



International
Paralympic
Committee

EQUESTRIAN

Medal Events

Male	Female	Mixed	Total
0	0	11	11
		<p><u>Individual Championship</u> Individual – Grade I Individual – Grade II Individual – Grade III Individual – Grade IV Individual – Grade V</p> <p><u>Team Championship</u> Team – Open</p> <p><u>Individual Freestyle Individual Championship</u> Individual – Grade I Individual – Grade II Individual – Grade III Individual – Grade IV Individual – Grade V</p>	

Athlete Quota

Male	Female	Gender Free	Total
0	0	78	78

Allocation of Qualification Slots

The qualification slot is allocated to the NPC, not to the individual athlete or team. In the case of a Bipartite Commission Invitation the qualification slot is allocated to the individual athlete, not to the NPC.



Maximum Quota Allocation per NPC

An NPC may be allocated a maximum of four (4) qualification slots.

Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must:

- Be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status with a review date after 31 December 2020.

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athlete/horse combinations must:

- Have achieved at least one (1) sixty-two (62) percent score at a FEI Para Equestrian 3* or above event in an Individual or Team competition between 1 January 2018 and 19 June 2020;

USA NF

- The U.S. support the raising of the eligibility score from 60% to 62

GBR NF

- There is no guarantee that these nations lower down the rankings list either have sufficient numbers of athletes, or indeed the resources to send athletes to the Paralympics, even if they do qualify for one of the quota places. We would argue that the increase in percentage from 60 to 62% makes it even harder for these developing nations to earn a qualifying place.
- As individual competitors they will only be able to ride in the individual tests and the Freestyle – and the latter only if they qualify by making the cut. Given that these athletes could be a long way down the individual rankings this is unlikely and could result in a higher number of unused quota places. The FEI need to seriously consider the cost implications for developing nations to send an individual rider to compete in just one test. Can the costs of travel, accommodation etc. be justified for one day of competition?
- We could easily end up in a situation whereby the best athlete(s) in a particular grade, based on the ranking system, are not represented at the Paralympics due to this quota allocation. This will potentially have a negative impact on the quality of competition in Grades IV and V (the latter in particular) as nations will inevitably weight their teams to Grades I, II and III.

PEDTC

The eligibility score has already been raised to 62% for WEG, which has not caused problems. This will not be changed as the PEDTC determine it is fair. In addition, the results records lately show that most of the Athlete would qualify, to include those of developing Nations.

Maximum Entry per NPC

An NPC can enter a maximum of one (1) eligible team in the team event, comprising a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of four (4) eligible athletes entered in individual events. At least one (1) team



member shall be an eligible athlete in either sport class Grade I or sport class Grade II or sport class Grade III. In order to form a team an NPC can enter a maximum of two (2) eligible athletes per sport class.

If an NPC obtains three (3) Individual qualification slots (by means of Regional Distribution of Individuals and/or Bipartite Commission Invitations), then all three (3) slots may be used for athletes competing only in Individual medal events if the selected athletes do not fulfil the criteria to form a team. If an NPC enters three (3) or more athletes who meet the criteria required to form a team, that NPC must compete in the Team medal event.

GBR NF

We would like to refer the Para-Equestrian Committee to our letter to the FEI Secretary General dated 8 September 2016, which raised some significant concerns about the new format and quota allocation system for the Paralympic Games. These format changes were approved by the General Assembly in Tokyo in November 2016, but many of the issues that we raised at this time have still not been addressed. We therefore still have major reservations on the impact that the new format will have on the quality of competition.

In summary, these are the key points relating to the proposed qualification system:

- There are five grades in para-equestrian dressage, with five individual medal winning opportunities; therefore we strongly opposed the reduction to four athletes only per nation as it means that the top ranked athletes in certain grades will inevitably miss their opportunity to compete at the Paralympic Games. We would argue that this runs counter to the Paralympic ideal if we do not allow the best athletes to be represented.
 - We would assert that there needs to be some mechanism in place to ensure that the best athletes are still represented in each grade. This is particularly relevant for unused quota places, which should be filled from the top of the ranking list, regardless of whether or not a nation already has four athletes (including a team of three, plus one other individual).
 - The way that the proposed qualification system is set up currently means that the top 14 nations (plus the host) that are represented by four athletes will effectively be excluded from any additional quota (or unused quota) places
 - This will have a hugely detrimental effect, diluting the quality of competition overall and effectively filling the places from the bottom half of the rankings list to ensure that a wider range of nations are represented. Instead of the best athletes in each grade being offered the opportunity to compete, the level of riding ability on display at the Paralympic Games will be severely diminished.

