

## 11. IWAS PARA FENCING EVENTS SELECTION

### 11.1 PARA FENCING SELECTION OVERVIEW

1. **Rationales** - Selections made for Satellites, World Cups and Zonal (European) and World Championships are guided by the following rationales:
  - a) Paris Qualification - ensure that the stated medal target in the Paris 2024 World Class Programme submission to UK Sport, 2-6 medals, has the greatest chance of success by ensuring those with proven and identifiable medal potential are given priority in the selection process.
  - b) Future Paralympic Qualification – promote the development of a pipeline of athletes capable of success in future Paralympic Games 2028 and beyond.
2. **Eligibility Criteria:** To be eligible for selection athletes must meet the eligibility criteria as set out in section 6.1.
3. **Discretionary Factors:** See section 6.2. In addition, an athlete that has qualified for selection for one discipline may be considered for discretionary selection in other disciplines.
4. **First Time Selection:** where athletes putting themselves forward to be selected for their first IWAS international, they will need to submit a nomination form completed by a L3 or above BF registered coach with expertise in international para-fencing, accompanied by their individual athlete development plan.
5. BF will manage the entry process.
6. BF will manage discretionary applications from athletes that fall outside of the minimum performance standards. Athletes are expected to have an up-to-date Individual Athlete Training Plan (overseen by a registered coach with para fencing expertise) and make this available to selectors on request.

### 11.2 IWAS SATELLITE AND WORLD CUPS

7. The number of competitive development opportunities for para-fencing both domestically and internationally are limited. As entries for IWAS Satellites and World Cups are currently not limited, they can play an important part in the development of pathway athletes. To be considered for selection to these events, it is vital that athletes can demonstrate that they are engaged in a domestic training and competition programme (overseen by a BF registered coach with para fencing expertise) that prepares them to be able to travel and compete at international level. This is to ensure that the competition experiences provide positive learning opportunities that form part of a balanced individual development programme which, over time, support performance improvements.

8. For international events, particularly those that are linked to Paralympic qualification, it is vital that any athlete travelling (along with their parents and personal coaches) are fully aware of the expectations that come with selection. All those travelling will be automatically bound by the BF Codes of Conducts.
9. Non-discretionary selections - athletes will be selected subject to
  - a) meeting the Eligibility Criteria (6.1)
  - b) being a minimum age of 18 years at the date of the event
  - c) meeting the Performance Standards below
10. Discretionary selections - for athletes competing in IWAS events for the first time may be limited to those events where BF staff are attending. These are likely to be the events taking place in Europe.
11. Team Events - If sufficient selected athletes notify BF (in accordance with published timescales) that they wish to form a team (any weapon, not necessarily those weapons they are fencing in the individual), the Selection Panel will consider selecting a team taking into consideration the personal development programmes of the individual athletes and overall weapon strategy.

#### **IWAS Satellites**

12. Individual performance standards:
  - a) National Championships – top 4 finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months, OR
  - b) IWAS Senior event - top 70% finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months

#### **IWAS World Cups**

13. Individual performance standards:
  - a) National Championships – top 4 finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months, OR
  - b) IWAS Senior event - top 60% finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months
14. Where National Championships are combined category events the performance standards will be interpreted so that the top 4 finishing Cat A and top 4 finishing Cat B and top 4 overall will all be considered to have met this standard.

### 11.3 EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

15. The Para Fencing Championships Selection Panel (PCSP), will be guided firstly by the Paris Qualification rationale.

It will ensure that WCP nominated athletes, in order of medal priority, are allocated selection places ahead of other athletes in the selection process, provided those athletes have met the required performance standard, are demonstrating the appropriate trajectories or meet the discretionary criteria as a result of illness or injury.

16. For clarity, where more athletes have achieved the qualification standard than there are qualifying places available (within the weapon and category) the **Prioritisation Order** will be as follows:

- a) WCP athletes with proven medal ability on track to medal in 2024
- b) WCP athletes on a medal trajectory for Paris
- c) Non-WCP athletes with a proven medal ability on track to medal in 2024
- d) WCP athletes on an upward performance trajectory for 2024 or 2028
- e) Non WCP pathway athletes

17. Where fewer athletes have qualified than qualification places available, the Para Fencing Championships Selection Panel reserve the right to fill the remaining places on a discretionary basis.

18. **Team events** - If two athletes meet the individual qualification standard for a discipline, selectors will consider entering a team.

#### 19. Available Individual Places per Discipline

- a) IWAS Senior European Championships – up to 6 Individual places
- b) IWAS World Championships – up to 4 Individual places

20. There is no requirement for the selectors to fill all available spaces.

21. **Qualification Standards:** Over the Paris Paralympic qualification cycle, athlete performances and trajectories will be monitored with the intention of putting in place additional alternative qualification standards, for example those based on an average percentage finish for Europeans and World Championships and qualification standards for teams.

#### 11.3.1 INDIVIDUAL EVENT QUALIFICATION STANDARD

22. The qualification standards for all European & World Championships are:

- a) Individual Medallist at the previous zonal or world championships, OR
- b) Last 8 individual result at a world cup in the last 12 months, OR

c) Current IWAS Senior Individual World ranking in the world top 20

23. Selection to fence in the individual events at European & World Championships will initially be made from those eligible athletes who have reached the necessary qualifying standard, subject to the provisions of the following Paragraphs.
24. **European Championships:** If more than four eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the European Championships, then four of those athletes will firstly be selected based on Prioritisation Order and secondly by IWAS ranking. The fifth and sixth athlete and any non-travelling reserve will be selected/proposed by the Selection Panel at their discretion.
25. **World Championships:** If more than two eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the European Championships, then two of those athletes will be selected firstly based on Prioritisation Order and secondly by IWAS ranking. The third and fourth athlete and any non-travelling reserve will be selected/proposed by the Selection Panel at their discretion.
26. If fewer athletes qualify than places available, and the decision is made not to select a team, the ADT and WCP reserve the right to propose additional individual athletes based on discretionary factors.