

2019 WPA Marathon Championships
28th April 2019
London, UK

Selection Policy – published February 2019

Overview

This selection policy has been created in line with British Athletics' strategic aim of winning medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and beyond. The policy has therefore been structured to select a team with the following aims:

- Medal success at the 2019 WPA Marathon Championships; and
- Provide opportunities for developing athletes with the potential for future medal success at senior World Championships or Paralympic Games.

Although the World Para Athletics ("WPA") Championships will be held in Dubai, UAE in November 2019, WPA have decided to move the marathon events away from the main World Championships as it better suits the race schedules of the leading marathon racers. The 2019 WPA World Championships Marathon events will instead take place at the London Marathon on 28 April 2019. All medals awarded at this time will count towards the final World Championships medal standings. British Athletics will therefore select a team to take part in London ahead of the main selection for the WPA Championships in November 2019.

All questions related to the selection policy should be directed to Team Leader, Paula Dunn (pdunn@britishathletics.org.uk).

SECTION 1: SELECTION PROCESS

Eligibility

1.1 To be considered for selection, athletes must satisfy each of the following:

- a. Be eligible to compete for GB&NI (i.e. full British passport holder);
- b. Hold an active World Para Athletics License, valid for the 2019 calendar year;
- c. By 13th February 2019 hold either a World Para Athletics ("WPA") "Review", "Fixed Review" or "Confirmed" Classification, or a British Athletics National Classification in an eligible class (as listed in the WPA Tokyo Paralympic Medal Event Programme);
- d. For athletes who possess a WPA or British Athletics National classification, any such classification must also be underpinned by a Relevant Diagnosis (as defined in paragraph 1.2 below) which is to the satisfaction of the British Athletics Chief Medical Officer ("the CMO") in accordance with paragraph 1.2. For the avoidance of doubt, these requirements apply to all athletes seeking selection under this Selection Policy, including those with a physical, visual or intellectual impairment;
- e. Be 18 years or older as at 31st December 2019;

- f. Have achieved at least one Minimum Entry Standard (“MES”) performance (see Appendix A of this Selection Policy) in an event featured on the Para Athletics 2020 Tokyo Medal Event Programme (see [WPA Website](#) for the full Para Athletics Tokyo 2020 Medal Event Programme), in accordance with paragraphs 2.1 to 2.16 below; and
- g. Sign the British Athletics Team Members’ Agreement (“TMA”) and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so prior to the first date of competition will result in their selection being withdrawn. The current version of the TMA can be found online at <https://www.uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/> .

Relevant Diagnosis

- 1.2 The CMO must be satisfied of any medical diagnosis that underpins an athlete's classification (such a diagnosis being a "Relevant Diagnosis") and must be satisfied that the impairment diagnosed causes permanent and verifiable physical, visual or intellectual activity limitation consistent with the athlete's classification. The following provisions shall apply in connection with the CMO's assessment of a Relevant Diagnosis:
- a. it shall be the responsibility of the athlete to obtain and provide documentary evidence of a Relevant Diagnosis so as to show to the CMO's satisfaction that the impairment causes permanent and verifiable physical, visual or intellectual activity limitation consistent with the athlete's classification;
 - b. the athlete shall comply with all reasonable requests of the CMO for further evidence of the Relevant Diagnosis, and the costs of obtaining such evidence shall be met by British Athletics; and
 - c. all documentary evidence submitted in support of a Relevant Diagnosis must be in English, dated and signed by a registered medical professional who provided the diagnosis.

Selection Meeting

- 1.3 The team will be selected on **Thursday 14th February 2019**.
- 1.4 The team will be announced on **Thursday 14th February 2019**.
- 1.5 The Selection Panel (“the Panel”) for the meeting shall comprise:
- a. Voting members;
 - i. British Athletics’ Paralympic Head Coach;
 - ii. Event group representatives as nominated by the Head Coach.
 - b. Non-voting members:
 - i. British Athletics' Paralympic Performance Programme Manager (who will chair the meeting);
 - ii. At least one independent observer;
 - iii. Athlete Commission Member;
 - iv. British Athletics’ Chief Medical Officer (“the CMO”) or medical representative, as nominated by the CMO;

- v. Media representative; and
- vi. Note-takers etc. as required.

1.6 The Panel will select a maximum of 15 athletes in rounds 1, 2 and 3 (outlined in paragraphs 1.7 to 1.9), subject to the conditions outlined in paragraphs 2.2 – 2.7.

1.7 Round 1 – top ranked

Eligible athletes who are ranked in the top three (3) of individual 2018 WPA World Rankings at 09:00 (GMT) on Wednesday 13th February 2019 and have achieved a MES in the same event will be automatically selected for that same event, provided they have demonstrated current form and fitness during the 2019 calendar year. The following exceptions apply:

- a. Athletes competing in "weak" events (i.e. events in which the 2018 WPA World Rankings contain less than eight (8) athletes or there are less than three (3) countries represented in those Rankings), will NOT be automatically selected. They will instead be considered in round 2 (paragraph 1.8);
- b. If the total number of selectable athletes in round 1 exceeds the maximum of 15, the factors listed in paragraph 1.9.c. will be used to determine which athletes are selected.

