

BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING PARA POWERLIFTING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION SELECTION

2024 MANDATORY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

COMPETITION: Dubai 2024 World Cup

DATES: 28th February – 6th March 2024 (not inclusive of travel and pre/post competition stay)

LOCATION: Dubai, UAE

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OVERVIEW

This selection policy has been created in line with British Weight Lifting's (BWL) UK Sport funded mission of sending British Para Powerlifters to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games with the potential of winning 1-3 medals.

This policy will support a talented, in-form team who are engaged with the performance pathway, who have the performance potential to achieve, improve or defend a top 8 Paralympic qualification ranking throughout the remaining qualification period ahead of the Games.

This event is part of the mandatory qualification pathway for the Paralympic games and therefore as a result, BWL will select a team that reflects what is articulated above. Athletes who are not engaged at a minimum level with the performance pathway will not be eligible for selection. The below policy will outline the eligibility requirements and selection criteria for all potential team members.

The maximum team size for this event is 10 athletes. BWL do not have to select the maximum team size.

BWL reserve the right to amend this policy at any time.

Any updates or changes to this policy will be published online at <http://britishweightlifting.org/>. Any queries can be sent to tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org

1. GREAT BRITAIN ELIGIBILITY

This section outlines the eligibility requirements that an athlete needs to satisfy in order to be considered for selection.

- 1.1. Be a citizen of the United Kingdom and hold a valid British passport,
- 1.2. Be a current member of British Weight Lifting (BWL), in good standing and not in dispute with BWL and/or its affiliated bodies or partners,
- 1.3. Compliant with BWL's Anti-Doping Controls and Procedures
 - 1.3.1. Not under or serving any sanction relating to anti-doping infringements
- 1.4. Athletes must satisfy IPC eligibility rules and be able to obtain or hold an IPC License for each summer season ahead of the Paris Games,
- 1.5. Have gone through and been successful at National Classification assessment and/or International Classification assessment with either confidence in being successful at assessment or having achieved a 'confirmed' or 'review' sport status with respect to the latter,
- 1.6. Be a member of the World Class Program (WCP) or have been invited to engage with the BWL Performance Pathway and met the following engagement requirements over the last 6 months;
 - 1.6.1. Shared training programs and annual performance goals
 - 1.6.2. Provided or engaged with detailed training programs and training logs
 - 1.6.3. Can share planned learning objectives and plans for the event in question
 - 1.6.4. Shared training footage once per week, sent to an identified member of the BWL WCP coaching team which includes barbell pressing movements or exercises specifically requested.
 - 1.6.5. Train in Loughborough a minimum of once every three months with WCP coaching staff
- 1.7. Have performed in either BWL WCP performance testing organised by the BWL WCP or have competed in an approved BWL or World Para Powerlifting competition by British Weight Lifting 01/08/2023 and the 15/12/2023.
 - 1.7.1. Have met the BWL Minimum Qualifying Standard (MQS) at either of these events at a bodyweight agreed prior to the qualification event.
 - 1.7.1.1. Achieving the BWL Minimum Qualifying Standard does not mean an athlete will be selected. Please read section 4 regarding selection below.
- 1.8. WCP members must have identified this event as a necessary consideration within their Individual Athlete Plan (IAP) prior to selection.
- 1.9. Athletes must send an expression of interest via email to Tom Whittaker tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org no later than **15/12/2023** and include a **proposed bodyweight category, performance target and rationale aligned with this selection policy.**

* BWL, at their discretion will consider reasons and evidence for not competing, testing or demonstrating performance capabilities within the necessary time frame, not satisfying the BWL MQS, having minimal performance data to consider or not satisfying other eligibility criteria completely. Reasons and evidence must be submitted to Tom Whittaker by email prior to the date of selection.

2. DISPUTES

Any claim, action, suit, arbitration, proceeding, investigation, complaint or prosecution to which the Athlete is a party or materially involved details of which it appears necessary (in BWL's sole discretion) to make available to the Selection Panel.

For example only (and without limitation to BWL's discretion) if an athlete is under investigation for and/or charged with conduct which:

- A) (if convicted) amounts to criminality for which a custodial sentence may be given and/or criminality which harms or places in danger other individuals; or
- B) would bring or brings BWL and/or the sport into serious disrepute;

then details of this kind of Dispute may be notified to the Selection Panel if BWL believes it will ensure factors such as (and without limitation) fairness, safety of any other individuals participating in or attending the Event (or training and preparing for the Event) and/or the reputation of: BWL, the sport and/or the Event.

