

2024 PARIS PARALYMPIC GAMES NOMINATION POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 The objective of this policy is to confirm the process by which British Fencing (BF) will nominate fencers to the British Paralympic Association (BPA) to represent ParalympicsGB at the Paris Paralympic Games 2024 (hereafter referred to as “the Games”) to maximise the chances of medal success.

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- 1.1.2 Selection for the Games will be made by the British Paralympic Association (BPA) following the nomination by British Fencing (BF) in accordance with this policy. Nomination by the BF to the BPA does not guarantee selection for the Games. Only final approval of the nomination by the BPA confirms selection.
- 1.1.3 Notwithstanding anything written in this policy, BF reserves the right to amend the policy in the light of changed circumstances. All changes to the policy will be communicated to the athletes as soon as reasonably possible.
- 1.1.4 For the avoidance of doubt BF and the BPA is not responsible for the scheduling of major events and qualification tournaments. This is the responsibility of the IWAS, now called World Ability Sport, but to be referred to as IWAS for the purposes of this document.
- 1.1.5 The dates in this document are based on the published 2023-24 qualification schedule which is subject to change.

2. GOVERNANCE

- 2.1.1 The BF Board delegates the implementation and execution of the policy including any related processes, procedures, and structure to the CEO.
- 2.1.2 In turn, the CEO delegates the responsibility to the Athlete Development Programme (ADP) to administrate the policy.
- 2.1.3 The ADP in turn delegates elements of responsibility to UK Sports Institute (previously known as The English Institute of Sport) ("UKSI") Wheelchair Fencing World Class Programme (WCP) as outlined in this policy.
- 2.1.4 The ADP
 - a) is responsible for putting in place the structures, processes, and procedures in accordance with this policy.
 - b) is responsible for ensuring that all athletes being put forward for consideration by the Paralympic Nomination Panel (as described in section 4 below) are eligible under the policy.
 - c) will assign an individual within the ADP to work with the WCP to create an agreed list of athletes to be put forward to the Paralympic Nomination Panel in accordance with this Policy.
- 2.1.5 The WCP
 - a) is responsible for ensuring that any WCP athletes being put forward for consideration by the Paralympic Nomination Panel are eligible under the policy.

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- b) will assign an individual within the WCP to work with the ADP to create an agreed list of athletes to be put forward to the Paralympic Nomination Panel in accordance with this Policy.
- c) Is responsible for setting medal targets (agreed with the United Kingdom Sport Council (“UK Sport”)) and collating the supporting performance data for review by the Paralympic Nomination Panel to confirm which athletes are best placed to meet such medal targets.

2.1.6 This policy is reviewed by the BPA and agreed with the UKSI WCP prior to being approved by the BF Board and published on the BF website. Any changes to this policy will be approved by the BF Board and agreed with the BPA and UKSI WCP.

2.1.7 BF reserve the right to undertake regular periodic reviews of this policy to ensure that it takes account of any external rule or policy amendment (including but not limited to government, IWAS, IPC) ; and to consider including any relevant feedback (including but not limited to BPA). There is an increased likelihood of such periodic review leading to amendment in circumstances where:

- a) A pandemic and measures to control it by Governments/IWAS and/or BF; or
- b) Changes to qualification events as a result of changes and/or uncertainty around IWAS/International Paralympic Committee (IPC) participation rules;

may affect events and competition opportunities and/or athletes’ participation in them.

2.1.8 The BF Board reserves the right to make changes to this policy in exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to those circumstances covered in 2.1.7

3. ELIGIBILITY

Athletes are eligible for consideration for nomination to the Paralympic Nomination Panel provided they:

- are a British citizen with a valid British passport valid for at least six months after the Games
- are a member of British Fencing (BF)
- are internationally classified under IWAS/IPC rules and regulations for wheelchair fencing (which in turn have been adopted by BF) and satisfy all classification criteria of the BPA
- be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date after 31 December 2024
- have competed in at least three (3) international sanctioned IWAS Wheelchair Fencing competitions between 1 October 2022 until 31 May 2024