1.8 Round 2 – all remaining eligible individual athletes:

- a. Athletes will only be selected for individual events in this round if:
 - i. they have achieved at least one "MES" performance in the same event, and the event is featured on the Para Athletics Tokyo 2020 Medal Event Programme; and
 - ii. they have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Panel, current form and fitness which suggests they have realistic potential to finish in the top eight (8) at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games AND go on to win a medal at future senior WPA Championships or Paralympic Games.
- b. All athletes who have achieved an MES will be discussed. Athletes will be discussed in order of the 2018 WPA World ranking but, for the avoidance of doubt, selections will not necessarily be made in order of rankings.
- c. Athletes will be selected based on the following (and any other factors deemed relevant):
 - i. Number of times MES has been achieved;
 - ii. 2018 WPA World Ranking;
 - iii. Current form;
 - iv. Performances in non-WPA approved competitions (results submitted to Powerof10);
 - v. Record at previous major championships;
 - vi. Performance-limiting injury or illness;
 - vii. The relative strength of an event/class at previous Paralympic Games and World Championships;
 - viii. Athlete head-to-heads; and
 - ix. Tokyo 2020 potential, including likelihood of an athletes' primary event featuring in the Para Athletics Tokyo 2020 Medal Event Programme (available online at the [WPA website](#)).

1.9 Round 3 – direct invitations:

- a. In exceptional circumstances, where previous World or Paralympic medallist/s who have demonstrated current form and fitness, have not, in the view of the Panel, had the opportunity to achieve an MES, the Panel may decide at the selection meeting to submit a formal request to WPA for a direct invitation.
- b. WPA has the discretion to directly invite athletes whether on the basis of requests by British Athletics or on its own initiative.
- c. If direct invitations are issued by WPA, these will be considered by the Panel on a case by case basis (which may be on a pre-emptive basis at the selection meeting or at a further meeting, pursuant to paragraph 1.9.e below).
- d. Direct invitations will only be eligible for acceptance if:
 - i. the athlete concerned has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Panel, current form and fitness which suggests they have realistic potential to finish in the top eight (8) at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games AND go on to win a medal at future WPA Championships or Paralympic Games; and
 - ii. the maximum number of GB & NI athletes for the same event (as detailed in paragraph 1.6) has not already been reached.
- e. Whether any direct invitations are accepted is at the sole discretion of the Panel. The Panel may reach a determination at the selection meeting on 14th February 2019 in respect of those athletes it submits a formal request for or any athletes it considers might receive a direct invitation from WPA on its own initiative. Alternatively, the Panel may convene a further meeting (which may be by telephone conference) in order to determine whether to accept any direct invitations issued.
- f. If the total number of selectable athletes in rounds 1, 2 and 3 exceeds the maximum of 15, the factors listed in paragraph 1.8.c. will be used to prioritise which athletes are selected.

Note: The criteria outlined above, in round 2 (paragraph 1.8.c.) are not listed in priority order.

- 1.10 The 2019 WPA Marathon Championships Event Programme will be confirmed following close of entries on 22nd February 2019. If the structure of any events change, for example, classes are combined or events become non-viable, the selection panel will reconsider any athletes originally selected in these events. Athletes may be deselected if they are no longer eligible or if the Panel considers (in re-applying the provisions of paragraphs 1.7 to 1.9 above) that they do not meet the selection criteria for the new event.
- 1.11 Selection to the GB & NI team for the WPA Marathon Championships will have no impact on selection status for the remaining events at the WPA Championships held in November 2019.

SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Minimum Entry Standards (MES)

- 2.1 A maximum of six (6) eligible athletes may be entered per individual medal event (single class) provided all have achieved at least one (1) valid MES.

