



Selection Criteria for Teams

If this is in reference to the Junior Team then the procedure is exactly the same.

Introduction

The Head Coach of each squad follow set criteria for the selection of athletes to their Athens Paralympic teams. The criteria below has been devised so that decisions, which are sometimes subjective, can be measured and monitored.

In making his final decision the Head Coach will be guided by his own experience from working with the players at individual, regional, elite sessions and at residential training camps and 'friendly' internationals tournaments. Coaches also receive feedback from other coaches and other experts who work with the players on a one-to-one basis in various disciplines, e.g. strength and conditioning, nutrition, individual skills, mental readiness etc which helps confirm their decisions.

Final Decision

The Head Coaches of the Great Britain Men's and Women's Team are contractually charged by the association with the task of making the final team selection for all competitions and submitting the selection for ratification to the GBWBA's National Teams Sub-Committee. In the case of the Paralympic Games this is then passed on to the British Paralympic Association.

Any player who has not been selected and feels they should have been must discuss the matter, in the first instance, with the Head Coach. If they are still not satisfied a formal written appeal should be given to the Chairman of the National Teams Sub-committee within 2 calendar days of the selection being announced. This statement will then be submitted to the Appeals Panel for consideration. The appeals process will take no more than 5 calendar days.



MENS PROGRAMME

Criteria/Monitoring

To be considered for selection a player is expected to meet the criteria set below. The importance of the different criteria ranges from essential to desirable. These ratings will inform the selection process, allowing coaches to differentiate between players with similar abilities.

Monitoring is done by the GB Head Coach and Assistant Coach through personal observation and feedback from the EIS strength and conditioning co-ordinator; individual skills coaches; the squad's lead physiotherapist; sport psychologist; team manager; nutritionist; team mechanic (care of sports chairs); and sports science advisor.

For the Great Britain Men's Team a relatively new development that will inform and enhance selection decisions for the 2004 Athens Paralympic Team is the increasing individualisation of the Association's WCPP.

CRITERIA

- **Inclusion on the World Class Performance Plan – Essential**

The World Class Performance Plan (WCPP), specifically designed to create an elite squad of 18 players to prepare for world-level competition, came about due to the introduction of lottery funding. It is from this group of elite players that the team of 12 will come from. Unless there are extremely unusual and unforeseen circumstances a player is only eligible for selection to the GB team if he is a current member of the WCPP squad and follows every aspect of its comprehensive individual and squad training programme.

- **Physicality – Desirable**

A player's physical characteristics are an important aspect at the World level. Ideally he should be big in his chair and have big hands and a long reach. This attribute of size does not preclude smaller players who may bring other qualities.

- **Power to weight ratio – Essential**

The development of quickness is the priority within the current WCPP in order to execute a 'pressure' style of basketball both offensively and defensively. Power and leanness are attributes that are being developed through training and diet. Improvements in these areas must be seen and are to be monitored via field-based testing and body mass index scans.

- **Following a training regime – Essential**

Each player must follow the training programme as set out in the WCPP. This includes (a) attendance at elite, regional and individual sessions plus residential training camps; (b) be available for the full competition calendar; (c) maintain training performance records and make these available to the GB coaching staff; (d) maintain the correct



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work/rest ratio in line with the macro/micro preparation cycles (to ensure 'peaking' at the appropriate time).

- **Technical ability – Essential**

Players must demonstrate individual technique and co-operative skills that are comparable or better than international players, in or above their classification, from leading teams around the world.

- **Fitness – Essential**

Players must demonstrate through testing that they are maintaining, improving and moving towards a 'peak' (as defined by sports science) condition by the time of the 2004 Athens Paralympics.

- **Mental toughness and readiness – Desirable**

These qualities are difficult to define and monitor, however, over a period of time they become recognisable, i.e., a player shows he can remain calm and be positive under pressure; he demonstrates perseverance and a will to prepare to win; positivism – he behaves as if success is a choice.

- **Demonstrate an understanding of the team concept - Essential**

Players demonstrate through training and games that they understand the importance of working together as a team. They are prepared to take personal responsibility when this is what their team needs most.

- **International potential**

It may be appropriate to include in a team selection a player who would benefit from the experience of playing in international competition with a view to his long term development.



WOMENS PROGRAMME

Criteria/Monitoring

The following criteria has been produced to assist in monitoring and guiding the selection process for the Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team for the 2004 Athens Paralympics. The importance of the different criteria ranges from essential to desirable. These ratings will inform the selection process, allowing coaches to differentiate between players with similar abilities. Ultimately the final decision rests with the coaches, and this will be strongly influenced by a coach's "gut-feeling" as to a player's suitability for the team.

