

General Selection Criteria

2026 Australian Winter Paralympic Team

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Paralympics Australia (**PA**) is the Australian member of the International Paralympic Committee (**IPC**) and thus the recognised National Paralympic Committee (**NPC**) for Australia. PA is authorised by the IPC to enter, duly qualified and, eligible athletes in the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (**Games**). PA is responsible for ensuring that selected athletes are appropriately classified in their respective sports prior to entry into the Games. PA selects the 2026 Australian Winter Paralympic Team (**Team**).
- 1.2. PA has procedures for the selection of athletes into the Team (**PA General Selection Criteria**). This document sets out the PA General Selection Criteria and related information.
- 1.3. The Team is selected as follows:
 - 1.3.1. (**Paralympic Long List**) The relevant National Federation (NF), or PA in the case of PA managed sports, may select a Long List comprised of athletes who are considered to have a prospect of being nominated for the Team. Athletes on the Long List must agree to be bound by these PA General Selection Criteria.
 - 1.3.2. (**Nomination**) Athletes must be nominated by their NF, or PA in the case of PA managed sports, to be considered for selection into the Team. Athletes are nominated in accordance with the Nomination Policy developed for each particular sport.
 - 1.3.3. (**Selection**) Athletes may be selected (and any reference to selection includes a reference to deselection) to be part of the Team at the sole and absolute discretion of PA as set out in the Paralympic Team Nomination, Selection and Appeals By-Law (<https://www.paralympic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Team-Nomination-Selection-Appeal-By-Laws.pdf>). All members of the Team must sign an Athlete Team Membership Deed to be eligible for selection.

2. Selection Process for Athletes

The following diagram illustrates the selection process:¹

Athletes are chosen or recognised as being part of the Long List by their NF



Long List



Each athlete must sign the Athlete Team Membership Deed
NF uses their Nomination Policy to decide whether to nominate an eligible athlete to PA for consideration for selection



Nomination



PA decides whether to select a nominated athlete into the Team



Athletes are selected to the Australian Winter Paralympic Team

Table 1: Selection process for athletes

¹ This diagram is illustrative only. It attempts to outline the process for selecting the Team. To the extent that the diagram is inconsistent or conflicts with any part of these PA General Selection Criteria, the General Selection Criteria prevails.

3. General Information

3.1. Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games Qualification Regulations

The IPC and the Milano Cortina Organising Committee for the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (**Milano Cortina 2026**) have developed the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games Qualification Regulations (**IPC Qualification Regulations**). The IPC Qualification Regulations outline the qualification systems to be met for athletes and teams seeking to compete in the Games.

The IPC Qualification Regulations also stipulate the maximum number of athletes that can compete in the Games. PA is allocated a limited number of qualification slots which limits the number of athletes PA can select to enter to compete in each sport. The IPC Qualification Regulations can be accessed at:

<https://www.paralympic.org/milano-cortina-2026/qualification-regulations>

4. Eligibility

4.1. Nationality

Any athlete selected in the Team must be a national of Australia as determined by the IPC Athlete Nationality Policy detailed within the IPC Handbook. The IPC Athlete Nationality Policy can be accessed at:

<https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/Nationality%20Regulations.pdf>

4.2. Classification

(a) Only qualified athletes that:

- (i) meet the sport-specific classification rules and,
- (ii) have been allocated an international sport class and an appropriate sport class status as outlined

will be eligible to be considered for selection to the Team.

- (b) An athlete's classification is only valid if made by a classification panel recognised by the International Federation (**IF**) for the sport to make such an international classification.
- (c) Athletes hold an international classification in their respective sport, which is listed on the IF Classification Masterlist, with a sport class status that complies with the sports eligibility requirements as outlined in Table 2 below.
- (d) PA reserves the right to review the selection of athletes, including deselection, if exceptional circumstances arise that relate to the

athlete classification for the sport or classification qualification criteria as detailed in the Games Qualification Guide.

Table 2: 2026 Qualification - Classification Requirements

Sport	Classification Requirements
Para Alpine Skiing	Internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date after the 2025/2026 season
Para Biathlon	Internationally classified before 5 August 2024 in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date after the 2025/2026 season
Para Cross-Country	Internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class status of (i) 'Confirmed', or 'Review' with a Fixed Review Date after the 2025/2026 season
Para Ice Hockey	Internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Review Fixed Date after the 2025/2026 season
Para Snowboard	Internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date after the 2025/2026 season
Wheelchair Curling	Internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after the 2025/2026 season

Table 2: 2026 Qualification - Classification Requirements

4.3. Additional Eligibility Requirements

A comprehensive list of all eligibility requirements not referenced above, such as but not limited to age requirements, required licences, etc. can be found in the IPC Qualification Regulations.

