

Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme 2024/25

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the process and criteria by which Weightlifting Wales will select athletes for the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) providing they demonstrate the potential to contribute towards major senior international events in the future.

1.1 Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS)

This scheme provides athletes with a needs-led, quality assured package of support including strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, personal development, nutrition and sports psychology. Athletes will also benefit from the TASS Medical Scheme, which provides fast access to private medical treatment in the event of a sports related illness or injury, and Mental Health support via our partner Sporting Chance.

The support will be delivered initially at Cardiff Metropolitan University and Swansea University with nominated athletes. Athletes who live outside Wales, have the opportunity to access to delivery centres in England.

1.2 Athletes on Tier One or Tier Two Athlete Support will not be eligible for TASS. Athlete support will be withdrawn if an athlete is selected for TASS.

2 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for TASS, athletes must satisfy the following criteria:

2.2 Athlete must be eligible to compete by nationality for Wales as per the CGF Constitution. This means (in summary):

- Born in Wales;
- Parent was born in Wales;
- Grandparent was born in Wales; and/or
- Continuous residency in Wales (three years).

An athlete declaring nationality eligibility for Wales must provide supporting documentary evidence to the WW Performance Pathway Manager by the end of the qualifying period. Athlete must also be listed under Wales on their British Weight Lifting (BWL) Sport 80 account.

2.3 Athlete must be a current member of Weightlifting Wales (WW) and not suspended.

2.4 Athlete must submit an [application of interest](#) no later than 31 March 2024 for April review and 30 September 2024 for October.

2.5 An athlete must not be in dispute with Weightlifting Wales, or British Weight Lifting.

2.6 An athlete must remain compliant with Anti-Doping procedures and complete all relevant UKAD Education & Training required by Weightlifting Wales.

2.7 Athlete must sign the 'Weightlifting Wales Athlete agreement'.

2.8 Athlete must comply with the WW athlete agreement, including the code of conduct and display appropriate behaviours in and out of the sporting environment in-line with the ‘WW Athlete agreement’.

3 Nomination Criteria

To be nominated for TASS, athletes must satisfy the following criteria:

3.2 Athlete must have achieved the relevant ‘minimum nomination standard’ for their category in an approved competition six months prior to the review dates. Athlete support reviews will take place at the end of April and October.

Registered Competition data: All Welsh Sport 80 registered competitions, all British National championships, Welsh and British representation at international competitions. Where an athlete has competed in a tier 3 event in another home nation it is their responsibility to contact Weightlifting Wales with the results.

3.3 Minimum age is 18 years old at the end of the review date.

3.4 Athlete must achieve the minimum selection standard (3.4 or 3.5). Achieving the standard enables an athlete to be considered by the performance panel, it does not guarantee selection.

3.5 Tier One Minimum Standard

Table A

Tier One Female minimum standard

Bodyweight Category	F45	F49	F55	F59	F64	F71	F76	F81	F87	F87+
Total (kg)	146	157	173	184	191	201	204	210	214	228

Tier One Male minimum standard

Bodyweight Category	M55	M61	M67	M73	M81	M89	M96	M102	M109	M109+
Total (kg)	220	252	267	277	294	307	312	315	321	337

4 Nomination Process

The WW performance panel will convene to select athletes for TASS support during April and October 2024 (subject to change by WW).

4.2 The maximum number of athletes to be nominated for TASS is [4]. Weightlifting Wales is under no obligation to nominate the maximum number of allocated places. Places are dependent on funding.

4.2 The nomination process will be conducted by the Weightlifting Wales performance panel, who will be provided with the following supporting information:

- WW athlete database of eligible Welsh athletes
- List of athletes who have submitted an application of interest
- Male Commonwealth Pathway Standards

- Female Commonwealth Pathway Standards
- Selection Policy Criteria
- Athlete Profile containing key information about each athlete to support voting members to make informed, objective decisions. This includes the following information: (for example:
 - Competition results history
 - Progression trajectory
 - National Squad register of attendance (if applicable)
 - Current fitness
 - Any other supporting evidence submitted by the athlete or WW.

The advice and experience of the WW performance team will be considered throughout the selection process to evaluate whether athletes demonstrate the necessary performance behaviours to deliver future medal-winning performances.

4.3 If the total number of athletes eligible for nomination using the criteria in Section 3 is greater than the amount of support available (4.1), the performance panel at their discretion reserves the right to select the athletes who demonstrate the greatest potential at the Commonwealth Games. The following criteria are to be considered:

- 4.3.1 Competition Results
- 4.3.2 Performance projected trajectory
- 4.3.3 Commonwealth Pathway Standard
- 4.3.4 Engagement with Training Squads and performance reviews (if applicable).

4.4 Where an athlete has demonstrated excellent levels of progression, resulting in a projected trajectory which indicates the athlete as future talent the Performance Group may select at their discretion.

5 Performance Panel

The Performance selection panel will (subject to illness or other legitimate reason for absence) be chaired by the Chair of the WW Performance Sub Committee and comprise of:

- Non-Executive Board Member from Performance Sub Group (Chair)
- Non-Executive Board Member from Performance Sub Group
- WW Performance / Development Staff member

WW Staff member NON-voting capacity will present documents and data to the panel.

Other members of WW may be in attendance in a non-voting capacity to supply background information and technical or medical information.

- WW Performance / Development staff
- WW Sport Science & Medical personnel
- WW Team Manager for Events

A written summary of the notes from this meeting will be recorded and available to an athlete on request in the event an athlete wishes to consider appealing the selection panel's decision.

