

**Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled
Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)**



ATHLETE SELECTION POLICY FOR ALPINE SKIING – DISABLED.

VANCOUVER PARALYMPICS 2010

BRITISH DISABLED SKI TEAM

CAIRNGORM MOUNTAIN

VIA AVIEMORE

INVERNEE-SHIRE

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www.BritishDisabledSkiTeam.co.uk

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games take place in the split venues of the vibrant Host City of Vancouver, to the venue cities of Richmond, and to the natural beauty of Whistler Host Mountain Resort, British Columbia, Canada from 12th – 22nd March 2010 with the alpine skiing disciplines hosted in the resort of Whistler.

The Games are organised and governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The British Disabled Ski Team (BDST) selection process conforms to the requirements of both the IPC and British Paralympic Association (BPA).

Our goals are to select individuals who have a realistic medal opportunity ('as of right' selection) at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and/or to identify and select athletes (exceptional circumstance nomination) who will gain invaluable experience as part of a planned performance progression pathway where future medal success (Sochi 2014 and beyond) is seen as an end point in the process.

The Alpine Skiing discipline for Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Games will consist of 30 events (Men 15) (Women 15) split between the speed events (Downhill and Super-G) and technical events (Super Combined, Giant Slalom and Slalom). All three disabled race categories (Visually Impaired, Sitting and Standing) will be included in the programme of events but not necessarily have representation from Great Britain.

This selection policy document draws on the qualification requirements set out in the "Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games Qualification Guide (April 2008)" issued by the IPC together with the Underlying Principles documents produced by the BPA.

Further criteria with which selected athletes must comply are laid down in detail in the document: 'IPC Alpine Skiing Rule Book 2008/09' as published on the IPC website and are to be used in combination with the FIS – Alpine International Competition Rules (ICR) as approved during FIS – Congress 2004 in Miami, USA.

2.0 SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection is open to all individuals who conform to both the General Criteria AND the sport specific qualification criteria (Specific Criteria) as set out below.

The qualification is allocated to the NPC (Paralympics GB), not the individual athlete.

In the case of a Bipartite Commission Invitation the qualification slot is allocated to the individual athlete following nomination by the sport (subject to fulfilling the same 'as of right' or exceptional circumstance criteria) and appropriate endorsement by the BPA following identification of 'eligible' individuals.

Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)

2.1 GENERAL CRITERIA

All athletes wishing to be considered for selection for Vancouver 2010 must:

- 2.1.1. Hold British nationality status as of December 2009
- 2.1.2. Hold a valid IPC IPCAS Licence for the 2008/09 and 2009/2010 season and be classified according to IPCAS rules
- 2.1.3. Be at least 15 years old by 22 February 2010
- 2.1.4. Have competed in at least 2 IPCAS points qualifying races as recognised by the IPC in their IPCAS points lists for Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G and Downhill during a Selection Period which shall run during the 2008/9 season and the 2009/2010 season and have achieved points in at least one race of the 2009/10 season, such races all being run under the auspices of either the World Cup, European Cup, NorAm or other recognised IPCAS status races.
- 2.1.5. In the case of athletes having their points in storage during the 2008/9 season due to IPC recognised Injury Status, such athletes must, as a minimum, have achieved points in one race of the 2009/10 season, such races being run under the auspices of either the World Cup, European Cup, NorAm or other recognised IPCAS status races.
- 2.1.6. Be a member of their National Governing Body and support organisation (Disability Snowsport UK/British Disabled Ski Team).
- 2.1.7. Comply with the anti doping regulations laid down by UK sport, the IPC and WADA.
- 2.1.8. Conform to and uphold the rules and regulations as laid down by IPC in their rule book 'IPC Alpine Skiing Rule Book', including (but not confined to) compliance with the IPC medical classifications and International Skiing Federation (FIS – Alpine International Competition Rules (ICR)).

