

IPC Athletics Working Group Paralympic Games and World Championships

Medal Event Programme Selection (September 2009)

Following extensive work on developing a general concept for the Paralympic Games and IPC Athletics World Championships, this document explains the principles, process, scope and medal events determination methodology to provide you with the necessary background.

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 world ranking lists in order to develop a set of principles and a working methodology by which future medal events programmes at pinnacle IPC Athletics competitions are established. The following principles were identified during the IPC Athletics Summit and during the course of the concept development:

- **Fairness** is needed in the approach to event determination process;
- **Viability** of events must be ensured and single sport class events should be offered in the majority of the programme, where possible;
- **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 Athletics by discipline, gender and sport class. This potential event list was created from opportunities that had either taken place at major IPC Athletics competitions or where represented on the IPC Athletics World Ranking List over the past 5 years and was laid out in a single sport class event lists by discipline type (i.e. track/road and field/combined).

From these potential event lists, a quality assurance filter was then applied to determine which events should be considered eligible events for future consideration. 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 have a minimum of

- Fifteen (15) athletes ranked on the aggregate IPC Athletics world ranking over the past 5 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; and
- Three (3) IPC Regions represented within the top 15 ranked athletes.

Once the eligible events list was compiled, the medal events selection commenced. It was determined that that the critical success factors where twofold to ensuring viability, stability, manageability and ultimately world class experiences at our major competitions as well as the ongoing development of the sport:

- 1) we need the ability to clearly forecast well in advance of major competitions what the majority of the medal events programme; and
- 2) We need the possibility of offering meaningful competitive opportunities in emerging events and sport classes

To this end, it was recognized that it was imperative that two medal events categories 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 major competitions and as reflected on the sport's world ranking list.

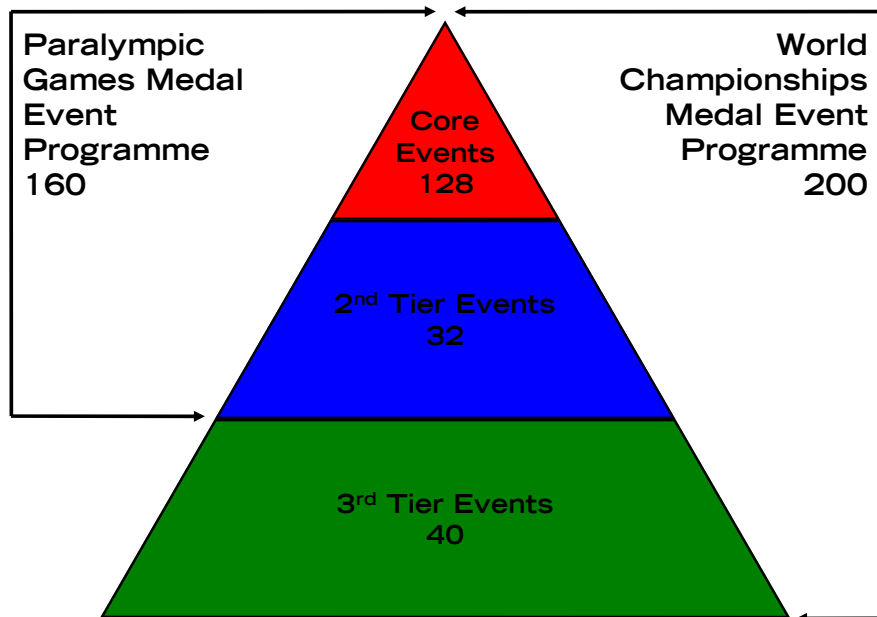
- **Tiered Events** - A pool of eligible medal events that are considered emerging event opportunities with the sport that have presented signs of development and/or thought to have potential in terms of increased athlete participation and performance.

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 scoped appropriately in order for them to be successful. The scope of the Paralympic Games Medal Events Programme for Athletics is 160 medal events and for the 2011 IPC Athletics World Championships Medal Events Programme is 200 medal events.

However, in order to ensure stability it was recognized that the number of core events needed to be scoped in general before going into the detailed scope per discipline per gender. To ensure continuity and connection between the Paralympic Games and the World Championships programme the core events scope was determined as 80% of the total Paralympic Games Medal Events Programme scope or 128 medal events to be precise. This left a remaining amount of 32 tiered events for the Paralympic Games to be determined and an additional 40 tiered events, for a total of 72 tiered events, for the World Championships. It was recognized that the 32 tiered events for the Paralympic Games would be best determined following the World Championships from the pool of 72 tiered events on offer. These 32 select events would be labeled 2nd tier medal events at that point in the process and the remaining 40 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:



In line with these parameters, it was then possible to develop a more detailed medal events scope by major competition by discipline by gender based on the current proportionality of events offered and practiced. It was determined that in general 60% of the events on offer are track/road events and 40% field events. Furthermore, approximated 62-64% are men's events and 36-38% are women's events. The breakdown is as follows:

Competition	Core Events			Tiered Events			TOTAL
	Track	Field	Total	Track	Field	Total	
Men							
World Champs	48	32	80	27	18	45	125
Paralympic Games				(12)	(8)	(20)	(100)
Women							
World Champs	29	19	48	17	10	27	75
Paralympic Games				(8)	(4)	(12)	(60)

(n) represents events that are also included in the World Champs.

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

D) Methodology

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

Core Track/Road Events

The list of eligible track/road events were assessed based on the following variables:

- Events Appearance in the Paralympic Games (ATHENS 2004 and Beijing 2008)
- Number of NPCs represented within the respective event on the aggregate world ranking list since 2004
- Number of regions represented in the respective event on the aggregate world ranking list since 2004
- Competitiveness within the event by measuring the average of the top three ranked athletes to the average of the fourth through eighth ranked athletes from the aggregate world ranking list since 2004

The events were then ranked based on the number of appearances in the Paralympic Games and by their level of competitiveness (ranked through a competitive quality coefficient). It is important to note that all events were single class events. Once the event ranking was constructed several selection rounds were conducted to fill core track events quota by gender. The strongest events by sport class were selected. Each sport class received a minimum of two event opportunities; however some sport classes received more opportunities due to their level of competitiveness, depth and stability. This method was followed until the core track events quota was filled.

For the tiered track/road events, a pool of events was selected for the world championships filling the quota. The selections were made to secure relay events, ensure a balance in the programme of sprint, middle and long distance events, ensure representation of athletes with high support needs and to ensure representation of events that have athletes from emerging regions.

Core Field Events

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

- Events Appearance in the Paralympic Games (ATHENS 2004 and Beijing 2008)

- Number of NPCs represented within the respective event on the aggregate world ranking list since 2004
- Number of regions represented in the respective event on the aggregate world ranking list since 2004
- Competitiveness within the event by measuring the average of the top three ranked athletes to the average of the fourth through eighth ranked athletes from the aggregate world ranking list since 2004

In conducting this exercise, it was quickly realized that if selections were based strictly on single sport class events some sport classes would have no opportunities to compete. Consequently, some throwing events were grouped into logical clusters, which aim to ensure event depth, athlete competitive opportunity, and quality/meaningful competition. When grouping sport classes into clusters, the competitive quality coefficients for each single sport class event were averaged together to give a clustered score which was used when ranking the list of events prior to the selection process. The clustered events did not exceed more than three sport classes in any event.

The same process of selecting core and tiered track events was used to select the field events up to the established quotas (i.e. conducting various selection rounds to meet the various objectives and ensure a minimum of two competitive opportunities for each sport class).