5. Long List

Athletes may be chosen by their NF as being part of the Long List for their sport. The Long List comprises athletes who have a prospect of being nominated by their NF to PA for selection in the Team.

6. Nomination

6.1. Nomination Policy

Each NF, or PA in the case of PA managed sports, will prepare Nomination Policy for that sport. Such Nomination Policy must be endorsed by PA prior to being published

The relevant Nomination Policy will be distributed to the members of the Long List by the athlete's NF and published on the PA website. Notwithstanding this, it is the responsibility of all athletes to obtain a copy of the relevant Nomination Policy to the athlete's sport.

PA's website is <http://www.paralympic.org.au>

The Nomination Policies are at all times subject to the IPC Qualification Guide and these PA General Selection Criteria. If a Nomination Policy is inconsistent in any way with the IPC Qualification Regulations or the PA General Selection Criteria, the latter will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency (with the IPC Qualification Regulations prevailing over the PA General Selection Criteria if there is a conflict). A Nomination Policy is not inconsistent with the IPC Qualification Regulations however, merely because a Nomination Policy imposes a higher qualification standard or lesser number of qualification slots (participants) than as stated in the IPC Qualification Regulations. Where this is the case, the higher qualification standard or lesser number of participants (as the case may be) will apply.

6.2. Athlete Nomination

Athletes may be nominated by their NF to PA for consideration to be selected into the Team. Athletes are only eligible for nomination if they are a member of their NF's Long List at the time of their nomination. All nominations must be made in accordance with the Nomination Policy for the athlete's sport.

7. Selection

7.1. Athlete Selection

- (a) PA is authorised by the IPC to enter duly qualified and eligible athletes in the Games. The PA Board has designated the PA Selection Committee to be the sole selector of the Team as set out

in the Paralympic Team Nomination, Selection and Appeals By-Law. The PA Selection Committee has the exclusive right to select athletes at its sole and absolute discretion to be in the Team.

- (b) Only nominated athletes will be eligible to be considered for selection into the Team (except in special circumstances - see section 7.6 below).
- (c) PA:
 - (i) may use its complete discretion and opinion;
 - (ii) (ii) is not obliged to select athletes based on merit, fairness or reasonableness;
 - (iii) is not obliged to select a nominated athlete;
 - (iv) is not obliged to have regard to any purpose or objective;
 - (v) is not obliged to consider any fact or thing;
 - (vi) may consider any fact or thing; and
 - (vii) may consult any person(s) or organisation(s),in exercising its right to decide whether or not to select an athlete into the Team.
- (d) Without limiting anything in this section 7, when considering athletes for selection to the Team, PA may (but is not obliged to) have regard to whether an athlete:
 - (i) has a realistic prospect of achieving:
 - A. a gold medal in the Games;
 - B. a medal in the Games; or
 - C. a medal in the 2030 Paralympic Winter Games;
 - (ii) meets both these PA General Selection Criteria and the relevant Sport-specific Nomination Policy for their respective sport;
 - (iii) meets the relevant classification requirements;
 - (iv) has signed, abided by and continues to abide by any NF Athlete Agreement and these PA General Selection Criteria;
 - (v) has at all times acted in such a manner that does not risk bringing into public disrepute or censure themselves, the Sport or, if applicable, the Team, the athlete's sport or PA;
 - (vi) is of good character and holds good standing in the community;
 - (vii) has committed any doping offence under the policies of PA or the Australian Winter Paralympic Team, the World Anti-Doping Agency or the athlete's sport, as the case may be;

- (viii) has, from the date on which the athlete was nominated to the Long List, been available for sample collection as required by Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) and if requested by SIA, provided up-to-date information regarding their whereabouts on a regular basis in accordance with the requirements of PA and their sport;
 - (ix) has been the subject of a medical assessment, the results of which are satisfactory in the opinion of PA, and qualify the athlete for inclusion in the Team;
 - (x) has committed any classification related offences under the IPC Athlete Classification Code, the IPC Code of Ethics, the IF's classification rules for the athlete's sport, as the case may be;
 - (xi) has completed any education modules as released and required by the IPC, PA or SIA; and
 - (xii) the athlete has been endorsed by their NF.
- (e) If an athlete's classification is changed by an endorsed classification agent of the athlete's sport subsequent to the athlete's selection in the Team, the athlete's selection in the Team is void. The athlete may be eligible for selection in their changed class only if, in the opinion of the PA Selection Committee, the athlete is likely to compete at a level in that changed classification that would have warranted their selection in that class initially.

