

Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

Qualification Guide

May 2014



INTRODUCTION

This Guide describes in detail how athletes and teams can qualify for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games in each of the 22 sports on the Games programme. It provides to the National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), to National Federations (NFs), to sports administrators, coaches and to the athletes themselves the conditions that allow participation in the signature event of the Paralympic Movement.

The Guide presents:

- an overview of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games Programme,
- the general IPC regulations on eligibility,
- the specific qualification criteria for each sport (in alphabetical order),
- a glossary of the terminology used throughout the document.

Structure of sport-specific qualification criteria

Each sport-specific section in this Guide follows a standardised format. Readers can quickly locate information or cross-reference it between sports. The standard structure of each sport-specific qualification criteria is as follows:

- Events
- Athlete Quotas
- Allocation of Qualification Slots
- Maximum Quota Allocation per NPC
- Athlete Eligibility (sport-specific)
- Maximum Entries per NPC
- Qualification System
- Timeline
- Confirmation Process of Allocated Slots
- Reallocation of Unused Qualification Slots
- International Federation (IF) Contact Information

Qualification Methods

There are a variety of qualification methods which the IFs may employ depending on the nature and traditions of each sport. The mix of qualification methods (listed below) within each sport shall respect the following principles:

- To ensure that the world's leading athletes receive the opportunity to perform at the highest level,
- to uphold the fundamental ethical concept of non-discrimination, and



 to ensure that regional opportunities for qualification exist and that regional distribution of qualification slots is justifiably based on elite performances and/or prevalence of a sport in a given region.

In most sports the participation of the host country is guaranteed via reserved slots. However, athletes representing the host country still need to comply with all eligibility requirements in order to enter the Paralympic Games.

The following qualification methods based on performance may be used:

- Placement at World Championships
- Placement at Regional/Zonal Championships or Regional Games
- Placement in other IF sanctioned Competitions or designated Paralympic Qualifiers
- Rank on a World or Regional Ranking List
- Rank on a specific Paralympic Qualification Ranking List
- Achievement of a Minimum Qualification Standard (MQS) with or without subsequent Quota Allocation Formula
- Bipartite Invitations (see page 8 of this section).

In addition, a small number of Universality Wild Cards will be awarded at the discretion of the IPC to athletes representing NPCs who have not been able to achieve entry into the Paralympic Games via the above qualification methods (see page 9 of this section).

Questions and Updates

For questions regarding sport-specific qualification issues please contact the respective IF. Questions of a general nature can be addressed via email to the IPC Sports Department: juergen.padberg@paralympic.org. Occasional updates to this document may be necessary. Updates are logged at the end of the Guide. For the latest version of the Guide (see date on front page) please visit www.paralympic.org/rio-2016.

Note: At any given time the only valid version of this Guide is the one published on the IPC website.

Official Language

The official language of the IPC is English. If any organisation translates this document for internal purposes the English version shall prevail in case of discrepancy.

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RIO 2016 PARALYMPIC PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Paralympic Games represents an international, multi-sport competition for athletes with an impairment that reflects the highest standards of athletic excellence and diversity. The goal of the Paralympic Games Programme is to provide exciting events in the Paralympic Games that allow athletes to achieve competitive excellence while engaging and entertaining spectators. To ensure this for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, the IPC conducted its quadrennial review process that determined the inclusion and positioning of sports, disciplines and medal events within the Paralympic Games based on established core characteristics and guiding principles.

Core Characteristics and Guiding Principles

The Core Characteristics and Guiding Principles of the Paralympic Sports Programme are as follows:

QUALITY: The essential principles with respect to grade of excellence and accomplishment.

High Performance – Representing the highest athlete performances in the context of the specific sport.

Exciting – Providing a vibrant and energising atmosphere that is entertaining in the context of each sport, yet creates a collective motivational atmosphere that is attractive to spectators and media.

Inspirational — Creating a distinct opportunity for personal experience/reflection that acts as a catalyst for change through showcasing the extraordinary perseverance of the human spirit through athleticism.

