



# NEW ZEALAND

## TOKYO 2020 PARALYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATION/SELECTION OVERVIEW

### 1. SUMMARY

Any Paralympic combination(s) endeavouring to be selected for the Tokyo Paralympics will be required to have met each of the following four elements:

- i. **FEI Qualification:** To have attained an FEI Paralympic Qualification; either via NZL securing a team qualification spot or through NZL securing an individual spot as a consequence of declining its team quota or through the Regional individual qualification allocation; AND
- ii. **FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement:** As an individual, to have met the FEI Eligibility Requirements which includes securing a Certificate of Capability; AND
- iii. **ESNZ Performance & Eligibility Requirements:** To have proven to ESNZ's Selectors that they gave met the requisite ESNZ Paralympic Selection Performance Criteria; AND
- iv. **Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) Overarching Criteria:** Have performances of such depth and quantity to have proven to the New Zealand Paralympic Committee (PNZ) that they are is or are capable of a medal placing in the Games in their event or achieving a top eight (8) placing in the Games in their event and a medal placing at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Each combination, whether qualified/selected as an individual or a combination must have met all four of these elements. When taking this into account alongside the various FEI and PNZ rules, processes and timeframes, it became evident that it was critical for there to be a clear plan understood by all to ensure that our Tokyo prospective combinations have the best possible chance to perform at the Tokyo Paralympic Games. This document sets out each of the elements in a little more detail and provides a proposed plan.

### 2. FEI Qualification Requirements

1. Team Spot - For NZL to qualify a Paralympic spot at the Tokyo Paralympics we must either finish as one of the seven highest ranked teams on the FEI Paralympic Team Ranking List or be the highest ranked team in that list in the Oceania region of those countries not yet qualified. The team Ranking list is based on 1 Jan 2019- 31 Jan 2020 based on each team's best results from two qualifying events added together.
2. The Qualifying Events can be found here: <https://inside.fei.org/system/files/Tokyo%20-%20Para%20Dressage%20Qualifying%20Events%202019%20%282%29.pdf>. There is only one in Australasia which is in Australia in July 2019. Therefore, in the very least, New Zealand would need to field a team to this Qualifying Event in Australia were it looking to field a team in Tokyo. With Japan automatically qualified for the Games, from a team perspective we would be up against, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore (at least) so if there was a likelihood of fielding a team for this competition, it would be worth looking at how the other Oceania countries were tracking in terms of the Team Ranking List before heading to Australia (as that might not be enough to qualify a team in itself).

3. Individual Spot - Alternatively, an individual qualification can be gained through being one of the three highest ranked athletes from the Oceania region (up to two per country) based on the FEI Paralympic Individual Ranking List. This is an Individual Ranking based on each athletes' accumulated ranking points of a maximum of six best results obtained in the FEI Qualifying Events between 1 Jan 2019 – 31 January 2020 (links above). As above, there is only one event in Australasia, in Australia in July 2019.
4. To qualify for an individual spot (or two), we need some of our athletes to travel to some of the Qualifying Events in 2019 in order to qualify New Zealand a place for Tokyo.
5. It should be noted that the combination(s) that might qualify New Zealand for those spots at Tokyo do not need to be the combination(s) selected.

### **3. FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible to participate in the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Competitions, all combinations must achieve the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) at selected Events between 1 January 2019 - 1 June 2020 which will provide them with a Certificate of Capability (CoC).

### **4. PNZ's Over-arching Nomination Requirements**

PNZ requires any athlete being nominated for selection to show evidence of the following:

1. is or are capable of a medal placing in the Games in their event; or
2. achieving a top eight (8) placing in the Games in their event and a medal placing at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

This requirement is placed upon ALL sports and is to encourage strong performances on the world-stage, coupled with the fact that PNZ funds the costs of athletes (including horses) and coaches that compete at the Paralympics.

To that end, the ESNZ PNZ Nomination Criteria requires:

- a. the athlete and horse, as a combination to have achieved four (4) scores of seventy percent or greater ( $\geq 70\%$ ) where the average of the two (2) best scores is seventy two percent or greater ( $\geq 72\%$ ) in Qualifying Tests at the Grade for which they have been nominated in the period two (2) years prior to the Games; AND
- b. consistency of performance and results at events (particularly internationally), competitions, and activities (such as camps and trials), including the athlete and horse, as a combination, to have achieved scores of seventy percent or greater ( $\geq 70\%$ ) in the year of 2020;

This is necessary to ensure that Tokyo prospective combinations are clear on the performance required of them for selection as a Paralympic representative (as distinct from a World Equestrian Games which doesn't have these overarching requirement).

## 5. Time Line

Date	Action
1 January 2019	Start of the period for combinations to attain a minimum eligibility score
31 November 2019	PNZ Athlete Applications due
December 2019	All horses to be in NZ Ownership
31 January 2020	Deadline for NOC/NF to achieve Certificate of Qualification
2 March 2020	FEI informs NOCs/NFs of Reallocation of team quota places
8 March 2020	NOC to nominate Athletes to PNZ
16 March 2020	Deadline for NOCS to confirm qualification spot
23 March 2020	FEI confirms reallocation of unused qualification slots
19th June 2020	Deadline for Athletes to achieve FEI Certificate of Capability
TBC	ESNZ Nominations submitted to NZOC Selectors
3 August 2020	Tokyo Sport Entries Deadline

## 6. The Plan

**2019** - 2019 is an important year in the lead up to Tokyo 2020. Not only is it the year in which we need to qualify for Tokyo, but it's the year in which we need to have sufficient results to prove to the NZOC that we have the depth and quality to fill a team spot (if we have so qualified for that) or whether we only have individual(s) that can meet that overriding criteria. (Refer to point 4 above)

By the end of 2019 we will be expecting any horse that an athlete wishes to be considered for selection to be in NZ ownership this is to ensure we have established combinations going into 2020.

If we didn't secure the NZL Team Qualification, the focus for the rest of 2019 and moving into 2020 will be achieving Ranking Points to secure at least one Individual Qualification for Tokyo (up to two).

In 2020, the focus for the Tokyo prospective combinations will be getting performances that ensures their selection.

The important message to any Athlete aiming for Tokyo is to use 2019 to make their mark, to get New Zealand qualified which will take at least one combination travelling to a Qualifying Event in Australia, to establish their performance plan and achieve good results which can then be further capitalised on in 2020.