INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this explanatory presentation is to provide IWF Member Federations (MFs) with a contextual and practical overview of the Weightlifting Qualification System to be implemented for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. For completeness, this document should be read in conjunction with the IOC approved Weightlifting Qualification System.

This explanatory presentation is particularly important noting unlike past Weightlifting Qualification Systems applied for the Olympic Games, the Tokyo 2020 Qualification System will principally award quota places to the Individual Athlete as opposed to the previous model where MFs primarily attained transferable-slots through the team classification standing at the IWF World Senior and/or Continental Championships.

For the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, individual quota places will be issued to eligible athletes (subject to NOC approval) drawn from World and/or Continental Points accrued via the IWF Absolute Ranking and aligned to the maximum field-size of fourteen (14) athletes per bodyweight category (Olympic medal event).

This project has been led by the IWF Sport Programme Commission and supported by the IWF Clean Sport Commission. The IWF Executive Board, complemented by its Committees have also provided invaluable leadership, guidance and counsel.

Following a transparent and extensive development process – including the opportunity for proposals to be provided from all Member Federations and elected Officials – the Qualification System was endorsed by the IWF Executive Board before it was submitted to the IOC Executive Board for final approval.

The slides contained in this paper will be delivered as a Power-Point Presentation by the IWF Secretariat at each of the forthcoming IWF World Championships, Continental Championships, and associated meetings. This paper will also be updated once the new IWF portfolio of bodyweight categories is decided and the Tokyo 2020 medal event programme is announced.

Understanding that the new Qualification System might raise further questions; all comments and queries are welcome and should be directed to attila.adamfi@iwfnet.net

ATTILA ÁDÁMFI
DIRECTOR GENERAL
The Weightlifting Qualification System to be applied for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is innovative and appropriate for the modern opportunities and challenges facing global sport.

It has been fundamentally designed, amongst other benefits, to ensure greater emphasis is tangibly placed to protect and promote the values, integrity and ideals of the ‘clean’ athlete.

Prior to elaborating on the details of the Weightlifting Qualification System, it is firstly important to understand and recognise the overall architecture and design which has guided and driven the development of this refreshed approach to Olympic Qualification.

In redesigning the Weightlifting Qualification System to a quota award by individual athlete, the IWF submits;

- the measured intent and aspiration to ensure as many NOCs as possible qualify and/or are invited to participate at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020;

- the framework to ensure the principles and characteristics of IOC guidelines are protected and promoted;

  - Quality; ensuring the best clean athletes are provided a fair and reasonable opportunity to be participate;
International Weightlifting Federation

Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 - Qualification System
Overview and Explanatory Presentation

- Quantity; ensuring each bodyweight category has a fair and reasonable level of depth and competition; including guaranteed continental representation;

- Host Country; ensuring the home NOC has a fair and reasonable level of athlete participation and;

- Universality; ensuring the sport of Weightlifting has a fair and reasonable representation from those widely and regularly practising MFs/NOCs.

- the opportunity to strengthen, expand and/or refresh the IWF calendar of events to ensure and to mandate the participation of more prospective athletes to compete in recognised events where ‘World and/or Continental Points’ will be attained;

- the opportunity to profile eligible athletes, rebrand events and/or market existing Championships with a ‘qualification’ designation in the qualification period preceding the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games thereby aligning to the narrative of the Lagardère media partnership / strategy and;

- Complement the undertaking and commitment of the IWF Executive Board and the Clean Sport Commission by ensuring prospective athletes are competing widely and regularly and therefore are subject to regular and constant doping control measures.