2.2 SPECIFIC CRITERIA

All BDST athletes wishing to be considered for recommendation for selection to Paralympics GB (BPA) for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games as a member of the Great Britain Paralympic Team must:

- 2.2.1. Comply with the Selection Criteria laid down by the BPA, IPC and IPSF either "as of right" or by "Bipartite Commission Invitations" (formally named the "Sports-Specific Wild Card"). In the case of "as of right" selection, it should be noted that athletes returning from injury following a freezing of points due to IPC recognised injury status may be required to undergo medical screening and/or individual assessment by the Head Coach and shall not qualify "as of right" until such screening/assessment has been successfully completed to the satisfaction of the BDST AND the BPA. In the case of Bipartite Commission Invitations, such selection must be endorsed by both the

Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)

BDST Selection Committee as defined below AND by the BPA under the category of an “exceptional circumstances nomination” as set out in section 5.0 below.

‘AS OF RIGHT’ POINT THRESHOLDS

For Technical Events

Be ranked and have 100 IPCAS points or less on the IPCAS Slalom and/or Giant Slalom Ranking Lists as calculated based upon a final qualifying race date of 23 January 2010;

2.2.2. For Super G

2.2.3. Be ranked and have 100 IPCAS points or less on IPCAS Super G Ranking List as calculated based upon a final qualifying race date of 23 January 2010;

For Downhill

2.2.4. Be ranked and have 100 IPCAS points or less on IPCAS Downhill Ranking Lists as calculated based upon a final qualifying race date of 23 January 2010; (in the case that no valid downhill list is available the IPCAS Super G Ranking List will be used);

For Super Combined

2.2.5. Be ranked and have 100 IPCAS points or less on IPCAS Super Combined Ranking as calculated based upon a final qualifying race date of 23 January 2010; (in the case that no valid Super Combined list is available the IPCAS Super G Ranking List will be used);

2.2.6. The qualification period for eligibility will close on 23 January 2010 and only races held up to 23 January 2010 shall be counted in the points calculation.

2.2.7. Be available for and willing to be assessed with regard to their physical fitness both during the Selection Period and during the subsequent period following selection up until the Vancouver 2010 Games.

2.2.8. Qualified athletes (those who have qualified according to the above numbered principles) must stay fit, focused, and continue to train to the highest level to ensure their continuing fitness level.

2.2.9. Maintain a record of their race results and their personal physical fitness work and such a record must be available for inspection if required or similar both during the Selection Period and during the subsequent period following selection up until the Vancouver 2010 Games.

3.0 RETURNING OF UN-USED SLOTS TO IPC

Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)

- 3.1. In the event of there being more athlete slots allocated to GB by IPC than GB are able to guarantee legal fulfilment of, then such slots must be returned to IPC if sanction is to be avoided.
- 3.2. Prior to expiry of the deadline set by IPC for returning of un-used slots to the IPC, a Selection Committee will decide (either by meeting in person or by a consensus reached between the members in absentia, e.g. an agreed decision met by exchange of views by email) how many of the allocated slots that GB are able to guarantee fulfilment of and will advise BPA accordingly of the number of slots (if any) to be returned to IPC.
- 3.3. The Committee referred to in section 3.2 above shall be made up (in full or in part) from members of the Selection Committee referred to under section 4.1 below.

4.0 THE SELECTION PROCESS

- 4.1. Final selection of individuals for the Vancouver Paralympic Games will be made in accordance with the above General and Specific numbered principles by a three person Selection Committee which will be made up from a selection of the following: (i) Two board trustees from the governing body organisation Disability Snowsport UK, (ii) Representatives of the British Disabled Ski Team management committee (TMC) consisting including the Chief Executive of the governing body i.e. Disability Snowsport UK; the BDST Head Coach; and the BDST Performance and/or Team Manager. (iii) Permitted (non-voting) observers on the committee may comprise one or more BPA representatives.
- 4.2. Final selection will be made on 23 January 2010 so that performance levels attained during the selection period can be confirmed.
- 4.3. In the event of more athletes meeting the General and Specific criteria and thus being eligible for selection as of right than there are total places allocated to GB by IPC under the Selection Criteria specifically referred to in section 2.2.1 above or as allocated by the BPA then the Selection Committee will decide amongst those eligible athletes according to:
 - 4.4. their likelihood of obtaining a Medal at the Vancouver Games;
 - 4.5. results and consistency attained in the period prior to 23 January 2010;
 - 4.6. their relative positions in the relevant IPCAS points lists as set out in sections 2.2.2 to 2.2.5 of the Specific Criteria above; and
 - 4.7. 2014 potential

Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)

5.0 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE NOMINATION

In the case where there are fewer eligible athletes having obtained "as of right" qualification than total places allocated to the team by the IPC and confirmed within BPA VQP, then any further entry of athletes to the games will be governed by the following principles to fill any such remaining places as appropriate.

