



# England Athletics

## Para Selection Policy for the

### 2026 Glasgow, Commonwealth Games

23<sup>rd</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2026

## 1 Overview

- 1.1** The Commonwealth Games Federation (“CGF”) has announced that the Para Athletics Qualification system will consist of two (2) methods of qualification for the 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games (“Games”):
- 1.1.1** Direct Qualification – based on World Para Athletics (“WPA”) Commonwealth Rankings (see section 2.5 below for details); and
  - 1.1.2** Bipartite Invitation – based on a selection process involving Commonwealth Games England (“CGE”) and CGF (see section 2.6 below for details).
- 1.2** For any English athletes meeting the Direct Qualification criteria, England Athletics (“EA”) will recommend to CGE that it accepts each Direct Qualification invitation allocated to an English athlete from the CGF. CGE is the Affiliated Commonwealth Games Association (“Affiliated CGA”) for England.

## 2. England Athletics overview of Para Athletics Qualification System

- 2.1** This section provides an overview of the key terms of the [CGF ‘Para Athletics Qualification System’ policy which can be downloaded here](#). This overview is not intended as a replacement for reading the CGF ‘Para Athletics Qualification System’ policy, which should be read by all athletes and interested parties in full.
- 2.2** The relevant qualifying period is **1st January 2025 to 31st March 2026 (“Qualifying Period”)**.
- 2.3** Each event will have a **maximum total of eight (8) athletes (except for Shot and Discus which has a maximum of ten (10))** from across all eligible countries. All events are detailed at section 4 of this Policy. Each Affiliated CGA can have a maximum of three athletes in any event.
- 2.4** As per section 1.1 above, athletes can qualify for the Games through Direct Qualification or Bipartite Invitation. Further details on each route to qualification are set out at sections 2.5 and 2.6 below.
- 2.5 Direct Qualifications:** The top seven (7) ranked Commonwealth athletes per medal event on the WPA Commonwealth Rankings at the close of the Qualifying Period as at **23:59 UTC on 31 March 2026** will be allocated a Direct Qualification slot in accordance with the below:
- In the first instance CGE will be eligible for two (2) Direct Qualification slots per event, if these athletes are ranked in the top seven (7). If there are no further eligible athletes on the WPA Commonwealth Rankings, then Affiliated CGAs with the

highest ranked 3rd athlete will be eligible to receive a 3rd Direct Qualification slot per event until all Direct Qualification slots have been filled.

- In the event that the final Direct Qualification slot has been achieved by more than one (1) athlete with the same result, WPA and the CGF will at their absolute discretion determine who receives the final slot. All decisions made by WPA and the CGF are final and **shall not be subject to appeal**.
- Only results achieved by athletes who hold a current WPA licence and record performances at WPA licensed competitions within the Qualifying Period are eligible for the WPA Commonwealth Rankings. The WPA competition calendar is accessible via the [WPA website](#).

Please see the **Para Athletics Qualification System policy** for further information.

**2.6 Bipartite Invitation:** Three (3) Bipartite Invitation slots will be issued to any country who has submitted a successful application through the Bipartite process within each of the following Para Athletics throwing events:

- Men's/Women's Shot Put F57
- Men's/Women's Discus F42-44/F61-64

One (1) Bipartite Invitation slot will be issued within each of the remaining medal events on the Para Athletics programme.

Applications for Bipartite Invitation slots are to be submitted by CGE to the CGF by **16 March 2026**. In order to be considered for the award of a Bipartite Invitation slot, athletes must meet the eligibility criteria outlined within the **Para Athletics Qualification System policy** and have competed in at least one (1) WPA recognised competition within the Qualifying Period. Additional information on selection and eligibility criteria is set out in section 5 of this Policy.

- 2.7.** The CGF will send Direct Qualification and Bipartite Invitation slots to CGE inviting named athletes to be selected for the Games.
- 2.8. Direct Qualifications and Bipartite Invitations:** If an invited English athlete qualifies in **one (1)** slot but this athlete declines their allocated 'slot', the invitation will then be handed back to the CGF who will pass onto the athlete who is next in the WPA Commonwealth rankings, according to the reallocation policy detailed in the **Para Athletics Qualification System' policy**. (Potentially this could be a non-English athlete). EA and CGE do not have any influence on this procedure.
- 2.9.** If an athlete is allocated **two** slots (for different events) and turns one down, the declined slot will be reallocated by CGF, based on the WPA Commonwealth rankings. (Potentially this could be a non-English athlete.) EA and CGE do not have any influence on this procedure.
- 2.10.** Queries about this process should be directed to Scott Grace, Team Leader Commonwealth Games, England Athletics at [sgrace@englandathletics.org](mailto:sgrace@englandathletics.org).

