



PROPOSED WORLD GAMES 2021 QUALIFICATION

1. BACKGROUND

- a) At the ILS Board of Directors meeting held in Durban the proposed qualification process to enter the World Games 2021 was approved.
- b) It was planned that the qualification event for the 2021 World Games to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, USA from 15th to 25th July 2021, would be the Lifesaving World Championships 2020 Riccione.
- c) Due to the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) decided to postpone the 2020 Olympic Games, to be held in Japan in July and August 2020 to run from 23 July until 8 August 2021. This changed date unfortunately partly clashes with the World Games (WG) and would result in Key Service Providers such as the TV production companies, Swiss Timing systems, etc. not being available. Therefore, in turn the International World Games Association (IWGA) decided to postpone the World Games to 7th to 17th July 2022.
- d) As the LWC 2020 has been postponed to September/October 2022, the planned programme for qualification to enter the World Games need to be reviewed.
- e) The events to be contested at the World Games are:

Individual races	Women	Men
50 m Manikin Carry	X	X
100 m Manikin Carry with Fins	X	X
100 m Manikin Tow with Fins	X	X
200 m Obstacle Swim	X	X
200 m Super Lifesaver	X	X
Team races (relays)	Women	Men
4 x 25 m Manikin Relay	X	X
4 x 50 m Obstacle Relay	X	X
4 x 50 m Medley Relay	X	X

2. QUALIFICATION FOR WORLD GAMES 2021

- a) Due to the postponement of the 2021 World Games, the IWGA decided to move the deadline for the qualification of successful athletes to be notified to the organisers to **31st January 2022**. As a vast majority of athletes or teams have not yet qualified for the World Games Birmingham, they are prepared to discuss and review with International Federations, including the ILS, any revised qualification events, processes and criteria which have already been submitted to IWGA Games Management System (IGMS).
- b) Unfortunately for the ILS, as the rescheduled LWC 2020 is now scheduled to be held after the World Games 2022, a new qualification event, or process needs to be developed to qualify Lifesaving athletes' for the World Games.

3. ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

- a) There are a number of options that the ILS can consider in order to enable athletes to qualify for the 2021 World Games. However, the ILS Sport Commission is aware that there are cost implications for each option and there are other issues to be considered.
- b) Prior to the news that the World Games 2021 will be postponed to 2022, the ILS received a proposal from Germany (DLRG) that the German Cup 2020, usually held in November, could be used as a possible venue, and their programme adapted, to provide a World Games Qualification event. With the postponement of the World Games, it is assumed that the DLRG would offer the 2021 German Cup event in a similar way.
- c) However, other lifesaving federations, particularly those in Europe **and in other regions**, could no doubt make similar offers of using their events, such as the Orange Cup, Spanish Cup, etc.
- d) There are concerns that if it is agreed to use one of the European events as a qualifier, the non-European Federations in other Regions would not be able to afford to send competing teams to three World-level events in less than a 12 month period – the possible World Games Qualifier in Autumn 2021, the July 2022 World Games and the September 2022 Lifesaving World Championships.
- e) Many federations will be in a difficult financial situation in 2021 as they try to recover from losses incurred in 2020. It is after all one of the reasons why the ILS has decided to reschedule LWC 2020 in 2022, to give lifesaving federations the time they need to recover financially from the present world economic climate.
- f) Using Regional Championships could be one way of finding a qualification process. However, again due to the financial climate, it is by no means certain that there will be a host for the 2021 European Championships, or the 2021 African Championships. The other 2 ILS Regions do not currently hold Regional Championships
- g) Consequently, although these are options that can be considered, other solutions may need to be found in order to provide all lifesaving federations with a level playing field as they attempt to qualify for the rescheduled World Games.

4. EXISTING QUALIFICATION FOR THE WORLD GAMES

The approved qualification by IWGA (and by ILS) is:

Selection of competitors for team events

- a) Top 8 men's teams from points gained in the 3 team events added together at LWC 2020 will qualify with 5 competitors each, who are the only competitors permitted to participate in the team events.
- b) Top 8 women's teams from points gained in 3 team events added together at LWC 2020 will qualify with 5 competitors each, who are the only competitors permitted to participate in the team events.
- c) Qualifying nations must ensure that 60% (i.e. 3 of 5) of the World Games team are from the team that participated in these events in LWC 2020 to ensure the best race against the best
- d) This accounts for 80 competitors.

