

# **5<sup>th</sup> Asian Para Games, Nagoya, Aichi, Japan, October 18 to 24, 2026**

## **1. Para Swimming Selection Policy for 2026 Asian Para Games:**

### **1.1. Eligibility:** To be eligible for selection the Swimmer must:

1.1.1. Hold a World Para Swimming (WPS) Athlete License for the season 2026.

1.1.2. Be internationally classified, in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date (date/year as announced by WPS in its Games Circular/Package).

1.1.3. Have competed in WPS approved Competition/s during the period if mentioned by the WPS in Games Circular/Package.

1.1.4. Have achieved a Minimum Qualification Standard (MQS) at a 50m WPS recognised Competition for the respective event, including relay events, during the time period as announced by WPS.

1.1.5. Beyond meeting the MQS, the swimmer must also achieve a time equal to or better than the 6th-place finish in the same event and class at the previous APG 2022.

1.1.6. If WPS grants an exception to criterion 1.1.4 for a Bipartite Commission Invitation allocation, the swimmer must still comply with the SAI guidelines regarding permission for such invitations.

### **1.2. Selection Procedure:**

1.2.1. The number of Para Swimmer/s selected shall be as per the number of Quota received for the Games from the WPS.

1.2.2. If the number of available quota slots from the WPS matches the number of swimmers (or less) who have achieved the MQS, all such swimmers shall be directly selected. However, they must satisfy SAI's minimum ranking criteria based on the official WPS rankings maintained for the Games.

1.2.3. In case the number of Para Swimmers meeting the MQS is greater than the number of Quota received for the Games from the WPS, then the Selection Trials shall be conducted for these swimmers to select the best ranked (in Asia) swimmers for the Quota.

1.2.4. If a tie persists in the rankings following the Selection Trials and the Selection Committee cannot differentiate between two or more swimmers, regardless of their disability class, a fair and objective selection will be made. In such cases, swimmers will be ranked based on points calculated from their performance times using the Gompertz Function, consistent with the methodology used for the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games.

- 1.2.5. A maximum of two or three eligible Swimmers (permissible as per Games Circular / Package), shall be selected per individual medal event.
- 1.2.6. Where no MQS is required for severe disability classes, or where classes are combined (e.g. S1-S4), swimmers will be selected based on their performance times recorded during the qualification period in a WPS approved competition. In the absence of recorded times, or if multiple swimmers within these classes are competing for a single slot, Selection Trials will be held. The better ranked swimmer(s) from these trials will be selected; any remaining ties in the rankings will be resolved using the Gompertz Function as outlined in section 1.2.4.
- 1.2.7. If for relay events there are no MQS times required, then the best 4 swimmers in that event/combination shall be selected. If need be, Selection Trials shall be conducted to select the best option. However, all relay Swimmers must have met the MQS for at least one Individual event.
- 1.2.8. One relay specific swimmer without MQS can be added to the Team even if he/she is not participating in any individual event. Such a selection should be on the basis of his/her performance (timing) recorded in any WPS recognised competition. However, this should be permissible as per Games Circular/Package and Guidelines of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

### **1.3. Selection Trials:**

- 1.3.1. If need be, Selection Trials shall be conducted under the supervision of a duly constituted Selection Trials Supervision Committee.
- 1.3.2. Final Selection of Swimmer/s, against allotted quota, shall be done by the duly constituted Selection Committee, as per Govt. guidelines, on the basis of the Report of the Selection Trials Supervision Committee.
- 1.3.3. The date, time and venue for the Selection Trials shall be announced and put on PCI website at least 15 days in advance. Circulars shall also be sent to affiliate State Units.
- 1.3.4. WPS Competition Rules shall be followed for the Selection Trials.
- 1.3.5. The swimmers, who have met the MQS as per Clause 1.1.4 above shall only be eligible to participate in the Selection Trials.
- 1.3.6. If a swimmer is the sole competitor in any event or disability class during Selection Trials, he/she will compete alone against time. To maintain a competitive atmosphere, the Selection Trials Committee may allow a companion swimmer to participate in an adjacent lane at the swimmer's request.
- 1.3.7. Following the Selection Trials, the swimmers' best performance, comparing their original MQS-qualifying time against their new time recorded at the Trials, will be used to determine their current Asian Ranking. The swimmer holding the higher ranking shall be selected for the available quota.