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- have achieved the qualification criteria set by IPC/IWAS. Further details of the most current version of the IWAS Qualification Process for the Games can be found at:
 - <https://worldabilitysport.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2022-07-17-Qualification-Information-for-Wheelchair-Fencing-PARIS-2024.pdf>
 - https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/2023_06_19%20Paris%20QR_v1.5.6.pdf IPC website:
<https://www.paralympic.org/paris-2024/qualification-regulations>
- have completed anti-doping education and not be serving a ban or suspension from competition as a result of being found guilty of a doping offence or other breach of ethical conduct, nor be in receipt of a lifetime funding ban from UK Sport
- not already be serving a suspension or be ineligible from participating in their sport for any reason including (without limitation) having a conviction for a serious offence relating to betting, manipulation of results or corrupt conduct
- confirm intention to agree and adhere to the BPA Team Member Agreement (subject to the athlete's nomination being ratified by the BPA) have signed up to and adhered to the BF Code of Conducts
- have satisfied all eligibility criteria under the IWAS rules including national eligibility and minimum age as may be adopted by the IWAS from time to time
- satisfy all general eligibility criteria as contained within the 2023-24 British Fencing GBR Selection Policy
- satisfy any other eligibility criteria as may be imposed by BF, BPA and IPC from time to time.

4. PARALYMPIC NOMINATION PANEL (PNP)

BF will appoint a Paris Paralympic Games Nomination Panel (PNP) to deal with all nominations, non-nominations and de-nomination/de-selection issues.

The PNP should be constituted and run according to Appendix A & B.

The PNP is responsible for nominating individual athletes and teams (including any in the event of the de-selection of a nominated athlete or athletes) after scrutinising the information provided by the ADP and WCP in accordance with the nomination process, including any proposed use of discretionary places (individual and team).

The members of the PNP will be appointed by the BF Board and will be published on the BF website in advance of the nomination meeting.

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The PNP will be made up of a minimum of:

	How many	Do they vote?*	Example
Chair	1	Y	BF Pathways Director
WCP Performance Rep	1	Y	WCP Performance Manager
WCP Performance Rep	1	Y	WCP Performance Coach
ADP Para Rep	1	Y	BF nominated Weapon Leads/Rep
WCP Head Coach	1	Y	
UKSI Sport Science & Medicine Rep	1	N	WCP doctor or medical lead
BPA Observer	1	N	
Independent BF Board Observer	1	N	
Data Analyst & Note taker	1-2	N	
*Stand-In	1-2	N	

*Any person with a close relationship with any eligible athlete or their coach or any person with a conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise) that is considered by the BF Board to be unmanageable will not be eligible to be a voting member of the panel or an independent observer.

For the avoidance of doubt there will not be deemed to be a close relationship or conflict of interest among WCP coach/support staff and the WCP athletes simply by virtue of the operating structure of the WCP or ADP including the coach/athlete structures that inevitably exist when referring to voting rights

Substitutes can be co-opted by the Chair to act in a voting capacity should this situation arise. A WCP Performance Rep may be substituted by another member of the WCP or a member of the WCP Performance management board.

The PNP may request information from Team/Performance Managers or Coaches but all such information must be presented to the PNP in writing.

Decisions of the PNP will be subject to the BF Appeals Policy and Procedures. The BF Conflict of Interest Policy will apply.

5. PARALYMPIC GAMES NOMINATION

5.1 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Qualification Regulations for 2024 (“the Qualifying Regulations”) has been published and can be found on the IPC website - here <https://www.paralympic.org/paris-2024/qualification-regulations>, specifically https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/2023_06_19%20Paris%20QR_v1.5.6.pdf. Wheelchair Fencing can be found at section 27 pp131 - 135.

5.1.2 In accordance with the Qualification Regulations:

- a) “An NPC can enter a maximum of two (2) eligible athletes per Individual event.”
- b) “An NPC can be allocated no more than six (6) male and six (6) female qualification slots”.

5.1.3 Under the Qualification Regulations IWAS will directly award a qualification slot to individual athletes. Such a direct award does not remove the requirement for such athlete to be nominated by BF in accordance with this policy and selected by the BPA.