3. GREAT BRITAIN MINIMUM QUALIFYING TOTALS

SENIOR AND NEXT GEN MEN

Weight Class	49	54	59	65	72	80	88	97	107	107+
Senior MQS (KG)	133	140	150	162	169	174	182	189	197	204

SENIOR AND NEXT GEN WOMEN

Weight Class	41	45	50	55	61	67	73	79	86	86+
Senior MQS (KG)	71	79	87	90	92	94	96	99	102	103

Please note that minimum standards enable eligibility only and don't guarantee selection.

4. SELECTION

In order to be considered to represent Great Britain, athletes must first satisfy eligibility requirements in section 1.

4.1. Selection Process Overview

The selection panel will convene to select athletes on the **18/12/2023** aligned with WPPO entry rules and regulations and this selection policy. Selection is provisional until any appeals have been resolved.

All athletes who have satisfied the eligibility criteria will be considered for selection. WCP members must have identified this event as a necessary consideration within their Individual Athlete Plan (IAP) prior to selection to be considered.

The qualification period in which the MQS must be achieved is from **01/08/2023** to the **15/12/2023**.

The period throughout which performance trajectory may be assessed is from the **01/09/2022** to the **15/12/2023**.

Further conditions for any selected athlete may be set prior to the event as part of confirmation of fitness and maintenance of selection procedures. Any conditions will be agreed in writing and will be assessed at an agreed time or times. Failure to meet them may result in de-selection from the team. Refer to section 6 for information regarding deselection.

An athlete is within their rights to appeal any de-selection between selection and departure for the event.

BWL, at their discretion, reserve the right to select an athlete who has not met all the necessary eligibility criteria or selection requirements should it directly or indirectly support the Paris Paralympic Games objective of winning 1-3 medals or growth and sustainability of the performance pathway.

If returning from injury or illness, the injury or illness should have been communicated and supported with medical documentation throughout its impact on preparation (from on set to date of selection). Communications regarding any injury or illness should be sent to Tom Whittaker at tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org. Any athlete in this situation should have provided training plans, shared learning objectives and evidenced training capabilities that suggest a return to pre-injury/illness form prior to selection.

4.2. Athlete Selection

From the eligible cohort that this policy determines, the highest top 8 ranked GBR athlete within in the top 8 qualification rankings based on 1 athlete per nation at the time of selection will be selected subject to team size limits.

Where team size limits are tested, athletes with top 8 qualification rankings will be considered first starting with those ranked 1-3rd in the qualification rankings followed by those ranked 4-6th and then 7-8th based on 1 athlete per nation. Athletes who are eligible but not ranked in the top 8 (based on 1 athlete per nation) will be considered afterwards and fill any remaining places.

Where there are multiple GBR athletes in the qualification ranking list for a given weight class and one or both have an alternative weight class, the athlete(s) will be assigned to a class and removed from any other they are ranked in based on the class they are most likely to compete in at the Paralympic games. This means any GBR athlete starting selection below another GBR athlete and/or outside the top 8 based on the description above may shuffle up and be considered top 8 in a revised rankings list and therefore automatically selected.

Where multiple GBR athletes reside in one weight class only or two athletes both sit in their primary/most competitive games time weight class, both can be considered for selection however the lowest ranked GBR athlete will be considered alongside those ranked outside the top 8.

The development trajectory of any eligible athlete ranked 8th or below at the time of selection needs to be positive in order to be selected. See section 'Development Trajectory' for an explanation as to how it is worked out and how it is applied when team size limits are tested.

Where the limit on team size is tested, decisions will be made on which athlete(s) are selected based on the criteria below.

The selection panel will consider the following criteria in order to separate athletes when there is an excess number of eligible individuals:

4.2.1. **Athletes ranked 1-3rd:** Is the athlete ranked 1-3rd in the qualification rankings?

4.2.1.1. Athlete with current top 3 ranking will be selected first. The higher ranked athlete gets selected first.

4.2.2. **Athletes ranked 4th- 8th and below:** Is the athlete ranked 4th or below in the qualification rankings? Does the athlete have a development trajectory using competition data that suggests a top 8 qualification ranking could be **achieved**, **improved** or **defended** at this event or by the end of qualification for the games?

