



# **BEIJING 2022 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES**

## **QUALIFICATION REGULATIONS**

December 2020

**INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This publication describes in detail how athletes can qualify for the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games in each of the five sports on the Games programme. It provides to National Paralympic Committees, National Sport Federations, sports administrators, coaches and to the athletes themselves the conditions that allow participation in the winter sports signature event of the Paralympic Movement.

Presented here are:

- An overview of the Beijing 2022 Paralympic 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 publication follows a standardized 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
- Maximum Entries per NPC
- Qualification System
- Timeline
- Confirmation Process of Allocated Slots
- Reallocation of Unused Qualification Slots
- International Federation Contact Information

### **QUALIFICATION METHODS**

There are a variety of qualification methods which the International Federations may employ depending on the nature and traditions of each sport. The mix of qualification methods within each sport is supposed to 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 (wherever possible) and that regional distribution of qualification slots is justifiably

based on elite performances and/or prevalence of a sport in a given region.

In some 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).

## **QUESTIONS AND UPDATES**

For questions regarding sport-specific qualification issues please contact the respective International Federation. Questions of a general nature can be addressed to the IPC Sports Department: [juergen.padberg@paralympic.org](mailto: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/beijing-2022](http://www.paralympic.org/beijing-2022).

## **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

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

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# **BEIJING 2022 PARALYMPIC PROGRAMME**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Paralympic Winter 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 Sports Programme is to provide exciting and inspiring events in the Paralympic Games that allow athletes to achieve competitive excellence while engaging and entertaining spectators. To ensure this for the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, the IPC conducted its quadrennial review process that determined the inclusion and positioning of sports, disciplines and medal events within the Paralympic Winter Games based on established core characteristics and guiding principles.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

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

**EXCELLENCE** – The Paralympic Games should constitute the highest level of competition for each sport, with participation of the world's best athletes.

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

**UNIVERSALITY** – The Paralympic Games include athletes from all regions of the world, representing the maximum possible number of NPCs.

**INTEGRITY** – The Paralympic Games feature well-governed, clean, fair and safe competition, with excellence in judging and officiating.

**SUSTAINABILITY** – The Paralympic Games showcase Para sports with a depth and strength of field that ensure high quality events from one Paralympic Games edition to the next.

## 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
Para Alpine Skiing	15	15	-	30	140	80	220
Para Ice Hockey	-	-	1	1	136*	8*	144
Para Nordic Skiing	18	18	2	38	120	90	210
Para Snowboard	6	2	-	8	70	32	102
Wheelchair Curling	-	-	1	1	48*	12*	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>736</b>

\*estimated numbers due to gender-free slot allocation

## GENERAL IPC REGULATIONS ON ELIGIBILITY

In addition to each International Federation's athlete eligibility criteria the IPC has established a set of general conditions that apply to all participants in the Paralympic Winter 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 Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games. NPCs are reminded that National Federations must ensure that their membership with their sport's respective International Federation is in good standing during the qualification period and upon close of entry to the Paralympic Winter Games so their athletes will be eligible.

### COMPLIANCE WITH IPC ATHLETES NATIONALITY CODE

Any athlete in the Paralympic Winter 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 Code published in the IPC Handbook.

## **MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT**

No minimum age limit for athletes competing in the Paralympic Winter Games is stipulated by the IPC on a general basis. However, NPCs should note that an age limit may be established by relevant International Federations through sport-specific athlete eligibility standards. While the Paralympic Winter Games welcomes the world's youth with an impairment, NPCs are asked to use discretion and send to the Paralympic Winter Games only athletes adequately prepared for elite level international competition.

## **UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEING TO THE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

To be eligible for participation in the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter 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 athletes or teams to compete in the 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 selection standards when applied.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH CLASSIFICATION RULES**

Only qualified athletes that meet the sport-specific classification rules and have a designated classification status (as defined below per each sport) will be eligible for entry in the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter 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 herein.

## **BIPARTITE INVITATIONS**

As in previous Paralympic Winter Games, the IPC has worked with International Federations to develop qualification methods which allow the best athletes in each sport to compete in the 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 Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games.

