

Dear all IBSA members,

IPC published on June 13th 2022, the qualification criteria for Paris 2024 regarding blind football that the IBSA Football Sports Committee had proposed www.paralympic.org/news/ipc-publishes-paris-2024-qualification-regulations-10-sports

At the European Championships in Pescara on June 15th 2022, after the semifinals and prior to the final match, IBSA published this report

<https://ibsasport.org/blind-football-france-and-turkey-run-for-the-euro-title/>

stating Turkey had qualified for Paris 2024 because they were runners - up in their final game against the host country Paris 2024. Paris of course, already has a slot because they are the Paralympic Games host.

However, France being the winner of the European Championship 2022 highlighted an ambiguity in IBSA's qualification regulations, relating to interpretation of whether "The host country directly qualifies one team, subject to participation in either the 2023 WC or European 2022" and the phrase "in the following order" accompanied by the specific order of the slot allocations.

A) **IBSA's intention and interpretation** is that France has already obtained a slot because they are the host country of Paris 2024 and therefore Turkey as the runners up automatically take the slot meant for the winners of this tournament. The phrase "in the following order" was only added to address the situation around the World Championships (August 2023) and IPC Parapan Games (October 2023) being out of chronological order (all other regional championships are scheduled in 2022).

B) However, the IPC has pointed out and also interpreted it in legal terms that the addition of the phrase "in the following order" could be misinterpreted in a way that France receives the slot from the Euros and the vacant host country slot will then go to the world championships (fourth highest ranked team not otherwise qualified). This ambiguity was unintentional.

We are therefore proposing to amend the qualification regulations to remove the ambiguity and reflect IBSA's intended process. If you have any comments on that proposal, we would be grateful if you could let us know by 20th October. We include below the original version and the proposed one for clarity.

On behalf of IBSA Football Subcommittee,

Elias Mastoras

Chairperson

October 14th, 2022



Current publication

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Qualification slots will be allocated in the following order:

METHOD	QUALIFICATION	TOTAL
Regional Qualifier Allocation	<p>The top ranked teams in each of the following Regional Qualification Tournaments obtain qualification slots for their NPCs as indicated:</p> <p>2022 IBSA Blind Football European Championships, Italy - one (1) team 2022 IBSA Blind Football African Championships, Morocco – one (1) team 2022 IBSA Blind Football Asian Championships, India – one (1) team 2023 Parapan American Games, Chile – one (1) team</p> <p>In the case that a region does not host a Qualification Tournament, any available slots will be allocated to the highest ranked NPC (not otherwise qualified) at the 2023 World Championships regardless of region.</p>	32 male athletes
2023 World Championships Allocation	The top three (3) ranked teams (not otherwise qualified) obtain one (1) team qualification slot for their NPC.	24 male athletes
Host Country Allocation	The host country directly qualifies one (1) men’s team subject to participation in either the 2023 IBSA Blind Football World Championships or their respective Regional Qualification Tournament.	8 male athletes
Total		64 male athletes

Proposed updated publication after agreement

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

Qualification slots will be allocated in the following order:

METHOD	QUALIFICATION	TOTAL
Host Country Allocation	The host country directly qualifies one (1) men's team subject to participation in either the 2023 IBSA Blind Football World Championships or their respective Regional (2022 IBSA Blind Football European) Qualification Tournament.	8 male athletes
Regional Qualifier Allocation	The top ranked teams in each of the following Regional Qualification Tournaments obtain qualification slots for their NPCs as indicated: 2022 IBSA Blind Football European Championships, Italy - one (1) team (not otherwise qualified) 2022 IBSA Blind Football African Championships, Morocco – one (1) team 2022 IBSA Blind Football Asian Oceania Championships, India – one (1) team 2023 Parapan American Games, Chile – one (1) team In the case that a region does not host a Qualification Tournament, any available slots will be allocated to the highest ranked NPC (not otherwise qualified) at the 2023 World Championships regardless of region.	32 male athletes
2023 World Championships Allocation	2023 IBSA World Championship, Birmingham - The top three (3) ranked teams (not otherwise qualified) obtain one (1) team qualification slot for their NPC.	24 male athletes
Total		64 male athletes