



Paralympic Games Programme Working Group

Medal Events Selection Process

The purpose of this paper is to outline the general concept of Medal Event Selection for the Paralympic Games. This document explains the principles, process, scope and medal events determination methodology to provide you with the necessary background on the final proposals.

A) Principles

The aim of the exercise was to conduct a statistical review of the medal events for the most recent Paralympic Games, World Championships and the World Ranking Lists in order to develop a set of principles and a working methodology by which future medal events programmes at pinnacle IPC Swimming competitions can be set. The following principles were identified during the course of the concept development:

- **Fairness** is needed in the all aspects of the event determination process;
- **Viability** of events must be ensured and single sport class events should be offered in the majority of the programme, except where numbers do not allow
- **Stability** in the medal events programmes at IPC pinnacle competitions (Paralympic Games and World Championships) must be secured;
- **Manageability** of competitions (scope of events and scheduling) must be taken into account when determining the number of events on offer; and
- **Alignment** with the Paralympic Programme core characteristics of quality, quantity and universality must be ensured.

B) Process

The general framework of the process used to determine the medal events programme was conducted in three (3) steps:

- 1) Identifying '**Potential Events**'
- 2) Determining '**Eligible Events**'
- 3) Selecting '**Medal Events**'

In the identifying potential events, an inventory was made of all the events on offer in the sport of IPC Swimming by discipline, gender and sport class. This potential event list was created from opportunities that had taken place at major IPC Swimming competitions (World Championships and Paralympic Games) and were represented on the IPC Swimming World Ranking List over the past 3 years. A potential event list was developed using the data.

From this potential event list, a quality assurance filter was then applied to determine which events should be considered eligible events for future Medal Event Programmes. The criteria used in the eligibility determination process were as follows:

In order for an event to be eligible for medal event consideration, it must meet minimum criteria of:

- Fifteen (15) athletes ranked on the aggregate IPC Swimming World Ranking over the past 3 years.
- Eight (8) NPCs represented within the top 15 ranked athletes in the men's events and six (6) NPC represented within the top 15 ranked athletes in the women's events.
- Three (3) IPC Regions (European, Americas, Asian, African and Oceania) represented within the top 15 ranked athletes.

Once the eligible events list was compiled, the medal events selection commenced. The two critical success factors that ensure viability, stability, manageability and ultimately world class experiences at our major competitions as well as the ongoing development of the sport are:

- 1) The ability to clearly forecast the majority of the medal events programme for the major competitions in a timely manner to ensure event success and optimal swimmer performance ; and
- 2) The possibility of offering meaningful competitive opportunities in emerging sport classes

To this end, it was recognized that it was imperative that two medal events categories need to be established: 1) Core Events and 2) Tiered Events. These two medal event types are defined as follows:

- **Core Events** - A pool of eligible medal events that are considered as stable, signature event opportunities within the sport that have consistently achieved the core characteristics of quality, quantity and universality at the key IPC Swimming Competitions and in the IPC Swimming World Ranking List.
- **Tiered Events** - A pool of eligible medal events that are considered emerging event opportunities within the sport that have presented signs of development and/or thought to have potential in terms of increased athlete participation and performance.

Once the categories were defined it was then necessary to determine the number of events (the scope) on offer for major competition programmes as well as the methodology to prioritize and select core events versus tiered events. The scope and methodology is outlined in sections C and D.

