes that UK Sport believes we need to support 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 WCP, and what will happen if you get injured or have a temporary drop in form. We also want to be clear how former WCP 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.

How do I get on the WCP for the first time?

There are six main steps:

1. You have to be eligible to compete for GB&NI / ParalympicsGB at both the World Para Athletics (WPA) World Championships and the Paralympic Games, and you have to be eligible to do so in the eyes of WPA. 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 (and not having special dispensation to receive financial support), and not having brought British Athletics into disrepute.
2. You must have at least an IPC 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 WCP 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.

2018-19 Paralympic WCP Selection Policy – Athletes’ Frequently Asked Questions

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 a combination of performances from the 2017 WPA World Championships and/or the 2018 European Championships AS WELL AS the 2018 WPA world rankings. For Podium Potential, WPA world rankings are the prime consideration.
5. The WCP is not about rewarding past success (though this helps us to predict the future), so for every level, you also have to satisfy us that you will possess all the necessary characteristics to win global individual medals in the future. Athletes who satisfy the basic criteria for consideration will be sent a questionnaire in advance of selection to help gain more information about them before the selection meeting takes place.
6. Finally, you will need to be prepared to sign the UK Athletics WCP Athlete Agreement for each period when you’ll be a member of the WCP.

I’m already on the WCP, 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 WPA World Championships and the Paralympic Games, and you have to be eligible to do so in the eyes of the WPA.
2. Have at least an IPC 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. Crucially, you will also need to have met all your individual performance targets and conditions for 2017/18 as well convincing us of your ongoing global medal potential. If you did, and you meet the other conditions above, you’ll be kept on the WCP. If you didn’t meet all your individual performance targets and conditions, or, via your performances and progression in 2018 fail to sufficiently demonstrate ongoing global medal potential, then you may be removed from the WCP. If you failed to deliver your best performances in 2018 due to injury/illness, we don’t guarantee you will keep your place on the WCP. 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 WCP 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 Para-athletics are increasing year on year, you will need to demonstrate that you have progressed since you were removed from the WCP 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.

What about the relays?

All single classification group relays (i.e. T11-13 4x100m or T35-38 4x100m) were removed from the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games medal event programme. A single mixed gender, mixed classification relay has subsequently been introduced for Tokyo but due to the spread across visually impaired, coordination impairment and amputee groups, the athletes involved will only ever be taken from those already selected for individual events. As such, no relay specific membership will be offered for at least the remainder of the Tokyo cycle.

What data will you use to make these decisions?

We primarily focus on data from two places, the WPA 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 all major global championships results of combined field events (i.e. those featuring multiple classes) will not be determined by a point score system. Therefore all combined class events (whether they are track or field) will be determined by performance alone.

What is a What it Takes to Win (WITTW) model?

