



LOS ANGELES 2028 SUMMER PARALYMPIC GAMES

SELECTION POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy is to set out the principles and process which Paralympics New Zealand ("PNZ") will apply when selecting a New Zealand Paralympic Team ("NZ Paralympic Team") to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the 2028 Paralympic Games to be held in Los Angeles, United States of America from 15 August – 27 August 2028 ("Games").
- 1.2 **High Selection Standard:** The Games represents the pinnacle of Para athlete achievement and PNZ shall use this Policy to ensure a high selection standard into the NZ Paralympic Team is maintained.
- 1.3 **Consistency:** This Policy is to be reflected in the nomination criteria to be adopted by each National Sports Organisation ("NSO Nomination Criteria") for all Para athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the NZ Paralympic Team to compete in the Games.
- 1.4 **Selection Panel:** A Selection Panel will be appointed by the PNZ Board and operate pursuant to Part E of the PNZ Nomination and Selection Regulation ("Regulation"), including implementation of this Policy on behalf of PNZ.

2. The Process

- 2.1 **PNZ Nomination and Selection Regulation:** The process for nomination and selection for the NZ Paralympic Team is set out in the Regulation which is available on the PNZ website at www.paralympics.org.nz.
- 2.2 **Definitions:** Definitions in the Regulation apply to this Policy.

3. General Selection Criteria

- 3.1 PNZ **must** be satisfied that the Nominated Para athlete or Nominated Team:
- 3.1.1 Meets all eligibility requirements set out in the IPC Handbook applicable to the Games, this Policy, the Regulation, the NSO Nomination Criteria for the Games and any requirements of the International Federation ("IF") of the Para sport.
- 3.1.2 Has met the requirements specified in clause 9.2 (Conditions of Nomination) of the Regulation.

4. Specific Selection Criteria

4.1 **Criteria:** PNZ will consider all eligible Nominated Para athletes for selection in the NZ Paralympic Team against the Performance Criteria set out in this Policy for Individual Events and Team Events set out below as well as the Other Factors listed in clause 5. PNZ in its sole discretion shall decide whether a Para athlete or Para athletes satisfy the definition of an Individual Event or a Team Event.

4.2 **Individual Events:**

4.2.1 **Definition:** For the purpose of this Policy, an "**Individual Event**" means a competition event at the Games in which a Para athlete competes alone or an event in which Para athletes compete together in the event (for example as a pair, doubles, crew, mixed team or relay team), and which is not a "Team Event" as defined in this Policy.

4.2.2 **Performance Criteria:** Any Nominated Para athlete (or Para athletes, guide or pilot, for example in the case of a pair, crew or relay team) seeking to be selected for the NZ Paralympic Team in an Individual Event(s) must demonstrate to PNZ's satisfaction that the Nominated Para athlete(s):

- a. Is or are competing in an Individual Event where a quota place at the Games has been qualified in accordance with the IF Qualification System; and
- b. Is or are capable of achieving a top eight (8) placing, with potential to win a Paralympic medal (top 3 placing), in the Games in that Individual Event(s).

4.2.3 **Evidence:** In order for a Nominated Para athlete(s) to meet the Performance Criteria for Individual Event(s) in clause 4.2.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to PNZ by the NSO to demonstrate a track record of sufficient quality and depth by the Nominated Para athlete(s) in their performances and results in Key Events (see clause 4.4) during the period 1 January 2026 – 2 July 2028 ("**Nomination Period**") in the Individual Event(s) for which they are seeking to be selected for the Games. This evidence shall also include the performances and results of the Nominated Para athlete(s) at any other relevant international events during the Nomination Period, and the performances and results during the same period of the likely competitors of the Nominated Para athlete(s) in the Individual Event(s) at the Games.

4.2.4 **Performance Plan:** In addition to the evidence required in clause 4.2.3, PNZ may request that the NSO of a Nominated Para athlete(s) provide a Performance Plan outlining how the Para athlete(s) will prepare for the Games.

