



**ENGLISH
INSTITUTE
OF SPORT**

Wheelchair Fencing

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Paralympic World Class Programme
Selection Policy and APA matrix
2023/2024

Introduction

The World Class Programme is UK Sport's National Lottery funded initiative to support delivery of sporting success on the world stage. This sporting success is specifically defined as winning Olympic or Paralympic medals.

The World Class Programme supports the attainment of this success in two ways.

- a) Direct Athlete investment: athletes deemed to have the potential to deliver medals at future Games will – subject to a maximum number of available athlete places - be offered membership of the WCP. This offer may be accompanied by an Athlete Performance Award (a means-tested grant from UK Sport) intended to support an athlete's living and training costs.

- b) WCP investment: the Wheelchair Fencing World Class Programme (WCP) is overseen by the English Institute of Sport (EIS) which provides overall strategic leadership to the WCP. The EIS will be offered finite resources by UK Sport, in line with targets, to enable it to provide the services and support necessary for the WCP members to realise their full medal winning potential (such as coaching, facilities, sports science/medicine and international/domestic camps/competitions).

Athletes will therefore only be supported by the WCP if they are deemed to have the potential to win or support the winning of medals at the Paris Paralympic Games in 2024. In exceptional circumstances an athlete may be supported if it is felt that their development in the Paris cycle can support future medal potential in the LA 2028 cycle.

The selection process and criteria outlined in this document has been designed to help the World Class Programme Selection Panel (WCPSP) determine which athletes demonstrate such potential, and therefore who should be offered WCP membership for 2023/24. The WCP may offer 8 athletes a place on the WCP for the 2023/24 athlete year (running from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024). This limit is set by UK Sport and cannot be exceeded.

Athletes are reminded that they are not obliged to accept WCP membership should it be offered. There may be reasons why an offer of WCP membership is not considered appropriate or desired by an athlete and/or their parents/support team. The WCP will undertake an induction process to those offered WCP membership, during which time athletes should consider whether the WCP expectations and environment - as communicated via the induction process – are something that they want to commit to.

Should any athlete decide this is not the case, their ability to be offered WCP membership in future years will not be affected, neither will their eligibility for international competitions (including the Paralympic Games).

By accepting membership of the programme and the associated APA funding, athletes are agreeing to the monitoring procedures and conditions outlined in this document.

<u>Section 1 – pages 3 - 5</u>	Selection Process	Describes the various stages of the selection process – both for current and potential new WCP members. Includes details of selection meetings, the Selection Panel and timelines for communications
<u>Section 2 – pages 5 - 10</u>	Selection Criteria	Outlines the critical Eligibility, Performance (including the Performance Matrix) and Membership criteria which athletes must meet in order to be offered a place on the WCP.
<u>Section 3 – pages 11 - 13</u>	Performance limiting injury/illness and pregnancy guidelines	Provides guidance to the Selection Panel in assessing current WCP members whose performance was affected by either performance limiting injury/illness (physical or mental) or pregnancy.
<u>Section 4 – pages 13 -14</u>	Feedback and Appeals	Describes how athletes can seek feedback and the circumstances in which (and how) they can submit an appeal.

Section 1 – Selection Process

Outlined in the table below is the process by which the WCPSP will recommend to UK Sport, athletes for investment through the WCP membership for 2023/24.

Athletes are advised to familiarise themselves with the entire process, and to contact the EIS, if they believe they should have been contacted by the EIS within any of the stated timelines.

Stage	Activity	Timeline
1. WCP Long List	A 'WCP long-list' of current WCP athletes AND potential new WCP athletes who satisfy the Eligibility and Selection Criteria (see Section 2) will be compiled by the WCP.	<i>Athletes notified by email that they are on the long list on Friday 10th March 2023</i>

2. Pre-selection meeting	The WCPSP (see later in this section for further details) will conduct a 'pre-selection meeting' to establish eligibility and to review the performances of WCP long-list athletes against the objective criteria outlined in the Performance Matrix. Following this process athletes may be invited to provide further information or attend a 1-2-1 where there is a chance that the WCPSP feels that more information is required to decide whether they may be: a) Promoted to a higher level of the WCP; b) Invited to join the WCP; c) Moved to a lower level of the WCP; or d) Transitioned off the WCP.	<i>The pre-selection meeting will take place on Thursday 9 March. 2023</i>
3. Selection meeting		<i>The WCPSP selection meeting will take place on Thursday 23 March 2023</i>
4. Athlete notification		<i>Athletes will be notified of the selection meeting outcome from Monday 27th March 2023</i>
5. Athlete Decision		<i>Athlete confirmation to the WCP</i>
6. Ratification by UK Sport		<i>Selections communicated to UK Sport from Monday 3rd April 2023</i>
7. Public Communication		<i>Public announcement made from Monday 3rd April 2023</i>

