



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

NPC President / Secretary General  
Via Email

Bonn, 10 April 2017

## World Para Athletics – Paralympic Games Medal Event Programme

Dear President, Secretary General

On 4 January 2016, World Para Athletics announced the process for establishing the Tokyo 2020 medal event programme (Attached as Appendix 1). This document set out the methodology that will be used to establish a long-term event programme for future Paralympic Games and World Championships, building on the success of the Rio 2016 programme.

In this announcement World Para Athletics acknowledged that the national development of Para athletics is largely funded through government support, which is predominantly driven by the event programme for the Paralympic Games. Hence, World Para Athletics believes that the introduction of a stable and standard medal event programme for future Paralympic Games and World Championships will make it easier for NPCs to plan long-term development.

In creating the Tokyo 2020 event programme World Para Athletics has reinforced the principles that we set out when developing the Rio 2016 event programme which allowed for substantial growth and development of the sport.

Those principles are as follows:

- Single class events
  - Remove the requirement for a coefficient points system to determine the outcome of events.
- Fair distribution across gender, impairment type, and event type
  - to achieve an event programme that would address the gender imbalance, increase event opportunities for athletes with high support needs, and increase the distribution across the spectrum of events offered within athletics (short, middle and long distance running events, and jumps and throwing events).

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- Strong, competitive fields
  - Objective that each event on the programme would have strong competitive athlete numbers while also ensuring that each event met the minimal eligibility criteria.

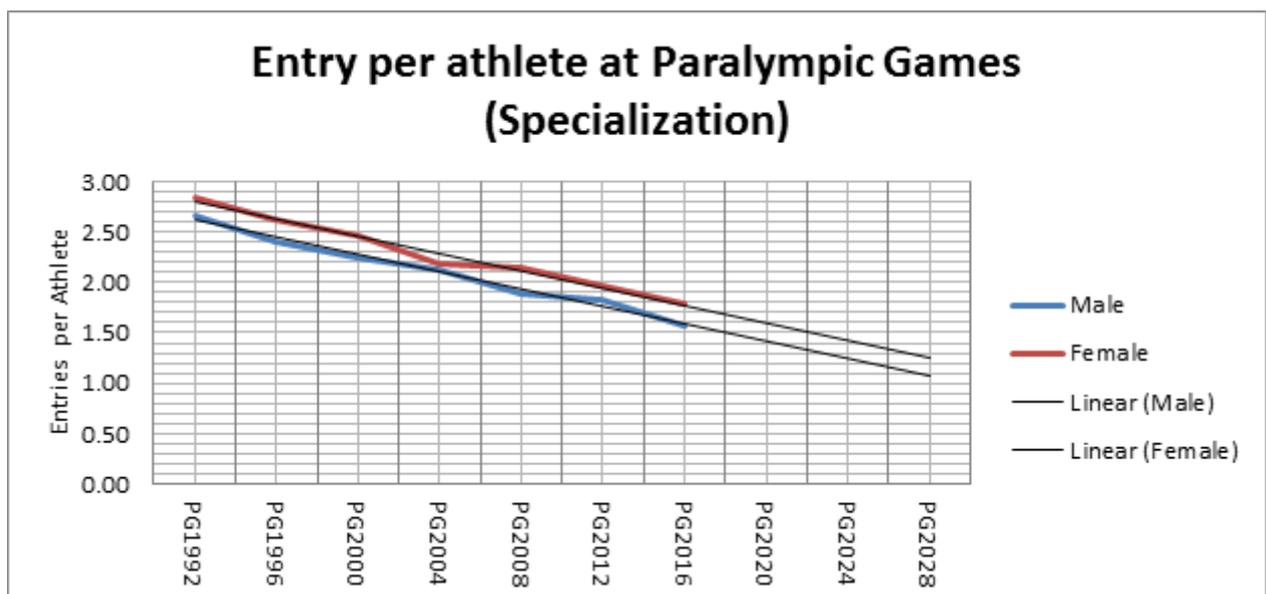
In developing the Tokyo 2020 event programme, World Para Athletics also undertook an extensive data analysis on the basis of athletes' participation from the last seven Paralympic Games and world rankings from the 2013-2016 seasons.

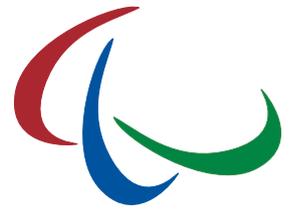
Through this analysis, World Para Athletics observed a tendency of event specialisation. This indicates that athletes are now choosing to select their preferred events at the Paralympic Games due to the increase in performance level required for success.

