



**INTERNATIONAL
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE**

**2026 REFUGEE PARALYMPIC
TEAM (RPT) HOPEFULS
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INFORMATION SHEET
JUNE 2026**

1 INTRODUCTION

The IPC is now opening an Expression of Interest process to identify Para athletes with verified refugee status to participate in the Refugee Paralympic Team (RPT) Hopefuls initiative, which aims to provide training and competition opportunities to athletes, and ultimately support athletes in being considered for selection to the next Refugee Paralympic Team.

Athletes whose eligibility is confirmed through this process will subsequently receive details on how to apply for a funding mechanism that will be made available to NPCs and IFs to support refugee Para athletes to train and compete in the lead-up to the next Paralympic Games.

The Expression of Interest process is open to NPCs, and, in select cases, IFs. As Paris 2024 RPT athletes are already supported through this mechanism, they do not need to apply through this process.

2 ELIGIBILITY

For Para athletes to be considered for the RPT Hopefuls initiative, they must meet the following criteria:

- Hold valid refugee status for their current country of residence verifiable by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).
- Be in possession of a valid internationally recognised Refugee Travel Document/Convention Travel Document or passport.
- Be competing in one of the summer Para sports listed below:
 - Boccia
 - Para Athletics
 - Para Badminton
 - Para Canoe
 - Para Climbing
 - Para Cycling
 - Para Equestrian
 - Para Powerlifting
 - Para Swimming
 - Para Table Tennis
 - Para Taekwondo
 - Para Triathlon
 - Sitting Volleyball
 - Shooting Para Sport
 - Wheelchair Basketball

- Wheelchair Fencing
- Have potential to qualify for Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games. This will be assessed through athletes' competition results since 1 January 2024.

3 TIMELINE AND PROCESS

Expressions of Interest can be submitted on a rolling basis until 31 March 2027.

3.1 UNHCR VERIFICATION

Refugee Para athletes must hold valid refugee status for their current country of residence. IPC will collaborate with UNHCR to verify the refugee status of each athlete nominated.

3.2 IF VERIFICATION

Refugee Para athletes must have the potential to qualify for upcoming Paralympic Games, which will be assessed through athletes' competition results since 1 January 2024. IPC will collaborate with the relevant IF to verify if the competitive performance level of athletes proposed is acceptable.

3.3 INDICATIVE TIMELINE

The following table provides an overview of the indicative timeline of the process:

Activity	Date
Expression of Interest announcement	25 June 2026
Application deadline	31 March 2027 Applications can be submitted and will be considered on a rolling basis.
Communication of results to applicant	Ordinarily up to 8 weeks after submission

4 HOW TO SUBMIT

An online application form is available using the link below. Supporting documents are to be uploaded to the online application form:

[REFUGEE PARALYMPIC TEAM HOPEFULS - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - Link to online form](#)

Only one application form per athlete should be submitted.

For the successful completion of the form, it is strongly recommended to first gather all the necessary information and documentation. The following is required:

- Personal information of the person completing the application form (must be the staff of the NPC/IF that will oversee the grant or one of the legal representatives of the organisation).
- Personal information of the Para athlete nominated.
- Personal information of the Para athlete's coach.
- Personal information of the competition partner, if applicable.
- Athletes' competition results no older than 1 January 2024.
- Nominated athletes', coaches' and competition partners' duly filled and signed consent letter to process their personal data.

5 CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of questions or difficulties submitting the Expression of Interest, please contact the respective IPC Membership Programmes Co-ordinator listed below per region with programmes@paralympic.org in copy:

- Africa - Hajar Abouhanifa (hajar.Abouhanifa@paralympic.org)
- Americas - Alejandra Aybar (alejandra.aybar@paralympic.org)
- Asia and Oceania - Anna Derechi (anna.derechi@paralympic.org)
- Europe/IF and IOSDs - Ludovica Tramontin (ludovica.tramontin@paralympic.org)