### **3 Essential Eligibility Criteria.**

**3.1** To be considered for selection, athletes must be eligible to represent England at the Games in accordance with the eligibility requirements of the CGF. Those include a requirement that all athletes must:

- 3.1.1** hold a valid British Passport;

**3.1.2** complete appropriate UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) education and training; and

**3.1.3** completed the Team England Games Registration information by **19 December 2025**.

**3.2** Eligibility requirements are set by the CGF, assessed by EA, and any decisions made by EA regarding eligibility can be appealed to CGE. CGE's decision on any question of eligibility shall be final. The eligibility requirements are set out in **Appendix 1**.

### **3.3 Additional Athlete Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to represent England in the Para Athletics competition of Glasgow 2026 an athlete must by the start of the Games:

- be internationally classified with a confirmed sport class status or review with a fixed review date of 2027 or later at the sport entries deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026;
- hold an active WPA Licence for the 2025 and 2026 season;
- not be disqualified or suspended by the CGF, CGE, WPA or under the World Anti-Doping Code;
- have complied with all applicable rules and regulations of the CGF, WPA and the World Anti-Doping Code as may be modified and applied by the CGF to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed;
- have met the CGF's eligibility regulations in accordance with the CGF Constitution; and
- have complied with the minimum age regulations, as stipulated by WPA.

WPA and CGF may consider any valid, personal, and / or extenuating circumstances for an athlete not being compliant with the above eligibility requirements and, in light of those, nevertheless deem them to have met the eligibility criteria. All decisions made by WPA and CGF are final **with no opportunity for protest or appeal**.

Eligibility requirements are set by the CGF, and CGE's decision on any question of eligibility shall be final. The eligibility requirements are set out under Article 24 of the Commonwealth Games Federation's Constitution.

## **4 Medal Events and Qualification Slots**

The following events will be contested by para-athletes at the Games:

<b>Women's Medal Events</b>	<b>Eligible Sport Classes</b>	<b>Maximum Qualification Slots per event</b>
1. 100m T38	• T37/38	8
2. 100m T47	• T45/46/47	8
3. 200m T38	• T37/38	8
4. 400m T54	• T53/54	8
5. 1500m T54	• T53/54	8
6. Discus F42- 44/F61-64	• F42/43/44/F61/62/63/64 (Raza points)	10
7. Shot Put F57	• F55/56/57	10
8. Long Jump T38	• T37/38	8

Men's Medal Events	Eligible Sport Classes	Maximum Qualification Slots per event
1. 100m T12	• T11/12*	8
2. 100m T38	• T37/38	8
3. 100m T47	• T45/46/47	8
4. 1500m T20	• T20	8
5. 1500m T54	• T53/54	8
6. Discus F42-44/F61-64	• F42/43/44/F61/62/63/64 (Raza points)	10
7. Shot Put F57	• F55/56/57	10
8. Long Jump T20	• T20	8

\*All eight (8) athletes entered in the Men's 100m T12 event are entitled to one (1) guide each.

Please note that the maximum number of qualification slots per event does not reflect the possible maximum field size per event.

In accordance with the Allocation of Qualification Slots (*set out in section 4 of the Para Athletics Qualification System*), eligible athletes that have obtained a qualification slot may enter all events in which they are eligible to compete within provided that the entry does not exceed the maximum number of athletes from that respective Affiliated CGA within the event, as detailed in section 2.3 of the Para Athletics Qualification System.

## 5. Para Selection Panel

**5.1.** For the purpose of the **Bipartite Nomination (ONLY)** a Para Selection Panel will be convened, where relevant, to propose athlete(s) for consideration for the Invitational slots, as set out in 2.6.

**5.2.** EA will nominate any athletes for consideration through the Bipartite Nomination Process to CGE following the selection meeting to be held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.