Please note that until the nominations have been ratified by UK Sport, the WCPSP reserves the right to review and amend its selections for nomination in light of any new information being made available to the WCPSP including, without limitation, the outcome of any appeal made under the appeals procedure described in the Appeals section of this Policy.

Ranking potential new WCP members:

Should the WCPSP, using the Selection Criteria outlined at Section 2 below, wish to offer WCP membership to more new athletes than there are places available they will then be required to 'rank' those new athletes so that they can determine who ultimately fills the limited places on the WCP.

The WCPSP will compare their assessments of each athlete against the Performance and Membership Criteria to determine which athletes they ultimately believe are **most likely to win and contribute to the winning of Paralympic medals at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games (Podium)**. Those athletes who are deemed to hold the greatest potential to achieve and support medal winning performances at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games will be ranked highest and offered WCP membership first.

In making this assessment, new athletes who are deemed to have a realistic medal potential for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games – regardless of whether they have been placed at Podium, Podium Potential or Confirmation levels – will be ‘ranked’ higher than those athletes who have a longer trajectory towards Los Angeles or beyond.

The WCP Selection Panel (WCPSP):

The WCPSP members are outlined below. Only those members with an asterisk will be present for the pre-selection meeting.

Matt Hammond – Performance Manager (vote – plus casting vote in the event of a deadlock) *

Peter Rome – Head Coach (vote)*

Glen Golding – Assistant Coach (vote)*

EIS SLT member Jamie Skiggs– (vote)*

Performance Management Board representative Tim Jones – (vote)*

Additional members (non-voting): Medical representative – (non-voting); Independent Observer /UK Sport– (non-voting); Note Taker – (non-voting)

Section 2 – Selection Criteria

Introduction

In order to be offered a place on the WCP for 2023/24 an athlete must satisfy the WCPSP that he/she possesses the potential to support the delivery or deliver medals for Great Britain at the Paris Paralympic Games in 2024 or benefit from support this cycle to achieve medal potential in LA in 2028. To do this, athletes must meet each of the applicable **Eligibility, Performance** and **Membership** criteria outlined below. However, potential new WCP and current WCP athletes will be treated slightly differently via this process:

If the WCPSP is satisfied that a potential new WCP athlete does not fulfil all three sets of criteria, such athlete will not be added to the WCP. Only in truly exceptional circumstances will the WCPSP consider inviting new athletes to join the WCP who do not satisfy either the Performance or the Membership criteria (athletes who do not satisfy the Eligibility criteria will not be invited to join the WCP under any circumstances).

Current WCP athletes will be given greater benefit of the doubt because they have satisfied the WCPSP of their suitability for WCP membership in at least one previous year. As such, current WCP athletes who do not satisfy either (i) the performance criteria (including, where relevant, maximum time limits at each programme level) or (ii) the Membership criteria outlined below, may be recommended by the WCPSP to be retained on the WCP if the WCPSP is satisfied that there exists additional rationale for proposing exceptional retention on the WCP, specifically:

- i. Injury/illness (see Section 3); or
- ii. In limited circumstances – and only in the opinion of the WCPSP – repeated bad luck, the impact of covid-19 and/or exceptional extenuating evidence that can justify a lack of performance evidence against the performance criteria.

Such recommendation of retention would be subject to the approval of and ratification by UK Sport and will usually be accompanied by athlete specific performance objectives.

Eligibility criteria:

Athletes must meet and continue to meet the requirements of the [UK Sport Eligibility Policy](#) and the following eligibility criteria for the entire period of their membership of the WCP. Any failure to meet this criteria will result in removal or suspension from the WCP.

