

2024 Paralympic Games Internal Nomination Procedure – Wheelchair Fencing

This version of the Fencing INP was approved on April 16, 2024, as it relates to the Paris Paralympic Games.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

- ✓ The purpose of this document is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by the Canadian Fencing Federation to select athletes and coaches to be nominated by the CPC for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Objectives

- ✓ The Internal Nomination Process was developed with the objective of selecting athletes and coaches with the potential to win a medal.

Team Size

The size of the team for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will be determined by the qualification process of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) as it appears in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Qualification Regulations

DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

- The Executive Director following consultation with the Parafencing Coordinator is responsible for developing and approving the selection process and procedures for the team that will be nominated to the CPC for the 2024 Games.
- The Canadian Paralympic Committee mandates the Canadian Fencing Federation to determine the Internal Nomination Procedures for the athletes and staff that will be nominated to the CPC for the 2024 Games.
- The Parafencing Coordinator is responsible for the initial nominations of individual and team athletes. All team nominations, including alternates and staff, will be ratified by the Executive Director in consultation with the High Performance Director.
- The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring that the process outlined in this document is properly followed and that the selection process is fair and equitable for all candidates.
- The Executive Director has the final jurisdiction over the selection of the team. Where there is a lack of clarity or if unanticipated circumstances arise that are not covered in the selection criteria, a final and binding decision will be made by the Executive Director and the Parafencing Coordinator.
- All Canadian Fencing Federation nominations are also subject to the approval of the CPC.

Decision-making power at the 2024 Games.

During the on-site competition period during the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the decision-making power will be exercised by the Team Leader named for the Paralympic Games.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE IPC

This internal nomination procedure is based on the rules and regulations of the IPC as currently known and understood and on the most recent information available to the Canadian Fencing Federation.

Any changes to the selection criteria and procedures resulting from a change to the rules and regulations of the IPC will be communicated to the athletes concerned as soon as reasonably possible. In such circumstances, the Canadian Fencing Federation will review and amend these internal appointment procedures to comply with the new rules and conditions. Changes to this document will be communicated directly to the affected athletes and will be posted on the website.

The criteria of the IPC can be found at this link: <http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Parafencing.pdf>

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

- To be a Canadian citizen.
- Hold a Canadian passport that expires after February 27, 2025.
- Comply with all relevant IPC and CIO eligibility requirements.
- Sign and submit the CPC Athlete Agreement and the Eligibility Requirements Form by July 1, 2024.
- Be a member of the Canadian Fencing Federation High Performance Program as of March 31, 2024.
- have competed in at least three (3) international sanctioned IWAS Wheelchair Fencing competitions between 1 October 2022 and 31 May 2024;
- Be internationally classified with either a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2024.

International Federation eligibility requirements

- Respect the residency requirements established by the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)
- Hold a license in good standing with the IWAS for 2023-2024
- Must be able to represent Canada in accordance with the eligibility requirements established by the IWAS.

NSF Financial Requirements

- Be a member in good standing of the Canadian Fencing Federation as of July 1, 2024.

Alternate Athlete Requirements

- Alternate athletes selected must also comply with all items contained in this document and must ensure that all administrative and financial obligations are fulfilled within 48 hours of notification of their pending team nomination.

Doping Control Requirements

- Athletes must comply with the anti-doping rules of WA, AC, CCES, WADA and any other anti-doping organization with authority over the athlete.
- Be available for sample collection and have provided accurate and up-to date whereabouts information on a regular basis as directed by the CFF, IWAS and/or CCES pursuant to the Canadian Policy.
- The athlete must not be under suspension or any other sanction by any recognized body for any doping or doping-related offence.
- Any athlete guilty of any anti-doping violation in the past, in any sport, will not be eligible for selection. An athlete may apply for reinstatement according to a reinstatement procedure available by request from the CCES.

NSF / CPC Athlete Agreements

- Athletes, including alternates, must have signed the 2023-2024 CFF Athlete Agreement, CPC Athlete Agreement, and IPC / Paris 2024 Conditions of Participation Form.
- Athletes must abide by the CFF Code of Conduct.

Other

- Athletes named to compete in the 2024 Games will be required to comply with dress code regulations of the CFF Team and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. This will include *Official Team Competition Clothing Policy* and the *Official Team Podium/Parade Clothing Policy*.
- Athletes named to the 2024 Games will only be allowed to use equipment that meets with the rules and regulations of the IWAS.

NSF SELECTION CRITERIA

The Canadian Fencing Federation will identify the eligible athletes it will nominate as follows:

Individual Selection

Athletes will be selected on the basis of IPC Paris 2024 Qualification Criteria

https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/2024_03_27%20Paris%20QR_v1.9.1_0.pdf

Team Selection

In case Canada has a qualified team, all fencers qualified for the individual event are automatically qualified for the team event.