At Games-time, set-field sizes and optimised athlete representation (i.e. 1 athlete per NOC) per medal event not balances gender-equity initiatives, drives sport development programmes and increases guaranteed continental representation – it also importantly provides the Organising Committee with absolute planning certainty through a solid and confirmed competition schedule. Such a streamlined delivery model will enable sustainable service levels and cost efficiencies to be engineered with clarity thereby aligning directly to IOC Olympic Agenda 2020 (recommendation six).
NEW BODYWEIGHT CATEGORIES

- New IWF bodyweight category portfolio will be ratified by the IWF Congress on 06 July 2018
- 10 men + 10 women (senior and junior events)
- The Olympic medal events (7 men + 7 women) will be drawn from these new bodyweight categories

- Athletes competing across ALL new bodyweight categories can gain quota places through the ‘IWF Absolute Ranking’
- Fair and inclusive approach as athletes may compete across more than one bodyweight category
Member Federations will ratify the complete new bodyweight category portfolio (i.e. 10 men + 10 women) at the IWF Congress on 06 July 2018 to be held in Tashkent, UZB.

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 medal event programme (7 men + 7 women) will be drawn from these new bodyweight categories based on the research, design and proposal made to the IWF Executive Board by the ad-hoc ‘Bodyweight Categories Working Group’.

This team of experts comprised of the Sport Programme Commission (including Technical Committee and Athlete representatives) and members from the Coaching & Research and Medical Committees. Once again, all stakeholders, including MFs and elected Officials were invited to forward proposals as part of this open and transparent process.

Regarding the three non-Olympic bodyweight categories, the IWF cognisant of the possible perception that these categories may become less-valued during the eighteen (18) month qualification period. While there is no evidence to support this; noting the YOG medal events also differ from those eagerly contested bodyweight categories at IWF Youth Championships, the IWF has taken a proactive step to ensure athletes competing across all new IWF bodyweight categories are eligible to gain quota places through the ‘IWF Absolute Ranking’ (with conditions).

This is a practical, reasonable and inclusive approach that is fair to all while at the same time, recognising athlete welfare (especially with bodyweight-reduction) and universal appeal that not only protects and promotes a level playing field but also provides the best endeavours to ensure event-organisers can plan for the participation of top-athletes at all high-level Championships.

In the case an athlete has participated in more than one Olympic bodyweight category or a combination of both Olympic and non-Olympic categories during the qualification period, specific details in this respect are outlined in Slides 10 & 11 and section E.7 of the Qualification System.
For Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has allocated the IWF a total athlete quota of 196 athletes (98 men + 98 women) from which fourteen (14) bodyweight categories will be delivered on the sports programme.

These will be represented by seven (7) medal events for men and seven (7) medal events for women.

The maximum field size for each medal event will be up to 14 athletes from which an NOC may be represented by no more than one (1) athlete for each specific bodyweight category.

The maximum NOC representation per gender shall be up to four (4) athletes (irrespective of qualification method, i.e. through World and/or Continental Points combined); subject to section C.4 (athlete eligibility) of the Weightlifting Qualification System.

For the avoidance of doubt, once quota places have been assigned and accepted by NOCs to the respective bodyweight category, no changes to bodyweight category shall be permitted at the Games-time Verification of Final Entries Meeting.
Irrespective of the qualification method but subject to section C.4 (athlete eligibility) of the Weightlifting Qualification System, NOCs will be eligible to be represented by a maximum of four (4) athletes by gender. For clarity, individual athlete qualification by MFs may be attained by either ‘World Points’ and/or ‘Continental Points’; subject to the maximum quota of four (4) athletes per gender.

The Host Country can either gain quota places through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points only) or Host Country Method. If the Host Country does not qualify the maximum quota through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points) the Host Country is guaranteed six (6) quota places in total (three (3) for men and three (3) for women).

If the Host Country qualifies quota places through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points), the unused Host Country places will be reallocated as per the process described below in the section I. Reallocation of Unused Places

In the case of Tripartite Commission Invitations, 4 slots for men and 4 slots for women (1 per NOC) have been quarantined through this method to ensure appropriate universal representation.

