



MILANO CORTINA 2026 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Snow Sports New Zealand Incorporated

Nomination Criteria

1 Application of this Criteria

- 1.1 This Criteria is issued by the Board of Snow Sports New Zealand and forms part of Schedule A of the Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) Selection Regulation. A copy of the PNZ Selection Regulation is available on the [PNZ website](#).
- 1.2 This Criteria shall take effect from **14 April 2025**, amended 21 May 2025. This Nomination Criteria supersedes any previous correspondence, discussions, and representations (whether written or verbal) by Snow Sports New Zealand.
- 1.3 This Criteria applies to:
 - a all Para athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the NZPT to compete in the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games; and
 - b Snow Sports New Zealand, including their Sport Specific Selectors that wish to nominate Para athletes to PNZ to be considered for selection to the NZPT for the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

2 Definitions

Application Date means **2 May 2025**, or any other date as specified by PNZ, by which Para athletes must submit a completed Para athlete Application to PNZ in accordance with the PNZ Selection Regulation.

Board means the Board of Snow Sports New Zealand as constituted under the Constitution.

Board Members means the members of the Board of Snow Sports New Zealand as defined in the Constitution.

Chief Executive/ Officer means the Chief Executive/ Officer of Snow Sports New Zealand and includes their nominee.

Commencement Date means the date this Criteria came into force, namely **14 April 2025**.

Constitution means the Constitution of Snow Sports New Zealand.

Criteria means this Criteria and is also known as the “Nomination Criteria”.

General Nomination Criteria means the criteria set out in clause 5.2.

IF means an International Sports Federation.

IPC means the International Paralympic Committee.

Member means the members of PNZ as specified in the Constitution.

New Zealand Paralympic Team means the New Zealand Paralympic Team selected in accordance with this Regulation to compete in the Paralympic Games and excludes any Para athletes selected as reserves.

Nominated Para athlete means a Para athlete nominated by Snow Sports New Zealand in accordance with the PNZ Selection Regulation.

Nomination Criteria means the criteria made up of the General Nomination Criteria, the Over-Riding Nomination Criteria and the Specific Nomination Factors, and is also referred to as “this Criteria”.

Nomination Date means **6 June 2025** “Initial Nomination Date” or **16 January 2026** “Second Nomination Date”, or any other date specified by PNZ, by which Snow Sports New Zealand must submit any Nominated Para athletes to PNZ as set out in clause 4.

NSO means any New Zealand National Sporting Organisation that is a Member of PNZ, any other New Zealand national NSO that has signed an agreement with PNZ to be bound by this Regulation or PNZ (in circumstances where it acts as a national NSO for certain Para sports).

Over-Riding Nomination Criteria means the criteria set out in clause 5.3.

Para athlete means a person who wishes to be considered for nomination to the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games Team.

New Zealand Paralympic Team Agreement means the agreement that must be completed by any Para athlete wishing to be considered for nomination and selection to the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games Team and which is attached to the PNZ Selection Regulation as **Appendix 2**.

Para athlete Application means the form that must be completed by any Para athlete applying to be nominated and selected to the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games Team and which is attached to the PNZ Selection Regulation as **Appendix 1**.

Paralympic Games means the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games to be held in Milano Cortina, Italy from 6-15 March 2026.

PNZ means Paralympics New Zealand Incorporated.

PNZ Selection Regulation means the regulation adopted by the PNZ Board to clearly document and make available to all Para athletes and NSOs the application, nomination and selection process to be used by PNZ in selecting Para athletes for the NZPT to compete in the Paralympic Games.

Specific Nomination Factors means the nomination factors set out in clause 5.5

SSS means sport specific selectors appointed by the Snow Sports New Zealand.

Supporting Evidence means the supporting evidence set out in clause 5.4

WADA means the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Unless specified otherwise, any other terms used in this Criteria shall have the meanings set out in the PNZ Selection Regulation.