- (i) Exceptional Circumstance Nominations may be made to BPA for those athletes considered to be 'development potential' and are existing BDST Athletes who meet the minimum IPCAS qualification points criteria, namely:

For Technical Events

- a. Be ranked and have 200 IPCAS points or less on the IPCAS Slalom and/or Giant Slalom Ranking Lists respectively as of 22 February 2010;

For Super G

- b. Be ranked and have 120 IPCAS points or less on IPCAS Super G Ranking List as of 22 February 2010;

For Downhill

- c. Be ranked and have 120 IPCAS points or less on IPCAS Downhill Ranking Lists as of 22 February 2010 (in the case that no valid downhill list is available the IPCAS Super G Ranking List will be used);

For Super Combined

- d. Be ranked and have 120 IPCAS points or less on IPCAS Super Combined Ranking Lists as of 22 February 2010 (in the case that no valid Super Combined list is available the IPCAS Super G Ranking List will be used);

- (ii) 'other exceptional circumstances'.

In the case of (i) the potential must be demonstrable and backed up by evidence to illustrate that the athlete is showing continued and progressive development of performance and thought to be capable of achieving medal success in either the 2013 World Championships or the 2014 Sochi Paralympics. In the case of (ii) an example of "Exceptional Circumstances" may, for instance, include an athlete returning from serious injury who can provide compelling evidence that at the time of closing of the Selection Period there would be a realistic expectation that the numbered criteria given in the General and Specific criteria listed above would

Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)

have otherwise been met.

6.0 NPC TEAM OFFICIALS QUOTA

NPC's will be allowed to enter a number of staff per athlete based on the number of qualification slots awarded. These team officials may be representatives of BDST or recommendations from the NPC. Where identified these individuals will form part of the NPC Delegation for Alpine and fall under the selection process in terms of **7.0 Final Selection** below

7.0 FINAL SELECTION

The final selection of all athletes and supporting officials to Paralympics GB for the Vancouver Paralympic Games as referred to under section 4 and 5 is subject to endorsement by the BPA. All athletes, whether selected or not, will be given the opportunity to have an informal discussion with the Head Coach regarding their situation.

Notes:

1. All selected athletes and supporting officials will be required to successfully complete a pre departure ParalympicsGB Fit to Travel medical. Athletes failing to successfully complete this process will be deselected by ParalympicsGB.
2. All athletes will be required to maintain form from the point of selection to the point of competition. Athletes exhibiting loss of form for any reason will be subject to a Fit to Compete process which will require successful resolution. Failure to comply / successfully complete any aspect of this process will lead to de-selection by the NGB / or by ParalympicsGB.

8.0 PUBLICATION OF SELECTION

Announcement of the athletes to compete in the Vancouver Paralympic Games will be made no later than 11.59pm GMT on 23 January 2010 on the website of the British Disabled Ski Team.

In addition, announcement will be made in writing by email to those individuals concerned.

9.0 DE-SELECTION OF SELECTED ATHLETES

Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)

The selection committee and BPA may deselect any athlete, should that athlete be prevented from competing at the level at which they were selected. Reasons may include: illness, injury (being unfit to travel) or by virtue of gross misconduct (of either BDST's own Code of Conduct or BPA's Code of Conduct or Team Agreement).

A replacement may be nominated to BPA provided that the replacement athlete meets the selection criteria as set out above and the time frame for submission permits this.

10.0 FORCE MAJEUR

BDST and its support body i.e. DSUK reserve the right to change its decision on sending athletes to the games if something occurs which is beyond its control e.g. Terrorism.

