

2020 IPC Paralympic Games
25th August – 6th September 2020
Tokyo, Japan

Frequently Asked Questions

This document is intended to help readers understand the British Athletics Selection Policy for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The IPC Athletics qualification criterion is complex, resulting in a number of potential different scenarios which we have to address up-front to ensure consistency and fairness.

Below are some frequently asked questions which will help you to understand the Selection Policy.

Q – Do British Athletics or the British Paralympic Association select the team?

A – British Athletics select athletes for nomination to the British Paralympic Association (BPA). The BPA will not generally seek to alter or challenge these selections (they are only likely to do so if there is an issue with eligibility – such as nationality etc.). Following nomination, the BPA will formally select athletes to ParalympicsGB.

Q – How can I guarantee Selection?

A – In one of two ways. You must have at least one (1) entry standard and then either:

- Be a reigning 2019 World Para Athletics Championships gold or silver medallist; **OR**
- Be ranked in the top three (3) of the WPA MES Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games – Eligibility Rankings¹ at 09:00 (BST) on 20 July 2020, **provided at least 1 of your best 5 performances was achieved in 2020.**

Q – What if I don't gain automatic selection via the World Rankings?

A – You may still be selected, but this is at the discretion of the Selection Panel. Athletes will only be selected if the Panel believe they can win medals in Tokyo, or at future Paralympic Games.

Q – My event isn't on the Tokyo Medal Event Programme – can I still be selected?

A – No, you can only be selected if your event(s) will take place in Tokyo.

Q – My event doesn't appear to be listed at all – can I be selected?

A – No. Not every event is offered for every class.

Q – Do I have to achieve a Minimum Entry Standard (“MES”)?

A – Yes – you cannot be selected without achieving one in the event in which you want to be selected. The MES are outlined in Appendix 1.

¹ Note: The WPA MES Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games – Eligibility Rankings (located at <http://www.paralympic.org/athletics/results/rankings>) lists all those athletes who have achieved an MES performance during the qualification period. For the avoidance of doubt, this is not to be confused with the 2020 WPA World Rankings, which only shows performances from the 2020 calendar year.



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Q – At what competitions can I achieve MES?

A – MES performances must be achieved at competitions approved by World Para Athletics (WPA). A full list of these competitions can be found online at the WPA website (<http://www.paralympic.org/Calendar>).

Q – I compete in a combined class event – how will this be taken into account during selection?

A – The Selection Panel will consider all the classes that are eligible for your event. So, for example, if you were a T42 100m sprinter, you would be compared against T63 athletes qualified for the 100m – as these will be who you will be competing against at the Games.

Q – How is the relay team selected?

A – The Selection Panel will only select a relay team for the universal relay if they think it is possible to win a medal. If they believe this to be true, athletes will be selected to a relay team based on a number of factors, including their individual and relay performances to date, head-to-heads, injury status and, crucially, the relevant classification combinations required for the relay.

Q – I haven't been classified by World Para Athletics yet, can I be selected?

A – No – you must have at least an IPC Athletics Fixed Term Review classification (or full confirmed classification) to be eligible for selection. You can no longer be classified at the Paralympics – this is a change to previous Games and is also different to the World Championships.

Q – Why do you insist on medical information about my classification, prior to selection?

A – This is to make sure that your classification is correct and that we are selecting you for the right event. It also ensures that we will be able to properly defend your classification if it were to be challenged at the Games.

Q – Do I need to have an IPC Athletics license to be selected?

A – Yes. You need to have a valid 2020 license. Contact Jan Richards at British Athletics if you need further information (jrichards@britishathletics.org.uk).

Q – I pick up an injury after selection – can I be de-selected?

A – Possibly. British Athletics' Chief Medical Officer (CMO) will assess the nature of the injury to decide if it will impact on your performance at the Games. If this is unclear, you may be asked to do a fitness test. If you fail this test (or refuse to undertake it) you may then be de-selected and replaced by another athlete. If the injury becomes apparent after the ParalympicsGB team has been entered then this process will take place in conjunction with the BPA CMO as well.

Q – Can I appeal my non-selection?

A – Yes. As usual, there is a fast appeals process – the full details of which are available on the British Athletics website.



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