

NPCs and NFs Widely and Regularly Practising  
Athletics

Bonn, 02 October 2020

### Tokyo 2020 Qualification System for Para athletics

Dear NPC President/Secretary General,

As a result of the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and the on-going pandemic, World Para Athletics (WPA) amended the Tokyo 2020 Qualification System for the slot allocation method through the Marathon World Cup. This update was released by the IPC in July 2020 ([Tokyo 2020 Qualification Criteria](#)). Under this revised Qualification System, it was announced that in the event the 2021 WPA Marathon World Cup does not take place, WPA will instead employ a Marathon Qualification Ranking for each of the marathon events on the Tokyo 2020 Event Programme.

As the current pandemic continues with many uncertainties for the hosting and delivery of mass participation events, no World Cup organiser in the required timeframe in 2021 for the purpose of slot allocation can be confirmed in the foreseeable future. WPA, after careful consideration, have taken the decision to employ the Marathon Qualification Ranking for the allocation of qualification slots instead of allocating those slots via the 2021 Marathon World Cup. Taking this decision now will not only provide certainties to athletes and NPCs, but also allows athletes to plan their 2021 season and gives the possibility to participate in a marathon in their home country to gain a performance for the Marathon Qualification Ranking without the need to travel internationally. As per the Qualification Guide:

The Marathon Qualification Ranking will incorporate all WPA-recognised marathons from 1 April 2019 to 1 April 2021, except for races where the overall decrease in elevation between the start and the finish exceeds 1:1000, i.e. 1m per km.

The Marathon Qualification Ranking will only recognise athletes who were licensed at the time they achieved the result in accordance with the IPC Athlete Licensing Programme Policies valid for the 2019-2021 seasons and who hold an international Sport Class Status of 'Review' or 'Confirmed' prior to 1 April 2021.

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The two (2) highest ranked athletes, according to the Marathon Qualification Ranking, in the top 6 of each Marathon event on the Tokyo 2020 Event Programme who have not otherwise obtained a qualification slot for their respective NPC will each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC.

In the case that fewer slots are allocated through this method than available in the quota, World Para Athletics will allocate the remaining slots via the High-Performance Allocation method.

WPA would like to remind Nations that since 2014, performances achieved by athletes at a World Athletics Label Road Race may be recognised in the WPA rankings (subject to the IPC licensing policies). Those events can be found in WPA events calendar: <https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/events> or in the World Athletics Label Road Race Calendar: <https://www.worldathletics.org/competitions/world-athletics-label-road-races/calendar/2020>. Please ensure you check the status of the course (overall decrease in elevation) to ensure those results can be included in the Tokyo 2020 Marathon Qualification Ranking. The World Athletics list of certified marathons can be found here: <https://www.worldathletics.org/records/certified-roadevents> (note that not all certified marathons are WA Label Road Races).

It is the responsibility of each NPC to notify WPA of the performance of any of their athletes competing in these events. NPCs must submit the results of their athletes to WPA within 14 days following the competition using the WPA Standard Results Template (available here: <https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/about/official-documents>) and providing a link to the official result.

For any road race that does not hold a World Athletics Road Race Label, NPCs must apply for the approval of these races by following the regular [competition approval](#) procedure.

Though we recognise that each marathon is different and the course, along with conditions on the day, will have an impact on athletes performance, but as we are all still faced with such uncertainties, allocating slots via one individual event is not possible under the current situation and therefore we hope that you can comprehend the decision.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the Chinese characters "高哲" (Gao Zhe).

Haozhe Gao

Head of World Para Athletics

World Para Athletics

Cc.

Christian Holtz, Managing Director of World Para Sports

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