5.2 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - INDIVIDUAL

5.2.1 There are two routes to individual qualification (text taken from the Qualification Regulations):

- **Individual Paralympic Ranking List Allocation by Region:** *The top-ranked male and female athletes from each region (Europe, America/Africa, Asia/Oceania) in each individual medal event on the Individual Paralympic Ranking list closing on 31 May 2024 obtain one (1) qualification slot. Only athletes ranked in the top-30 will be considered for this allocation. If a region has no athlete in the top-30 of a particular Ranking, this slot is given to the next highest ranked athlete (not yet qualified) regardless of region.*

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- **Individual Paralympic Ranking List Allocation.** *The three (3) highest ranked athletes (not yet qualified) in each individual medal event on the Individual Paralympic Ranking List closing on 31 May 2024 obtain one (1) qualification slot, up to a maximum of two (2) slots per NPC in each medal event (including any slot obtained from the method above).
If an NPC would achieve more slots than the maximum quota per NPC, then slots will be allocated to the athletes with the highest ranking position. If two or more athletes have equal ranking positions, slots will be allocated to the athlete(s) with the highest ranking points. If two or more athletes have equal ranking positions and points, slots will be allocated to the athlete(s) with the best placement at the 2023 World Championships.*

5.2.2 Any athlete who is awarded a qualification slot by means of the individual qualification system will be nominated by the PNP to the BPA for selection for the individual event for which they have achieved their slot, provided all eligibility criteria set out in this policy are met.

5.2.3 Bipartite Commission Invitation – Individual Allocation

The BPA may in its discretion, following discussion with the PNP make an application to the IPC for a Bipartite Commission invitation in respect of any individual athlete.

In the case of Bipartite slots, applications will primarily be considered by the BPA if the athlete meets the following criteria as well as the primary IPC criteria “*allowing the participation of top athletes who may not have had the opportunity to qualify through other methods due to extraordinary circumstances*”:

- a) Demonstrable medal potential at Paris 2024
- b) Medal potential at LA 2028
- c) Other reason (e.g. protecting a medal event for another athlete)

5.3 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - TEAM

5.3.1 In accordance with the Qualification Regulations, BF expects that IWAS will allocate available slots in the Team as follows:

- **“Team Athlete Allocation:** *After allocation of all individual slots and in order to secure the viability of the Team Medal Events, eight (8) eligible male and eight (8) eligible female athletes will be allocated one (1) slot each. These slots will be allocated at the discretion of IWAS to eligible athletes who can complete a team together with other athletes from the same NPC. If event viability has been secured, IWAS may chose (sic) not to allocate some or all of these slots”.*

- 5.3.2 Provided that the number of athletes offered an individual or team slot by IWAS in the initial allocation of qualification slots as described in 5.3.1 is less than or equal to the number of places within a team, any athlete who is awarded a qualification slot by means of the initial team qualification system as described in 5.3.1 will be nominated by the PNP to the BPA for selection for the team event for which they have achieved their slot, provided all eligibility criteria set out in this policy are met. If more slots are offered by IWAS than team places available, or should there be additional team slots offered by IWAS outside the initial allocation process 5.4 applies.

5.4 DISCRETIONARY

- 5.4.1 Discretionary decisions by the PNP will be based on the following discretionary criteria:
- a) Ability to win an individual medal at the Games; and
 - b) Ability to contribute to winning a team medal at the Games; and
 - c) In the event that a) or b) do not apply, ability to contribute to winning medals (individual or team) at 2028 Paralympic Games.
- 5.4.2 Should IWAS name more eligible GBR athletes than there are slots available in the team and the decision on which athletes will fill these slots is passed to BF, the PNP will decide on which of those eligible athletes will be nominated to the BPA for the Team places based on the discretionary criteria set out in 5.4.1.
- 5.4.3 Should a situation arise where an eligible athlete is offered a team slot by IWAS outside the initial slot allocation process (described in 5.3.1), the PNP will decide on whether to nominate that athlete and in turn nominate the team to the BPA for the Team places based on the discretionary criteria set out in 5.4.1:
- 5.4.4 Should any other situation not already covered in this policy arise where an eligible athlete is offered a slot by IWAS, the PNP will decide on whether to nominate that athlete based on the discretionary criteria set out in 5.4.1.:

