



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

# Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

## Qualification Regulations

January 2020

**International Paralympic Committee**

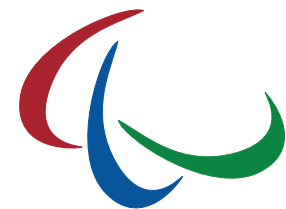
Adenauerallee 212-214 Tel. +49 228 2097-200  
53113 Bonn, Germany Fax +49 228 2097-209

[www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)  
[info@paralympic.org](mailto:info@paralympic.org)



## CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Programme Overview
3. General IPC Regulations on Eligibility
4. IPC Redistribution Policy of Vacant Qualification Slots
5. Universality Wild Cards
6. Key Dates
7. Archery
8. Athletics
9. Badminton
10. Boccia
11. Canoe
12. Cycling (Track and Road)
13. Equestrian
14. Football 5-a-side
15. Goalball
16. Judo
17. Powerlifting
18. Rowing
19. Shooting
20. Swimming
21. Table Tennis
22. Taekwondo
23. Triathlon
24. Volleyball (Sitting)
25. Wheelchair Basketball
26. Wheelchair Fencing
27. Wheelchair Rugby
28. Wheelchair Tennis
29. Glossary
30. Register of Updates



## INTRODUCTION

These Qualification Regulations (Regulations) describe in detail how athletes and teams can qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in each of the twenty-two (22) sports on the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Programme (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.

These Regulations present:

- an overview of the Games Programme;
- the general IPC regulations on eligibility;
- the specific qualification criteria for each sport (in alphabetical order); and
- a glossary of the terminology used throughout the Regulations.

### Structure of sport-specific qualification criteria

Each sport-specific section in these Regulations 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 that IFs may employ, which may depend on the nature and traditions of each sport. The mix of qualification methods within each sport (listed below) shall respect the following principles:

- to ensure that the world's leading athletes receive the opportunity to perform at the highest level; 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 within 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 Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The following qualification methods based on performance may be used. Methods 1, 2 and 3 are referred to as “**direct slot allocations**” as they reward performance at one competition directly with a qualification slot.

1. Placement at World Championships
2. Placement at Regional/Zonal Championships or Regional Games
3. Placement in other IF sanctioned competitions or designated Paralympic qualifiers
4. Rank on a World or Regional Ranking List
5. Rank on a specific Paralympic Qualification Ranking List
6. Achievement of a Minimum Qualification Standard (MQS) with or without subsequent Quota Allocation Formula
7. Bipartite Commission Invitations (see page 9 of this section).

In addition, a small number of Universality Wild Cards will be awarded in the sole discretion of the IPC to athletes representing NPCs who have not been able to achieve entry into the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games via the above qualification methods (see page 9 of this section).

In the event of any inconsistency between IF qualification methods for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games that are published elsewhere and the IF qualification methods listed in these Regulations, these Regulations will prevail.

### **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](mailto:juergen.padberg@paralympic.org). Occasional updates to these Regulations may be necessary. Updates are recorded at the end of these Regulations. For the latest version of these Regulations (see date on front page) please visit [www.paralympic.org/Tokyo-2020](http://www.paralympic.org/Tokyo-2020).

At any given time the only valid version of these Regulations is the one published on the IPC website.

**Official Language**

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

**Copyright (2018)**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted for commercial purposes by any process without prior written permission of the IPC.



## TOKYO 2020 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 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 Tokyo 2020 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.

### **Guiding Principles**

The guiding principles of the Paralympic Sports Programme are as follows (Paralympic Games Guiding Principles):

**EXCELLENCE:** The Paralympic Games is the highest level competition of each sport with participation of the world's best athletes.

**DIVERSITY:** The Paralympic Games give athletes with varying types/ranges of impairment the opportunity to compete within an equitable event programme that offers opportunities for both genders and ensures the participation of athletes with high support needs.

**UNIVERSALITY:** The Paralympic Games includes athletes from all regions of the world representing the maximum possible number of NPCs.

**INTEGRITY:** The Paralympic Games features excellence in judging and officiating.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** The Paralympic Games has a significant positive impact on the host-country and society while inspiring a long-term legacy for people with an impairment.