Athletes will be considered eligible for selection to, or retention on, the WCP (and therefore the potential subsequent receipt of an Athlete Performance Award (APA)) if the athlete:

- a) is eligible to compete for ParalympicsGB at the Paralympic Games and satisfy the eligibility requirements of the national governing body for wheelchair fencing in the UK (NGB), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the British Paralympic Association (BPA) and International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS);
- b) is eligible to compete in an event classification which features on the medal event programme for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. Please note, for the purposes of this selection process, it is assumed that the medal event programme for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games and beyond will be the same as for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. As such, any assessment of eligibility and medal potential will be based on the classification and event structure as it was for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games until otherwise notified by the IPC;
- c) is internationally classified by IWAS with at least a Review sport-class status;
- d) can provide medical evidence (to the satisfaction of the WCP Chief Medical Officer (CMO)) that the athlete has one of the IPC's 10 Eligible Impairments for Paralympic Sport;
- e) holds a current British passport;
- f) is a member in good standing (i.e., not subject to any form of sanction, suspension, or ongoing disciplinary procedure) of the NGB;
- g) is not serving a ban from competition as a result of being found guilty of a doping violation;
- h) has not by act or omission, brought the EIS or NGB or UK Sport into disrepute; and
- i) will sign (or has already signed a valid version of) and will adhere to the obligations placed on him/her by the WCP Athlete Agreement with the NGB and EIS (a copy of which is available on request).

Performance Criteria:

The performance criteria which athletes must meet before being assessed against the Membership criteria (see paragraph below) is outlined below. The performance criteria are made up of the:

1. Performance Matrix.
2. Milestone Event Schedule; and
3. Performance Matrix – Conditions.

Athletes are advised to read all three elements of the performance criteria in order to understand the entire performance requirements that must be met before the athlete is assessed against the Membership criteria

1. Performance Matrix

Outlined in the tables below in paragraphs (a) and (b) is the Performance Matrix. This describes the OBJECTIVE criteria that athletes must meet to be **CONSIDERED** for retention on, or an offer to join, the WCP.

a) International Ranking Criteria - Selection Bands

The first part of the performance matrix highlights the international ranking selection bands, which provide one objective measure of competition performance. The banding is scaled against the various levels within the WCP from A to E with A + being the highest-level indicative of medal zone trajectory to the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.

WCP Level	International Ranking Criteria - Selection Bands
A+/A	World Top 1-8 Individual or World Top 1-4 team
B+/B	World Top 8-11 Individual or World Top 5-8 team
C	World Top 12-20 Individual
D	World Top 21 – 24 Individual
E	World Top 25-34 Individual

Note – In bands C to E the ranking must be in two weapons with the lowest ranking used to indicate current international ranking band position. The international ranking band criteria DO NOT indicate an APA level merely a medal trajectory position for the purposes of the selection document

b) WCP Performance Standards

The WCP performance standards detail what is required from athletes and links to the APA levels.

For APA levels A+ to B, the performance standards refer to performances at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games or a future Milestone Event, or ‘MSE’. This emphasises the value placed on the proven ability of athletes to deliver at a specified event in the annual calendar. The MSE will change each year according to the IWAS event calendar and as such the athlete should also consult the MSE schedule outlined below.

Where there is reference to “the current year” in the tables below, this shall mean the year from 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023.

Podium Programme – *(there is no maximum time limit at Podium, but athletes will be expected to repeat the level of performance that qualified them for membership at Podium at least once every 2 years (unless they are a Paralympic gold medallist, in which case they are permitted 3 years before qualifying)*

Level	APA	Performance Standard
A+	£28,000	Multiple gold medals at major events in the current Paralympic cycle e.g., Paralympic Games, Senior World Championships or nominated milestone event
A	£26,500	Gold medal achievement at a major event in the current Paralympic cycle e.g., Paralympic Games, Senior World Championships or nominated milestone event
B+	£23,000	Multiple silver or bronze medallist (individual or team) at major events in the current Paralympic cycle e.g., Paralympic Games, Senior World Championships or nominated milestone event
B	£21,500	Silver or Bronze medal achievement (individual or team) at a major event in the current Paralympic cycle e.g., Paralympic Games, Senior World Championships or nominated milestone event
B*	£19,000	Athletes will be considered for this level for up to 12 months only where circumstances have prevented them from retaining an A or B level APA but where they are still able to demonstrate a Paris medal trajectory

Podium Potential/Academy – (there is a maximum of 4 years at Podium Potential/Academy level before athletes must progress to Podium level)