Fair Play – Driving collective values of the IPC ensuring that the spirit of fair play prevails, that the health risks of athletes are managed, that fundamental ethical principles are upheld, that prejudice and discrimination are not tolerated and that all forms of cheating are discouraged and dealt with sternly.

QUANTITY: The principles that ensure viable sports, disciplines and medal events within a sustainable programme.

Viable — Ensuring operational and programmatic capability in the context of the IPC's obligations vis-a-vis the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and considering the impact on the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (OCOG) - eg, financially, cost effective, manageable, number of training and competition venues, safety, risk management.

 ${\it Sustainable}$ — Ensuring a stable programme that allows forecasting, ongoing evaluation and dynamic evolution of each sport.



UNIVERSALITY: The collective principles that ensure and reflect a diverse movement.

Equitable – Ensuring that gender representation and the type and extent of impairments represented at the Games are taken as a fundamental factor in the composition of the programme.

Global — Establishing a framework that strives to ensure regional representation and the global nature of the Games.

Balance — Weighing and positioning the types of sports and athletes included based on the nature of the sports/disciplines - eg, individual versus team; power versus precision; speed versus endurance, combat versus artistic.

Athlete and Medal Event Quotas

The number of medal events and athletes by sport as approved by the IPC Governing Board are outlined in the following table:

	MEDAL EVENTS				ATHLETES		
	Male	Female	Mixed	Total	Male	Female	Total
Archery	3	3	3	9	80	60	140
Athletics	95	82	0	177	660	440	1100
Boccia	0	0	7	7	80*	28*	108
Canoe	3	3	0	6	30	30	60
Cycling	28	20	2	50	150	80	230
Equestrian	0	0	11	11	22*	56*	78
Football 5-a-side	1	0	0	1	64	0	64
Football 7-a-side	1	0	0	1	112	0	112
Goalball	1	1	0	2	60	60	120
Judo	7	6	0	13	84	48	132
Powerlifting	10	10	0	20	100	80	180
Rowing	1	1	2	4	48	48	96
Sailing	0	0	3	3	65*	15*	80
Shooting	3	3	6	12	100	50	150
Swimming	80	71	1	152	340	280	620
Table Tennis	16	13	0	29	174	102	276
Triathlon	3	3	0	6	30	30	60
Volleyball (Sitting)	1	1	0	2	96	96	192
Wheelchair Basketball	1	1	0	2	144	120	264
Wheelchair Fencing	8	6	0	14	54	34	88
Wheelchair Rugby	0	0	1	1	94*	2*	96
Wheelchair Tennis	2	2	2	6	72*	32*	104
Total	264	226	38	528	2659*	1691*	4350

^{*}estimated numbers due to gender-free slot allocation



GENERAL IPC REGULATIONS ON ELIGIBILITY

In addition to each IF's sport-specific athlete eligibility criteria the IPC has established a set of general eligibility criteria that apply to all participants in the Paralympic Games. These general regulations are derived from the IPC Handbook. They ensure that the fundamental rights and obligations of the IPC and its membership are recognised and protected. The General IPC Regulations on Eligibility are as follows:

IPC Membership

Only NPCs in good standing with the IPC may enter duly qualified and eligible athletes in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. NPCs are reminded that NFs must ensure that their membership with their sport's respective IF is in good standing during the qualification period and upon close of sport entries to the Paralympic Games so their athletes may participate.

Compliance with IPC Policy on the Nationality of Competitors

Any athlete in the Paralympic Games must be a national of the country/territory of the NPC entering him/her and in compliance with the provisions of the IPC Policy on the Nationality of Competitors as published in the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).

Minimum Age Requirement

No minimum age limit for athletes competing in the Paralympic Games is stipulated by the IPC on a general basis. However, NPCs should note that an age limit may be established by some IFs through sport-specific athlete eligibility criteria. While the Paralympic Games welcomes the world's youth with an impairment, NPCs are encouraged to send to the Paralympic Games only athletes adequately prepared for high performance competition.