## **Athlete and Medal Event Quotas**

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

|                       | MEDAL EVENTS |            |           |            | ATHLETE SLOTS |             |             |             |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                       | Male         | Female     | Mixed     | Total      | Male          | Female      | Gender-Free | Total       |
| Archery               | 3            | 3          | 3         | 9          | 80            | 60          | 0           | 140         |
| Athletics             | 93           | 73         | 1         | 167        | 630           | 470         | 0           | 1100        |
| Badminton             | 7            | 6          | 1         | 14         | 44            | 46          | 0           | 90          |
| Boccia                | 0            | 0          | 7         | 7          | 0             | 34          | 82          | 116         |
| Canoe                 | 5            | 4          | 0         | 9          | 50            | 40          | 0           | 90          |
| Cycling               | 29           | 20         | 2         | 51         | 150           | 80          | 0           | 230         |
| Equestrian            | 0            | 0          | 11        | 11         | 0             | 0           | 78          | 78          |
| Football 5-a-side     | 1            | 0          | 0         | 1          | 64            | 0           | 0           | 64          |
| Goalball              | 1            | 1          | 0         | 2          | 60            | 60          | 0           | 120         |
| Judo                  | 7            | 6          | 0         | 13         | 80            | 58          | 0           | 138         |
| Powerlifting          | 10           | 10         | 0         | 20         | 80            | 80          | 20          | 180         |
| Rowing                | 1            | 1          | 2         | 4          | 48            | 48          | 0           | 96          |
| Shooting              | 3            | 3          | 7         | 13         | 100           | 54          | 0           | 154         |
| Swimming              | 76           | 67         | 3         | 146        | 340           | 280         | 0           | 620         |
| Table Tennis          | 17           | 14         | 0         | 31         | 174           | 106         | 0           | 280         |
| Taekwondo             | 3            | 3          | 0         | 6          | 36            | 36          | 0           | 72          |
| Triathlon             | 4            | 4          | 0         | 8          | 36            | 36          | 8           | 80          |
| Volleyball (Sitting)  | 1            | 1          | 0         | 2          | 96            | 96          | 0           | 192         |
| Wheelchair Basketball | 1            | 1          | 0         | 2          | 144           | 120         | 0           | 264         |
| Wheelchair Fencing    | 8            | 8          | 0         | 16         | 48            | 48          | 0           | 96          |
| Wheelchair Rugby      | 0            | 0          | 1         | 1          | 0             | 0           | 96          | 96          |
| Wheelchair Tennis     | 2            | 2          | 2         | 6          | 56            | 32          | 16          | 104         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>272</b>   | <b>227</b> | <b>40</b> | <b>539</b> | <b>2316</b>   | <b>1784</b> | <b>300</b>  | <b>4400</b> |

## **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 Tokyo 2020 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.

Separately, the IPC has the ability, at its sole discretion, to enter athletes as members of a refugee team into the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, in accordance with article 3.1.3 of the IPC Athlete Nationality Policy and on such terms and conditions as may be specified by the IPC in its absolute discretion.

## **Compliance with IPC Athlete Nationality Policy**

Any athlete in the Tokyo 2020 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 Athlete Nationality Policy published in the IPC Handbook.

## **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 must note that an age limit may be established by 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 Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games only athletes adequately prepared for high performance competition.

## **Understanding and Agreeing to the Conditions of Participation**

To be eligible for participation in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games all athletes must sign, observe, comply with and abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the IPC Conditions of Participation Agreement. This agreement 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 the qualification of an athlete or team to compete in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Such standards must be compliant with those established by the IPC as well as those of each respective IF. Any national selection standards must also align with confirmation dates and administrative deadlines of the Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (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 an appropriate classification status will be eligible for entry in the Tokyo 2020 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 these Regulations.

## **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 Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, but which also respect the Paralympic Games Guiding Principles. The principles of excellence, diversity, universality, integrity and sustainability are fundamental and leading aspects in the objective of the IPC and each IF to deliver great competition at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

While the primary method in which the Paralympic Games 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 Bipartite Commission Invitations. Bipartite Commission Invitations are included in the overall athlete quotas of the relevant sports, are granted by the IPC in its sole discretion following engagement with 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/or
- to enable greater representation by gender.

The following sports offer Bipartite Commission Invitation slots:

Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Cycling, Equestrian, Judo, Powerlifting, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Triathlon, Wheelchair Fencing, Wheelchair Tennis.

## **Timelines and Application Procedures:**

The timeline for submission and acceptance of Bipartite Commission Invitation applications is outlined in the respective section of each sport's chapter of these Regulations, if applicable for



that IF. All Bipartite Commission Invitation decisions by the IPC 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 these Regulations. Any qualification slots not used by an NPC will be reallocated according to the method outlined in the respective sport's chapter of these Regulations. 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 and across gender categories. All redistribution decisions by the IPC 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 (of the Paralympic Games Guiding Principles) and to ensure representation of a maximum number of eligible member NPCs. This slot allocation is called the Universality Wild Card (UWC) method and is by IPC invitation only. No athlete or NPC is entitled to receive a UWC. UWC invitations may be extended by the IPC if an NPC has either been unable to qualify athletes or has only obtained one (1) qualification slot in any of the twenty-two (22) sports on the Games Programme. The UWC slot is allocated to an individual athlete, not to the respective NPC. If an NPC qualifies athletes via the regular qualification pathways after one (1) of its athletes has been granted a UWC, that UWC is revoked and the athlete who qualified via the regular qualification pathway obtains his/her slot instead.