CRITERIA

- **Fitness levels – Essential**
Players must demonstrate through testing that they are maintaining, improving and moving towards a 'peak' (as defined by sports science) condition by the time of the 2004 Athens Paralympics.
- **Evidence of individual improvement - Desirable**
Players must demonstrate an improvement in their individual skills and abilities, measured through coach assessment and technical testing i.e. free throws.
- **Technical ability – Essential**
Players must demonstrate individual technique and co-operative skills that are comparable or better than international players, in or above their classification, from leading teams around the world.
- **Potential to improve – Desirable**
Players must show the capability and the potential to improve both physically and mentally. This area of the criteria is subjective and at the coaches discretion. It is monitored by coach/athlete discussions and evidence of prior improvements.
- **Ability to work as part of a team - Necessary**
Players demonstrate through training and games that they understand the importance of working together as a team. They are prepared to take personal responsibility when this is what their team needs most.
- **Dedication to being an elite athlete - Necessary**
Players must show a constant strive for self improvement and accept the requirements for being a member of the GB Team. It is monitored through a good coach – athlete relationship with open and honest communication and regular feedback.



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- **Suitability within a team framework – Essential**
Players must be able to work together as a team to become very difficult to beat. Players must also have the ability to adapt to the teams style of play. It is monitored by coach assessment and the use of statistics.
- **“X Factor” – Desirable**
This criteria is down to the coaches gut feeling.

Paralympic Games in Athens 2004

In the case of the GB Women the Team Selection will be announced by 25th April, 2004

In the case of the GB Men the Team Selection will be announced by 3rd June, 2004

Under IWBF Rules (We believe adopted for this event) the Wheelchair Basketball Team's selection can change up until the first classification session or the Team Managers Meeting, whichever is first.



APPEALS PROCESS

This policy document sets out the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association Appeals policy for:

1. Selection of GB representative teams for Paralympic Games
2. Selection of GB representative teams to World or European Championships

The selection panel will comprise of the relevant Coaching Team. Expert advisers may also be consulted when and if necessary.

This is intended to be a speedy policy to enable any changed decisions to be implemented in time for event entries to be completed.

How to Appeal

The appeals process is invoked by making a formal written appeal to the Chairman of the National Team Sub-Committee within 2 calendar days of the selection being announced.

The appeal shall be a written statement from the prospective appellant detailing all relevant reasons - as only one appeal is permitted all relevant facts must be included in a full submission. The full costs of convening the panel including, where applicable, consultant's fees, must be met by the complainant if the appeal is rejected. This is likely to be substantial and therefore a deposit of £250 will be payable in advance of any hearing. This is refundable only if the appeal is successful. Costs accrued to the appellant shall be met by the appellant. Should an appeal be successful costs of travel and accommodation for the appellant and representative will be met.

Grounds for Appeal

The grounds for appeal are limited to allegations of:

- Failure to follow due process
- Bias / undue influence
- Some other misconduct of selectors
- New evidence the panel may have been unaware of as relates directly to the non-selected rider.

The panel will be unable to consider medical evidence without the player's full consent to disclosure and discussion.

There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published selection criteria and therefore against the actions of the selection panel, provided they follow the selection criteria.

The criteria for appeal may not include any alleged error of judgment of the selectors.



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Outcomes of initial consideration

The Chairman who has received the appeal will within 24 hours acknowledge receipt to the rider and submit the appeal to the Appeals Panel who will arrange for an initial judgment on the validity of the grounds of appeal.

The initial submission will be considered by a panel consisting of its members who will make a judgment on the validity of the grounds of appeal within 2 days of receipt of the written statement. Should the appeal be rejected on the basis that the appeal is not based on any of the allowable grounds, the selection will stand.

Should the appeal be ruled by the Great Britain Wheelchair Basketball Association panel to be on valid grounds an Appeal Panel will be convened.

The decision of the Panel, together with the reasons for the decision will be provided in writing to the appellant and to the original selection panel within one day of reaching the decision.

Appeal Panel

The Appeal Panel will normally consist of 3 people, selected by the Executive Committee, to include at least one person independent of the sport of Wheelchair Basketball and the Honorary Solicitor.

Time constraints will be a factor in the composition of the Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel will be notified immediately of the decision of the initial Panel.

Appeal Hearing

If an appeal hearing is found to be required, there will be one Appeal Hearing only; at which the written appeal originally submitted shall be considered.

The hearing would normally be convened within 5 calendar days of a decision to hold an Appeal Hearing. This relatively short time span is necessary to allow a decision to take place in time for any reversal to be acted upon. The Appeal Hearing will be minuted, and an additional person may be nominated by the Appeals Panel to be present for this purpose.

The decision of the Appeal Panel following an Appeal Hearing will normally be communicated to the Appellant verbally on the same day, followed up in writing to the appellant, original selection panel and interested parties within 2 calendar days of the Appeal Hearing. If there are circumstances preventing an immediate decision, the Appeal Panel will explain the reasons and the revised timescale to the Appellant.

Decisions by the Appeals Panel will be final.