While the primary method in which the guiding principles are respected is through the standard qualification methods, the IPC and International Federations have also sought to provide targeted qualification slot allocations in particular sports 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 International Federation, 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 Invitation slots: Para Alpine Skiing, Para Nordic Skiing, Para Snowboard.

## **TIMELINES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

NPCs may suggest Bipartite candidates to the respective International Federation beginning on 10 January 2022. Applications for Bipartite slots must be received by the International Federation by 7 February 2022. Candidates must meet the General Eligibility Regulations (as defined above) and their respective sport's Eligibility requirements (as defined in each sport's chapter of this Guide). All Bipartite decisions are final with no opportunity for protest or appeal.

## **REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED QUALIFICATION SLOTS**

Qualification slots that are not allocated or reallocated by the established deadlines or go unused (following the deadline for final 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.



## KEY DATES

The following dates and deadlines have been established by the IPC and the Beijing 2022 Organising Committee and need to be observed across all sports on the programme:

### **BEGINNING OF QUALIFICATION PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2020**

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 Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games:

- a) No IF may establish a qualification period that begins prior to 1 January 2020, whereby direct slot allocations are obtained by athletes or teams for the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games.
- b) An IF may rely on athlete ranking lists that incorporate competition results achieved at competitions prior to 1 January 2020. However, no IF may rely on athlete performances that have occurred prior to or during the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.
- c) 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: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021 (TBD)**

NPCs must submit to the Beijing 2022 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, etc.), guides, 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 the deadline (tbd) can be entered into the Games by the Sport Entries Deadline (see below).

### **SPORT ENTRIES DEADLINE: 18 FEBRUARY 2022**

Sport Entries is the official registration process for athletes selected and qualified to participate in the Paralympic Winter Games. Any athlete an NPC may choose to enter must meet all eligibility conditions 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 conditions is 18 February 2022.

## PARA NORDIC SKIING

### PARA BIATHLON & PARA CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

#### Medal Events

Male	Female	Mixed	Total
18	18	2	38
<b>PARA CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING</b> - Sprint Free VI - Sprint Sitting - Sprint Free Standing - Middle Distance Free VI - Middle Distance Sitting - Middle Distance Free Standing - Long Distance Classic VI - Long Distance Sitting - Long Distance Classic Standing  <b>PARA BIATHLON</b> - Sprint VI - Sprint Sitting - Sprint Standing - Middle Distance VI - Middle Distance Sitting - Middle Distance Standing - Individual VI - Individual Sitting - Individual Standing	<b>PARA CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING</b> - Sprint Free VI - Sprint Sitting - Sprint Free Standing - Middle Distance Free VI - Middle Distance Sitting - Middle Distance Free Standing - Long Distance Classic VI - Long Distance Sitting - Long Distance Classic Standing  <b>PARA BIATHLON</b> - Sprint VI - Sprint Sitting - Sprint Standing - Middle Distance VI - Middle Distance Sitting - Middle Distance Standing - Individual VI - Individual Sitting - Individual Standing	<b>PARA CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING</b> - Open 4x2.5km Relay - Mixed 4x2.5km Relay	

#### Athlete Quota

Male	Female	Gender Free	Total
120	90	0	210

### **Allocation of Qualification Slots**

An athlete may only obtain a maximum of one (1) qualification slot. 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 twenty (20) male qualification slots and fourteen (14) female qualification slots. Exceptions may be made via the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method.

### **Athlete Eligibility**

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

- Hold a valid WPNS license for the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 seasons (exceptions may be made via the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method);
- Have achieved race points in at least one (1) race of the 2021/2022 season by 14 February 2022 (exceptions may be made via the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method);
- Be born in the year 2006 or earlier;
- Be internationally classified with either a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after the 2021/2022 season; and

For Para Biathlon:

- Be ranked and have at least one (1) race of 180 points or less on the WPBT Ranking Points List as of 14 February 2022. Exceptions may be granted through the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method.

For Para Cross-country skiing:

- Be ranked and have at least one (1) race of 180 points or less on either the WPBT or WPCCC Ranking Points Lists as of 14 February 2022. Exceptions may be granted through the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method.

### **Maximum Entry per NPC**

An NPC can enter a maximum of eight (8) eligible athletes per medal event and gender, and no more than four (4) per sport class in each medal event.

