

## The Road to Paris 2024 Qualification

### Why am I reading this?

Unlike the World Para Swimming Championships and even the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games requires countries to earn 'Qualification Slots' (Slots) which determine the total number of swimmers who can attend the Paralympic Games.

**Simply put, Canadian swimmers need to work towards earning and improving our Slot Allocations to ensure that our team size will be large enough to send you!**

### The Policy Background

To determine this, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has published the Paris 2024 Qualification guide. There are several things that **swimmers** must do in order to be *eligible* to compete at the Paralympic Games.

These are:

- Every swimmer must have:
  - at least one MQS in the Qualifying Window which opened on October 1, 2022 and closes on 31 January 2024
  - a sport class status either: Confirmed [C] or Fixed Date Review [FDR] no earlier than 2025
  - raced in at least one:
    - World Series event between 1 October 2022 and 30 June 2024, **and**:
    - The 2023 World Championships or 2023 Parapan American Games.

Swimming Canada can only nominate the number of swimmers we are awarded Qualification Slots for, and, can only nominate a maximum of 3 swimmers per sport class, per event.

### So, how does Canada get awarded Slots?

Although we all have a role to play, the most important role is that played by you, our swimmers.



This role is to strive to achieve a Paris MQS as often as possible between now and 31 January 2024. This includes at the 2023 WPS Championships and Parapan American Games.

From that, there are two ways that Slots are allocated:

1. Direct Method:
  - a. by winning a **Gold or Silver** medal at the 2023 World Para Swimming Championships. This earns Canada one full slot, and can only be applied once per swimmer. Importantly, this earns Canada a slot, and is not tied to the person earning it.
2. MQS Slot Allocation Method.
  - a. Swimmers who have recorded a Paris MQS in the performance window (October 1, 2022 – January 31, 2024) will be ranked by WPS and Canada will be awarded a fractional slot based on each swimmers best ranking.

For those interested, the formula for awarding slots is included at the end of this document.

### So, what do I need to do?

- Identify the Paris MQS for your event/s and Sport Class, and
- Train toward achieving that time and continuing to improve your World Ranking by:
  - Working with your coach, and
  - Planing how to improve, and
  - Adopting a commitment to excellence in your High Performance Lifestyle, and
  - Racing smart, racing often, and continuing to improve.

Importnatly, achieving an MQS will not guarantee you a spot on the team as we are likely (as in most quads) to have more athletes with an MQS than slots available. Historically, a good rule of thumb is that to make our team a performance at Trials is required that will achieve roughly Top 10 in the World.



Now, some Paris MQS Background

The Paris MQS for most sportclasses and most events will be faster in 2024 than Tokyo 2020.

Attached is a copy of the Paris MQS where you can see the **minimum** time that you need to achieve. [Click here](#) to access the Paris MQS.

You will see that some events have gotten significantly faster than Tokyo; the world is getting faster!

A final point to be aware of is that it is very likely that you will need to have achieved a Paris MQS in order to compete at Canada's Paralympic Games Trials in May 2024. As outlined above, without a Paris MQS you can't compete at the Paris Paralympics, so we want to support you in having all the key eligibility requirements met before the Trials.



## How are Slots Allocated? - The Maths and the Details

### Important notes:

- Each swimmer can only contribute once. This means each swimmer can only contribute once by winning a 2023 WPS Championships Gold or Silver medal **or** MQS ranking on best event. To reiterate:
  - Winning a WC Gold or Silver gets a whole Slot for Canada.
  - Achieving an MQS without winning a Gold or Silver only gets part of a slot

World Ranking matters for MQS Slot Allocation. Each swimmer who achieves an MQS in the window gets something like a “vote” for their country. Not all votes are equal though

- Rank 1-8 counts as 100%
- Rank 9-12 counts as 80%
- Rank 13-16 counts as 60%
- Rank above 16 counts as 50%

There will be more swimmers with an MQS than there will be Slots left over after Worlds. So those votes will be reduced even more. For each gender these “votes” get adjusted by the ratio of eligible swimmers vs the number of Slots available.

For example: before Tokyo these ratios were 0.791 for men & 0.881 for women. So “votes” for a Slot worked out to:

- Rank 1-8      Men: 0.791,      Women: 0.881
- Rank 9-12    Men: 0.633,      Women: 0.705
- Rank 13-16   Men: 0.475,      Women: 0.529
- Rank 17+     Men: 0.396,      Women: 0.441

In this case, for Canada to be awarded one more Slot, we needed roughly 2.5 swimmers ranked 17+.