Although this is a demonstration of increased competitiveness and growth in Para athletics it has produced its own challenges with athletes now competing in fewer events at the Paralympic Games than in the previous editions.

## Specialisation

World Para Athletics looked at the participation of athletes at each Games since 1992 and identified that athletes are competing in fewer events during each Games with the projection for the 2024 and 2028 Paralympic Games being that the entries per athlete, per event forecast is becoming similar to that of the Olympic model.





In addition, World Para athletics has achieved a significant increase in licenced athletes between the 2013 and 2016 seasons as indicated below:

- 29 per cent increase in licenced athletes overall
- 34 per cent increase in licenced female athletes
- 24 per cent increase in licenced male athletes
- 53 per cent increase in licenced female athletes with high support needs
- 42 per cent increase in licenced male athletes with high support needs

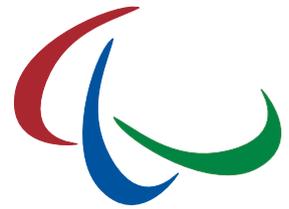
Taking this analysis into consideration, and looking at the existing ratio between the current athlete's quota available and the number of current events for the Paralympic Games, World Para Athletics has identified that there is a potential risk that a large number of events will become non-viable in Tokyo 2020 and future Paralympic Games.

For example, at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games 14 events (five in men's and nine in women's) had six or fewer athletes entered. In comparison, the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games only had two events that had six athletes entered (one in each gender) and no events had fewer than six entries.

Consequently, when finalising the Tokyo 2020 medal event programme, while staying true to the guiding principles that have contributed to the growth and development of the sport, World Para Athletics have taken the necessary steps to reduce the risk of non-viable events.

The key amendments and developments for the Tokyo Medal event programme are listed below with a detailed breakdown of the changes attached as Appendix 2

- World Para Athletics medal event programme will be reduced to 166 events (92 male / 74 female) from 177 (95 male / 82 female).
- Removal of relay events due to the high risk of non-viability.
- T43 and T44 track events above 100m (male and female) will be split.
- T42 class will be changed to a new Unilateral and Bilateral class group for both genders in track events only. We will provide an update in the class profile amendments in line with the current rules review process.
- World Para Athletics have removed all events that do not have viable athlete numbers or were over-represented against the sport class's demographic distribution.



### **Athlete Slots and Athlete Quota Development**

- World Para Athletics will increase the number of female athlete slots from 40 per cent to 43 per cent.
- The 48 athlete relay slots will be put back into the general allocation method of slots. This allows for the majority of NPCs to have the potential access to available additional athlete places thus reducing the risk of other events becoming non-viable.
- World Para Athletics have identified that to ensure the long term stability of the event programme, mitigate the potential for non-viable events and to maintain increased growth of Para athletics, there is a need to increase the athlete quota number for the Paralympic Games. World Para Athletics will therefore request to the IPC Governing board to have an increase in the athlete quota to 1200 athletes for Tokyo 2020 and also for future Games in line with the event programme development, athlete growth and specialisation.

### **Monitoring and evaluating the event programme**

- World Para Athletics will continually monitor event viability of all events to ensure event viability in the lead up to the qualification period for the Games.
- World Para Athletics will adopt the same or similar event replacement policy that was used for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.
- World Para Athletics acknowledge that should classification developments occur prior to the start of qualification period for Tokyo 2020, it will undertake a review of the relevant impairment group's medal event programme based on the guiding principles and make the relevant amendments where required.
- World Para Athletics have identified a number of 'Tier B' events in the event programme in line with our policy.
  - 'Tier B' events will be reviewed following Tokyo 2020 to ensure that World Para Athletics has the ability to make further changes to the event programme should it be required to do so following a further four years of development.
  - These events have been identified based on our guiding principles. We would like to stress however that this does not mean that these events will be removed from the programme following Tokyo 2020. They have been identified as the immediate events to be reviewed following the Games given potential advances in the sport.

The full Tokyo medal event programme is attached as Appendix 3.



Should you have any question on the outcomes in determining the medal event programme please do not hesitate to contact Haozhe Gao, World Para Athletics Senior Manager, haozhe.gao@paralympic.org or myself.

Kind regards

Ryan Montgomery  
IPC Summer Sports Director  
International Paralympic Committee

CC

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