

India Para Powerlifting (IPP) Athlete Selection Policy for International Competitions

(Applicable to WPPO World Cups, World Championships, Regional Championships & other International Competitions where Team will be sent by PCI/IPPO/SAI/MYAS)

1. Objective

To establish a transparent, performance-based selection policy for India's para powerlifting athletes to represent the nation in International competitions including WPPO World Cups, Regional Championships and World Championships. This policy is aligned with the World Para Powerlifting (WPPO) Qualification Pathway 2025–2028 and aims to:

- **Ensure fair and merit-based selection;**
 - **Promote India's sporting excellence on the global stage;**
 - **Maximize opportunities for qualification to the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.**
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2. Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for selection to represent India in international Para Powerlifting competitions, an athlete must meet the following criteria:

- **Membership:** Be a registered and eligible member of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and/or India Para Powerlifting (IPP).
 - **WPPO Compliance:** Hold a valid World Para Powerlifting (WPPO) athlete license and possess an international classification status, or be available for classification prior to the relevant competition.
 - **Continental Ranking:** Be ranked within the **Top 8 in Asia** in their respective weight category as per the official WPPO rankings completed in previous calendar year.
 - **Domestic Participation:** Must have competed in **at least one** of the following recognized national-level competitions:
 - National Para Powerlifting Championships
 - Khelo India Para Games
 - **Merit-Based Selection:** As PCI/IPP is permitted to send a **maximum of two athletes per weight category**, selection will be strictly merit-based, taking into account performance in the above-mentioned championships.
 - **Selection Trials (if required):** In instances where multiple athletes demonstrate comparable performance levels or when merit differences are marginal, PCI/IPP reserves the right to conduct **selection trials** to identify the most competitive athlete.
 - **Fitness Assessment:** PCI/IPP may also hold a **fitness and readiness trial** prior to final team selection to ensure that selected athletes are in peak condition to represent the country at the international stage.
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3. Selection Parameters

The IPP Selection Committee will evaluate athletes based on the following:

- Performance outcomes (total weight lifted) at the above-mentioned events.
 - Asian ranking in WPPO as per previous calendar year.
 - Potential to meet the minimum eligibility criteria for the specific international event (based on WPPO technical regulations).
 - The athlete must demonstrate **adequate physical fitness** and **readiness for competition**. The Selection Committee may require medical or performance assessments to verify competitive fitness levels prior to final selection.
 - Athlete's compliance with the mandatory WPPO competition participation requirements (detailed below in Section 4).
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4. Mandatory Participation Requirements (WPPO Qualification Pathway 2025–2028)

In order to be eligible for consideration for the 2028 Paralympic Games, and to maintain international ranking and selection status, athletes must adhere to the following international competition participation mandates:

- 2025: Participation in the World Para Powerlifting Junior or Senior Championships.
- 2026: Participation in their respective 2026 WPPO Regional Open Championships (Asia-Oceania Region).
- 2027: Participation in the 2027 WPPO Junior or Senior World Championships.
- 2028: Compulsory participation in at least two WPPO-sanctioned competitions prior to 1 July 2028, including:
 - Their respective Regional Open Championships, and
 - Any other Regional Championship or WPPO World Cup.

Note: Failure to participate in any of the above without a valid and approved exemption from WPPO (due to injury, pregnancy, force majeure) will disqualify the athlete from the Paralympic qualification ranking and may affect their eligibility for other international events.

5. Prohibition of Self-Funded Participation

Athletes will not be permitted to travel or compete in International events at their own expense if they:

- **Do not feature in the WPPO Asian Top-8 Rankings;**
- **Have not participated in the approved domestic qualifying competitions;**
- **Fail to comply with the WPPO-mandated competition framework.**

This policy shall be applied uniformly to avoid conflicts of interest, ensure team integrity, and maintain adherence to international standards. However, exceptions to the above criteria may be considered at the sole discretion of PCI/India Para Powerlifting if the athlete demonstrates a realistic potential to break into the Top-8 rankings within a measurable margin.

6. Rationale for Prohibition on Self-Funded Entries

A. Upholding National Meritocracy

Permitting self-funded entries for unqualified athletes severely undermines the integrity of the selection process. It discourages hard-working athletes who have earned their place based on merit and sends the wrong message to the sporting ecosystem about shortcuts and favouritism.

B. WPPO Compliance and International Standing

The WPPO has laid out a strict qualification and participation roadmap. Unauthorized or non-compliant entries can:

- Lead to rejection or disqualification at the event level.
- Risk penalties or sanctions against India Para Powerlifting or the National Paralympic Committee.
- Damage India's reputation in international para sport forums.

C. Accountability of Public Funds and Programs

India's para-athletes benefit from structured programs like Khelo India, TOPS, and SAI's support systems. Allowing unqualified athletes to bypass these official pipelines by self-funding entries contradicts the goals of:

- Transparent public fund utilization,
- Performance-driven selection, and
- Government accountability mechanisms (including audits and parliamentary reviews).

D. Operational and Safety Risks

International competitions demand tight coordination for:

- Accreditation, travel, classification, technical meetings.
- Medical support, anti-doping compliance, and uniformity in representation.

Allowing non-sanctioned entries puts entire team operations at risk, causes coordination breakdown, and can affect team morale and unity.

E. Risk of Precedent and External Pressure

Once self-funded participation is allowed:

- It opens the door to pressure from external actors, sponsors, or even political influence.
 - This risks crippling the independence and credibility of IPP's selection process.
 - It may also result in public scrutiny or media backlash, undermining faith in the governance of para sports in India.
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7. Appeals and Extenuating Circumstances

The IPP Selection Committee may consider genuine appeals supported by:

- Verified medical certificates (injury, illness, pregnancy),
- Natural disaster or force majeure cases.

Such appeals must be:

- Submitted before competition entry deadlines,
- Reviewed internally, and if applicable, escalated to WPPO for special permission.

Note: IPP / PCI / WPPO's decision will be final and binding.

8. Administrative Compliance

To remain in good standing and be considered for international events:

- Athletes must maintain clean disciplinary and anti-doping records.
 - They must ensure all documentation, including:
 - Passport
 - WPPO License
 - Medical Clearance
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9. Final Authority

- The PCI/IPP Selection Committee holds full and final discretion in selection matters.
- Any deviation from this policy must be justified, documented and approved at the highest level.
- This policy is subject to annual review, especially in response to any revisions by WPPO, PCI, or Government of India guidelines.



(JP SINGH)
Chairperson
India Para Powerlifting