All quota places, except for those attained by the Host Country method shall be allocated to the Athlete by Name (Individual Qualification). Quota places issued through the Host Country method are allocated to the NOC for eligible athletes.
The IWF recognises and accepts all eligible NOCs have the right to gain quota places for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. But doing so, the IWF also recognises its responsibility to provide additional opportunities and benefits to MFs/NOCs who have demonstrated an ethos to pure performance over the last decade.

This approach protects and promotes the values, integrity and ideals of the ‘clean’ athlete but at the same time is also consistent with the IOC directive whereby the quota reduction from past Olympic Games should be targeted at those NOCs with the highest number of historical Anti-Doping Rule Violations.

In summary, subject to the IWF Anti-Doping Policy, all NOCs shall be eligible to qualify one (1) male and one (1) female athlete.

In the case a MF has recorded ten (10) but less than twenty (20) ADRVVs from the start of the Beijing 2008 period to the end of the Qualification Period, this MF shall be eligible to qualify one (1) additional male and one (1) additional female athlete. That is, a total of two (2) male and two (2) female athletes.

In the case a MF has recorded less than ten (10) ADRVVs from the start of the Beijing 2008 period to the end of the Qualification Period shall be eligible to qualify three (3) additional male and three (3) additional female athletes. That is, a total of four (4) male and four (4) female athletes. Reference; section C.3; Athlete Eligibility.
**Period of application:** from the start date of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games period (27 July 2008) until the end date of the Tokyo 2020 Qualification period (30 April 2020).

**Anti-Doping Rule Violations:**

- ADRV\(\)s sanctioned by IWF or other Anti-Doping Organisations apart from the Member Federation's National Anti-Doping Organisation. National level ADRV\(\)s shall not be counted.

- Two ADRV\(\)s committed by the same Athlete shall be counted as two separate ADRV\(\)s. This means both the cases where an Athlete served two separate ineligibility periods and where based on the decision(s) of the respective Anti-Doping Organisation two ADRV\(\)s were committed by the Athlete. (e.g.: reanalysis cases where an Athlete had an ADRV both in Beijing and London shall be counted as two violations).
In simple terms, in order to be eligible to qualify with an individual quota place for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the following factors must be considered:

- The eligible athlete will be required to compete at least six (6) times at an IWF designated event during the truncated qualification period of eighteen (18) months (divided into 3 periods);
  
  o 01 November 2018 to 30 April 2019;
  o 01 May 2019 to 31 October 2019 and;
  o 01 November 2019 to 30 April 2020.

- Minimum one (1) athlete participation is required at each of the three (3) periods;

- IWF designated events will be categorised into three (3) levels; Gold, Silver & Bronze events/competitions/championships.
  
  o Gold Level: IWF World Championships, IWF Junior World Championships, Continental Championships, Junior Continental Championships;
  o Silver Level: existing IWF Events: Multi Sport Games, Championships and;
  o Bronze Level: International, Regional Competitions, Championships, Cups, etc.

- Minimum athlete participation is required at one (1) Gold Level event plus one (1) Gold Level or Silver Level events;
- Athlete results (represented by Robi Points) attained at Gold, Silver and Bronze level events will enable athletes to accrue **Absolute Ranking Points** according to a multiplying factor;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IWF Event Category</th>
<th>Multiplying Factor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>x 1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>x 1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>x 1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Full details of the technical regulations and event conditions of the new global IWF calendar for the qualification period will be announced by 06 July 2018;

- The **IWF Absolute Ranking** will comprise of athlete results (represented by Robi Points) drawn from the ten (10) IWF bodyweight categories in each Gender;

- At the end of the qualification period; an athlete’s final Absolute Ranking Points; subject to participation in two (2) events in the same Olympic category will be drawn from four (4) results (Total only):
  
  o three (3) results, best one (1) from each period as per Paragraph C. 2. c) ii of the Qualification System and;
  o one (1) next best result.

- The ‘next best result’ will be factored throughout the entire qualification period.

- For the avoidance of doubt, the definition of ‘participation’ into an IWF event shall be considered once the athlete has successfully completed the Weigh-in procedure.