Athletes will be informed by email of the selection decision.

All conflicts of interest will be declared. A conflicted individual will not vote on that selection or be permitted to contribute to discussions unless their views are specifically requested by the Chair of the Selection Panel.

In the event of a tied vote, the Chair of the Performance Sub Committee will cast the deciding vote.

6 Conditions of Selection

Selected athletes must maintain all of the following conditions of selection, (failure to do so may result in de-selection at the discretion of the performance panel):

- 6.3 Abide by the WW Athlete code of conduct
- 6.4 Fully comply with the athlete agreement
- 6.5 Abide by the WW Social Media Policy
- 6.6 An athlete must remain compliant with Anti-doping procedures
- 6.7 Complete any additional anti-doping education that is necessary to maintain eligibility
- 6.8 Work with the TASS and WW performance team to agree performance plans
- 6.9 Attend TASS introduction and practitioner sessions regularly
- 6.10 Inform WW immediately of any injuries and illness
- 6.11 Attendance at squads and camps is compulsory. In unforeseen circumstances where athletes are unable to attend, they must communicate non-attendance sufficiently. Repeated non-attendance may lead to the athlete having their athlete support removed.
- 6.12 If an athlete does not continue to maintain the minimum qualification standard on the selection review dates the athlete support will be removed.
- 6.13 Athletes must have competed in the most recent Welsh Age Group and/or Welsh Senior Championships. Unless absence has been agreed with the Performance team, with a valid and evidenced reason.
- 6.14 The Selection panel under the advice of the WW Performance team reserve the right to withdraw athlete support for any athlete who fails to adhere to the terms outlined in this selection policy & the 'WW athlete agreement'.
- 6.15 If an athlete displays inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour that reflects poorly on WW, themselves or other selected team members, WW is entitled to investigate the situation fully.
- 6.16 If WW concludes that an athlete has been found not to have met the above criteria for continued selection, the selection panel at their discretion reserves the right to:
 - Remove athlete support package from the athlete
 - set further conditions of selection
 - request further assessment of health & fitness.

6.14 A deselected athlete will be entitled to appeal the decision and provide written representation in accordance with the WW appeals procedure (7).

7 Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal their athlete support withdrawal in accordance with the “WW Appeals Procedure”. A copy can be requested from Weightlifting Wales. WW will give athletes a minimum of 72 hours to notify WW of their intention to appeal their withdrawal from the athlete support package. If the athlete fails to submit the Notice of Appeal within the time limit set out in this Appeals Process they will have lost their right of appeal

TIMELINE *All dates are subject to change.*

1. Athlete must submit an online [application of interest](#) form by 31 March 2024 for April Review, and 30 September 2024 for October Review.
2. Athlete must compete within the qualifying period, six months prior to the review month and meet the minimum selection criteria.
3. Qualification period closes on 31 March 2024 and 30 September 2024
4. Selection takes place the week commencing April and October 2024
5. Successful athletes are invited to complete the TASS application following the selection meeting.
6. All non-selected athletes from the application of interest list will be notified.
7. Appeal deadline is 72 hours after notification of non-selection or withdrawal.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Approved Competition data Weightlifting Wales athlete data base monitors all Welsh BARs registered competitions, all British National championships, Welsh and British representation at international competitions. Where an athlete has competed in a tier 3 event in another home nation it is their responsibility to contact Weightlifting Wales with the results. The relevant scoresheet will then be sourced to update the data base.

British Weight Lifting (BWL) – the National Governing Body for Weightlifting and Weight Training in the UK

Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) - the organisation which governs the Commonwealth Games

Commonwealth Games Wales (CGW) - is the lead body for Commonwealth sport in Wales and our membership is made up of the Governing Bodies in Wales. Also referred to as Team Wales.

Commonwealth Pathway Standards (CWPS) – Standards are based on analysis of medal zones across previous Commonwealth Games with regression from the medal standard based on the progress rates of medal-winning UK athletes. Totals displayed by age and weight categories.

[FEMALE CWPS](#)

[MALE CWPS](#)

Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation (CWF) – the commonwealth federation which governs the sport of Weightlifting across the Commonwealth, overseeing the Commonwealth Championships and Weightlifting event at the Commonwealth Games.

Dispute – any claim, action, suit, arbitration, proceeding, investigation, complaint, or prosecution to which the Athlete is a party or materially involved details of which it appears necessary (in WW or BWL’s sole discretion) to make available to the Selection Panel.

For example only (and without limitation to WW or BWL’s discretion) if an athlete is under investigation for and/or charged with conduct which:

- A) (if convicted) amounts to criminality for which a custodial sentence may be given and/or criminality which harms or places in danger other individuals; or
- B) B) would bring or brings WW, BWL and/or the sport into serious disrepute;

then details of this kind of Dispute may be notified to the Selection Panel if WW or BWL believes it will ensure factors such as (and without limitation) fairness, safety of any other individuals participating in or attending the Event (or training and preparing for the Event) and/or the reputation of: WW, BWL, the sport and/or the Event.

Extenuating circumstances – circumstances that are unexpected, unavoidable, and outside of your control.

Sport Wales – a funding organisation that provides funding to support grassroots and the development of elite sport pathways in Wales for athletes who demonstrate potential to win medals at the Commonwealth games.

TASS - Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme. This scheme provides athletes with a needs-led, quality-assured package of support including strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, personal development, nutrition and sports psychology. Athletes will also benefit from the TASS Medical Scheme, which provides fast access to private medical treatment in the event of a sports-related illness or injury, and Mental Health support via our partner Sporting Chance.