Team Athlete Allocation

If the CFF wins a place through IWAS, the selected athlete will be the highest ranked athlete in the IWAS ranking in one of three combined rankings.

Tie-Breaking

Should two (2) or more fencers be tied with the same point total, the tie will be broken as follows:

1. by the most IWAS points earned between September 1st 2023 and May 31th, 2024

Should a tie still exist, the tie will be broken,

2. by the best single result (by place) at a World Cup between September 1st 2023 and May 31st, 2024;

Should a tie still exist, the tie will be broken,

3. by the last result (by place) at the World Cup before the official deadline of official selection.

Selection of substitute athletes

The selection of alternate athletes will be at the discretion of the Parafencing Coordinator and the Executive Director according to the following criteria:

- Performance in the World Cups in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
- The IWAS ranking
- The athlete's commitment to the program (see below *Performance readiness*)
- Demonstrated ability and willingness to work effectively and cooperate in a team environment.

This athlete can replace any of the 3 athletes who fenced the individual event

Performance Readiness

All selections are conditional on the selected athlete following:

- The training and competition plan approved by the senior national team coach. An athlete must participate in at least 3 IWAS competitions between September 1, 2023 and May 31, 2024.
- Participate in and follow the prescribed conditioning program for their weapon.

- This program will be created by the national weapon coach and the S&C coach assigned to that weapon.
- Attend all mandatory training camps

Note

It is possible to request for an exemption for one the Performance Readiness cited above. Exemptions can be requested in advance. Exemptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis once discussed between the Parafencing Coordinator and the Executive Director.

For an injury / illness, athlete must justify it by presenting a medical certificate given by a physician recognized by the CFF.

Injuries

In the event that an athlete is deemed injured (or ill), the Parafencing Coordinator and the Executive Director. will consider the medical recommendations in making their final decision. Injured or ill athletes will be tested to demonstrate their readiness as determined by the Head Coach in consultation with the athlete's personal trainer and the Parafencing Coordinator. This test will consist of a controlled performance such as a competition or a test. The expected outcome of this test, which will take place in Canada, will be determined in advance. These athletes will not travel with the team until this requirement is met.

If, once at the event, it is determined that the athlete is not ready for the competition, or that he has not disclosed an injury or illness, he may be asked to return home immediately.

Removal of an athlete once selected

- The Executive Director after consultation with the Parafencing Coordinator may, at any time, and at their discretion, disqualify an athlete from being considered for nomination to the Canadian Team or remove an athlete after selection based on current or past behavior of the athlete which is inconsistent with the CFF's Code of Conduct and Ethics. A copy of the Code of Conduct and Ethics is available at <https://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/CFF-Safe-Sport-Policy-Manual-March-29-2023.pdf>
- The CFF will advise the affected athlete, in writing, of his/her/their decision.
- An athlete will be removed from consideration if he/she is in violation of any anti-doping policy or procedure as outlined by the CFF, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES)

On Site Decision Making Authority (if it changes once the team is on site)

- During the actual competition period onsite at the 2024 Paralympic Games all final decision making authority will reside with the team leader.

CONFIRMATION OF ENTRIES

As of June 20, 2024, the athletes to be nominated by the CPC for a position on the 2024 Canadian Paralympic Team will be determined.

In addition, on June 27, 2024, IWAS will confirm in writing the reallocation of all unused qualification slots.

By June 27, 2024 it is officially declared that the respective NPCs will use the allocated quota granted for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Any NPC that does not use some or all of its allocated qualification slots may be subject to sanctions by IPC and IWAS.

Subject to any revisions required by an athlete's decision to decline a nomination to be a member of the 2024 Canadian Paralympic Team, or by an athlete's inability to participate at a competitive level due to a health-related curtailment of activities, the CFF shall submit its list of athlete and alternates being nominated to the CPC for the 2024 Canadian Paralympic Team on July 3, 2024.

Late Athlete Replacement Policy

- Substitutions after June 1st 2024 are subject to the ICP
- Should a nominated athlete, at any time between the sport entry deadline of June 27, 2024 and the sport technical meeting for the 2024 Paris Games, decline his or her nomination or be declared unable to participate in a competitive manner, that athlete shall be replaced, subject to the IPC, and IWAS regulations, by the highest ranked alternate (or alternates) in his or her event (or events).