7.2. Notification of possible selection

Athletes who PA has determined it wishes to select will be notified by PA and asked to sign the Athlete Team Membership Deed.

7.3. Athlete Team Membership Deed

- (a) Before selection, as stated in section 7.2 (b) of the Paralympic Team Nomination, Selection & Appeals By-Law, athletes must sign the Athlete Team Membership Deed to confirm their selection in the Team. Athletes who do not sign the Athlete Team Membership Deed will not be part of the Team.
- (b) The Athlete Team Membership Deed will be provided to athletes by PA. The Athlete Team Membership Deed will require the athlete amongst other things, to:
 - (i) meet the Nomination Policy of the athlete's sport;
 - (ii) be eligible to participate in the Games as an Australian competitor in the class in which the athlete is qualified;
 - (iii) achieve satisfactory results for the medical assessment conducted by a medical practitioner appointed by PA (as determined at the sole discretion of PA);

- (iv) act, and have acted at all times, in such a manner that does not risk bringing into public disrepute or censure the Para-Program or, if applicable, the Team, the athlete's sport or PA;
- (v) not commit or have committed any offence under the anti-doping policy of the World Anti-Doping Agency, PA or the athlete's sport, as the case may be;²
- (vi) comply with the drug testing requirements of the IPC, PA and the athlete's Sport;
- (vii) not have any overdue financial obligations to PA or any NF at the time of nomination or selection;
- (viii) not commit or have committed any offence, including intentional misrepresentation, under the IPC Athlete Classification Code, the IPC Code of Ethics, or the IF classification rules for the athlete's sport
- (ix) to understand and comply with the relevant classification requirements of the IPC under the IPC Athlete Classification Code;
- (x) comply with the classification requirements of PA and the athlete's sport including, but not limited, to the provision of adequate diagnostic information and undertaking testing relevant to the athlete's impairment and consenting to information sharing as it relates to classification between the IF, NF, PA, team officials, classifiers and consultants;
- (xi) agree to inform PA and NF of any changes in level of impairment, medical intervention undertaken, or medical history that may impact upon class allocation. Failure to do so may be considered as intentional misrepresentation under the IPC Athlete Classification Code; and
- (xii) agree to inform PA and NF of any changes in equipment that may impact upon class allocation.

7.4. Announcement of Selection

PA will publish the names of the selected athletes on the PA website. Athletes must not make any announcement or comment regarding selection without the prior written approval of the PA and until such time as the members of the Team are named on the PA website and the athlete has signed the Athlete Team Membership Deed. Until such time that the Athlete Team Membership Deed is signed, the athlete will be deemed as being provisionally selected

² This paragraph does not apply to any offence in respect of which the athlete has been sanctioned under the anti-doping policy of the World Anti-Doping Agency, PA or the requirements of the athlete's sport, as the case may be, where that sanction has been satisfied in full.

7.5. Maintenance of Selection Status

An athlete's status as a member of the Team is conditional upon their continued compliance with the Athlete Team Membership Deed and the requirements set out in these PA General Selection Criteria. An athlete's membership in the Team may be terminated in accordance with the terms of the Athlete Team Membership Deed.

7.6. Selection of Non-nominated Athletes

Notwithstanding anything contained in these PA General Selection Criteria, PA reserves the right in special circumstances (as determined by PA) to select any athlete into the Team, regardless of whether the athlete has been nominated. If a non-nominated athlete is selected into the Team under this section 7.6, that athlete will be considered to be eligible for selection, notwithstanding anything contained in these PA General Selection Criteria, and subject only to the eligibility requirements specified in the IPC Qualification Guide.

An example of the circumstances where PA may select a non-nominated athlete under this section includes where an NF has not nominated an athlete for an available qualification slot in a sport.