3 Sport Specific Selectors

3.1 **Composition:** The Sport Specific Selectors from Snow Sports New Zealand shall be appointed by The Board. The SSS from Snow Sports New Zealand who will consider nomination of Para athletes to PNZ to be considered for selection in the NZPT are:

- a Greg Knowles
- b Rebecca Ewart
- c Lucy Brown

4 Nomination Procedure

4.1 **Nomination if Criteria met:** If the conditions of nomination set out in the PNZ Selection Regulation are met to the satisfaction of the SSS, the SSS shall then nominate those Para athletes it considers meet the Nomination Criteria set out below.

4.2 There will be two (2) nomination dates upon which SSNZ will advise Para athletes whether or not they have been nominated for selection to PNZ for the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

4.3 All Para athletes who have completed an online PNZ Para Athlete Application Form will be notified by SSNZ whether they have been nominated or not nominated for selection (subject to slot allocation and / or Bipartite Commission Invitation) by SSNZ by 5:00pm 6 June 2025 ("Initial Nomination Date").

4.4 All Para athletes who have not already been nominated on or before the initial nomination date, will be notified by SSNZ whether they have been nominated or not nominated for selection (subject to slot allocation and / or Bipartite Commission Invitation) by SSNZ by 5:00pm 16 January 2026 ("Second Nomination Date").

4.5 Any Para athlete who is not nominated by SSNZ in accordance with this Nomination Criteria may appeal their non-nomination by following the procedures outlined in clause 13 of the PNZ Selection Regulation.

5 Nomination Criteria

5.1 **Nomination Criteria:** The Snow Sports New Zealand Nomination Criteria for nomination to the NZPT is made up of the following parts:

- a the General Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.2;
- b the Over-Riding Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.3; and
- c the Supporting Evidence specified in clause 5.4

5.2 **General Nomination Criteria:** Firstly, taking into account the Specific Nomination Factors, the SSS **must** be satisfied that the Para athlete:

- a has met the conditions of nomination specified in clause 8.2 of the PNZ Selection Regulation;
- b will, in the opinion of the SSS, be an effective and harmonious member of the Paralympic Games Team;
- c has not acted in such a manner so as to bring the Para athlete, the sport, Snow Sports New Zealand or PNZ into public disrepute; and
- d in the opinion of the SSS, has acted and will continue to act, as a positive role model to all New Zealand Para athletes.

5.3 **Over-Riding Nomination Criteria:** Secondly, taking into account the Specific Nomination Factors, the SSS **must** be satisfied overall that, in their opinion, that the Para athlete has met the following:

5.4.1 **Individuals:** A Para athlete being considered for individual events, has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the SSS that they are capable of:

- a. achieving a medal placing in the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games in their event; or
- b. achieving a top eight (8) placing in the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games in their event and a medal placing at French Alps 2030 Paralympic Winter Games.

5.4 **Supporting Evidence:** In demonstrating a Para athlete capability, the SSS must assess the evidence showing tracking of the Para athlete's performances and results. This evidence may include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- a The shortfall, if any, in performance to achieve a medal placing based on the performances and results to date;

- b The rate of the Para athlete's progression and forecasted placing at the Paralympic Games;
- c The rate of the Para athlete's progression and forecasted placing at the French Alps 2030 Paralympic Games;
- d The rate of progression of other Para athletes from other nations in that event; and
- e The likelihood of Para athletes from other nations being selected for the Paralympic Games (based on that nation's selection criteria).

5.5 **Specific Nomination Factors:** When considering the General Nomination Criteria and the Over-riding Nomination Criteria above, the SSS **shall** also take into account any one or more of the following factors about a Para athlete:

- a the performance and results of the Para athlete, including consistency of performance and results at events (particularly internationally), competitions, and activities (such as camps and trials), in the period two (2) years preceding the possible selection of the Nominated Para athlete;
- b adequate fitness and a commitment to maintain a fitness and training programme as agreed with the applicable coach(es);
- c demonstrated good behaviour, including a commitment to training and attendance at training camps;
- d demonstrated compatibility with others in a team environment;
- e demonstrated compliance with the rules of events and competitions;
- f understanding and respect for the position on the Team and/or when competing in the NZPT at the Paralympic Games, including respect for team members and officials;
- g willingness to promote PNZ in a positive manner;
- h demonstrated ability to take personal responsibility for self and their results;
- i proven ability to be reliable; and
- j any other factor(s) the SSS considers relevant.