PEDTC

The Championship format for Teams was changed at the GA in 2016. This was voted on democratically and supported by the majority of NFs, and has already been successful at the European Championships. The PEDTC determine that is not necessary to change this. NFs who gain quota places have the choice of who their Athletes are, as in the Olympics. The Eligibility score will make sure the level is correct. There will be no change here.



QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Qualification slots will be allocated as follows:

Team Qualification		
METHOD	QUALIFICATION	TOTAL
<u>Host Country Allocation</u>	<u>The host country directly qualifies four (4) athletes.</u> <u>Each Athlete must obtain the minimum eligibility requirements. If the Host Country is unable to field a team, it may send maximum two (2) eligible Individual Athletes instead. All other quota slots will be allocated via the Reallocation of Unused Qualification Slots method.</u>	<u>4 athletes</u>
2018 FEI World Equestrian Games Allocation	The top three (3) ranked teams, <u>not including the host country</u> , at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games will each obtain four (4) qualification slots for their NPC.	12 athletes
FEI Para Equestrian Team Ranking List Allocation	The seven (7) highest ranked teams on the FEI Paralympic Team Ranking List* (not otherwise qualified) will each obtain four qualification slots for their NPC. <i>*The FEI Paralympic Team Ranking List, covering the period of 1 January 2019 to 31 January 2020, is a Team Ranking based on each team's best team results from two (2) qualifying events added together.</i>	28 athletes
Para Equestrian Regional Team Ranking Allocation	The highest ranked team on the FEI Paralympic Team Ranking List (not yet qualified) from each of the following regions will obtain four (4) qualification slots for their NPC: - Africa - Americas - Asia - Oceania. Should a region not have an eligible team, the unused slots will be allocated (regardless of region) via the Reallocation of Unused Qualification Slots method (see below).	16 athletes



Individual Qualification		
METHOD	QUALIFICATION	TOTAL
Para Equestrian Individual Ranking List Allocation – Regional Distribution	<p><u>Only</u> NPCs that have not received qualification slots through any of the above allocation methods are eligible to receive qualification slots through the FEI Paralympic Individual Ranking List* Allocation method.</p> <p><i>*The FEI Paralympic Individual Ranking List, covering the period of 1 January 2019 to 31 January 2020, is an Individual Ranking based on each athlete’s accumulated ranking points of a maximum of six (6) best results obtained in FEI Para Equestrian qualifying competitions.</i></p> <p>The three (3) highest ranked athletes from each of the following regions each obtain one (1) qualification slot for their NPC, irrespective of Grade and up to two (2) slots per NPC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa - Americas - Asia - Europe - Oceania. 	15 athletes
Bipartite Commission Invitation Allocation	Three (3) eligible athletes will be considered by the FEI and IPC for Bipartite Commission Invitation slots. To be considered for a Bipartite Commission Invitation the FEI must receive an official application in writing from the relevant NPC by 16 March 2020. In case not all Bipartite slots are allocated, the remaining slots will be allocated via the Reallocation of Unused Quota Slots method (see below).	3 athletes
Host Country Allocation	<p>The host country directly qualifies four (4) athletes.</p> <p>In case the host country has qualified a team at the 2018 World Equestrian Games, the four (4) host country slots will be allocated to the next highest ranked team (not otherwise qualified) on the FEI Paralympic Team Ranking List closing 31 January 2020.</p>	4 athletes
Total		78 athletes



USA NF

- The positioning of the “Host Country Allocation” (HCA) is out of line with the Olympic Qualification processes. It is suggested that the HCA should be first in the table and then WEG second. Thus for WEG it should state (as per the Olympic processes) “*The Top three (3) best ranked teams from the 2018 World Equestrian Games (WEG) excluding the Host Country team....*” Therefore, if JPN are in the top 3 at WEG 2018, there are still 3 NPCs that qualify a Team slot from WEG.

PEDTC – The position of the host country has been moved following this suggestion.