5.5 NOMINATION FOR OTHER EVENTS

5.5.1 According to the Qualifying Regulations: *“Athletes qualifying through Individual Paralympic Ranking Lists must enter the event from which they have obtained their slot and will be allowed to enter any other individual event where they are ranked in the top-30 on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List closing 31 May 2024. If the maximum number of entries is exceeded, priority will be given to the highest ranked athletes. Athletes who have obtained their slot through the Team Athlete allocation method will be allowed to enter in the individual event(s) in the same weapon(s) of the team event(s) they are competing in, and will be allowed to enter any other individual event where they are ranked in the top-30 on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List closing 31 May 2024. If the maximum number of entries is exceeded, priority will be given to the highest ranked athletes.”*

5.5.2 Nomination Preferences Meeting with WCP

If, in accordance with the regulations (5.5.1) above, an athlete wishes to be nominated for one or more events other than the event which they have obtained their qualification slot for (‘a secondary event’) they are required to meet with the WCP prior to the PNP meeting to discuss their preferences for being nominated in their secondary events, guided by the athlete’s WCP agreed medal objectives (individual and team).

As part of these discussions, the WCP will ensure that the athlete is aware of any potential restrictions in coaching support or other relevant factors to inform the discussion.

All reasonable efforts will be made to agree nomination preferences between the athlete and the WCP in advance of the PNP meeting.

5.5.3 Notification of Nomination Preferences

Following discussions with the WCP, the athlete is responsible for providing BF (at least 24 hours prior to the PNP meeting) their nomination preferences.

5.5.4 Where nomination preferences have been agreed between the athlete and the WCP, the PNP will automatically nominate eligible athletes according to their stated preferences.

Where nomination preferences are not agreed between the athlete and the WCP, the PNP will nominate eligible athletes for their secondary event(s) in accordance with the athlete’s expressed preferences in the following situations:

A) The athlete would have achieved direct qualification through the IWAS Direct Qualification system for that event as described in item 5.2.1

OR

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B) The athlete has medalled at a Senior World Cup, European Championships or World Championships in that event from 29th November 2022;

OR

C) Competing in that event/those events is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on medal winning performances by that athlete in another event.

Notwithstanding A,B,C above the PNP reserves the right to nominate any eligible athlete for their secondary events.

6. ATHLETE DE-NOMINATION AND DE-SELECTION

- 6.1.1 The BPA will inform BF of the date of the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM). At this date the BPA puts the entry of the full British Paralympic Team into the Organising Committee for the Games.
- 6.1.2 Prior to the Delegation Registration Meeting the BPA and BF reserve the unconditional right to de-select any athlete who:
- (i) does not fulfil the necessary medical standards (following the process set out below) or
 - (ii) no longer meet the eligibility criteria set out in this Policy or
 - (iii) fails to adhere to this policy.
- 6.1.3 The BPA or BF may request a medical examination at any time before the DRM. The BPA and BF reserve the unconditional right to not nominate or to de-select any athlete who does not fulfil the necessary medical standards following an assessment by the appointed NGB doctor.
- 6.1.4 In respect of any decision to de-select on grounds of a failure to fulfil the necessary medical standards, such decision will be made by the PNP and BPA based on the reports of the medical examination from the nominated doctor.
- 6.1.5 After the DRM has been completed, de-selection and selection of a replacement athlete is only allowed in accordance with the IPC's Late Athlete Replacement Policy (or any revised or amended IPC policy dealing with athlete replacement) and is the responsibility of the BPA.
- 6.1.6 After the DRM, in the event of there being a query over the ability of an athlete to be able to compete to the best of their ability due to an injury, illness or mental health the following procedure will be adhered to:
- a) ParalympicsGB's Chief Medical Officer can require an athlete to undergo a medical examination to determine their physical fitness or mental health to participate. This examination will be carried out by ParalympicsGB's Chief Medical Officer, their nominee or by the Mental Health Panel. If the athlete fails the medical examination they will be

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withdrawn from the Team and the Governing Body may (if appropriate) nominate a replacement athlete in accordance with its nomination policy.

