

## **2020-2021 World Class Programme Selection and Retention Guidance**

The World Class Programme (“WCP”) is UK Sport’s National Lottery funded initiative to support the delivery of success at the world’s most significant sporting events. Specifically, during the Tokyo cycle, the aim of the WCP is to win **medals at the Olympic and Paralympic Games**.

This document refers to the 2020-2021 WCP Athlete Year, which is a period starting on 1 December 2020 and ending 30 November 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, consequential postponement of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as a limited competition season, selections for membership of the 2020-2021 WCP will be limited.

This document describes how athletes will be selected onto the 2020-2021 British Athletics Olympic and Paralympic WCP.

All decisions made in relation to this document are subject to final ratification from UK Sport.

1. All current and prospective World Class Programme (“WCP”) athletes must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 1 of the 2020 WCP Selection Policy for either Olympic or Paralympic Athletes. These policies are available [here](#).
2. Current WCP athletes will be expected, when requested, to engage in a 2020 WCP end of year review. Unless exceptional circumstances exist, current WCP athletes will be retained at their current level for the 2020-2021 WCP year.
3. Exceptional circumstances may include a current WCP athlete choosing to retire or opting out of WCP membership. In these instances, the athlete will be exited from the WCP and the transition period will be agreed on an individual basis.
4. In line with section 1.9 of the 2020-2021 WCP selection policies for Olympic and Paralympic athletes and subject to “spare” places being available, athletes will only be added to the WCP under exceptional circumstances. The 2020-2021 WCP selection policies are available [here](#).
5. In this unusual fifth year of the Tokyo Olympic & Paralympic cycle, if “spare” places are available, prospective athletes will be considered for addition to the WCP Podium Potential level as follows:
  - a. If, when assessed against What It Takes to Win (WITTW), the Panel believe they have realistic medal potential for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic or Paralympic Games, either as an individual or as a realistic 2020 relay strike-four runner;
  - b. If further places are available, prospective athletes who when assessed against the WITTW are considered to have realistic individual global medal potential for the 2024 Olympic or Paralympic Games may then be considered.
6. If no spare places are available, British Athletics will not consider any athletes for addition to the WCP.
7. In order to be considered, prospective athletes must meet the minimum requirements as detailed in Section 2: Performance Matrix of the respective 2020 WCP policies.
8. Retained athletes and athletes added to the WCP for 2020-2021 will also be required to complete an IAP for the new WCP year.
9. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this guidance shall affect any discretion the Performance Director or Paralympic Head Coach may have in future WCP years to retain an athlete whose membership would otherwise not be renewed.
10. The procedures for appeals relating to WCP decisions can be found in the 2020-2021 WCP selection policies. These policies are available [here](#).

11. As usual, all WCP athletes will be required to sign the WCP Acceptance Form for 2020-2021 and confirm their personal details with UK Sport. The terms and conditions of the Athlete Agreement, currently due to come to an end on 31 March 2021, will be extended until 30 November 2021.
12. British Athletics reserves the right to amend this guidance at its sole and absolute discretion and will make any amended version publicly available. An athlete's continuing membership of the WCP shall be deemed as continued acceptance of this guidance as amended from time to time.