8. General Conditions

8.1. PA Board

- (a) All rights of PA in relation to the selection of the Team may be exercised by the PA Board. The PA Board is not bound to follow any procedure, may establish its own procedure and derogate from such procedure, or may choose not to establish any procedure in exercising the selection (including without limitation any deselection) functions designated to it.
- (b) To the maximum extent permitted by law, PA, the PA Board, the PA Selection Committee and any of their respective officers, members, related bodies corporate, partners, employees or advisers disclaim and exclude all liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person in connection with anything contained in this document, whether arising in contract, tort or equity.

8.2. Modification

These PA General Selection Criteria may be modified by PA at any time without notice. Modified General Selection Criteria will be published on the PA website at <http://www.paralympic.org.au>

8.3. Detrimental Reliance

No athlete may rely on any acts of, conversations with, inferences made by or any other such dealings with PA (**Acts**) (including any member of the PA Board, The PA Selection Committee, the PA staff, any of PA's agents or representatives) in relation to that athlete's nomination, selection, non-nomination or non-selection, unless such Acts are official Acts carried out in

accordance with these PA General Selection Criteria.

8.4. Disputes

Any controversy, claim or dispute arising out of, in relation to, or in connection with a decision to nominate or not to nominate an athlete in accordance with section 6 of this document must be dealt with in accordance with the dispute and/or appeals provisions contained in the applicable Nomination Policy.

Any controversy, claim or dispute arising out of, in relation to, or in connection with a decision to select, not to select, or deselect an athlete into or from the Team must be dealt with in accordance with the Paralympic Team Nomination, Selection and Appeals By-Law.

8.5. Governing Law

These PA General Selection Criteria are governed by and must be construed according to the law applying in New South Wales.

8.6. PA Athlete Endorsement, Sponsorship and Fundraising Guidelines

Each athlete acknowledges that they are bound by and will adhere to the PA Athlete Endorsement, Sponsorship and Fundraising Guidelines, as set out in Attachment 1 and as updated from time to time and will do all that they reasonably can to ensure that any sponsor of their's also adheres to them.

8.7. Enquiries

Please direct all enquiries to:

Head of Games & International Engagement

Paralympics Australia

PO Box 596

Sydney Markets NSW 2129

Australia

P: +61 2 9704 0500

E: auspara@paralympic.org.au

Attachment 1 - Endorsement, Sponsorship and Fundraising Guidelines

Athletes must keep PA updated as to who their sponsors are. Athletes must also notify the PA Commercial Team of any changes to sponsors which occur.

PA may ask athletes to participate in marketing and communications activities related to PA and these activities may conflict with personal sponsorship agreements. PA will endeavour to work with athletes to protect personal sponsorship arrangements, but athletes must keep in mind (and avoid the potential for a contractual dispute between the athlete and their sponsor) that the priority for PA is all its athletes, not specific athletes and their sponsors. PA may use an athlete's name, likeness, image, talents, reputation or the fact of their membership to the Long List or the Team for advertising, marketing, public relations and fundraising purposes within the time periods outlined in the Athlete Team Membership Deed.

Athletes must not use any logo or other intellectual property of PA without PA's prior consent. If unsure, please contact PA.

Endorsement Contract with Paralympic Sponsors (including TOP Sponsors)

PA allows Paralympic Sponsors (Sponsors) to use Paralympic trademarks and/or imagery (Marks) including the PA name and logo and references to the Paralympic Games and the Australian Winter Paralympic Team, for promotion and advertising purposes. Those Sponsors must submit proposed advertisements, press releases, website and online content, athlete appearances or other promotions to the PA Commercial team for review and approval prior to release.

Endorsement Contract with Unaffiliated Third Party (Non-Sponsors)

In order to ensure that unaffiliated third parties (those who have no official relationship with PA or the IPC or Non-Sponsors) do not create the false impression that they are a Sponsor of the Games and/or the Australian Team, athletes endorsing Non-Sponsors should make certain that advertising, websites, promotions, etc. focus on the athlete and their achievements rather than on the Paralympic Games (Games). PA will not allow ambush marketing by non-Sponsors under any circumstances.

Non-Sponsors may not use any references or Marks in any commercial context without PA's permission before, during or after the Games. Non-Sponsors may submit advertisements containing biographical references to athletes as Paralympians to PA for approval. Such ads are more likely to be approved if the Paralympic reference is balanced by non-Paralympic achievements.

Photography or video footage of athletes from a Games or PA related competition with their medals or Australian Winter Paralympic Team apparel may not be used for commercial purposes.