Level	APA	Performance Standard
C	£16,000	At least three times, has achieved top 8 finishes in the individual or team positions (in the current year) from any of the following: MSE World Cups European Championships World Championships
D	£12,500	At least three times, has achieved top 16 finishes in the individual or team positions (in the current year) from any of the following: MSE World Cups European Championships World Championships

Confirmation – (there is a maximum of 2 years on confirmation level before athletes must progress to Podium Potential/Academy/Podium levels)

Level	APA	Performance Standard
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E	£7,500	At least once, has achieved top 16 individual finishes (in the current year) from any of the following: MSE World Cups European Championships World Championships plus Maintained a positive upward trajectory against the “what it takes to win” benchmarks set by EIS
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2. Milestone Event Schedule

The EIS believes in the importance of developing athletes that can deliver against a prioritised event, such as the Paralympic Games. Therefore, for those athletes aiming for inclusion in the higher levels of the WCP and Performance Matrix (i.e., Podium A and B) there is a priority event identified each year – the MSE.

The MSE may change each year, depending on the stage in the Paralympic cycle and the IWAS calendar, which may impact on which MSE is selected, but the following events have been identified at this time.

Year	Podium A	Podium B	Podium C
2021	Paralympic Games	Paralympic Games	Paralympic Games
2022	European Championships	European Championships	European Championships
2023	World Championships	World Championships	World Championships
2024	Paralympic Games	Paralympic Games	Paralympic Games

For athletes targeting membership at lower levels of the WCP there is a reduced focus on competition outcomes. This is partly because we expect athletes to develop an understanding of the performance requirements at top level while committing to a training programme that will lay down the underpinning technical and tactical skills as well as the physical and mental abilities to progress through the WCP. Therefore, a combination of competition results and process goals identified and agreed from each athlete’s individual development plan will be used for entry level athletes.

3. Performance Matrix – Conditions

Outlined below are the conditions associated with the performance criteria:

- a) Current WCP members may be considered for promotion to a higher level of the WCP only once they achieve the levels of Performance outlined for that higher level.
- b) Athletes may move up AND down levels on the Podium programme between levels A+ to B, but may only move up at all other levels of the WCP (i.e., Podium Potential/Academy

and Confirmation). Athletes at these levels will only be permitted to move down where the WCPSP chooses to exceptionally retain them as explained in the introduction to this section 2.

- c) Current WCP members are not required to satisfy the performance criteria for their WCP level (or above) in every year in order to be retained on the WCP – though doing so clearly strengthens an athletes’ case. The frequency with which athletes are expected to meet performance criteria in order to be retained at their current WCP level is outlined in the introduction to each level of the tables set out in paragraph 1(b) above.
- d) Current WCP athletes who continue to satisfy the performance criteria at their existing level but who do not progress to performances equivalent to a higher level within the timescales described in the tables set out in paragraph 1(b) above must rely on the WCPSP choosing to exceptionally retain them as described in the Introduction to this section. Any such decision will usually be accompanied by athlete-specific performance targets.
- e) Entry level athletes will only be considered for inclusion to the WCP if it can be demonstrated from current performance levels, primarily international competition results and international rankings, as indicated in the international ranking criteria selection bands, that they are in position to contribute to the WCP medal target at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games or can benefit from performance support this cycle to show medal potential in the LA 2028 cycle.

Membership Criteria:

Satisfying the performance criteria alone is not sufficient to determine an athlete’s future medal winning potential (and therefore their eligibility for a place on the WCP). It is vital that the WCPSP have the context behind the performances and to understand what may have contributed to either an over or under performance.

As such, any athlete who satisfies the performance criteria outlined above (or current WCP athletes who did not) will then be assessed against the questions outlined below so that the WCPSP may determine if they possess sufficient potential to win medals at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games or could benefit from the performance experience to show medal potential in the LA cycle and, as a result, be offered membership of the WCP for 2023/24:

The WCPSP must be satisfied that athletes wishing to be retained/invited to join the WCP:

- a) Possess a performance development profile – as measured through the What It Takes To Win model (WITTW) (a copy of which is available on request)– which, in the expert opinion of the WCPSP, indicates the potential to align to the physical, mental, technical and tactical attributes of Paralympic medal winning athletes; and
- b) will be sufficiently receptive and committed to the WCP for the WCP to be the best placed ‘resource’ to support the athlete’s performance development; and
- c) demonstrate that they can/will contribute positively to the performance environment of the WCP. Specifically, that their values/behaviours and the way they interact (or plan to interact) with the coaching and science/medicine teams combine effectively to drive their own (and not purposely negatively influence others’) development towards the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games or beyond.