Understanding and Agreeing to the Eligibility Code

To be eligible for participation in the Paralympic Games all athletes must sign, observe, comply with and abide by the rules and regulations outlined on the IPC Eligibility Code form. The IPC Eligibility Code form is part of the NPC registration process.

NPC Selection Standards

The IPC recognises and respects the right of NPCs to establish national selection standards for determining an athlete's or team's qualification to compete in the Paralympic Games. Such standards must be compliant with those established by the IPC as well as with each respective IF's terms and dates of confirmation and the administrative deadlines of the OCOG. All athletes and teams are equally subject to their respective NPC's selection standards.



Compliance with Classification Rules

Only qualified athletes that meet the sport-specific classification rules and have a designated classification status will be eligible for entry in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. It is the responsibility of each NPC to ensure that its athletes are appropriately classified in their respective sports prior to entry and that each athlete holds a sport class status that complies with the sport's eligibility requirements as published in this Guide.

BIPARTITE COMMISSION INVITATIONS

As in previous Paralympic Games, the IPC has worked with the IFs to develop qualification methods which allow the top athletes in each sport to compete in the Games, but which also respect the Paralympic Games Guiding Principles. The Core Characteristics of quality, quantity and universality that structure the Guiding Principles are fundamental and leading aspects in the IPC's and IFs' aim to deliver great competition at the Games.

While the primary method in which the Guiding Principles are respected is through the standard qualification methods, the IPC and certain IFs have also sought to provide targeted qualification slot allocations through the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method. These invitations are included in the overall athlete quotas of the relevant sports. Invitations are granted on a discretionary basis by the IPC and the respective IF and are typically allocated based on the following principles:

- to ensure participation of top athletes who may have not had the opportunity to formally qualify through other methods due to extraordinary circumstances;
- to ensure the representation of athletes with high support needs;
- to ensure medal events will have sufficient representation for viability; and
- to enable greater representation by gender.

The following sports offer Bipartite Commission Invitation slots:

Archery, Athletics, Cycling, Equestrian, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Triathlon, Wheelchair Fencing, Wheelchair Tennis.

Timelines and Application Procedures:

Each IF offering Bipartite Commission Invitation slots has established its individual timeline for submission and acceptance of Bipartite Commission Invitation applications. Please refer to the



respective section in each sport's chapter of this Guide. All Bipartite Commission Invitation decisions are final with no opportunity for protest or appeal.

REDISTRIBUTION OF VACANT QUALIFICATION SLOTS

Each IF confirms in writing to the NPCs the allocation of qualification slots their teams and athletes have obtained. The NPCs then must confirm acceptance of their allocated slots by the deadline established in each sport's chapter of this Guide. Any qualification slots not used by an NPC will be reallocated according to the method outlined in the respective sport's chapter of this Guide. Qualification slots that cannot be reallocated by the established deadlines or become vacant (following the deadline for final sport entries) may be redistributed at the sole discretion of the IPC to any sport on the programme. All redistribution decisions are final with no opportunity for protest or appeal.

UNIVERSALITY WILD CARDS

In each edition of the Paralympic Games, the IPC institutes a slot allocation method to uphold the Universality principle and to ensure representation of a maximum number of eligible member NPCs. This slot allocation is called Universality Wild Card (UWC) method and is by invitation only. No athlete and no NPC is entitled to receiving a UWC. All UWC decisions are final with no opportunity for protest or appeal.

Such invitations may be extended if an NPC has been unable to qualify athletes in any of the 22 sports on the programme. The UWC slot is allocated to the individual athlete, not to the respective NPC.

UWC slots fall outside the athlete quotas published in this Guide. For the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games the IPC will consider granting UWCs in the following sports:

- Athletics
- Swimming

A maximum of one (1) male UWC slot and one (1) female UWC slot may be granted if an NPC has not obtained any qualification slot otherwise. NPCs who have obtained only one (1) qualification slot (irrespective of gender) may be given one (1) female UWC slot in addition.