Selection of competitors for individual events

- a) The remaining 20 competitors will be selected by an independent and conflict-free ILS World Games Selection Committee (to be determined by the Sport Commission). They will ensure that the world's best available ILS pool rescue athletes compete in the World Games. The selection criteria of athletes to compete in individual events will be as follows:
- b) Those competitors who placed 1st to 8th in the LWC individual events who are:
 - i. Selected by the nations in their qualified teams already – pre-selected in effect.
 - ii. Not selected by a nation in their qualifying team.
 - iii. From nations that have not got a qualified team.

- c) If there are insufficient competitors identified through criteria 1), those who may be recognised as standout performers, e.g. new world record holders since LWC 2020, on a wild card basis.
- d) This process means that not all participating nations will have an athlete in individual events. Further, each nation is limited to a maximum of 2 competitors for each individual event.

5. OPTIONS TO QUALIFY FOR THE WORLD GAMES

There a number of options that can be considered to ensure athletes can qualify for the World Games:

- a) **Option 1: A specific World Games Qualification event held during an existing international Pool Lifesaving competition.** It is assumed that the DLRG offer can be made again for November 2021, though as suggested, others may also have similar offers to make. However, for the reasons stated above, not every federation, particularly those outside of Europe, may be able to afford to send a team to potentially three major world events in 10 months, as they recover from the financial impacts of 2020. However, any time(s) achieved at recognised international events, if they are sanctioned by the ILS, must also be considered acceptable.

- b) **Option 2: Regional Championships** can be used to obtain the best times for individual and team events. When the times are submitted, the Sport Commission can then determine what the top athletes and teams that would qualify for the World Games. All these events must be held in 2021 to meet the 31st January 2022 deadline.

However, at this stage it is not known if any regional championships are being held in 2021, and not all of the ILS Regions hold these events

- c) **Option 3: Submission of the athlete's best times** by federations for their individuals and teams. Each federation can arrange a **national competition** in their own sporting calendar – it could be held at their national championships to obtain the best time of individual athletes for the World Games events.

Although this is the most cost-effective option for member federations, based on past experience the times submitted at times have been suspect and the facilities and the conduct of the event where the times were achieved may not be up to required international standard.

For the team events, the federation should select their potential national team that would represent them, if they were successful in qualifying, and run a time trial at these events.

If this option is one of those used, the ILS Sport Commission will need to have in place a system of verifying the times and that the facilities were up to the required standard. Having the event sanctioned by the ILS will assist in ensuring that the times achieved are genuine.

There may be some costs involved to the federation to hold a trial within their event, but the costs will be minimal and far less than travelling to an international competition. Furthermore, if for example a small nation with few athletes would like to attempt to qualify, they could be invited to attend a national competition in a neighbouring country. For example, Botswana could attend the Lifesaving South Africa trial if they feel they would have an athlete that could qualify.

- d) **Option 4 Use the world ranking website for the best times.** While this can provide a strong indication of the top individual performers in individual events, it does not provide, nor could it, rankings for national team events. Furthermore, it is not yet certain that all major international Pool lifesaving events and competitors are included, and there may be some events included where the facilities and the conduct of the event do not necessarily meet the required international standards.
- e) **Option 5: Use of LWC 2018 times as a qualifier.** Although this appears to be an easy and cost-effective option, the times will be viewed as out of date (as they were obtained more than 3 years from the World Games Qualification date of 31st January 2022) and some of the athletes may have retired and are no longer available.

6. MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

- a) In order to ensure that the times can be submitted, verified and selection process conducted in time to meet the IWGA Qualification deadline of 31st January 2022, it is proposed that all times must be achieved between 1st January 2021 and 30th November 2021.
- b) As the ILS has agreed with the IWGA that only the best will race against the best at the World Games, it is important that only the best athletes are selected. In order to manage expectations and limit the number of athletes that could be considered in the selection pool, the ILS should introduce minimum qualifying times that must be achieved in order for the time submitted to be accepted. This will help the ILS World Games Selection Committee to manage the process
- c) It is suggested that the qualifying time should be:
 - Current world record +12.5% for individual events
 - Current world record +15% for team events
- d) A spreadsheet is attached at **Appendix 1** that shows the number of competitors in both national and interclub team competition in 2018 who would have qualified using these criteria. For the team races only the national team results are compared.