Performance conditions relating to MES performances

- 2.2 MES must be achieved in a WPA recognised marathon event (see [WPA website](#) for a full list of domestic and overseas WPA approved events) between 00:00 (GMT) 1st January 2017 and 24:00 (GMT) 13th February 2019.
- 2.1 Domestic, non-disabled competitions are not automatically endorsed or recognised by WPA for the purposes of achieving MES performances. Athletes may request WPA endorsement (via British Athletics) for specific domestic non-disabled competitions in accordance with paragraph 2.6 below provided the request satisfies the following:
- The competition is an integrated event – i.e. either disability events take place in the same competition as non-disabled events OR a disabled athlete competes in a non-disabled event directly against non-disabled athletes; and
 - The competition for which endorsement is being sought is a UKA Permit Level 2 or higher competition (for further details on UKA competition permits, please check www.britishathletics.org.uk).
- 2.2 Athletes wishing to request WPA endorsement of a domestic, non-disabled, event must send requests to Jan Richards at jrichards@britishathletics.org.uk, at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the competition. The final decision as to whether such an event is endorsed shall be at the discretion of WPA.
- 2.3 In order for qualifying performances to be recognised by WPA, athletes must hold a 2019 WPA License at the commencement of the competition in which the performance was achieved. Athletes without a valid WPA license must submit new requests for a license at least one (1) week prior to the commencement of that competition. All requests must be submitted to Jan Richards at jrichards@britishathletics.org.uk
- 2.4 Performances achieved in mixed events between male and female participants, held completely in a stadium, shall not normally be accepted. Exceptions to this rule may be made for field events or races of 5,000m or longer provided the stipulations outlined in WPA rule 3.2.5 (including notes) are satisfied. For the avoidance of doubt, where any mixed gender race is conducted so as to allow athletes of one gender to be paced/drafted/assisted by athletes of another gender, the results will not be permissible for qualification/selection purposes. Whether or not a mixed gender race has been conducted in such a way will be determined at the absolute discretion of the Panel.

World ranking conditions relating to selection

- 2.5 For events in which more than one class is eligible (such as T11/T12 Marathon), the combined WPA Ranking (based on unadjusted times/distances) will always be used for the purposes of the selection process.
- 2.6 WPA World Rankings will be taken at 09:00 (BST) on 14th February 2019. If the WPA World Rankings are known by the Head Coach to be inaccurate (i.e. missing performances) at this point, British Athletics will manually input any missing results from the data set obtained from WPA.

SECTION 3: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Appeals

- 3.1 Athletes may appeal their non-selection, but only after the relevant final selection date in accordance with the procedure laid out in the “British Athletics Selection Appeals Policy” (“the Fast Appeals Process”, located on the UKA website). Athletes wishing to seek advice regarding the appeals process (including the validity of any procedure itself) are advised to contact the UK Athletics Athletes’ Commission at www.uka.org.uk/governance/uk-athletics-athletes-commission/.
- 3.2 For the avoidance of doubt, in the event of a successful appeal pursuant to the Fast Appeals Process, the following consequences may apply:
- a. the Appeal Panel may confirm the selection of the appellant athlete under clause 8.1 of the Fast Appeals Process and athlete(s) previously selected may be deselected at the Appeal Panel’s insistence;
 - b. the Appeal Panel may remit the matter back to the Selection Panel under clause 8.3 of the Fast Appeals Process and a new decision will be made in accordance with this Policy, which may (if the appellant athlete is subsequently selected) result in the deselection of athlete(s) previously selected at the first selection meeting; or
 - c. (subject to there being sufficient available places on the team) in the event that the Appeal Panel confirms the selection of the appellant athlete under clause 8.1 of the Fast Appeals Process or the Selection Panel concludes that the appellant athlete should be selected after reconsidering the matter pursuant to clause 8.3 of the Fast Appeals Process, the appellant athlete may be added to the team with no deselections taking place.

Amendment

- 3.3 British Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.uka.org.uk.

Appendix A: WPA Event List and Minimum Entry Standards (“MES”)

MENS

#	Event	Eligible Classes	MES	Tokyo Event?
1	Men's T12 Marathon	T11, T12	3:00:00	Yes
2	Men's T46 Marathon	T45, T46	3:00:00	Yes
3	Men's T54 Marathon	T52, T53, T54	1:35:00	Yes

WOMENS

#	Event	Eligible Classes	MES	Tokyo Event?
1	Women's T12 Marathon	T11, T12	3:35:00	Yes
2	Women's T54 Marathon	T52, T53, T54	1:58:00	Yes

Equality Impact Assessment

Section A

Date of screening	04/02/2019
Name of person and job title of the person screening	Amanda Evans Paralympic Performance Programme Manager
What is being screened?	2019 WPA Marathon Championships Selection Policy

	Yes/No
Is this a policy or procedure document?	Yes
Is this a policy being taken to the Board?	Yes
Is this a document that provides guidance for employees?	No

If the answer to any of these is yes, please go to Section B. If the answer is no, you do not require to complete an EQIA.

Section B

Yes/No

Does the decision or policy impact disproportionately on gender and does the policy resolve this? (This can include pregnancy/maternity and marriage/civil partnerships?)	No
Does the decision or policy impact disproportionately on different age groups?	No
Does the decision or policy impact disproportionately on people from different ethnic groups?	No
Does the decision or policy impact disproportionately on people with a disability or disabilities?	No
Does the decision or policy impact disproportionately on people from different religions, faiths or beliefs?	No
Does the decision or policy impact disproportionately on people from different sexual orientations?	No
Does the decision or policy impact disproportionately on transgendered people?	No

Does this decision or policy potentially affect the health and safety of the employees or other parties?	No
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Any other changes to the policy required?	No
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