

## **WPPO Qualification Pathway 2025-2028**

To maintain a fair and consistent qualification pathway for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games athletes must complete the following requirements of this World Para Powerlifting Qualification Pathway 2025-2028. All dates in this document are subject to change. Any such changes will be communicated by World Para Powerlifting.

### **Mandatory Requirements**

#### **2025**

- It is mandatory that athletes compete in the 2025 Junior or Senior World Para Powerlifting Championships.

#### **2026**

- It is mandatory that athletes compete in their respective 2026 WPPO Regional Open Championships\*:
  - 2026 Para Powerlifting Asia-Oceania Open Championships;
  - 2026 Para Powerlifting Parapan American Open Championships;
  - 2026 Para Powerlifting European Open Championships; or
  - 2026 Para Powerlifting African Open Championships.

*\*In the event that an athlete is unable to compete in their respective 2026 World Para Powerlifting Regional Open Championships, in order to complete the mandatory requirements of the World Para Powerlifting Qualification Pathway 2025-2028, that athlete's NPC must provide a written explanation and request advance permission in writing from World Para Powerlifting for the athlete to compete in at least one of the other 2026 World Para Powerlifting Regional Open Championships instead. Acceptance or refusal of such a request will be entirely at World Para Powerlifting's discretion.*

#### **2027**

- It is mandatory that athletes compete in the 2027 Junior or Senior World Para Powerlifting Championships.

#### **2028**

- It is mandatory that athletes compete in at least two (2) World Para Powerlifting Sanctioned competitions in the year 2028 (prior to 1 July 2028):
  - in their respective 2028 WPPO Regional Open Championships\*\* and;
  - in any other 2028 WPPO Regional Open Championships or a WPPO World Cup.

### **2028 World Para Powerlifting Regional Open Championships\*\*:**

- 2028 Para Powerlifting Asia-Oceania Open Championships;
- 2028 Para Powerlifting Parapan American Open Championships;
- 2028 Para Powerlifting European Open Championships; or
- 2028 Para Powerlifting African Open Championships.

*\*\*In the event that an athlete is unable to compete in their respective 2028 World Para Powerlifting Regional Open Championships, in order to complete the mandatory requirements of the World Para Powerlifting Qualification Pathway 2025-2028, that athlete's NPC must provide a written explanation and request advance permission in writing from World Para Powerlifting for the athlete to compete in at least one of the other 2028 World Para Powerlifting Regional Open Championships instead. Acceptance or refusal of such a request will be entirely at World Para Powerlifting's discretion.*

### **'New' Status Athletes**

Any 'New' athletes (those who have not undergone international classification) must be classified and allocated a Sport Class, in accordance with the World Para Powerlifting Classification Rules and Regulations, **prior to 21 December 2026** to be considered for inclusion in the Paralympic Rankings and eligible for a qualification slot. Once 'New' athletes have been classified and have been assigned a Sport Class they must complete all the remaining mandatory requirements, as set out above.

### **Failure to complete a mandatory requirement**

Subject to the following, if an athlete fails to complete any of the mandatory requirements on the Qualification Pathway 2025-2028, they will be removed from the Paralympic Rankings and will be ineligible to attain a qualification slot for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

An NPC must apply for World Para Powerlifting to grant an exception on the basis of extenuating circumstances as soon as possible after becoming aware that the athlete will be unable to complete the mandatory requirement. Such application must comprise a full explanation and be supported by appropriate documentary evidence and must be submitted before the close of the entry by name deadline for the relevant competition.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Any requested withdrawals from a competition for medical reasons arising after this deadline must be processed in accordance with the medical withdrawal request procedure in WPPO's Rules and Regulations. The other terms of this document shall also apply to such requests.

World Para Powerlifting will consider the application and whether sufficient evidence has been provided that extenuating circumstances exist which justify (in its absolute discretion) the granting of an exception, allowing the athlete to forego that specific mandatory requirement.

Examples of circumstances that **may** be considered as extenuating circumstances might include, for example:

- a verified, documented injury, pregnancy or other medical reason which makes it unsafe or impossible for the athlete to compete, supported by sufficient medical evidence from an appropriate independent qualified doctor/clinician;
- a natural disaster or other similar, exceptional force majeure event over which the athlete and their NPC/NF has no control.

Examples of circumstances that **will not** be considered as extenuating circumstances might include, for example:

- an athlete is serving a period of Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension as a result of an anti-doping rule violation or other breach of the IPC Anti-Doping Code or other anti-doping rules;
- an athlete is temporarily suspended or ineligible due to a breach of other regulations or for other disciplinary reasons;
- other circumstances within the athlete or their NPC/NF's control, such as missing of application deadlines, failing to apply for a visa with sufficient time before the competition, etc.

If World Para Powerlifting decides to grant such an exception (in its absolute discretion), the athlete will remain in the Paralympic Rankings and be eligible for a qualification slot (as well as being eligible to apply for a bipartite invitational slot).

If World Para Powerlifting determines that no such extenuating circumstances exist, the athlete will be removed from the Paralympic Rankings and ineligible to attain a qualification slot, but the athlete will remain eligible to apply for a bipartite invitational slot.

Any such decision made by World Para Powerlifting will be final, and not open to contest or appeal.