- b) If the athlete passes the medical examination carried out in accordance with 6.1.5 a) above but BF and/or the BPA still have concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to a level which would ordinarily have been expected of the athlete due to the underlying injury, illness or mental state, the Chef de Mission (in consultation with the Governing Body) can require the athlete to undergo a set of pre-determined sports specific performance tests and/or cognitive assessments.
- c) The tests will be conducted under the guidance of the sport's Team Leader (or their delegate e.g. team physiotherapist) and a BPA representative or delegate will be present (if possible/available). If the athlete fails the test (which can be undertaken on more than one occasion and within a short time frame if appropriate), they will be withdrawn from the Team on medical grounds and, if appropriate, a replacement can be nominated by BF in accordance with the nomination policy.

7. APPEALS

- 7.1.1 An athlete may appeal their non-nomination / selection by BF, only in cases where the procedure outlined in this policy document is not adhered to.
- 7.1.2 Appeals against decisions must be made within 3 working days of the notification from BF confirming the nomination / selection decision(s).
- 7.1.3 An athlete must lodge their appeal, with BF Head Office headoffice@britishfencing.com, copying athletedevelopment@britishfencing.com alongside a deposit of £250.00, which will be reimbursed should the athlete win their appeal. The appeals policy can be found on the British Fencing website.

8. KEY DATES

(Italicised text taken from Qualification Regulations)

1 October 2022 Start of period for athletes to attain performances to be recorded on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List

3 May 2024 Deadline for Paris 2024 Organising Committee to receive accreditation application forms submitted by NPCs (“Accreditation Long List”)

31 May 2024 End of the period for athletes to attain performances to be recorded on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List

31 May 2024 Start of Bipartite application process

7 June 2024 IWAS confirms in writing to the NPCs the allocation of qualification slots.

21 June 2024 Deadline for BPA to apply for a Bipartite Commission invitation.

BF Nomination Dates

Monday 10 June: Paralympic Nomination Panel Meeting (provisional, subject to change)

Tuesday 11 June by 9am: Athletes informed of meeting outcome (provisional, subject to change)

Thursday 13 June Midnight: Deadline for appeals (provisional, 3 working days from receipt of notification of outcome of nomination)

Friday 14 – Monday 17 June: Appeal investigation, consideration (provisional)

Tuesday 18 June: Paralympic Nomination Panel to re-convene (if Appeal Upheld) (provisional)

Wednesday 19 June: Outcome communicated to athletes affected and BPA.

Thursday 20 June: BPA to confirm selected athletes to IWAS.

21 June 2024 NPCs confirm to IWAS in writing the use of allocated slots.

28 June 2024 IWAS confirms in writing the reallocation of unused qualification slots.

5 August 2024 Deadline for Paris 2024 Organising Committee to receive sport entry forms submitted by ParalympicsGB (the NPC)

9. APPENDIX A - CONSTITUTING NOMINATION PANELS

- 9.1.1 Voting members. The panel should consist of a minimum of three voting members to prevent dead lock. There can be more than three members but an odd number (five, seven, nine) is recommended. All voting members must have a fundamental technical understanding and experience of the event being selected for, and all of the athletes under consideration.
- 9.1.2 Chair. A chair is required to lead the process (briefing members, applying the policy and criteria, and overseeing the communication of the results). The chair needs to have proven 'chairing skills and experience of being a selection/nomination panel member. The chair of the selection/nomination panel for Major Championships is responsible and accountable to the Chief Executive for the operation of the selection/nomination panel. For other International Competitions the chair is responsible and accountable to the Pathways Director.
- 9.1.3 Recording of decisions and outcomes. Decisions and outcomes of the selection/nomination panel must be recorded. Major Championships selection/nomination panel meetings must have a formally nominated note-taker. This can be a decision log or a full set of minutes. An audio recording can also be made, which is only used to support any appeal process. All decisions and outcomes must be agreed and recorded before the selection/nomination panel is concluded, which includes any areas of conflict of opinion. Notes must be factual and not contain personal observations.
- 9.1.4 Independent member or observer. An independent member or observer to provide confidence to athletes about the fairness and objectivity of the process. The independent member or observer must be familiar with high performance sport, either as an athlete, coach or legal expert. Their role is to act as an observer – scrutinising the process, holding the panel accountable to the policy and its criteria, and ensuring the principles of fairness and acting without bias are upheld.
- 9.1.5 Data Analysis. Where appropriate, a data analysis should support the operation of a selection/nomination panel.