- In the case an NOC has qualified more eligible athletes than the maximum number as per this Qualification System, or quota was withdrawn from the MF/NOC, the NOC shall select the eligible athletes for medal events. The quota slots are non-transferable.

- MFs without an NOC designation shall be excluded from IWF Absolute Ranking

- In the case of Athlete Eligibility (Nationality), article 13 of the **IWF Constitution** and bye-law 41 of the Olympic Charter shall apply.

As part of the IWF Absolute Ranking database, the IWF will also develop online tools and templates to assist athletes and MFs follow the actual rankings on the IWF website.
This slide aims to provide a singular overview of the qualification framework through to the award of quota places for a specific bodyweight category. For the avoidance of doubt, the women’s 63kg category is outlined as an example only.

- Each individual athlete result (total only) attained during the qualification period will correspond to a Robi Point;

  o Robi Points were developed to ensure the value of World Records (irrespective of bodyweight category) are deemed 'equal'. This approach supports progressive quality across all bodyweight categories and aligns to the IWF TCRR; noting the 2017 removal of the bodyweight advantage.

  o As the value of World Records are equal across ALL bodyweight categories, the use of Robi Points in the Qualification System allows athletes to compete and to score IWF Absolute Ranking Points in more than one Olympic bodyweight category or a combination of both Olympic and non-Olympic categories.

  o The World Records used to calculate the Robi Points are set at the beginning of the Qualification period, i.e. at 01 November 2018 and will remain in effect until the end of the Qualification period.
An athlete’s Robi Point will be multiplied by the competition factor (i.e. Gold x 1.10, Silver x 1.05 or Bronze x 1.0)

An athlete’s Absolute Ranking points will then be registered to the IWF Absolute Ranking. This database will comprise of eligible performances across all new bodyweight categories (10 + 10) but will be filtered by the Olympic bodyweight categories (7 + 7)

This will be achieved by applying the regulations set in Slides 10 & 11 and section E.7 of the Qualification System.

- The IWF Absolute Ranking will be updated on the IWF website following the official confirmation and publication of event results.

- There shall be no restriction on the number of athletes per MF and per bodyweight category in the IWF Absolute Ranking.

- Athlete data will be included until the athlete is deemed eligible, as per the qualification system. That is, until the athlete has competed (or still able to compete) at least six times, at least once in each period, at least twice in the same Olympic bodyweight category and at least in one Gold plus another Gold or Silver event.

- Athletes missing the possibility to meet all the above eligibility conditions during the Qualification period will be removed from the IWF Absolute Ranking.

- All eligible athletes (meeting all the above eligibility conditions) will be highlighted in the IWF Absolute Ranking (noting this will only be possible in the 3rd period).

- At the end of the qualification period, all eligible performances will be factored in the award of individual quota places (as defined in slides 12 to 15) to each Olympic bodyweight category (maximum field size of 14 athletes).

- The top 8 athletes by Olympic bodyweight category will be awarded a quota place via ‘World Points’; subject to maximum NOC representation.

- The highest-ranked athlete from the IWF Absolute Ranking from an NOC (one per continent = 5) not otherwise represented in the bodyweight category shall earn an individual quota place via ‘Continental Points’; subject to maximum NOC representation.

- The last quota place per Olympic bodyweight category will be awarded to either the Host Country or by Tripartite Commission Invitation.
This slide provides sample data of one athlete’s performance over the course of the qualification period. *For the avoidance of doubt, the men’s 94kg category is outlined as an example only.*

As a sample representation only, the athlete’s individual total corresponds to a Robi Point which, in turn is then multiplied against the competition factor. This ‘absolute ranking point’ is then automatically entered to the IWF Absolute Ranking.

Of importance, the athlete is only deemed eligible once the athlete has competed at least six times, at least once in each period, at least twice in the same Olympic bodyweight category and at least one Gold plus another Gold or Silver event.
PARTICIPATION IN MORE THAN ONE B/WT CAT.