It is important to note that selection for the WCP does not mean automatic selection to represent GB at any international event including the Paralympics and a separate selection policy will apply.

Section 3 - Performance limiting injury/illness/pregnancy guidelines

Injury/illness:

It is possible that an athlete admitted to the WCP will, at some point in their career, suffer a performance limiting injury or illness (either physical or mental). Throughout an athlete's membership of the WCP, rehabilitation from injury/illness will be managed by the WCP medical team (working with an athlete's own external practitioners where relevant), in conjunction with the WCP Performance Manager and Performance Support Lead. Provided an athlete makes every effort to adhere to their medical/return to training plan and follows medical advice and does not, nor fail to do, anything which may jeopardise their recovery/return to performance, their WCP membership (and associated APA) will continue at its current level - subject to a review each quarter by the WCPSP and UK Sport from the date the injury or illness commenced and/or until the WCP selection process outlined in section 1 begins at the end of each athlete year, whichever is earlier. The outcome of the reviews would be to continue at the current level or move to a transition period out of the WCP.

Consequently, athletes who are existing members of the WCP and who are affected by a significant performance limiting injury or illness in any given WCP athlete year will be afforded a certain amount of protection.

Assessing an injury/illness:

Athletes who are unable to satisfy the performance criteria for at least their current WCP level (or who do so but have failed to progress to a higher level within the timeframes outlined in the performance criteria) due to significant injury/illness in the current or previous year(s) may be retained by the WCPSP for the 2023/24 athlete year. In making this decision, the WCPSP will review the following:

- a) The prognosis of the athlete's injury/illness that was deemed to have been performance limiting in 2022/23 (and/or, where relevant, in previous years) and whether the athlete is considered likely to recover to full fitness for training and competition.
- b) The number, type and relationship of occurring injuries/illnesses deemed to have been performance limiting in 2022/2023 (and/or, where relevant, in previous years).
- c) The athlete's injury/illness history and whether the athlete has been retained in any previous year(s) due to a performance limiting injury/illness (related or otherwise to the current issue) – please note, an athlete's membership is less likely to be protected if they have a poor injury/illness record (and particularly if they have been also retained for a previous year on injury/illness grounds).
- d) The athlete's adherence to medical advice and agreed rehab/treatment programmes and their (and/or their own external support team's) willingness/proactivity to share details on injury/illness if choosing to work with non-WCP/EIS medical personnel.

Assessing the impact of injury/illness on future Paralympic medal potential:

Having reviewed the above, the WCPSP will then be tasked with assessing the impact of the athlete's time lost to injury/ill health on their ongoing medal potential at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.

Athletes, who failed to satisfy either the performance criteria or membership criteria above due to injury/illness, will be retained on the WCP UNLESS either of the following is determined by the WCPSP:

- a) the athlete's previous/current performance limiting injury/illness has so significantly impacted on their performance development that they are no longer realistically capable of winning Paralympic medals at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games; or
- b) the athlete's overall injury/illness history suggests that he/she is not robust enough to deliver Paralympic medal winning performances in the future.

Please note, in so doing, the WCP/EIS medical representative on the WCPSP (or athlete, in the case of appeal) may ask for independent medical advice regarding ongoing prognosis/robustness.

Injury/illness – conditions

The WCPSP will discuss Injury history/status with any affected athlete, and the athlete shall be afforded an opportunity to present information to support their case. Where an athlete is not retained following the WCPSP review, they will be eligible to access transitional medical support provided through the Athlete Medical Scheme (AMS) for pre-existing injuries/illnesses (see Section 4).

In retaining an athlete on the WCP who has not met the required performance criteria for his/her current APA level (or who has not progressed to a higher level within the timeframes set out in the performance criteria) due – either in full or in part – to a performance limiting injury/illness, the WCPSP may add return-to-fitness (relative to the specific injury or illness) performance conditions to that athlete's WCP membership that the athlete will be expected to meet in order to be retained for the whole athlete year, or in future years. These conditions may explicitly require an athlete to engage with appropriate science/medicine staff to support any ongoing medical or illness issues and engage in any testing/monitoring as reasonably required.