**5.3.** Nominations for the Bipartite Nomination process will be made to CGE by the EA Para Selection Panel, which shall comprise of:

- EA Talent and Performance Director (Chair);
- EA Team Leader;
- EA Para Lead;
- UKA Para Representative;
- Event Representatives; and
- Independent Panel Member

(together the "**Para Selection Panel**").

All members of the Para Selection Panel shall have one (1) vote and the EA Team Leader will have the casting vote.

**5.4** In deciding nominations, the Para Selection Panel shall consider, at its sole discretion, a combination of the following criteria as well as any other factors that it may, in its sole discretion, deem relevant to achieving the aims for the Games. The following criteria are not listed in any order of importance:

- performance in the Qualification Period;
- WPA Ranking within the Commonwealth;
- current form and performance consistency;
- future individual medal potential at major events, based on factors including an athlete progression and trajectory;
- previous major competition history between 2022 to 2026; and
- current and historic injury/illness status which the Para Selection Panel considers may affect or determine an athlete's performance at the Games, taking into account relevant medical evidence

## 6. Confidentiality

**6.1.** All those involved in the selection process for the CGE Athletics team (notably the Para Selection Panel and athletes themselves) must keep confidential and not disclose any information regarding any aspect of the process, the nominated athletes and the team selected unless authorised in writing by EA. CGE and EA will work together to agree a media release and announcement of the team.

**6.2.** Athletes informed of their nomination or selection should not disclose this to any public body until the official announcement has been made.

## 7. Timelines

### Qualification Timeline

Date	Milestones
<b>1 January 2025</b>	Para Athletics Qualification period commences
<b>9 March 2026</b>	England Athletics Para Selection Panel meet to discuss potential Bipartite nominations (see 5.1 – 5.4)
<b>9 March 2026</b>	England Athletics Para Selection Panel nominates any athletes for Bipartite nomination to CGE
<b>16 March 2026</b>	CGE deadline to submit Bipartite Invitation applications to the CGF
<b>31 March 2026</b>	Para Athletics ranking period closes
<b>By 7 April 2026</b>	CGF to issue Direct Qualification and Bipartite Invitation slots to CGE
<b>14 April 2026</b>	<b>Confirmation of Acceptance Deadline:</b> CGE to confirm acceptance of Direct Qualification and Bipartite Invitation slots
<b>15 - 30 April 2026</b>	Reallocation of returned qualification slots
<b>23 June 2026</b>	<b>Glasgow 2026 Entry by Name Deadline</b>
<b>23 July - 2 August 2026</b>	<b>Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games</b>

## 8. Appeals

- 8.1. No appeals will be allowed against the content of the published Selection Policy (as amended from time to time).
- 8.2. For '**Direct Qualifications**' as set out in section 2.5, CGF and its Executive Board will have sole responsibility for any disputes arising from the **Para Athletics Qualification System policy**. There will, therefore, be no appeal to EA or CGE.
- 8.3. For '**Bipartite Qualifications**', CGF and its Executive Board will have ultimate authority for the final selection decisions for the Games. There will, therefore, be no appeal to EA or CGE.
- 8.4. CGF and CGE may have athletes selected through the **Para Athletics Qualification System** rejected due to non-performance issues such as those raised by UKAD, Home Office and any other relevant body.
- 8.5. Should this arise, CGE will notify EA, who in turn will endeavour to inform the affected athlete within 24 hours of receipt of such information, where possible.
- 8.6. An affected athlete may then appeal this decision to CGE. This must be made directly to CGE Chef de Mission, Frankie Carter-Kelly, [f.kelly@teamengland.org](mailto:f.kelly@teamengland.org)
- 8.7. EA will not make any representation for or on behalf of the affected athlete should this situation arise / in the event of an appeal to the CGE.

## 9. Changes to the Selection Policy

- 9.1. EA reserves the right to amend or vary this selection policy (in its entirety or in part) where necessary at any time. Any such amendments or variations will take effect from the first date of publication of the amended Selection Policy on the EA website.

## Appendix 1 – Commonwealth Federation Byelaw 16

### 1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1. It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 16.

### 2. PRIMACY

2.1. Subject to Byelaw 16(4) 16(5) 16(6) and 16(7), a competitor shall be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them where they satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- a) Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them, or:
- b) Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters them.