USA NF

The U.S. supports the allocations as listed but would have enjoyed the opportunity to discuss whether the number of Teams qualifying through WEG 2018 should have been increased above 3.

NED NF

- We have noticed that for the Olympic Qualification System for the three Olympic Disciplines the top six (6) ranked teams at the FEI World Equestrian Games will each obtain a qualification slot for their country.

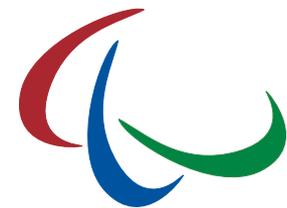
We would like to propose that for the Paralympic Qualification the FEI will also change to six (6) instead of three (3) teams of the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games. In our opinion the WEG is the most representative event, because athletes from the most countries are competing in the WEG. Therefore, the FEI could reduce the number of the highest ranked teams on the FEI Paralympic Team Ranking list from seven (7) to four (4).

Furthermore we think that the (qualification) rules for Olympic and Paralympic Games should be equal where possible.

PEDTC - The PEDTC decided that the three top teams should qualify, which remains the same number of teams who qualified for Rio 2016, and the remaining team quotas would be filled by rankings and regionally.

TIMELINE

1 January 2018	Start of the period for athlete/horse combinations to attain a minimum eligibility score
11-23 Sep. 2018	World Equestrian Games, Tryon, USA
1 January 2019	Start of the period for athletes to attain performances to be recorded on the FEI Paralympic Team and Individual Ranking Lists
December 2018	FEI to publish the list of Qualifying Events counting for FEI Paralympic Ranking Lists in 2019
December 2019	FEI to publish the list of Qualifying Events counting for FEI Paralympic Ranking Lists in 2020
31 January 2020	End of the period for athletes to attain performances to be recorded on the FEI Paralympic Team and Individual Ranking Lists
17 February 2020	Start of Bipartite Commission Invitation application process



2 March 2020	FEI notifies the NPCs in writing about the number of allocated qualification slots
16 March 2020	NPCs confirm in writing the use of allocated qualification slots
16 March 2020	Deadline for NPCs to submit Bipartite Commission Invitation applications to FEI
23 March 2020	FEI confirms in writing the reallocation of unused qualification slots and the awarding of Bipartite Commission Invitations
8 May 2020	Deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to receive accreditation application forms submitted by NPCs ("Accreditation Long List")
19 June 2020	End of the period for athlete/horse combinations to attain a minimum eligibility score
3 August 2020	Deadline for Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee to receive sport entry forms submitted by NPCs

CONFIRMATION PROCESS OF ALLOCATED SLOTS

By 16 March 2020 each qualified NPC must confirm to FEI in writing (fax and email are accepted) the number of qualification slots they will use. NPCs that have not replied by this date will have lost their qualification slots, and FEI may reallocate these slots.

By 23 March 2020 FEI will confirm in writing the reallocation of all unused qualification slots.

By 23 March 2020 it is officially declared that the respective NPCs will use the allocated slots for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Any NPC that does not use its allocated slots may be subject to sanctions by IPC and FEI.

USA NF

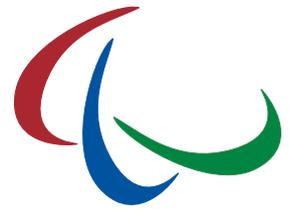
- December is very late to publish the list of "Qualifying Events" for the following year as the "season" starts in January. It is requested that if there is an intent for a CPEDI3* NOT to be included on the list, the NF is informed at the time of registering that particular CPEDI through the FEI calendar process

PEDTC – in principle all CPEDI3* announced in the calendar at that time for the following year are included. This late date makes sure as many as possible are included.

USA NF

- The Technical Committee is asked to consider whether Team Results from competitions / Championships to which all Nations are not invited to, should count towards the Team Ranking List.

PEDTC – The Ranking lists are on the Agenda for the upcoming PEDTC in person meeting. The use of Team Championship results on this list is a topic for discussion.



ITA NF

In general we are in agreement with criteria. We would only question the dates for the ranking points.

We are not sure why a different qualification period has been indicated for Paradressage with respect to the Olympic Disciplines.

We feel that the same period should also be adopted for Paradressage – **1st January – 31st December 2019.**

This will enable NFs and Para-athletes to concentrate on their preparation and not chase points for the rankings and it will also help NF rapports with their NPC with regards to budgeting and organisation.