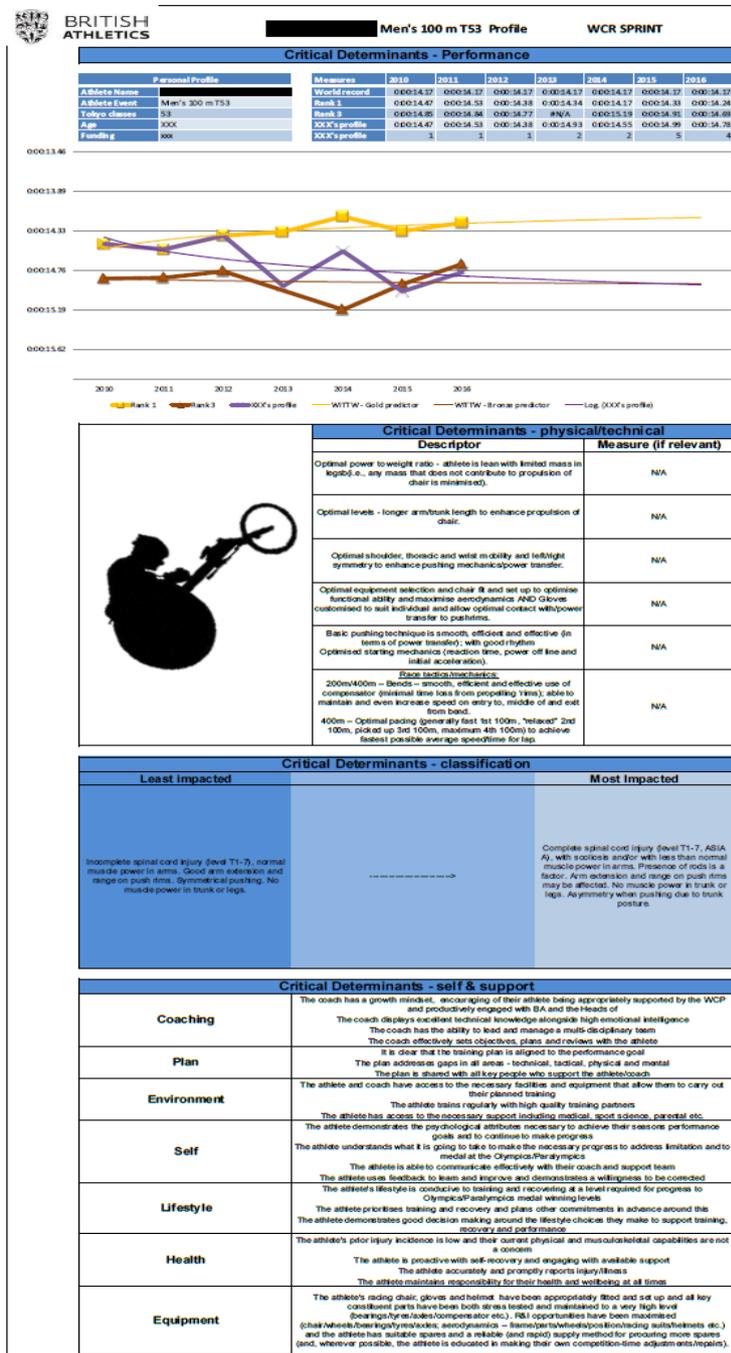
2018-19 Paralympic WCP Selection Policy – Athletes’ Frequently Asked Questions

This is simply a description of what the best in the world looks like. UKA have developed an excel dashboard that displays all of this information for each event group and this will be used as the framework for assessing athlete medal winning capacity (and therefore their place on the WCP).

It features performance data which aims to project the future direction of the event (i.e. is it getting harder or easier). It also outlines the key physical/technical characteristics of medal winning athletes, alongside descriptions of the more subjective areas of global medal winners (such as behaviours, coaching quality, environment etc.).

This system is undoubtedly a competitive advantage over other nations and as such we do not intend to publish this document publicly but the model will be used as part of the athlete review process, with athletes and their coaches taken through each of the key areas in person. Any relevant information from the WITTW model will be provided to any appealing athlete should it be required.

A screenshot of the WITTW model is provided below.



**2018-19 Paralympic WCP Selection Policy – Athletes’
Frequently Asked Questions**

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 WCP in 2018/19.

What if I need a guide runner?

British Athletics recognises 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 WCP will therefore also be offered support via the WCP provided they guided the athlete in question when they achieved the performance(s) that qualified them for membership of the WCP. 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 WCP – from A down to E. You will be allocated to a level by the WCP 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 WCP 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 WCP levels mean financially?

The vast majority of spend on WCP 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.
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 a member of the WCP for 2018/19?

The WCP Selection Panel meets on the 31st October 2018 and we aim to publish a list of selected athletes on the British Athletics web site (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 WCP will also be contacted in person prior to the announcement.

Can I appeal against WCP selection decisions?

There is an appeals process, primarily for athletes already on the WCP – see Section 7 of the Selection Policy for details.