10. APPENDIX B - GOOD PRACTICE FOR SELECTION/NOMINATION PANELS

The following good practice underpins the way in which selection/nomination panels operate.

Apply selection/nomination criteria fairly and consistently. The Chair should provide a thorough briefing on the standards expected and those selectors understand and agree to their responsibilities.

- The panel must follow the published policy and not be influenced by any other interests. All eligible athletes should be given a fair chance of selection/nomination using all the criteria identified in the selection/nomination policy.
- BF (or any individual associated with delivery of the Athlete Development Programme) must not reach verbal or written agreements with any individual athlete which conflict with the published criteria.
- Acting fairly requires that where discretion needs to be exercised, then it should be restricted to the area and scope identified. For example, if no athletes have met the criteria outright or all selection/nomination places have not been filled, then the policy may allow selectors to use their discretion to select the athlete they consider most suitable to fill the place(s), or not to make a selection/nomination, as consistent with the overall aims set out for the selection/nomination.

Act honestly, in good faith and in an unbiased manner. The selectors must act rationally and with integrity and professionalism. They must be impartial and not show bias or favouritism, or even appear to show it. They must not pre-judge the outcome but must let their consistent application of the agreed criteria and processes drive their decisions.

- Selectors should have no personal or business involvement with any of the competitors in question – they should not stand to gain (or lose) personally or financially because of the decisions. They must not be related to the competitors or have any personal preference as to which of them is selected/nominated.
- A selector who has a personal coaching relationship (even in the recent past) with any of the athletes under consideration provides a risk of allegations of bias. Where this is unavoidable, coaches must not have a vote regarding this athlete(s) and may only be present to give their opinion on the respective merits of each eligible athlete with others making the final decision.
- Where a WCP athlete's relationship with a WCF WCP coach results from being a member of the WCP or being based at the National Wheelchair High Performance Centre, this will not prevent the coach (es) from being a voting member of the PNP.

Declare any conflict of interest. If selectors are concerned that they may have a conflict of interest (or potential conflict of interest) - including as acting as a personal coach to any eligible athlete -they should declare it. This gives the Chair and other selectors the opportunity to consider the conflict, assess the risk and agree how to manage it. Whenever possible, the person with the conflict should be replaced by another suitably qualified person. If this is not, then the other selectors will need to

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consider the recommendations or opinions of the conflicted selector, keeping in mind how the conflict may be influencing their views. The conflicted panel member cannot vote.

Communicating decisions respectfully. The outcome of a selection/nomination decision can be life changing for an athlete. For example, selection/nomination for a funded programme may be the point at which an athlete commits to around a decade of full-time training and puts their education or career path on hold. Selection/nomination for a Major Championships is often the culmination of a significant amount of time and resources from athletes (and their parents). Even when a selection/nomination policy has been well communicated in advance, the decision itself, particularly on occasions when close calls have to be made, can be devastating for athletes who are not selected/nominated.

For all Major Championships:

- The Chair of the Selection/nomination Panel must give careful consideration about how the decisions are communicated, especially to those who are not selected/nominated.
- The formal decision should be conveyed in writing and, if practical, should include the offer of a de-brief with an informed coach. The timing on this de-brief will be dependent on the proximity of the selection/nomination to the event and in some circumstances may have to take place afterwards. The athlete should be invited to bring a companion. For some athletes, this will provide the necessary understanding and acceptance of the decision, for others it may provide a focus on future performances and selection/nomination opportunities.
- BF will refer athletes to additional appropriate sources of support at this time for example:
 - Performance Lifestyle (for funded programme athletes), whose advisers are specially trained to support athlete transitions.
 - the BAC (support@britishathletes.org) for any athlete thinking of making an appeal.

Selection/nomination decisions must be described as 'provisional' until the end of the appeal process relevant to the particular selection/nomination process.

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