4.2.2.1. Starting with multiple top 8 athletes, the athlete on track based on development trajectory to secure the highest top

- 8 ranking at this event will be selected first using qualification rankings at the time of selection.
- 4.2.2.1.2. Athletes who are trying to defend a top 8 ranking at this event will be selected ahead of athletes who are trying to achieve a top 8 ranking for the first time or re-establish a top 8 ranking at this event using qualification rankings at the time of selection.
- 4.2.2.1.3. Athletes who are outside the top 8 qualification rankings will be selected ahead of other athletes ranked outside the top 8 using development trajectory. Those who are on track to achieve a top 8 qualification ranking at this event using current top 8 standards will be selected over athletes on track to qualify later in the qualification period based on anticipated (predicted) top 8 qualification standards.
- 4.2.2.1.4. If multiple athletes remain eligible and team size permits further selection, the athlete on track to qualify by the end of the cycle using anticipated (predicted) top 8 qualification standards will be selected first.

Development Trajectory

The development trajectory for an athlete will be calculated using the **first** performance testing or competition event the athlete competed in during the qualification period and the **last** performance testing or competition event participated in within the qualification period (qualification period is 01/09/2022 to the 15/12/2023). The change in kilos lifted will be divided by the number of whole months (4 x 7-day weeks) between the athletes first event within the qualification period and the last event they competed in within the qualification period for this event in Dubai.

That rate of progress will be multiplied by the number of whole months between their last performance within the qualification period for this event and the end of qualification for the Paralympic Games.

The panel will consider likely performance standard at the time of this event and by the end of qualification using this trajectory.

Anticipated Top 8 Qualification Standards

See Appendix A for the anticipated top 8 standard reference. This will be used in conjunction with current Paralympic Games Ranking standards at the time of selection.

All athletes will receive verbal confirmation of the decisions made. A selection agreement and code of conduct shall follow by email to selected athletes which they

must sign and return to confirm selection and their understanding of the grounds on which selection is confirmed and continued selection is maintained (see sections 5, 6, 7).

All athletes should be aware that self-funding is not permitted.

3.3 Selection Panel

The selection panel will be made up of the following individuals:

- Member of the BWL High Performance Committee (selection panel Chair)
- BWL Paralympic Performance Director
- WCP Lead Performance Coach

All conflicts of interest will be declared and in the event of a conflict, the chair of the selection panel will declare that individual unable to vote, but they may contribute to selection discussions.

- 4.2.2.2. Where there is a tied vote the Chair of the selection panel has the authority to make the final decision.

BWL's UK Sport Performance Advisor may attend the selection meeting in a non-voting capacity to support the application of this selection policy.

A representative of the British Athletes Commission may also be in attendance in a non-voting capacity to support the application of this selection policy.

5. TIMELINE OF CRITICAL EVENTS

Publication of selection policy on the **week beginning the 04/12/2023**,

Expressions of interest from athletes must be sent to Tom Whittaker tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org no later than **15/12/2023** and include

- a proposed bodyweight category,
- performance target and,
- rationale aligned with this selection policy

BWL qualification period ends on the **15/12/2023**

The selection panel will convene on the **18/12/2023**, to provisionally select eligible athletes based on this selection policy,

By the end of the day on the **18/12/2023**, athletes will be notified by telephone as to whether they have been provisionally selected pending any appeals. All selected athletes will receive a selection agreement and code of conduct outlining the conditions of their selection which will need to be returned to Tom Whittaker at tom.whittaker@britishweightlifting.org by **01/01/2024**.

- All non-selected athletes have the right to appeal.

The appeal period begins the day after athletes are informed about provisional selection decisions. The deadline for appeal submission is **01/01/2023 by 23:59:59** (all eligible athletes will be informed on the same day or next day where possible). A copy of the appeals policy can be downloaded from the BWL website here <https://britishweightlifting.org/performance/para-powerlifting-performance>

The **day after which all appeals must be submitted**, provisionally selected athletes will be informed if they could be affected by any of the appeal submissions,

Any update to this time line of critical events will be disclosed immediately to all considered athletes as specific dates are confirmed.