An NPC can enter a maximum of one (1) team per relay event comprised of athletes who have each qualified in at least one (1) individual event.

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

### **QUALIFICATION SYSTEM**

Qualification slots will be allocated as follows:

<b>Method</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2020/2021 WPNS Ranking Factor Allocation</b>	<p>Each male athlete with 180 points or less on either the WPNS BT or CC World Ranking List on 3 May 2021 obtains one (1) qualification slot for their NPC up to the maximum quota.</p> <p>Each female athlete with 180 points or less on either the WPNS BT or CC World Ranking List on 3 May 2021 obtains one (1) qualification slot for their NPC up to the maximum quota.</p> <p>In the case that the total number of male and/or female athletes with the required points score on 3 May 2021 exceeds the number of slots available per gender, a factor allocation will be established for each gender as follows:</p> <p><math>(A / B) \times C =</math> number of slots per NPC per gender</p> <p>A - NPC's total number of male/female athletes that meet the Ranking Factor Allocation points requirement</p> <p>B - Total number of male/female athletes from all NPCs that meet the Ranking Factor Allocation points requirement</p> <p>C - Total number of available slots from Ranking Factor Allocation per gender</p> <p>Each NPC's allocation will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number (up to the maximum quota) or rounded to one (1) if the allocation is lower.</p> <p>Any slots that cannot be allocated through this method will be allocated through the Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation method (below).</p>	<p>97 male athletes</p> <p>67 female athletes</p>

<b>Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation</b>	Twenty-three (23) eligible male athletes and twenty-three (23) eligible female athletes will be considered by WPNS and the IPC for Bipartite Commission Invitation slots. To be considered for a Bipartite Commission Invitation, NPCs must submit an official application in writing to WPNS by 7 February 2022.	23 male athletes 23 female athletes
<b>Total</b>		<b>120 male athletes</b> <b>90 female athletes</b>

## **TIMELINE**

3 May 2021	Closing date of the 2020/2021 WPNS World Ranking Lists for qualification slot allocation
1 June 2021	WPNS confirms to NPCs in writing the number of qualification slots allocated
1 July 2021	NPCs confirm in writing to WPNS the use of allocated qualification slots
December 2021, tbd	Deadline for Beijing 2022 Organising Committee to receive accreditation forms submitted by NPCs for all potential athletes ('Long List')
10 January 2022	Start of Bipartite Commission Invitation application process
7 February 2022	Deadline for NPCs to submit applications for Bipartite Commission Invitations
14 February 2022	Deadline for athletes to achieve race points in at least one race of the 2021/2022 season for eligibility purposes
15 February 2022	WPNS confirms in writing to the NPCs the awarding of Bipartite Commission Invitation slots
18 February 2022	Deadline for Beijing 2022 Organising Committee to receive sport entry lists submitted by NPCs

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

By 1 July 2021 each NPC must confirm to WPNS 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 WPNS may reallocate them.

By 15 February 2022 WPNS will confirm in writing the reallocation of all unused qualification slots.

By 15 February 2022 it is officially declared that the respective NPCs will use the allocated slots for the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games. Any NPC that does not use its allocated slots may be subject to sanctions by IPC and WPNS.

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

Any qualification slot that is not used by an NPC will be reallocated through the Bipartite Invitation Commission Allocation method.

### **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION**

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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.



## REGISTER OF UPDATES

Section	Date	Changes and additions
Para Snowboard	27 Feb. 2020	Bipartite Invitation Allocation method corrected
Entire publication	21 Oct. 2020	Sports and events names updated
Para Snowboard	21 Oct. 2020	Ranking List Allocation method corrected
Para Alpine Skiing	21 Oct. 2020	Eligibility criteria amended
Para Ice Hockey	21 Oct. 2020	Dates for World Championships A-Pool and B-Pool
Para Alpine Skiing	14 Dec. 2020	Qualification system and eligibility criteria updated
Para Ice Hockey	14 Dec. 2020	World Championships B-pool dates updated
Para Nordic Skiing	14 Dec. 2020	Qualification system updated
Para Snowboard	14 Dec. 2020	Qualification system and eligibility criteria updated
Wheelchair Curling	14 Dec. 2020	World Championship dates and slot allocation timeline amended