- In the case an athlete has participated in more than one Olympic bodyweight category or a combination of both Olympic and non-Olympic bodyweight categories during the qualification period, the SAME FORMULA shall be applied in determining the athlete’s Absolute Ranking Points.

![Diagram showing the calculation of absolute ranking points.]

MORE THAN ONE OLYMPIC B/WT CATEGORY

- The quota place shall be allocated to the category from which the athlete has attained the highest ranking; subject to the minimum participation of two (2) events in the same Olympic bodyweight category during the qualification period.

OLYMPIC AND NON-OLYMPIC B/WT CATEGORIES

- The quota place shall be allocated to the Olympic bodyweight category from which the athlete has attained the highest ranking; subject to the minimum participation of two (2) events in the same Olympic bodyweight category during the qualification period.
As outlined earlier, the qualification system was specifically designed to provide adaptability ensuring athletes competing across all new IWF bodyweight categories are eligible to gain points and quota places through the ‘IWF Absolute Ranking’ (with conditions).

In the case an athlete has participated in more than one Olympic bodyweight category or a combination of both Olympic and non-Olympic categories – firstly – the same method to calculate an athlete’s ‘Absolute Ranking Points’ is applied. That is;

\[
\text{Total Result} \times \text{Factor} = \text{Absolute Ranking Points}
\]

In the case of more than one Olympic bodyweight category, the quota place shall be allocated to the category from which the athlete has attained the highest ranking; subject to the minimum participation of two (2) events in the same Olympic category during the qualification period.

In the case of a combination of both Olympic and non-Olympic categories, the quota place shall be allocated to the Olympic bodyweight category from which the athlete has attained the highest ranking; subject to the minimum participation of two (2) events in the same Olympic category during the qualification period.

**Importantly, the same logic will be applied in the IWF Absolute Ranking when assigning an Olympic bodyweight category to an athlete that has participated in more than one Olympic bodyweight category or a combination of both Olympic and non-Olympic categories during the qualification period.**
As highlighted in Slide 8, during the qualification period there shall be no restriction on the number of athletes per MF and per bodyweight category in the IWF Absolute Ranking.

However, at the end of the qualification period (30 April 2020), athlete performances will then be sorted by the participation conditions listed in the qualification system; including those filters outlined in slides 10 & 11 (participation in more than one Olympic bodyweight category or a combination of both Olympic and non-Olympic categories).

Importantly, representation by NOC/MF in the Final IWF Absolute Ranking will be subject to a maximum number of seven (7) men and seven (7) women; including the maximum representation of one athlete by NOC per bodyweight category.

In the case an NOC has qualified more eligible athletes than the maximum number as per the Qualification System (i.e. maximum of four men / four women), or quota was withdrawn from the MF/NOC, the NOC shall select the eligible athletes for medal events. The quota slots are non-transferable.
**AWARD OF QUOTA SLOTS**

- Quota slots will be issued in line with the following methods by
  **TOKYO 2020 BODYWEIGHT CATEGORY**

1. **IWF Absolute Ranking**
   - World Points
   - Continental Points

2. **Host Country or**

3. **Tripartite Commission Invitation**

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**AWARD OF QUOTA SLOTS (CONT'D)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUOTA</th>
<th>METHOD OF QUALIFICATION</th>
<th>QUOTA PLACE ALLOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points)</td>
<td>Athlete (Individual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The highest-ranked eight (8) athletes from the IWF Absolute Ranking are qualified (World Points)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>IWF Absolute Ranking (Continental Points)</td>
<td>Athlete (Individual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The highest-ranked athlete from the IWF Absolute Ranking from an NOC (one per continent) not otherwise represented shall earn an individual quota place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Host Country</td>
<td>Maximum of one (1) athlete per event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tripartite Invitation</td>
<td>Maximum of one (1) athlete per event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To recap, individual quota places will be specifically issued to each of the fourteen (14) Olympic bodyweight categories from which each medal event will comprise of a maximum of fourteen (14) athletes.