6. GREAT BRITAIN CONFIRMATION OF FITNESS

6.1. Pre-Selection

Prior to selection, any athlete who has satisfied eligibility requirements but has or there is any doubt surrounding their current performance potential, may, where deemed appropriate by the BWL Performance Director, be required to undergo physical testing to provide further information for consideration. Any performance or medical review would be performed by a member of the BWL WCP performance team and/or a doctor identified by the WCP. The performance review test will be the bench press exercise to WPPO competition rules.

Any decision not to consider an athlete on grounds of ill health or injury having satisfied eligibility requirements will be confirmed in writing to the athlete after verbal communication by BWL. Athletes are entitled to appeal these decisions; see section 8 for more information.

6.2. Post Selection

At the request of BWL, all selected athletes may undergo or have requested of them, reasonable physical testing to ensure performance levels at the time of selection are at least maintained.

BWL is entitled to request any reasonable method to determine a level of good health and performance capability, which may include but is not limited to; a review by a medical Doctor, musculo-skeletal assessment and/or body weight/composition assessment.

7. GREAT BRITAIN DE-SELECTION

Prior to departure, BWL retains the right to de-select any athlete under circumstances such as;

- 7.1. Illness, injury or not fit to travel abroad and compete at the level they qualified at
- 7.2. Non-compliance with post selection fitness testing or requests to prove/establish good health
- 7.3. Any doping infringement incompatible with BWL Anti-Doping policies and procedures
- 7.4. Not complying with an agreed schedule of engagement
- 7.5. Non-disclosure of training related information that may contribute to the development of competition strategy or whether the athlete is on track to perform as anticipated at the time of selection
- 7.6. Ongoing or newly developing disciplinary procedures or investigations into historical or current conduct
- 7.7. Any sanction applied to an individual such as an anti-doping rule violation

If de-selection occurs the athlete will be informed verbally and in writing to explain the rationale.

- 7.7.1.1. An athlete may appeal any decision to de-select by following BWL Appeals policy and procedures which can be found here <https://britishweightlifting.org/performance/para-powerlifting-performance>

8. GREAT BRITAIN OBLIGATIONS

Selected athletes will be required to;

- 8.1. Sign a selection letter and code of conduct which, upon signing confirms the athletes understanding of the grounds up on which selection is maintained and the standards of behaviour expected of them respectively.
- 8.2. Attend agreed team camps, training days or activities prior to the competition
 - 8.2.1.1. Training camp dates will be confirmed upon expression of interest being provided

- 8.3. Adhere to specified travel and accommodation arrangements organised by BWL
- 8.4. Compete in the bodyweight category they are selected in
- 8.5. Wear appropriate apparel as specified by BWL at all camps, events and the competition
- 8.6. Establish an agreed performance target with the BWL Paralympic Performance Director for this event
- 8.7. Inform the BWL Paralympic Performance Director immediately should their preparation be interrupted in any way after selection
- 8.8. Submit training and bodyweight information as requested by BWL
- 8.9. Should an athlete engage with social media, they should continually develop a social profile which reflects well on themselves and the sport domestically and internationally

9. GREAT BRITAIN APPEALS

Athletes have the right to appeal their non-selection or deselection in accordance with the BWL Appeals Policy. A copy can be obtained at the following link <https://britishweightlifting.org/performance/para-powerlifting-performance> . Appeals may only be made on the grounds that:

- There has been a failure by BWL to apply the applicable selection criteria: and/or
- There has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the applicable selection policy
- A decision was made based on error of fact
- A decision was biased

A Notice of Appeal must be submitted no later than **23:59:59 on the 01/01/2024**

The appeals panel shall convene within 3 working days of this notice of appeal deadline. In any event no later than **23:59:59 on the 04/01/2023**.

Appeal panel decision outcomes will be communicated by **23:59:59 on the 04/01/2024**,

Appendix A – Anticipatory top 8 Paralympic ranking standards

The following are informed estimates using current and historic end of cycle qualification standards.

These will be continually updated throughout qualification.

Women's

Class (up to kg)	Anticipated Top 8 Qualification Standard - Paris 2024 (kg)
41	95
45	97
50	98
55	100
61	105
67	112
73	114
79	116
86	125
86+	126

Men's

Class (up to kg)	Anticipated Top 8 Qualification Standard - Paris 2024 (kg)
49	150
54	162
59	167
65	190
72	195
80	198
88	202
97	215
107	217
107+	233