4.3 **Team Events:**

4.3.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, a "**Team Event**" means a competition event at the Games in which a group of Para athletes (including reserves or substitutes) compete together in one of the following Para sports:

- Blind football, Sitting volleyball, Wheelchair basketball, Wheelchair rugby

4.3.2 **Performance Criteria:** A Nominated Team seeking to be selected for the NZ Paralympic Team in a Team Event must demonstrate to PNZ's satisfaction that the Nominated Team:

- a. Is or are competing in a Team Event where a quota place at the Games has been qualified in accordance with the IF Qualification System; and
- b. Is or are capable of achieving a top five (5) placing, with potential to win a Paralympic medal (top 3 placing), in the Games in that Team Event.

4.3.3 **Evidence:** In order for a Nominated Team to meet the Performance Criteria for a Team Event in clause 4.3.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to PNZ by the NSO to demonstrate a track record of sufficient quality and depth by the Nominated Team in their performances and results in Key Events (see clause 4.4) during the period 1 January 2026 – 2 July 2028 ("**Nomination Period**") in the Team Event for which they are seeking to be selected for the Games. This evidence shall also include the performances and results of the Nominated Team (and the performances of each nominated Para athlete in the Nominated Team) at any other relevant international events during the Nomination Period and the performances and results during the same period of the likely competitors of the Nominated Team in the Team Event at the Games.

4.3.4 **Performance Plan:** In addition to the evidence required in clause 4.3.3, PNZ may request that the NSO of a Nominated Team provide a Performance Plan outlining how the Nominated Team (and the Para athletes in the Team) will prepare for the Games.

4.4 **Key Events:**

4.4.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, "**Key Events**" means international events that have a similar field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games e.g. World Cups or World Championships.

4.4.2 **Determination:** The Key Events must be agreed to between the NSO and PNZ and be listed in the NSO Nomination Criteria. The Key Events must be held within the Nomination Period, unless otherwise agreed in the NSO Nomination Criteria.

5. **Other Factors**

5.1 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In considering the performance of a Nominated Para athlete(s) or Nominated Team(s) at Key Events, PNZ may in its sole discretion take into account extenuating circumstances and therefore waive or vary some or all of its criteria. NSOs must supply detailed evidence to support consideration of extenuating circumstances under this clause. For the purpose of this Policy, "extenuating circumstances" means the inability of a Para athlete(s) or Nominated Team(s) to compete or perform to an optimum level due to factors such as:

- 5.1.1 Injury or illness of a Para athlete(s);

- 5.1.2 Equipment failure;
- 5.1.3 Travel delays;
- 5.1.4 Bereavement or personal misfortune; or
- 5.1.5 Other circumstances as the Selection Panel, in its sole discretion, reasonably considers constitutes "extenuating circumstances".

In the case of any extenuating circumstance(s), the Selection Panel will make a decision on a case by case basis.

- 5.2 **PNZ Policies:** PNZ will only select Nominated Para athletes to the NZ Paralympic Team who have fully complied with PNZ policies, which are available on the PNZ website at www.paralympics.org.nz.

6. **Additional Matters**

- 6.1 **Qualification:** Notwithstanding clauses 4.2.2.a and 4.3.2.a, the fact that a Nominated Para athlete(s) or Nominated Team has qualified a place for an event at the Games will not guarantee selection of the Nominated Para athlete(s) or the Nominated Team into the NZ Paralympic Team.
- 6.2 **Bipartite Commission Invitation:** All selection decisions based on an application to the IPC by PNZ for a Bipartite Commission Invitation will be conditional on the IPC formally approving and awarding a place to the Para athlete.
- 6.3 **Not Obligated:** PNZ will not be obliged to accept places in the Games offered by the IPC, an IF and/or the Games Organising Committee (e.g. universality places, quota places, Bipartite Commission Invitation places). Any such acceptance will be solely at the discretion of PNZ and in accordance with the Regulation and/or this Policy.
- 6.4 **Right to Amend:** The PNZ Board reserves the right to amend this Policy from time to time in its sole discretion, where it considers there is a genuine and reasonable need to do so.
- 6.5 **Variation:** Any variation to the adherence to this Policy is at the sole discretion of the PNZ Board.

Approved by the PNZ Board: 29 May 2026