Athletes who are NOT currently a member of the WCP will not be afforded the same protections relating to performance limiting injury/illness as described above. Potential new WCP members who are offered WCP membership for 2023/24 will undergo a medical screening/profiling process during the initial confirmation stage. Should they have a current performance limiting injury/illness at the start of the athlete year, the prognosis of which is deemed likely to have an impact on the athlete's ability to progress on the WCP in 2023/24, the WCPSP reserve the right to withdraw their place on the WCP and the athlete would move to a transitional period out of the WCP.

Pregnancy:

Athletes in receipt of APA funding will remain eligible to access their full APA (subject to means testing) for the duration of their pregnancy at the APA level they were on at the time of becoming pregnant and for up to nine months post child birth. Continued access to an APA post child birth will be:

1. Dependent upon the athlete's intention to return to the sport and programme being discussed and confirmed no later than six months post child birth.
2. Subject to, at the point where the intention to return of the athlete is clear, the WCP will agree with the athlete a plan for a return to training and competition. If the level of commitment and/or progress against the plan is not evident, the athlete will be given notice and a period of transition (as per other athletes retiring from the sport).

3. Subject to an assessment by the WCPSP of future medal winning potential at nine months post childbirth.

Athletes announcing their retirement during their pregnancy or in the initial six months post child birth will not be eligible for a further period of notice before the APA terminates.

De-selection and Transition from the WCP

Should the WCPSP not select the athlete there will be a period of support to ensure a smooth transition during withdrawal from the programme. This will be determined by the length of time the athlete has been a member of the WCP and will be determined as follows.

- APA – maintained at the current level for one month for every year of WCP membership up to a maximum of 3-months
- AMS cover for up to 3-months once leaving the programme for existing medical claims and treatments
- Performance Lifestyle support for up to 12-months
- Counselling via a Heath Assured helpline for up to 2 years

The full package of transitional support will be detailed through the exit plan which is referred to in clause 7 of the Athlete Agreement.

Should the athlete leave the programme for disciplinary reasons or lack of engagement then the EIS in consultation with UK Sport have the discretion to revoke the transitional funding.

Where an athlete is changing levels following the WCPSP meeting, where there may be a reduction in APA funding, then a minimum of one-months' notice will be given.

Section 4 – Feedback and Appeals

Feedback:

Any athlete can request a meeting with one or more of the voting members of the WCPSP for feedback on decisions made at the Selection Meeting.

Athletes requesting feedback related to a WCP place will usually be offered to meet with one or both the Performance Manager and/or Head Coach. However, athletes can request to meet with any member of the WCPSP that they wish and subject to their availability, this will be accommodated.

Requesting a feedback meeting does not impact an athlete's ability – or the timelines - to submit an appeal (see below).

Appeals:

Current WCP athletes have the right to appeal selection decisions through the Wheelchair Fencing World Class Programme *Selection Appeals Procedure* (a copy of which is available on request). This is a two-stage process, consisting of an internal and, if required, external (via Sports Resolutions UK) appeals panel. To be successful, appellant athletes will be required to prove that:

- a) there has been a failure to follow the Selection Process and Procedures outlined above;

- b) the WCPSP, or any member involved in making the relevant selection decision, lacked the required independence and has shown actual bias when making the decision;
- c) the WCPSP reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact, or
- d) the decision is unreasonable and one that no reasonable decision maker could ever have reached. Please note, athletes are advised that this ground cannot be used simply because an athlete believes the WCPSP made the wrong choice. The decision would need to be so unreasonable that no reasonable person/panel (acting reasonably) could have made it. It would not be sufficient to prove that the decision was merely unreasonable.

If none of these grounds are met the appeal will be automatically dismissed. Athletes are therefore strongly advised to seek independent advice before deciding whether to submit an appeal. Such advice can be obtained for free via the British Athletes Commission (www.britishathletes.org).

Potential new WCP members – i.e., those athletes who were not members of the WCP in 2023-2024 who were not chosen for addition to the WCP in 2023-2024 – do not have the right to appeal but, as per the above, may request a meeting with any voting member of the WCPSP for further clarity.

POLICY REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed annually before selections take place for the new year. This is to ensure that it remains fair and efficient; takes account of any external rule or policy amendments; and includes any relevant feedback from the selectors, athletes, coaches and appeal panels.