UWC slots fall outside the athlete and sport quotas published in these Regulations. For the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games the IPC will only 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 otherwise obtained any qualification slot. A maximum of one (1) female UWC slot may be provided if a NPC has obtained only one (1) qualification slot (irrespective of gender).



## **Criteria for Consideration**

In order to be considered for a UWC an athlete must meet the following criteria:

- comply with the General IPC Regulations on Eligibility as published in these Regulations;
- meet all IF 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.

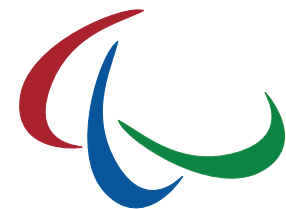
Athletes who do not meet the above criteria will not be considered for a UWC.

Irrespective of the above criteria, the IPC Governing Board reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to award a UWC in any sport in exceptional circumstances.

All UWC decisions by the IPC are final with no opportunity for protest or appeal.

## **Application Process**

The IPC will announce the UWC application process one (1) year prior to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.



## KEY DATES

The following dates and deadlines have been established by the IPC and the Tokyo 2020 OCOG and need to be observed across all sports on the Games Programme:

### **Beginning of Qualification Period: 01 January 2018**

Subject to the following, each IF will determine its own qualification period during which athletes and teams can attain results and rankings that count towards qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games:

- a) No IF may establish a qualification period that begins prior to 01 January 2018, whereby direct slot allocations (as defined on page 4 of this section) are obtained by athletes or teams for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.
- b) An IF may rely on athlete ranking lists that incorporate competition results achieved at competitions prior to 01 January 2018. However, subject to sub-clause c) below, no IF may rely on athlete performances that have occurred prior to or during the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.
- c) For those IFs joining the Paralympic programme for the first time at Tokyo 2020, no competition results achieved prior to 01 January 2016 may contribute to any rankings that qualify athletes for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.
- d) 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: 08 May 2020**

Each NPC must submit to the Tokyo 2020 OCOG complete information about every potential delegation member it considers may attend the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. This "Accreditation Long List" includes athletes (including, but not limited to, duly qualified, replacements, substitutes, bipartite candidates, UWC candidates), competition assistants (such as runners, tandem pilots, goalkeepers, Boccia assistants), coaches, team physicians, administrators, physiotherapists, caretakers, press attachés, Paralympic attachés, Chefs de Mission, NPC Presidents, NPC Secretaries General and accompanying guests. Only athletes who are accredited by 08 May 2020 can be entered into the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games by the sport entries deadline (see below).

### **Sport Entries Deadline: 03 August 2020**

Sport entries is the official registration process for qualified athletes selected 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 must also be on the “Accreditation Long List” (see previous section). The last possible day to meet the eligibility criteria is 3 August 2020. Sport entries will close at 23:59h, Tokyo time, on 03 August 2020.

## GOALBALL

### Medal Events

| Male | Female | Mixed | Total |
|------|--------|-------|-------|
| 1    | 1      | 0     | 2     |

### Athlete Quota

| Male | Female | Gender Free | Total |
|------|--------|-------------|-------|
| 60   | 60     | 0           | 120   |

Ten (10) teams per gender with six (6) players per team.

### Allocation of Qualification Slots

The qualification slot is allocated to the NPC not to the team or any individual athlete.

### Maximum Quota Allocation per NPC

An NPC can be allocated no more than one (1) men's team qualification slot and one (1) women's team qualification slot.

### Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for selection by an NPC athletes must:

- be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2020.

### Maximum Entry per NPC

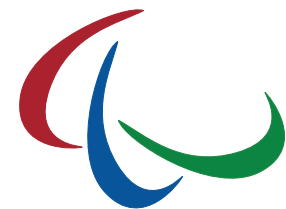
An NPC can enter a maximum of six (6) eligible male athletes for the men's tournament and a maximum of six (6) eligible female athletes for the women's tournament.



## QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Qualification slots will be allocated as follows:

| METHOD  | QUALIFICATION   | TOTAL                                       |
|---|---|---|
| <b>2018 World Championships Allocation</b>                              | <p>The top three (3) ranked teams of the men's competition each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.</p> <p>The top three (3) ranked teams of the women's competition each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.</p>   | <p>3 men's teams</p> <p>3 women's teams</p> |
| <b>2019/20 Regional Qualifier Allocation</b>                            | <p>The top ranked team (not otherwise qualified) of the men's competition in each of the following 2019/20 IBSA Goalball Regional Championships obtains one (1) qualification slot for their NPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Americas – one (1) team</li> <li>▪ Asia/Pacific – one (1) team</li> <li>▪ Europe – one (1) team</li> <li>▪ Africa – one (1) team</li> </ul> <p>The top ranked team (not otherwise qualified) of the women's competition in each of the following 2019/20 IBSA Goalball Regional Championships obtains one (1) qualification slot for their NPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Americas – one (1) team</li> <li>▪ Asia/Pacific – one (1) team</li> <li>▪ Europe – one (1) team</li> <li>▪ Africa – one (1) team</li> </ul> <p>In the case that a Region does not host a Championships, any available slots will be redistributed via the 2019 IBSA Paralympic Qualification Ranking Tournament Allocation method regardless of region.</p> | <p>4 men's teams</p> <p>4 women's teams</p> |
| <b>2019 IBSA Paralympic Qualification Ranking Tournament Allocation</b> | <p>The top two (2) ranked teams (not otherwise qualified) of the men's competition each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.</p> <p>The top two (2) ranked teams (not otherwise qualified) of the women's competition each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.</p>   | <p>2 men's teams</p> <p>2 women's teams</p> |



|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Host Country Allocation</b> | The host country directly qualifies one (1) men's team and one (1) women's team. Should the host country achieve any direct allocation ranking(s) at the 2018 World Championships the slot(s) will be redistributed via the 2019 IBSA Paralympic Qualification Ranking Tournament Allocation method. Should the host country achieve any direct allocation ranking(s) at their 2019 Regional Championships, the slot(s) will be allocated to the next highest ranked NPC (not otherwise qualified) in that particular competition. | 1 men's team<br>1 women's team                   |
| <b>Total</b>                   |  | <b>10 men's teams</b><br><b>10 women's teams</b> |

## TIMELINE

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 30 May - 10 June 2018  | 2018 IBSA Goalball World Championships, Malmo, Sweden                                  |
| 30 June - 10 July 2019 | 2019 IBSA Goalball Paralympic Qualification Ranking Tournament, Fort Wayne, USA        |
| 23 Aug - 1 Sep 2019    | 2019 IBSA Goalball Americas Regional Championships, Lima, Peru                         |
| 5-14 Oct 2019          | 2019 IBSA Goalball European Championships (Group A), Rostock, Germany                  |
| 2-11 Dec 2019          | 2019 IBSA Goalball Asia/Pacific Championships, Tokyo, Japan                            |
| 28 Feb - 6 Mar 2020    | 2020 IBSA Goalball African Championships, Port Said, Egypt                             |
| 9 March 2020           | IBSA confirms in writing to the NPCs the allocation of team qualification slots.       |
| 23 March 2020          | NPCs confirm in writing to IBSA the use of allocated team qualification slots.         |
| 30 March 2020          | IBSA confirms in writing to the NPCs the reallocation of unused team allocation slots. |





- 8 May 2020 Deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to receive accreditation application forms submitted by NPCs (“Accreditation Long List”).
- 3 August 2020 Deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to receive sport entry forms submitted by NPCs.

### **CONFIRMATION PROCESS OF ALLOCATED SLOTS**

By 9 March 2020 IBSA will officially allocate to NPCs quotas granted for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games through the qualification process.

By 23 March 2020 each qualified NPC must confirm to IBSA in writing (fax and email are accepted) if they wish to use their allocated slot(s). NPCs that have not responded by this date will lose their team qualification slots, and IBSA may reallocate these slots.

By 30 March 2020 it is officially declared that the respective NPCs will use the allocated quota granted for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Any NPC that does not use its allocated team qualification slot(s) may be subject to sanctions by IPC and IBSA.

### **REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUALIFICATION SLOTS**

Any team qualification slots allocated and not used by the respective NPC will be reallocated regardless of region to the highest ranked team (not otherwise qualified) at the respective competition where it was obtained. Should the host country not use any of its allocated slots, the slot will be reallocated to the highest ranked NPC (not otherwise qualified) at the 2018 World Championships regardless of region.

### **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION**

International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)  
Executive Director  
Henk Van Aller  
Nijenheim 24-19  
3704 VJ Zeist  
Netherlands  
Phone: +31 644 830 820  
Email: [henk.vanaller@ibsasport.org](mailto:henk.vanaller@ibsasport.org)