

# Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, 25<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021, Tokyo, Japan Selection Policy

## 1. POLICY PURPOSE

- 1.1. This selection policy outlines the process to nominate a team to the British Paralympic Association (BPA) also known as ParalympicsGB (PGB) to represent Great Britain at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.
- 1.2. The policy has been developed during and in response to a pandemic that has presented some significant challenges for the Para-Swimming community in providing both preparation and competition opportunities. This has forced and necessitated a move away from our

usual Paralympic Games selection process so as to ensure that the policy remains effective in relation to clause 2.1 and is as fair as possible for athletes to achieve a nomination to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Selection Policy published on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 is void.

1.3. Amendments to this policy are possible given the changing situation and impact of the pandemic. The Leadership Team (LT) may make reasonable amendments to this selection policy. Any amendments will be highlighted and include dates of any changes.

## **2. TEAM SIZE**

2.1. The athlete swimming team size is

subject to a maximum number of male and female athlete slots allocated to PGB by World Para Swimming (WPS). Athlete slots are gender specific. The total team size will be determined by the National Performance Director (NPD) at his complete discretion but cannot exceed the maximum number of athlete slots allocated by WPS.

### **3. NOMINATION**

3.1 Athletes will be nominated to PGB for selection endorsement in the following stage priority order:

#### **3.2 Stage 1**

Athletes with a 'Confirmed' classification or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 who achieved an

individual gold or silver medal winning performance at the WPS London 2019 World Championships will be nominated to PGB by BPS. Athletes must meet and maintain all aspects of the athlete eligibility criteria (G1- G4 below) at all times. Athlete slots will remain open for athletes in Stage 1 until the end of the classification eligibility period should an athlete undergo an International Federation (IF) protest after selection.

### 3.3. Stage 2

Athletes who do not currently meet the current WPS regulations on classification eligibility, outlined in G2, who achieved an individual gold or silver medal at the WPS London 2019 World Championships will be

nominated to PGB once their classification is confirmed or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 is issued. If an athlete's classification changes from the individual event in which they achieved a gold or silver medal at the WPS London 2019 World Championships they will not be nominated in Stage 2, however they will be reviewed again under the processes outlined in Stages 3, 4 and 5 below where applicable. Slots will remain open for athletes being considered in Stage 2 until the end of the classification eligibility period. Athletes must meet and maintain all other aspects of the athlete eligibility criteria (G1-G4 below) at all times.

### 3.4. Stage 3

Further athlete nominations shall be made to PGB from performances at the 2021 BPS International Meet (BPSIM), 8 - 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and/or the 2021 WPS Open European Championships, Funchal, Portugal (OEC), 16 - 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021.

3.4.1 British athletes equaling or bettering the published Qualification Time (QT) in a final from either BPSIM or Funchal 2021 OEC will be nominated if 2 spaces are not already filled per classification and event after taking into account athletes already selected/nominated in Stage 1 and Stage 2. If the male or female athlete slots have been reached,

athletes from that gender will be ranked by % inside the QT for nomination.

3.4.2 If any athlete slots are remaining after Stage 3 the selection process will then progress to Stage 4.

### 3.5. Stage 4

Subject to Stage 1, 2 and 3, additional nominations may be made to PGB in the following priority order:

3.5.1 Relay athletes will be nominated by the <sup>1</sup>Selection Panel from

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#### <sup>1</sup>Selection Panel

##### Voting members

- BPS NPD/Team Leader, Chris Furber;
- BPS Head Coach, Rob Aubry;
- BPS World Class Programmes Manager, Sarah Stewart-Hunter

##### Non-voting members

- Independent Member (who shall be the Chairperson of the Panel), Phil Smith
- Independent Observer, Piers Martin (Stages 2-5 only)
- Performance Statistician & Observer, Matt Milligan (Stages 2-5 only)
- Note taker, Emily Crossland

*Note: The role of the independent observer is to provide confidence to the athletes about the fairness and objectivity of the process. The independent observer must be familiar with high performance para sport. Their role is to act as an observer – scrutinising the process, holding the Selection Panel accountable to the Selection Policy and its criteria and ensuring that the principles of fairness and acting without bias are upheld.*

*The independent observer must have no current or previous relationship (personal or financial) with British Swimming, British Para-Swimming, the athlete, or the athlete support personnel which could reasonable be perceived as a bias.*

performances within the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to the completion of Funchal 2021 OEC, providing that the athletes combined four (4) times and classification points meet the QT for that relay and providing they have met the minimum qualifying times (MQS) in at least one (1) individual event. Where the athlete male or female slots have been reached, combined relay times will be ranked by % inside the QT.