USA NF

The List used for individual qualification for Tokyo must be a level playing field and thus different from the rolling Ranking Lists. Maybe this should run over two years?

PEDTC – The PEDTC prefer to keep the length of the qualification period as suggested. Regions with few competitions will have some extra opportunities to qualify, and to extend the period is not deemed necessary. As such this period will remain unchanged.

REALLOCATION OF UNUSED QUALIFICATION SLOTS

Any qualification slots that are not used by the respective NPC will be reallocated as follows:

Unused Team slots

If an NPC does not use all of its allocated Team quota slots, the NPC may then participate with a maximum of two (2) athletes exclusively in Individual competition. The unused slot(s) will go to the next highest ranked NPC on the FEI Paralympic Individual Ranking List (not otherwise qualified).

Unused Individual slots

Should an NPC not use all of its allocated quota slots for Individual athletes, the slot(s) will be reallocated to the next highest ranked NPC on the FEI Paralympic Individual Ranking List (not otherwise qualified).

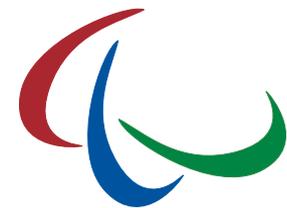
FIN NF

As the possibility to get individual place according overall Individual Ranking list is now taken away we find that the reallocated unused Team or Individual slots should be reallocated to the next highest ranked NPC on the FEI paralympic Individual List – not qualified with team – however max 3 individual / NPC and no more than max 2 riders / Sports Grade.

This would give more NPC possibility to have composite team of 3 riders and highest ranked individual riders are still noted also outside regional slots .

USA NF

- If the 78 Athlete Quota slots are not filled / accepted through any of the reallocation methods listed, what action will or can be taken by the FEI?



GBR NF

- What will happen to the unused quota places that cannot be filled once reallocated? The full quota was not used at the Rio Paralympics in 2016 or at the European Championships in Gothenburg in 2017. There is a huge assumption that all 78 places will automatically be filled. There are no contingency plans in place for the unused quota places, other than to go even lower down the rankings list. There is a significant danger that we could ultimately lose overall quota places in future if we are unable to send 78 athletes in total.
- Any unused quota places should be reallocated in a way that prioritises the quality of competition over the number of flags, to ensure that the standard and principles of the Paralympics are not compromised in any way. Our strong recommendation is to come up with a quota reallocation system that ensures that as a minimum the top three ranked athletes in each individual grade receive priority (if not already qualified) before the remaining additional places are reallocated.
 - Failure to address these issues effectively could jeopardise the quality and integrity of the Paralympic competition in certain grades – and potentially put the long term position of para-equestrian dressage in the Paralympic movement at risk, certainly in terms of the number of athlete quota places allocated overall.
 - Ultimately the priority for the FEI should be to preserve the overall quota of 78 athletes and ensure that it can be filled with the best quality competition for the continued health and growth of the sport. While the ambition to increase the number of flags represented is admirable, this should not come at the cost of the quality and integrity of Paralympic competition as a whole.

PEDTC - The requirements to have a team are quite restrictive, in the sense that each Team must have at least one Grade I, II or III Athlete on it. This is to make sure the Team competition is as fair as possible (% in the lower Grades are in general higher than in the higher Grades (Grades IV and V). Not all NFs have Athletes in all Grades. Allowing NFs to qualify more individuals does not necessarily equate to more Teams competing in the Team Championship. The PEDTC have decided to remain with their decision of max 2 Athletes per NF who have not qualified a Team.

- A Simulation was made using the results and rankings list from 2016, and there were enough Athletes with eligible scores from NFs to fill this Qualification system. The PEDTC are not worried about filling the 78 quota slots. To note, the quota was filled in London (2012) and Rio (2016)*. *Some spaces were removed at the last moment.

- At CH-EU-PED there is no quota.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

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NF General Comments
SVK NF - from our side any comments.
ESP NF - Please take note that we have analyzed the system and we have no comments to do.
SUI NF- The Swiss Equestrian Federation agrees with the proposed changes.
POL NF- does not report any comments on Qualification System for the Tokyo Paralympic Games.