11.0 APPEALS

- 11.1 Following publication of selection, those athletes who have met the general and specific criteria as set out in sections 2.1 and 2.2 above, but who have not been selected shall have the right to appeal against their non-selection.
- 11.2 All appeals must be made in writing (by email) to the Selection Committee c/o administration@britishdisabledskiteam.co.uk.
- 11.3 To be validly lodged an appeal must be made within an Appeals Period which shall expire at 11.59pm on 24 January 2010.
- 11.4 In the event of any appeal having been validly lodged, then an Appeals Board will be convened on 26 January 2010.
- 11.5 The Appeals Board shall be made up of 3 individuals, one of whom was on the Selection Committee and who has been nominated by the Selection Committee to hear the appeal and two independent members (whose identity shall be agreed prior to the Selection Announcement and will be posted on the website of the British Disabled Ski Team at the time of the Selection Announcement)
- 11.6 Appellants shall have the right to present evidence to the Appeals Board in person and/or in writing, following which presentation the Appeals Board will retire in private to make their decision.

**Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled
Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)**

11.7 Decisions on appeals will be made at the close of the hearing of the Appeal and will be final.

11.8 If appropriate, and depending on the nature of the dispute, a referral may be made by the board of Appeal to Sports Resolutions (UK)/SDRP for resolution.

**Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled
Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)**

12.0 TIME LINE FOR SELECTION PROCESS.

QUALIFYING TIMELINE	
30 April 2009	<p>Closing date of the 2008/2009 IPCAS Combined Ranking List for qualification slot allocation.</p> <p>IPC Alpine Skiing distributes Bipartite Commission Invitation Applications to Paralympics GB</p>
By 7th May 2009	<p>Long list for selection will be forwarded by BDST to the BPA for endorsement.</p>
Before 25 May 2009	<p>Paralympics GB in association with BDST Selection Committee agree whether Bipartite Commission Invitation Applications required.</p>
25 May 2009	<p>Deadline date for IPC Alpine Skiing to receive Bipartite Commission Invitation Applications from Paralympics GB</p>
1 June 2009 (No later than)	<p>IPC Alpine Skiing confirms to Paralympics GB in writing the number of qualification slots allocated</p>

**Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled
Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)**

<p>Before 1 July 2009</p>	<p>BDST Selection Committee meets to decide how many of the allocated qualification slots it will be able to guarantee to fill and those which it cannot guarantee filling will be immediately signalled to BPA for consideration for return.</p>
<p>1 July 2009 (No later than)</p>	<p>Paralympics GB confirm to IPC Alpine Skiing in writing the use of qualification slots</p>
<p>5 August 2009 (No later than)</p>	<p>IPC Alpine Skiing confirms in writing the reallocation of unused qualification slots</p>
<p>1 December 2009 (No later than)</p>	<p>Deadline for Vancouver 2010 Organising Committee to receive accreditation forms submitted by Paralympics for all potential athletes</p>
<p>23 January 2010</p>	<p>Meeting of the selection committee following the last IPCAS (World Cup) race where points can be achieved to support confirmed eligibility for selection .</p>
<p>Before 11.59pm GMT 23 January 2010</p>	<p>Paralympics GB/BDST formally release individual names via the BDST website and confirm selection to the Great Britain Paralympic Team</p>
<p>11.59pm GMT 24 January 2010</p>	<p>Deadline for receipt of appeals by email to administration@britishdisabledskiteam.co.uk</p>
<p>26 January 2010</p>	<p>Appeals processed and decided upon.</p>

**Athlete Selection Policy for Alpine Skiing – Disabled
Vancouver Paralympics 2010 (NOVEMBER 2009)**

26 January 2010	BDST Selection Committee confirm to Paralympics GB final list of all those athletes who have met the final eligibility criteria.
22 February 2010 (No later than)	BDST Selection Committee confirm final short list of identified athletes who have met eligibility requirements.
22 February 2010	Closing date for athletes to meet athlete eligibility requirements
26 February 2010	Deadline for Vancouver 2010 Organising Committee receiving entry forms submitted by Paralympics GB

Notes

At the time of production of this document the three person Selection Committee may be made up from the following list of people:

DSUK Trustees (NGB):-

BDST Performance Director and Trustee of DSUK: Jeremy Wood

BDST Technical Director and Trustee of DSUK: Robbie Young

BDST TMC Members:-

Chief Executive Officer DSUK: Fiona Young

Team Manager: Dave Chugg

Head Coach: Jane Stevens