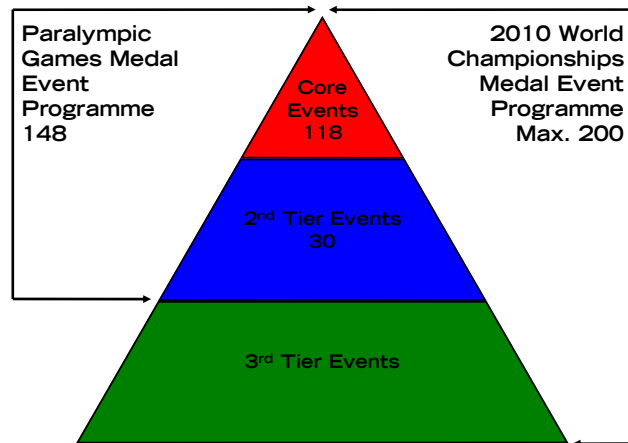
C) Scope

As already stated under the principle of manageability, it is critical for major competitions to be planned and structured appropriately in order for them to be successful. The event schedule for the Paralympic Games Swimming Programme for London 2012 is 148 medal events.

However, in order to ensure stability it was recognized that the number of core events needed to be reviewed in general before going into the detailed review of events per gender. To ensure continuity and connection between the Paralympic Games and the World Championships programme the Paralympic core events list was determined to be approximately 80% of the total Paralympic Games Medal Events. 112 medal events were determined; in addition the 6 events for the athletes with intellectual disability were added for the total of 118. This process left the 30 remaining Paralympic Medal Events as 2nd Tier Events.

It was recognized that the 30 2nd Tier events for the Paralympic Games would be best determined following the World Championships 2010. These 30 select events would be labeled 2nd tier medal events in the process and the remaining events not selected for the Paralympic Games would be considered 3rd tier medal events.

Please see the diagram below which displays the scopes of the two programmes:



With these parameters defined, it was then possible to develop a more detailed medal events scope based on the current proportionality of events offered and practiced by gender.

Once the scope was determined, we developed and implemented a method to select the best placed events fill the medal events quotas by gender.

D) Methodology

In developing the event selection methodology, we constructed criteria for core and tiered events, which included the following:

Core Events

The list of eligible events was assessed based on the following variables:

- Events swum in the Paralympic Games Beijing 2008 and 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships
- Number of athletes on the aggregate world ranking list starting 1st January 2007 till 1st November 2009.
- Number of NPCs represented within the respective event on the aggregate world ranking list starting 1st January 2007 till 1st November 2009.
- Number of regions represented in the respective event on the aggregate world ranking list starting 1st January 2007 till 1st November 2009.

The events were then ranked based on a competitiveness ratio within the event by:

- Measuring the difference between the average of the times of the top five ranked athletes and the average of the times of the sixth through tenth ranked athletes from the aggregate world ranking list starting 1st January 2007 till 1st November 2009.
- This method will be applied to all events with the consideration that the rankings are corrected to show a maximum of three swimmers per NPC per event in rank order.

Once the event ranking was constructed several selection rounds were conducted to fill core events quota by gender.

In the first round, the strongest events by sport class were selected:

- Each sport class received a minimum of two event opportunities regardless of the position of the event on the list of eligible events.
- Exception was made to this procedure in S1 women, S2 women and S1 men where the depth of the rankings didn't allow the allocation of 2 core events, so only 1 core event was identified for these sport classes.

In the second and successive rounds:

- Sport classes received more event nominations based on their level of competitiveness, depth and stability using the competitiveness ratio in rank order on the event listing.
- This method was followed until the core events quota of 112 events was filled.

In order to ensure the most robust and viable Core Medal Event list for the 2012 Paralympics the following caveats will be applied following the 2010 IPC Swimming World Championships:

- If after 2010 World Championships an identified core event fails to meet the criteria for eligibility for medal events it will be taken off the core events list.
- This event will then be added to the pool of Tiered Events for Paralympic Games 2012, where it will receive consideration to be included in the final Paralympic Medal events list.

Tiered Events

The 2nd tier events will be selected following the 2010 IPC Swimming World Championships to fill the remaining events quota for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. The selections will be made to ensure that the following considerations are at the fore:

- Review of the importance of relay events inside the programme.
- A balance in the programme of events
- Representation of athletes with high support needs
- Representation of events that have athletes from emerging regions.

A procedure for selecting tiered events will be established and published latest by 01 June 2010.