Criteria for Consideration

In order to be considered for a UWC athletes must meet the following conditions:

- comply with the General IPC Regulations on Eligibility as published in this Guide;
- comply with the Athlete Eligibility Criteria for their respective sport as published in this Guide. This entails meeting all requirements for licensing and classification at the time the UWC is awarded; and
- be on the "Accreditation Long List" as described under Key Dates below.

Athletes who do not meet these criteria will not be considered for a UWC.

The IPC Governing Board reserves the right to award a UWC under exceptional circumstances irrespective of the above criteria and in any sport.

Application Process

The IPC will announce the UWC application process one (1) year prior to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

KEY DATES

The following dates and deadlines have been established by the IPC and the Rio 2016 Organising Committee and need to be observed across all sports on the programme:

Begin of Qualification Period: 1 January 2014

Each IF may determine their own qualification period during which athletes and teams can attain results and rankings that count towards qualification for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. No IF may establish a qualification period that begins prior to 1 January 2014. All qualifying results must be achieved during the respective sport's qualification period. Results and rankings achieved prior to 1 January 2014 may not be considered for qualification towards the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. If a sport maintains a ranking list which — by the end of their qualification period - incorporates results achieved prior to 1 January 2014 a separate ranking list needs to be established for the purpose of Paralympic Games qualification. Participation in a competition during the qualification period may depend on results achieved prior to the beginning of the respective sport's qualification period.

Accreditation Deadline: 30 April 2016

NPCs must submit to the Rio 2016 Organising Committee complete information about every potential delegation member whom they consider sending to the Games. This "Accreditation Long List" includes athletes (duly qualified, replacements, substitutes, Bipartite candidates,



Universality Wild Card candidates etc.), competition assistants (guide runners, tandem pilots, goalkeepers, Boccia assistants), coaches, team physicians, administrators, physiotherapists, caretakers, press attachés, Paralympic attachés and Chefs de Mission — along with NPC Presidents, Secretaries General and accompanying guests. Only athletes who are accredited by 30 April 2016 can be entered into the Games by the sport entries deadline (see below).

Sport Entries Deadline: 15 August 2016

Sport Entries is the official registration process for athletes selected and qualified to participate in the Paralympic Games. Any athlete an NPC may choose to enter must meet all eligibility criteria by the time the entry is made. The athlete also has to be on the "Accreditation Long List" (see previous section). The last possible day to meet the eligibility criteria is 15 August 2016. Sport Entries will close at 23:59h, Rio de Janeiro time, on 15 August 2016.



ARCHERY

Medal Events

Male	Female	Mixed	Total
3	3	3	9
Ind. Compound W1 Ind. Compound Open Ind. Recurve Open	Ind. Compound W1 Ind. Compound Open Ind. Recurve Open	Team W1 Compound Team Compound Team Recurve	

Athlete Quota

Male	Female	Gender Free	Total
80	60	0	140

Allocation of Qualification Slots

The qualification slot is allocated to the NPC, not to an individual athlete. In the case of a Bipartite Commission Invitation the slot is allocated to the individual athlete, not to the NPC.

Maximum Quota Allocation per NPC

An NPC may be allocated a maximum of thirteen (13) qualification slots. Exceptions apply for the highest ranked NPCs in certain medal events at the 2015 Para Archery World Championships. Qualification slots may be allocated as follows:

		Men		Women			
	W1 Comp.	Ind. Comp.	Ind. Rec.	W1 Comp.	Ind. Comp.	Ind. Rec.	
Maximum per NPC	2	3	3	1	1	3	
Maximum per NPC with 2015 Ind. World Champion	2	3	3	2	2	3	
Maximum per NPC with 2015 Mixed Team World Champion	2	3	3	2	2	3	

Exceptions may also be made via the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method.



Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must:

- Be internationally classified with either a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2016; and
- Have achieved one (1) of the following Minimum Qualification Standards (MQS) for their respective sport class between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016:

Minimum Qualification Standards				
Event	720 Round Score (70m or 50m round)			
Men's Ind. Compound W1	575			
Men's Ind. Compound Open	630			
Men's Ind. Recurve Open	560			
Women's Ind. Compound W1	500			
Women's Ind. Compound Open	600			
Women's Ind. Recurve Open	520			

Maximum Entry per NPC

An NPC can enter a maximum of three (3) eligible athletes per Individual medal event but not more than it has been allocated qualification slots in each Individual medal event. An NPC can enter a maximum of one (1) team comprised of one (1) eligible male and one (1) eligible female athlete. Team members are selected from the athletes who compete in the Individual events.

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Qualification slots will be allocated according to the following matrix:

	Men			Women			Total
	W1 Comp.	Ind. Comp.	Ind. Rec.	W1 Comp.	Ind. Comp.	Ind. Rec.	
2015 World Championships	8	19	19	7	8	19	80
2015 Asian Qualification	1	2	2	1	1	2	9
2015 Para Panamericans	1	2	2	1	1	2	9
2015 European Qualification	1	2	2	1	1	2	9
2016 Qualif. Tournament	3	3	3	1	3	3	16
Host Country	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Bipartite	1	3	3	0	1	3	11
Total	16	32	32	12	16	32	140



METHOD	QUALIFICATION			TOTAL	
2015 Para Archery World Championships — Mixed Team Allocation	The four (4) highest ranked Mixed Teams in each medal 12 ma event will each obtain one (1) male and one (1) female athlete qualification slot for their NPC.				
2015 Para Archery World Championships -	The highest ranked athletes in will each obtain one (1) qualific the maximum quota and accor	cation slot fo	r their NPC up to	34 male athletes 22 female	
Individual Allocation	Men's W1 Compound	4		athletes	
Allocation	Men's Individual Compound	15			
	Men's Individual Recurve	15			
	Women's W1 Compound	3			
	Women's Individual Compound	4 15			
	Women's Individual Recurve				
	An NPC can obtain a maximum through this method (including obtained slots via the Mixed Tehave obtained slots via the Mix obtain any slots from their tear Individual competition.	those who he eam Allocation ed Team Allo	nave already on). NPCs who ocation cannot		
2015 Continental	The highest ranked athletes (n	15 male			
Qualification	Individual medal event at each of the three 2015/16 ath				
Tournaments Allocation	Continental Qualification Tournaments will obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC up to the maximum quota and according to the following matrix: 12 female athletes				
	Men's W1 Compound	1			
	Men's Individual Compound	2			
	Men's Individual Recurve	2			
	Women's W1 Compound	1			
	Women's Individual Compound	1			
	Women's Individual Recurve	2			



2016 World Qualification Tournament Allocation	In case a Continental Qualification Tournament is not held or a medal event is not offered at a particular Continental Qualification Tournament, the qualification slot(s) will be allocated to the next highest ranked athlete(s) at the 2015 Para Archery World Championships (not otherwise qualified). The highest ranked athletes in each Individual medal event will each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC according to the following matrix: Men's W1 Compound			
Host Country Allocation	The Host Country directly qualified in the Individual medal event in which athlete at the 2015 Para Archounused Host Country slot(s) will Commission Invitation Allocation	ch they ente ery World Ch Il be allocate	er at least one (1) nampionships. Any	3 male athlete 3 female athlete
Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation	Bipartite Commission Invitation according to the following mate Men's W1 Compound Men's Individual Compound Men's Individual Recurve Women's W1 Compound Women's Individual Compound Women's Individual Recurve		e made available	7 male athletes 4 female athletes



	To be considered for a Bipartite Commission Invitation, NPCs must submit an official application in writing to World Archery by 31 May 2016.	
Total		80 male athletes
		60 female athletes