AMENDMENTS & UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

- The Executive Director reserves the right to make changes to this document, which, at his discretion, are required to ensure the selection of the best possible teams for the Canada 2024 Paralympic Games Team.
- Any changes to this document must be communicated directly to high performance athletes, their coaches and national team coaches.
- This clause must not be used to justify modifications after a competition or training camp that is part of these internal nomination procedures, unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance.
- This will allow for changes to this document that may be required due to a typographical error or unclear definition or wording before it impacts athletes.
- In case of modification of this document, the CFF will inform the CPC of the changes and reasons for these changes as soon as possible.

- If unforeseen circumstances beyond CFF control prevent the Executive Director from fairly implementing the internal appointment procedures as written, the Executive Director will have discretion to resolve the issue as he or she sees fit taking into account the factors and characteristics and circumstances that it considers relevant.
- In cases where unforeseen circumstances make it difficult to apply the selection process fairly and objectively, the CFF Board, in consultation with the Executive Director, reserves the right to decide on the appropriate course of action.
- The Executive Director reserves the right to review and modify any selection criteria or decision related to the selection process in the event of rule changes or policies of the IWAS or the International Paralympic Committee that have an impact on the selection criteria set out in this document.
- In the event that the selection criteria are changed, the CFF will promptly post an announcement on its website announcing the changes.
- Any changes to this document will need to be approved by the CPC

APPEALS

- CFF nominations to the CPC for the 2024 Paris Games may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set out in the CFF Appeal Policy. Any dispute relating to the CFF Internal Nomination Procedures for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games must be brought according to said Policy or may be brought directly to the SDRCC with the consent of all parties.
- In accordance with CFF By-Laws, any disagreement involving a national team player and the CFF shall be dealt with by the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SRDCC).
- Internal appeals shall be made in writing to CFF to the attention of the Executive Director. The appeals must follow the CFF appeal procedures in place at the time of the team is announced.
- A dispute must be filed by the athlete within 48 hours of CFF's publication of the 2024 Paris Games Team – Definite Entry and Alternate List.
- Athletes wishing to appeal decisions regarding team selection must follow the CFF Appeals Policy. Copies of the Appeals Policy can be obtained by request to the CFF's national office, or by downloading from the CFF website <https://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Appeals-Policy-2023.pdf>
- The procedural timeline may be adjusted to ensure all appeals and SDRCC arbitration are completed and a final decision is made before the CPC deadline of July 3, 2024 unless an extension is granted by the CPC at its sole discretion.

GENERAL

- The Internal Nomination Procedures for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games will be communicated through CFF official publications, posted on the CFF web site and distributed by email to 2023-2024 CFF HPP parafencing members.

STAFF SELECTION

- NSF nominated team leaders must satisfy the expectations and requirements of the Canadian Paralympic Committee's *Team Leader Position Description*.
- The Executive Director in consultation with the Parafencing Coordinator has the sole discretion in selecting the support staff, including team leader, coach(s) for the 2024 Paralympic Games. The support staff will be selected based on the principle of sending a team of specialists that is best capable of assisting athletes in achieving podium performances at the Games. All selections are subject to CPC approval.

Coach Selection

- Member in good standing of CFF
- Member in good standing of the Coaching Association of Canada Professional Training Program.
- Must meet minimum coaching standards as set by the CPC and CAC
- Have completed a criminal background check
- Complete the Respect in Sport training or the NCCP Safe Sport Module
- Must adhere to the CFF Code of Conduct and Ethics
- The CFF Executive Director and Parafencing Coordinator will select coaches from the qualifying coaches of the Senior National Team (including personal coaches) of the Qualified Athlete. These coaches will then be appointed by the CFF for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games
- Coaching accreditation will be a priority:
 - The coaches of the senior national team
 - Personal coaches

TIMELINES SUMMARY

Date	
October 1, 2022 to May 31, 2024	Qualification period
April 16, 2024	INP published
January 1, 2024	Deadline to have signed the NSF Athlete Agreement, Code of Conduct, submitted any required documents
May 3, 2024	Deadline for Paris 2024 Organizing Committee to receive accreditation application forms submitted by NPCs (“Accreditation Long List”)
May 31, 2024	End of the period for athletes to attain performances to be recorded on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic Ranking List. Start of Bipartite application process.
June 7, 2024	IWAS confirms in writing to the NPCs the allocation of qualification slots
June 21, 2024	NPCs confirm to IWAS in writing the use of allocated slots. Deadline for NPCs to submit Bipartite applications to IWAS.
June 28, 2024	IWAS confirms in writing the reallocation of unused qualification slots.
July 1, 2024	Team selection date
July 3, 2024	Date athlete must accept their selection
July 8, 2024	Timeline or deadline for filing an Appeal
August 5, 2024	Deadline for Paris 2024 Organizing Committee to receive sport entry forms submitted by NPCs