2.2. In respect of the following Affiliated CGAs: -

- i. Guernsey, Jersey, and Isle of Man. The governments of these three Crown Dependencies do not define citizenship. For these Affiliated CGAs, citizenship shall be defined as three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"\* date of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee ("Continuous Residency") and the competitor must be in possession of a current valid UK passport.
- ii. Northern Ireland. Byelaw 16 will defer to the Belfast Agreement (1998). Northern Ireland athletes who meet birth right criteria are to be treated equally regardless of their possession of either a current valid UK or Irish passport (but must hold one of these). This right is enshrined within the Constitution Issues (iv) of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.
- iii. Norfolk Island. Any individual who was in possession of a current valid New Zealand passport and was also deemed eligible to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games for Norfolk Islands may continue to compete for Norfolk Islands at future iterations of the Games.

### 3. SECONDARY

3.1. Subject to Byelaw 16(4) 16(5) 16(6) and 16(7), where a competitor was born in a Commonwealth Country which has common citizenship/passport with other Commonwealth Countries, the competitor may represent either:

- a) the Commonwealth Country of their birth; or
- b) the Commonwealth Country of birth of their parent; or
- c) where the relevant IF recognises grandparents as part of its eligibility criteria, the competitor may represent the Commonwealth Country of birth of their grandparent; or
- d) the Commonwealth Country where they have completed a minimum period of three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"\* of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee.



- 3.2. Subject to the other provisions of this Byelaw 16, where a competitor is eligible to represent more than one Affiliated CGA due to common passport privileges they may choose which Affiliated CGA to represent. For the avoidance of doubt, if an individual has competed at a Commonwealth Youth Games this will not be deemed to be a choice of country, and the competitor may choose to represent a different Affiliated CGA at a Commonwealth Games.
- 3.3. For the avoidance of doubt subject to Byelaw 16(4) and 16(5) any competitor of a common passport area who competes for their common passport country (i.e. Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia) at either the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and/or any World Championships or any other major sporting event shall be entitled to choose to represent their home Affiliated CGA (e.g. Turks and Caicos) at the Commonwealth Games.

#### **4. DISQUALIFICATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS**

- 4.1. A competitor shall not be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:
- a) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by the Federation; and/or
  - b) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective Affiliated CGA; and/or
  - c) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective IF, National Federation and/or
  - d) are currently under disqualification or suspension under the World Anti-Doping Code.

#### **5. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 5.1. A competitor shall only be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:
- a) Satisfy and comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation; and
  - b) Satisfy and comply their respective IF rules and regulations (including but not limited to, complying with respective IF eligibility rules as applied within each respective edition of the Commonwealth Games Athlete Allocation Systems); and
  - c) Satisfy and comply with the World Anti-Doping Code as applied within the Federation Anti-Doping Standard to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.
  - d) For the avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between respective IF Nationality rules and regulations and those of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Federation Bye Law 16 shall prevail.

#### **6. TRANSFER OF ALLEGIANCE**

- 6.1. After having established eligibility status under this Byelaw 16 a competitor who has previously represented one Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Games may not represent another Commonwealth Country unless they also receive the prior approval of the Federation, the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA. For the avoidance of doubt, this Byelaw shall not apply if an individual has represented a Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Youth Games. Applications under this Byelaw 16(6) must be submitted to the Executive Board two calendar months before the “final entries deadline”\* for the respective Commonwealth Games. Applications must include formal confirmation of the prior approval of the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA.



- 6.2. All applications for transfer of allegiance under Byelaw 16(6) and/or discretionary eligibility dispensation under Byelaw 16(7) including all relevant paperwork and documentation must be submitted no later than two calendar months prior to the published “final entries deadline”\*, as outlined by the respective Organising Committee.

## **7. DISPENSATIONS**

- 7.1. The Executive Board shall delegate authority to the Governance and Integrity Committee (GIC) who have the power to grant dispensations to Byelaw 16 in exceptional circumstances and to consider any matters relating generally to Byelaw 16. Each application for dispensation under Byelaw 16 shall be considered on its own merits and will not create a precedent for any future applications. Decisions made by GIC are subject to the right of appeal directly to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be final and binding.

\*“final entries deadline” means the final date that an individual athlete may be entered in a particular event(s) for the relevant Commonwealth Games, usually completed via an online entry system. Such date to be communicated for each relevant Commonwealth Games in the Sport Handbook.