

**2017-18 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 fund 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 fund?

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 fund 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 funding), 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.

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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 performances at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games and 2017 WPA World Championships. 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 you then have to satisfy us that you will be in the right physical condition to repeat, and hopefully exceed, your performances in 2017/18 and future years.
6. Finally, you will need to be prepared to sign the UK Athletics WCP Athlete Agreement for each period when you’ll be receiving funding.

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. Satisfy us of your future fitness.
5. Be prepared to sign the required UK Athletics WCP Athlete Agreement.
6. Crucially, you will also need to have met all your individual performance targets and conditions for 2016/17 as well as satisfying the requirements outlined in the “Selection Criteria” (Section 2 of the Selection Policy) and “Retention Criteria” (Section 3 of the Selection Policy). 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 fail to satisfy the “Selection Criteria” for reasons such as injury, illness or pregnancy, then 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 relays have been removed from the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games medal event programme. As such, we will no longer offer WCP membership to relay athletes and will not invest in any relay specific programmes/activity.

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 the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games and 2017 WPA World Championships, results of combined field events 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.

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 2017/18.

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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 funding provided they guided the athlete in question when they achieved the performance 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 funded for 2017/18?

The WCP Selection Panel meets on the 1st November 2017 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.