3.5.2 Athletes may be nominated on a discretionary basis subject to the male and female slots remaining by using the following criteria, which is not in priority order and is not exhaustive. The application of discretion does not require all of the

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criteria to be considered and is subject to sufficient places remaining for the event (three (3) per nation). This is at the complete discretion of the NPD, below are some of the considerations:

- Athletes achieving the published QT during a heat or swim-off.
- Athletes achieving the published QT who are ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> after Stages 1, 2 and 3 after taking into consideration the Head Coaches discretion on additional events for athletes in Stage 1 and 2 (see point 5 below).
- Emerging performances for individual or relay events that are in line with the event trajectory.
- Additional relay team members may be nominated by the Head

Coach at the complete discretion of the NPD providing they have met the MQS in at least one (1) individual event where individual event places are remaining three (3) per nation.

- World Class Podium or Podium Potential athletes experiencing exceptional circumstances where their performance(s) have been impacted at the BPSIM and/or Funchal 2021 OEC event(s) and who have achieved the QT within the period of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to the completion of Funchal 2021 OEC.
- Athletes subject to a classification change in 2021 who remain competitive in another classification.

### 3.6. Stage 5

Subject to PGB policy, further nominations to those made under Stage 1 to 4 above, may be possible following the PGB opt in/out process (yet to be determined).

3.6.1 Should any individual or relay selected/nominated athlete withdraw from the games in the opt in/out process due to COVID-19, become deselected, or be withdrawn due to illness or injury, athletes considered but not selected within Stage four (4) may be reconsidered for selection to fill the gaps in individual or relay events where there are sufficient places remaining for the event (three (3))

per nation).

3.7. A selection meeting will take place to consider Stage 1 nominations on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Upon completion of Stages 2, 3 and 4 a selection meeting will be held no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. A Stage 5 selection meeting will be held in the event that further nominations may be made.

## **4. TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

4.1. The athlete team will be announced no later 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 and this will be strictly embargoed until the formal team announcement (date TBC).

## **5. ADDITIONAL EVENT ENTRIES**

5.1 Athletes wishing to be considered

for additional events must meet the below criteria:

5.1.1 The athlete will have already been nominated for the team in either an individual or relay event as detailed above.

5.1.2 The athlete will have achieved the WPS Minimum Entry Time (MET) for that additional event within the official WPS Qualification Period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

5.1.3 Where a relay team has not qualified in its own right relay teams may be entered from the available athletes who have already been selected for the team in an individual or other relay event. Final relay team selection is at the complete discretion of the Head

Coach.

- 5.1.4 All additional swims are dependent on place availability (three (3) entries per nation for individual events, and one (1) entry per nation for relay events), for that event and classification and total team athlete places available.
- 5.1.5 An athlete, in collaboration with their home programme coach, may apply to be entered into an additional event(s) in writing on the official form that must be received by the Head Coach no later than 9:00am on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 for Stage 1 and Stage 2 athletes, and within two (2) weeks post selection (date TBC) for Stages 3, 4 and 5 nominated athletes. The final decision on entries for additional

events is at the complete discretion of the Head Coach. This decision is not capable of being appealed and is not subject to the British Swimming Team Selection Appeals Procedure.

## **SELECTION POLICY GENERAL CONDITIONS**

### **Athlete Eligibility**

G1 Be a British passport holder and eligible to represent Great Britain as per the WPS/IPC Rules. PGB will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria as set by BPS, PGB and WPS/IPC) and their decision shall be final.

G2 Meet the current WPS regulations on eligibility:

- \*Hold an active WPS Athlete License for the 2021 season;
- Have achieved a MQS at a WPS Recognised 50m Competition (WPS Competition, WPS Sanctioned Competition or WPS Approved Competition) for the respective event between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021;
- Have achieved a MQS in accordance with the Athlete Licensing Programme Policies valid for the 2018-2021 seasons;
- Be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021;
- Be internationally classified before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021; and



- Have competed in at least one (1) of the following competitions between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and the end of the last 2021 WPS World Series event (i.e. before the end of June 2021):
  - any WPS World Series event,
  - any WPS World Championships,
  - any WPS Regional or Regional Open Championships.

*\*BPS will license all British Paralympic Games long list athletes in January 2021.*

G3Be registered to a swimming club that is affiliated to Swim England, Swim Wales or Scottish Swimming.

G4Have an agreed training plan in place and adhere to their Individual Athlete Planning (IAP) Process (World Class

Programme athletes) at all times from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to completion of the Games, or Process Goals (non programme athletes) from the point of nomination and the conclusion of the games. These shall be agreed between the athlete, the Head Coach, the Home Programme Liaison (HPL), and the athlete's home programme coach. A series of physiological tests using physiological data may be used to monitor trainability. Athletes failing to maintain trainability, adherence to IAP or Performance Goals may result in non-nomination or deselection.

## **Times**

G5 Split times will not be considered.

G6 Performances from time trials will not be considered with the exception of

BPS team relay practices post selection for final relay team consideration.