This approach will be achieved by assigning quota places via three (3) methods;

1. IWF Absolute Ranking (World / Continental Points)
2. Host Country Places or
3. Tripartite Commission Invitation

The highest-ranked eight (8) athletes from the IWF Absolute Ranking by Olympic bodyweight category are qualified via World Points;

The highest-ranked athlete from the IWF Absolute Ranking from an NOC (one per continent = 5) not otherwise represented in the bodyweight category shall earn an individual quota place;

One (1) athlete per medal event will be issued to the Host Country (subject to maximum team size) or via a Tripartite Commission Invitation.

Automatic Host Country places are issued in the name of the NOC (i.e. transferable between eligible athletes in the nominated bodyweight category).

Reallocation of unused Quota Places

- In the case of reallocation via the IWF Absolute Ranking (World and Continental Points), the quota place will be reallocated by the same method; subject to the maximum NOC quota. Should a NOC return an unused slot (for example: injury) attained in the IWF Absolute Ranking another athlete from the same NOC may be eligible (subject to the maximum NOC team-size) to be inserted to the IWF Absolute Ranking and if ranked accordingly, be considered for the quota place via reallocation.

- In the case of reallocation via the Host Country method, the quota place will be reallocated by the IWF; with priority given to top NOCs not represented yet and;

- In the case of Tripartite Commission Invitations, reallocation will be considered by the IWF; with priority to be given to top NOCs according to the IWF Absolute Ranking not represented yet.
As outlined in slide 5, the Host Country can either gain quota places through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points only) or Host Country Method.

If the Host Country does not qualify the maximum quota through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points) the Host Country is guaranteed six (6) quota places in total, three (3) for men and three (3) for women. If the Host Country qualifies quota places through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points), the unused Host Country places will be reallocated as per the process described below in the section I. Reallocation of Unused Places

- Should the Host Country qualify quota places through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points) or decline any Host Country place(s), or quota place(s) is (are) withdrawn or Host Country is suspended from participation, unused Host Country place(s) will be reallocated by the IWF, priority given to next highest ranked NOCs according to the IWF Absolute Ranking not represented yet.

In case the Host Country does not qualify the maximum quota through the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points), the guaranteed quota places issued to the Host Country must be confirmed (including medal events) prior to the allocation of quota places via the Tripartite Commission Invitation.

As per section C.2.D, athletes must have participated at a minimum of one eligible IWF event in each period (3 in total) during the qualification period; including at least one (1) Silver Level event.
Eight (8) Tripartite Commission Invitation Places will be made available to eligible NOCs at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020; four (4) for men and four (4) for women.

The International Olympic Committee will invite all eligible NOCs to submit their requests for Tripartite Commission Invitation Places during October 2019. The deadline for NOCs to submit their requests is January 2020.

Detailed information on Tripartite Invitation places is contained in the 'Games of the XXXI Olympiad, Tokyo 2020 – Olympic Games Tripartite Commission Invitation Places – Allocation Procedure and Regulations’

For Tripartite Commission Invitation/s, athletes must have participated at a minimum of two (2) eligible IWF events during the qualification period including at least one (1) Silver Level event.
Two qualification timelines are necessary given the Host Country (as per IOC guidelines) are eligible to gain qualification to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 through parallel methods (i.e. IWF Absolute Ranking – World Points only or Host Country method).

In the case the Host Country qualifies via the IWF Absolute Ranking (World Points only), the confirmation process is simple and aligned to same timeline requirement as per other NOCs. Once this process is completed, Tripartite Commission Invitations as well as the other reallocated quotas previously quarantined from the Host Country method will be issued by the IWF.

In the case the Host Country qualifies via the Host Country method (i.e. 3 men + 3 women), these quota places (including medal events) will be confirmed prior to the acceptance of quota places attained from the other methods.
Questions