Compliance with Athlete Advertising Blackout Period

No athlete participating in the Games may allow their person, name, picture or sports performance to be used for advertising purposes during the blackout period for each Games. The Blackout Period generally encompasses the PA Pre-Games Staging Camp, Games period and 2 days following the closing ceremony, but the precise period will be publicised before each Games.

Further, all commercial activity by PA Paralympic Team members not specifically approved by PA for use during the Blackout Period must cease during this period. This applies to congratulatory ads and also to on-going ad campaigns that are not specifically related to the Games. If an athlete has an apparel line or merchandise that bears their image or name, they must notify PA 90 days prior to competing in a Games or immediately after being named to the Team, whichever is first, so that PA can review the facts and decide whether or not to approve the item to remain in circulation during the Games.

Use of Trademarks

PARALYMPIC and PARALYMPIAN are trademarks owned by PA. Athletes may use these terms to describe their aspirations (e.g., "my goal is to compete at the Paralympic Games in Paris.") or accomplishments ("e.g. Paralympic Gold medallist – Wheelchair Rugby.") but not otherwise. Athletes may not use the PA logo without the express permission of PA.

PA is also the owner of other trademarks and athletes may only use them with permission. Athletes who are in any doubt about whether a trademark belongs to PA should contact PA.

These rules apply to any words which are deceptively similar to trademarks owned by PA.

Fundraising

The rules in relation to the use of trademarks apply to all forms of fundraising, for instance in fundraising letters, on web sites, or on promotional merchandise (t-shirts, bumper stickers, mugs, key chains, etc.) and in whatever form used (e.g., banner headline, part of a domain name, in large or prominent letters).

Websites

Athlete websites should follow the general rules regarding permissible uses of the trademarks and the restrictions on Non-Sponsors. Athletes must separate the Non-Sponsors from all Paralympic references (including photographs from the Games) on their websites. This can be achieved, for example, by placing the athlete's personal sponsors (non-Games Sponsors) on the home page whilst keeping all Paralympic references in a separate section/page of the website, with no reference to any commercial entity.

If an athlete seeks donations or other financial support on their web site, the fundraising portion of the site should be clearly delineated from PA trademarks and PA imagery, including Games photos. Factual Paralympic references

should be made in small type, for example to describe the athlete's goals or achievements, rather than used in banner headlines. Fan web sites should be informational and not sponsored by third parties. Websites with commercial affiliation must not use Marks without permission from PA.

Paralympic Footage

Neither athletes nor third parties may use footage of PA related competition or Games competition without the express consent of PA. This requirement includes but is not limited to: use of footage on web sites or public exhibition of any kind, whether personally made or acquired by the athlete or acquired from a broadcaster and whether for any personal, commercial or charitable purposes. Please note that the Games broadcaster controls all footage for the Games for a period of time after each of the Games.

Philanthropy

Athletes are encouraged to participate in other philanthropic organisations. Those organisations may use Paralympic biographical references that are specific to the athlete and balanced with other non-Paralympic accomplishments. Such organisations, however cannot use Paralympic-themed materials, Games footage, medal imagery or photographs of the athlete from the Games in any fundraising efforts, operations or activities. Athletes must disclose to PA in writing any activity or fundraising (this includes any voluntary or paid board or committee representation) for other not-for-profit or charitable organisations.

Athlete Uniform & Apparel

As described in the Athlete Code of Conduct, Team athletes must wear the Australian Team apparel issued to them at all official PA functions including but not limited to: the Games, Sponsor Workshops, Medal Ceremonies, Opening/Closing Ceremonies, press conferences arranged by PA and/or hosted by PA, the IPC, Milano Cortina 2026 and other engagements arranged by PA. At these official functions, Athletes may not wear branded apparel or accessories that are not part of the Team apparel issued by PA. In addition, during the Opening/Closing Ceremonies and Medal Ceremonies (except in those instances in which medals are awarded at the venue immediately following the competition and PA has granted a waiver for the athlete to wear their competition apparel on the podium), Athletes must wear PA issued apparel for such ceremony in full, including shoes, hats, caps, sunglasses, or other apparel and accessories that are provided and required.

Other Limitations

PA may impose limitations on personal sponsorships from time to time to further the commercial interests of PA, including through broadcast sponsorships. Any such limitations will be publicised as soon as possible.

9. VERSION CONTROL

Version	Board Approval Date	Description of Amendments
1	Feb 2025	