7. PREFERRED OPTIONS

- a) With each option there are advantages and disadvantages. Options 4 and 5 should be discounted for the reasons given above. However, any one of the first three options, or combination of them, can be used for qualifying times to be achieved
- b) To be clear this means that times can be achieved at any of the following:

Individual times

- Any recognised International Pool Lifesaving Competition held in the period set out in the ILS Qualifying Period that is sanctioned by the ILS. This includes any Regional Championships run by a Region of the ILS
- Any recognised national Pool Lifesaving Competition run by a Full Member of the ILS that is sanctioned by the ILS

Team times

- Any recognised International Pool Lifesaving Competition held in the ILS Qualifying Period, including Regional Championships – the teams concerned must use no more than five athletes of each gender across all three team events. The team times can be achieved at “time trials” held as part of that event.
 - It is expected that these five athletes will be those who will represent their nation at the World Games if the team is selected
- c) It is recommended that the following checks be put in place:
 - The federation advises ILS when and where their competition and trial will take place.
 - The event must be an ILS sanctioned event.
 - An ILS Sport Commission member or a person who is of a Chief Referee status as appointed by the ILS must be in attendance to verify that the event is being run according to ILS standards.
 - The federation is to submit the times and athletes’ names after the trial to the ILS Event Director within one week of the event being held.
 - The ILS World Games Selection Committee will conduct an audit and verify that the times submitted are accurate, and report the selection results to the ILS Sport Commission
 - d) Once the Sport Commission is satisfied the times and athletes and before the IWGA Qualifying deadline, the ILS will submit the athletes list to IWGA.

8. APPROVAL PROCESS OF RECOMMENDATION

The suggested approval is:

- By 1 May, proposal submitted to the ILS Sport Commission for approval
- By 9 May ILS Sport Commission approves (with or without amendments)
- The proposed qualification process will be submitted to the IWGA by 16 May
- Once agreed with IWGA, all federations will be advised of the process and qualifying times

9. NOTE

The qualification procedure set out above is for the WG 2021 (Postponed) only. For the WG 2025, the qualification event will be LWC 2024 Gold Coast.

APPENDIX 1

Suggested Minimum Qualifying Times

WG 2022 Qualifying Times - Individual WR + 12.5%			Women		Men	
	Age	Event	Current World Record	WG Qualifying Times	Current World Record	WG Qualifying Times
Open	Open	200m Obstacle Swim	02:01.88	02:17.12	01:53.16	02:07.31
	Open	50m Manikin Carry	00:32.79	00:36.89	00:27.27	00:30.68
	Open	100m Manikin Carry with Fins	00:49.33	00:55.50	00:44.04	00:49.55
	Open	100m Manikin Tow with Fins	00:55.40	01:02.33	00:49.02	00:55.15
	Open	200m Super Lifesaver	02:20.05	02:37.56	02:04.33	02:19.87

No of competitors at LWC 2018 who would be inside the Qualifying Times

			Women		Men	
Age	Event	Inside WG Qualifying Time at LWC 2018				
		National Team	Interclub	National Team	Interclub	
Open	Open	200m Obstacle Swim	14	13	15	20
	Open	50m Manikin Carry	8	10	8	7
	Open	100m Manikin Carry with Fins	12	6	15	14
	Open	100m Manikin Tow with Fins	10	10	13	13
	Open	200m Super Lifesaver	14	13	14	12

**WG Qualifying Times -
Team - WR + 15%**

			Women		Men	
	Age	Event	Current World Record	WG Qualifying Times	Current World Record	WG Qualifying Times
Open	Open	4 x 50 m Obstacle Relay	01:46.16	02:02.08	01:34.80	01:49.02
	Open	4 x 25 m Manikin Relay	01:17.63	01:29.27	01:04.04	01:13.65
	Open	4 x 50 m Medley Relay	01:37.47	01:52.09	01:26.19	01:39.12

No of teams at LWC 2018 who would be inside the Qualifying Times

			Women		Men	
Age	Event	Inside WG Qualifying Time at LWC 2018				
		National Team	Interclub	National Team	Interclub	
Open	Open	4 x 50 m Obstacle Relay	13	12	16	12
	Open	4 x 25 m Manikin Relay	10	9	10	10
	Open	4 x 50 m Medley Relay	13	15	16	15