In considering any one or more of the above factors, the SSS may make such enquiries of the Nominated Para athletes, or other persons, as it sees fit.

5.6 **Weight to be given to Specific Nomination Factors:** The SSS **may** give weight to any one or more of the Specific Nomination Factors and if it does, to apply such weighting to one or

more Para athletes. No particular factor shall be weighted more or less significantly by reason only of the order in which that factor appears in this Criteria.

- 5.7 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In any decision regarding the nomination of Para athletes to PNZ for the NZPT, the SSS may, in their sole discretion, take into account any extenuating circumstances in accordance with clause 5.10 below.
- 5.8 **Nomination Procedure:** After consideration of the Nomination Criteria the SSS shall follow the procedure set out in the PNZ Selection Regulation.
- 5.9 **Overriding Discretion:** Notwithstanding the criteria, in considering Para athletes for selection, PNZ has an absolute overriding discretion to select (or not select) Para athletes (including those who may not meet the above criteria) for the NZPT. In doing so it may take into account factors such as, but not limited to, compatibility of Para athletes, Para athletes prior conduct, or factors that may affect the NZPT as a whole.
- 5.10 **Extenuating Circumstances:** Snow Sports New Zealand may in its sole discretion take into account extenuating circumstances and therefore waive or vary some or all of the above criteria. Detailed evidence must be provided with any nomination seeking consideration of extenuating circumstances which has affected a Para athlete's progress. For the purpose of this Policy, "extenuating circumstances" means the inability of a Para athlete to compete or perform to an optimum level due to factors such as:
- a injury or illness of a Para athlete;
 - b equipment failure;
 - c travel delays;
 - d bereavement or personal misfortune; and
 - e such other circumstances as the selectors reasonably consider constitute "extenuating circumstances."
- 5.11 Para athletes who have been unable to compete at events, trials, or other attendances required under this Criteria, must advise the Chief Executive Officer of the extenuating circumstances, and reasons, in writing, within 10 working days of the Commencement Date of this criteria as specified in clause 2 above. If the Chief Executive Officer is not notified of any extenuating circumstances in accordance with this Criteria, then the SSS has no obligation to rely on such circumstances. In the case of injury or illness, Para athletes may be required by the SSS to provide a medical certificate and/or to undergo an examination by a health practitioner/s nominated by the SSS, and to provide that opinion and/or report to the SSS. Any failure to agree to such a request may result in the SSS being unable to consider the injury or illness as an extenuating circumstance.

- 5.12 In the case of any extenuating circumstance/s, the SSS will make a nomination decision on a case by case basis.

6 Appeal Procedure

- 6.1 **Nomination Appeals:** Any Para athlete who has applied for nomination and selection to the NZPT and who has returned a completed Para athlete Application to PNZ by the Application Date and a New Zealand Paralympic Team Agreement to PNZ by the Nomination Date may appeal to Snow Sports New Zealand against their non-nomination to PNZ by the SSS of Snow Sports New Zealand in accordance with the procedures set out in the PNZ Selection Regulation.

7 Inconsistencies

- 7.1 In the event there is any inconsistency between this Criteria and the PNZ Selection Regulation, the PNZ Selection Regulation shall prevail.
- 7.2 If this Criteria imposes a higher qualification standard or a lesser number of participants than stated by the IPC this shall not be regarded as an inconsistency.

8 Amendments to this Criteria

- 8.1 This Criteria may be amended or supplemented from time to time by the Board.
- 8.2 The Board will give as much notice as possible of any amendment/s or supplement/s to this Regulation, to persons it considers may be affected by any such amendment/s or supplement/s.
- 8.3 This Criteria includes any amendments to the IPC rules, regulations, policies and codes.