



Dispensation Policy

Effective from: 30th April 2024

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

1.0 Purpose

The Purpose of this Dispensation Policy is to outline the processes which will lead to the relaxation of Qualifying Totals (QTs) or, the selection of athletes to represent Great Britain at the identified International Competitions who for legitimate reasons are unable to enter a selection competition. The Dispensation Policy is designed to allow International team Head Caches and athletes to maximise preparations and performances through a clear process.

1.1 Dispensation Panel

All decisions under the Dispensation process that relate to injury, illness or mitigating circumstances will be determined by the Dispensation Panel (DP) that will consist of Performance Director, British powerlifting CEO, and Independent Director to ensure a transparent process that also considers the needs of the athlete involved. The DP may as required, invite the HC to provide addition insight. Where the decision of the DP is tied Performance Director will have the casting vote.

1.2 Dispensation

Should an athlete through unavoidable circumstance beyond their control, miss a British Championship event or fall ill during, or prior to, elements of the selection process; or have any other mitigating circumstances, the DP reserve the right to provide an opportunity for such an athlete to compete and challenge for selection. Dispensation will be considered under the following conditions:

- Illness or injury prior to or during a selection event that prevents them from competing.
- Illness or injury within the preceding 12 months that prevents a QT being obtained to enter a British Selection event.
- Professional or Career courses that are unable to be re-arranged, (i.e., Military Operations, Public Service Mandatory Training). *Evidence from Line manager required.*
- Academic exams and assessments. *Exam Board evidence required.*
- Major Travel disruption (i.e., cancellation of public transport, national travel advisories). *Evidence from Travel Company required.*
- This is not an exhaustive list and other scenarios will be considered.
- The athlete requesting dispensation is a current British Powerlifting member, compliant with Article 14, and not serving a doping or code of conduct sanction.

1.2 Dispensation (Article 14 ineligibility)

Should an athlete be unable to compete at a National Championship due to an Article 14 ineligibility period and wish to be considered for international selection they are to receive Dispensation.

Once the Athletes period of Article 14 ineligibility is over they will then be made available for selection under the following conditions:

- They have remained WADA compliant since the relevant Selection Championships.
- They have been observed in competition by a member of the Dispensation panel and/or head coach.
- They are not taking the place of a lifter who attended the relevant National Championships to qualify for International selection.

SECTION 2- PROCESS FOR DISPENSATION

2.0 Dispensation Process

Where an athlete is requesting dispensation from a QT to enter a British selection event or International selection through an evidenced injury/illness, the request should be supported with historical competition data such as performance at World Championship, European Championship and/or British Championships events. Any request for mitigating circumstances should in the first instance be direct to British Powerlifting CEO via email to james.brincat-smith@britishpowerlifting.org who will then share with the panel.

2.1 Supporting Information

Dispensation requests should include the following information and data to the DP in support of any request

- Reason for Dispensation request (see 1.2).
- The athlete's current age and weight class.
- QT that the athlete wishes to be considered for International selection.
- Date of last QT if requesting consideration for International selection.
- Previous 24 months of totals if requesting dispensation from National Championship QT.
- Competition, age, and weight class the dispensation request is for (i.e., World Championship selection, British Classic QT).

In addition,

- Where dispensation is granted by the DP the athlete will be required to pay the British Championship entry and anti-doping fee against which the dispensation was granted.
- Where injury occurs between competition closing dates and selection competitions that an athlete has entered, certificated evidence of illness or injury, or other significant mitigating circumstance must be logged with the DP prior to the commencement of the selection competition via email james.brincat-smith@britishpowerlifting.org
- In such a case the DP may identify a single competition opportunity whereby the athlete would be able to compete for International selection.
- Athletes must meet eligibility criteria for International selection.

The athlete must be able to demonstrate an established consistent track record in competition that objectively demonstrates their performance above other athletes. This data must be recorded via openipf.org within nominated age and weight classes, at an IPF event within the previous 12-24 months.

Any member of the DP shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of and any vote in respect of any selection matter in which they have a material conflict of interest. If a person has any queries in this area they should consult the British Powerlifting Chair.

Where an athlete who has met the selection criteria has been selected to the International Team and withdraws or is unable to compete, the DP at its total discretion may select a replacement athlete. The DP is not obliged to replace an athlete and will make the decision in line with the time prior to competition and principles outlined.

Any athlete found to have falsified evidence or requested dispensation on illegitimate grounds may be removed from any selection process and/or face disciplinary action.

Any decision taken by the DP is binding and final.

SECTION 3- ELIGIBILITY FOR GBR SELECTION

3.1 Eligibility

To be eligible to be selected to any GBR Team, athletes must meet the following conditions.

1. Meet age and nationality criteria for international competitions.
2. Be a full member of British Powerlifting or Home Nation Association that enables participation in competition.
3. Athletes to have signed their Code of Conduct and Athlete Agreement.
4. Not be currently serving a sanction and Article 14 compliant.
5. British Powerlifting reserves the right to remove dispensation or deselect an athlete who has been found guilty of a disciplinary offence under British Powerlifting/IPF rules. This includes doping offences.
6. In the instance of completing an Article 14 period of ineligibility on the proviso that they are not in the place of a lifter who competed at the relevant National Championships from which the selection is made, regardless of the totals considered, and that they have remained WADA compliant.