TIMELINE

1 July 2015	Start of the period for athletes to attain MQS performances				
7-15 August 2015	Para Panamerican Games (Continental Qualification Tournament), Toronto, Canada				
23-30 August 2015	Para Archery World Championships, Donaueschingen, Germany				
2016, tbd	Continental Qualification Tournament Europe				
2016, tbd	Continental Qualification Tournament Asia				
30 April 2016	World Archery notifies in writing to the NPCs the allocation of qualification slots obtained at World Championships and the three Continental Qualifiers				
30 April 2016	Deadline for Rio 2016 Organising Committee to receive accreditation application forms submitted by NPCs ("Accreditation Long List")				
1 May 2016	Start of the Bipartite Commission Invitation application process				
15 May 2016	NPCs confirm in writing to World Archery (email and fax are accepted) the use of allocated qualification slots from World Championships and the three Continental Qualifiers				
May/June 2016 tbd	World Qualification Tournament				
31 May 2016	Deadline for NPCs to submit applications for Bipartite Commission Invitations				
1 July 2016	End of the period for athletes to attain MQS performances				



1 July 2016	World Archery notifies in writing to the NPCs the allocation of qualification slots obtained at the World Qualification Tournament and Bipartite Invitations
15 July 2016	NPCs confirm in writing to World Archery the use of allocated qualification and Bipartite slots
22 July 2016	World Archery confirms in writing to the NPCs the reallocation of all unused qualification and Bipartite Commission Invitation slots
15 August 2016	Deadline for Rio 2016 Organising Committee to receive sport entry forms submitted by NPCs

CONFIRMATION PROCESS OF ALLOCATED SLOTS

By 15 July 2016 each NPC must confirm to World Archery in writing (fax and email are accepted) the number of qualification slots they will use. NPCs that have not replied by this date will have lost their slots and World Archery may reallocate them.

By 22 July 2016 World Archery will confirm in writing the reallocation of all unused qualification slots.

By 22 July 2016 it is officially declared that the respective NPCs will use the allocated slots for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Any NPC that does not use its allocated slots may be subject to sanctions by IPC and World Archery.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUALIFICATION SLOTS

Any qualification slot obtained at the 2015 World Championships, at one of the three Continental Qualifiers, or at the 2016 World Qualification Tournament that is not used by an NPC will be reallocated to the next highest ranked athlete in the respective medal event (not otherwise qualified) at the 2016 World Qualification Tournament.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

World Archery
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Switzerland
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GLOSSARY

Athlete eligibility	The list of requirements to be met by an athlete to be considered for qualification and/or entry. Some eligibility requirements apply to all athletes, others are specific to their particular sport.
Slot allocation	Each sport is given a fixed number (quota) of athletes that may participate in the Games. The allocation of these qualification slots is then attributed to either an individual athlete/team or to their NPC depending on the sport and the respective qualification method.
Athlete quota	The total number of athlete and team qualification slots by sport, by gender and/or by sport class (if applicable).
Events	The list of medal events by sport that will be offered during the Paralympic Games.
Process of confirmation	The exchange of written statements through which an NPC commits to sending athletes to the Paralympic Games based on the number of qualification slots offered to the NPC by an IF.
International Federation (IF)	The organization responsible for governance of the respective sport on the Paralympic Programme.
Maximum quota allocation per NPC	The maximum number of qualification slots by gender, by sport class and/or by event an NPC may be allocated in a given sport.
Maximum entry per NPC	The maximum number of athletes by gender and/or by sport class an NPC may enter in a given medal event.
Qualification system	The methods used in each sport to allocate qualification slots to the NPCs. Listed here in the order of the actual progression which may not be chronological.
Reallocation of unused qualification slots	The method by which an IF offers a qualification slot to a different NPC if it has been declined by the NPC whose athlete(s) originally earned it.
Redistribution of vacant qualification slots	The method by which the IPC (at its sole discretion) offers any qualification slot that could not be reallocated by the established deadline or that becomes available after close of sport entries to any athlete in any sport.
Qualifying timeline	The timeline by sport outlining the significant dates concerning qualification, notification, confirmation and athlete data submission.