## **Team Commitments**

G7 All nominated team members will be required to sign and comply with the PGB Team Member's Agreement, WPS requirements, Rules and Regulations, British Swimming provisions consisting of the British Swimming Anti-Doping Rules and Protocols, Athlete Agreement and Code of Conduct, the British Swimming Disciplinary Code and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies.

G8 With the exception of injury or illness team members will be expected to attend (where selected) all pre

competition training camps, individual training opportunities, competitions, relay team practices, team events and team meetings designated by the Head Coach and NPD. Activities not relevant to the event such as personal appearances, external media engagements or social activities will not be permitted without prior agreement.

G9 All athletes identified in Stage 1 and 2 who are unable to train in their club programme due to a COVID-19 lockdown will be expected to train from a designated BPS or Home Nation Elite/Designated Training Centre from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 until departure to the Games unless they are in formal onsite education or are classed as being medically

vulnerable.

## **Withdrawals**

G10 Where the opt in/out process or an athlete withdraws due to illness/injury and this affects a relay qualification and there are no combinations meeting the points eligibility criteria and the QT, team members may be deselected unless they have qualified under Stages 1 – 5 in an individual event.

G11 Athletes identified in Stages 1 and 2 (as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021) or Stages 3, 4 and 5 (post selection) becoming unfit due to illness (physical or mental) or injury at any time until the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 must notify the BPS Chief Medical Officer (CMO) immediately. Failure to do so may

result in non-nomination or de-selection.

G12 Athletes becoming unfit due to illness or injury will be required to undertake a full medical examination which may result in the athlete not being nominated or de-selected from the team, normally at the discretion of the NPD. In exceptional circumstances, the BPS CMO may refer this to the PGB CMO for a further opinion and back to the BPS Selection Panel for a decision if, in the opinion of the BPS CMO or his designate, they pose a risk to themselves, other athletes or team staff. If this comes after the point of selection this process will be completed in conjunction with PGB.

G13 Athletes selected in Stage 1 or

identified for Stage 2 who have not regained fitness and achieved performance markers set out in their IAP or Process Goals following a period of absence from training due to COVID-19 or other circumstance may result in the athlete not being nominated, their nomination being delayed until the next Stage, or being de-selected from the team.

G14 Any team member who withdraws themselves from the team, with the exception of a withdrawal on medical grounds or as a result of G12 and G13, following selection may be liable to BPS and PGB for the reimbursement of any costs incurred on behalf of that team member such as flights, accommodation and equipment associated with the

## Games.

G15 Athletes will be withdrawn from all additional events entered if any event(s) in which they have been selected for are withdrawn by WPS, unless they meet the selection criteria for an event in another classification as set out in G16.

G16 In the case where an event is withdrawn by WPS after 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 (the day prior to the teams' departure, which is subject to change) and becomes combined with another classification event, a maximum of five (5) athletes may be entered per nation. In this case, the fastest five (5) athletes from all eligible classes (maximum three (3) per classification) shall be entered subject to each athlete meeting the criteria outlined in



2.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 5. In the event that the next placed athlete(s) has no other eligible event in the competition the athlete will be de-selected.

## **Staff Nomination**

G17 PGB will allocate BPS a limited number of team staff accreditations for Coaches and Support Staff.

G18 Staff nomination will be at the complete discretion of the NPD. The coaching team will be nominated at the complete discretion of the Head Coach.

G19 Any long list team staff member becoming unfit due to illness (physical or mental) or injury at any time between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021, where it compromises

their capacity to fulfil their role responsibilities at the Games or Games preparation events, is positively obliged to declare this information to PGB via the BPS CMO. This is to ensure that there are no additional risks to the team members health and safety, and to ensure that we have a fully functioning staffing team to support the health and safety of the team.

G20 All nominated staff members will be required to complete the UKAD accredited advisor course prior to team assembly.

G21 All nominated staff members will be required to complete the BPA Introduction to Classification online course by the required deadline.

## Other

G22 The NPD will exercise his authority to ensure that the final nomination to PGB is in line with this selection policy.

## Appeals

G23 In the case of an athlete nomination not being accepted by the PGB, BPS may, at its sole discretion, choose to appeal using the PGB appeals procedures. PGB will not accept appeals directly from individual athletes.

G24 All appeals against non-nomination (or de-selection) in relation to selection policies except for 5.1.5 above shall be dealt with under the British Swimming Team Selection Appeals Procedure. Details are



available from the British Swimming Legal Affairs Department: [legal@swimming.org](mailto:legal@swimming.org), the British Swimming website or by clicking the [link](#) in this document. Athletes should be aware of the time limits detailed within the appeals policy, which are designed with the intention of resolving issues expeditiously and fairly.

*If you have any questions relating to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Selection*



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