1.3.8. If a tie persists in the Asian Rankings after the Selection Trials and the application of the Gompertz Function, preference will be given to the swimmer who originally secured the quota slot for the country.

1.3.9. Any athlete wishing to opt out of the Selection Trials and uses his/her previous MQS time for consideration may do so, provided he/she submits a written application or email request to the Secretary General, PCI. This submitted MQS performance, however, must have been recorded no more than six months prior to the date of the trials.

## **2. Proposed Dates and Schedule of Selection Trials:**

The Selection Trials, if need be, shall be conducted in first or second week of July, 2026 which will be 4 weeks before the deadline of the submitting on-line entries. The duration of Selection Trials shall be two days so as to provide a fair chance to all swimmers and not to get them tired by holding all events in one single day. The venue for the Selection Trials shall be either Talkatora Swimming Pool, New Delhi or Centre for Disability Sports, Gwalior.

## **3. Detailed Roadmap for the Asian Para Games 2026:**

**3.1. The Goal:** To select 20+ best MQS qualified Para Swimmers and win 10+ Medals at the Games.

### **3.2. Pillars and Key Actions:**

#### **3.2.1. Athlete Identification and Focus:**

- Elite and Chasing Group (Timings of 6th placed swimmers at 2022 APG, China)
- Fixing a maximum of 2 priority events per swimmer.
- Class-wise medal probability mapping.
- Focus on participation in Team Relays also.

#### **3.2.2. Classification and Eligibility (Critical Path):**

- Confirmed or Review 2027 (or later) International Classification for all selected swimmers.
- Closing medical and documentation gaps.
- One designated Classification Lead at PCI Office.
- Priorities classification opportunities for women & medal probable swimmers.

#### **3.2.3. Competition Readiness:**

- Targeted Foreign Exposure and final Selection Trials.
- Heat-to-Final conversion focus.
- Travel jet-lag and recovery simulation.
- Focus on competition readiness, both physically and mentally.

#### **3.2.4. Performance Preparation:**

- Work on starts, turns, finishes & race modelling.
- Injury prevention, mental conditioning & recovery protocols.
- Error reduction under pressure.
- Use of technology for biomechanical and video analysis of technique.

### 3.2.5. Centralized Final Camp:

- Minimum 8-week centralized NCC.
- Simulated heats, finals & call-room pressure.
- Multi-day fatigue management

### 3.2.6. Governance and Logistics:

- Early closure of travel, insurance, accreditation etc.
- Clear athlete–coach–NPC communication line.

## **4. Timeline for each activity:**

- 4.1. Foreign Exposure** as build-up competition in 2026 Para Swimming World Series, Gold Coast - Australia (20 to 22 February 2026). Fourteen (14) best swimmers who are below 4<sup>th</sup> rank in Asia shall be participating under the ACTC 2025-26.
- 4.2.** Six other swimmers are participating and have received classification slots (4 new and 2 reviews).
- 4.3. Foreign Exposure** in 2026 Para Swimming World Series, Barcelona - Spain (19 to 22 March 2026). Proposed to select the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Ranked swimmers to participate for competition familiarization and a chance to improve from their previous performances.
- 4.4.** Participation in 2026 Para Swimming World Series, Fuji, Japan (May 28-30, 2026). Main target is to send about 20+ swimmers ranked in top 6 in Asian Rankings. IT will be a trail competition to get familiar with the travel, climate, food, culture etc. as the APG 2026 is taking place in Japan only.
- 4.5.** The main target will be to get the maximum swimmers in the chasing probables list and get them WPS classified before the final selection trials.
- 4.6. Final Selection Trials:** As stated at point No.2 above, the Selection Trials, if need be, shall be conducted in first or second week of July, 2026 which will be 4 weeks before the deadline of the submitting on-line entries.
- 4.7. National Coaching Camp:** 45-day high performance NCC from 31 August to 14 October 2026. Top class training facility, sports experts, technology driven etc. Round the clock athlete monitoring.

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