TAEKWONDO CANADA

2027 World Taekwondo Grand Prix Challenge Athlete Selection Principles

OVERVIEW

The World Taekwondo (WT) Grand Prix Challenge events are international Kyorugi tournaments that give athletes a route into the elite WT Grand Prix Series. Top finishers earn places in designated Grand Prix events.

WT has announced that the 2027 Grand Prix Challenge events will be held in:

- Pune, India, February 12-14, 2027.
- Samarkand, Uzbekistan, May 2027.
- Muju, Korea, August 14-16, 2027.

The following restrictions will still apply:

- Maximum of 50 athletes per Olympic weight category; maximum of 4 athletes per country per Olympic weight category; registration only through MNA (re: Taekwondo Canada); registrations accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

At the time that the event information is published, Taekwondo Canada will go through a process of generating an entry list based on the outlined **Athlete Requirements for Entry**, and adhering to the entry limitations stipulated by WT. Athletes must submit their interest in participating at each of the Grand Prix Challenge events by a specific date that will be communicated closer to the official opening of the event registration system.

ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY

Taekwondo Canada will submit entries for up to four (4) athletes per Olympic weight category. To be considered for entry, athletes must meet at least one of the following requirements:

Requirement 1: 2027–2028 Sport Canada Carded Athletes

- Athletes receiving support through Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program for 2027–2028 are eligible for entry in their respective Olympic weight category.

Requirement 2: 2027 Canadian Taekwondo National Champions

- Winners of each World weight category at the 2027 Canadian Taekwondo National Championships are eligible for entry in their declared Olympic weight category, provided they have competed in *at least two (2)* WT calendar events during the 12 months immediately preceding the entry deadline for the relevant Grand Prix Challenge.
- Among athletes qualifying under Requirement 2, entry priority will be determined as follows:
    a. The national champion in the World weight category that corresponds exactly to the Olympic weight category will receive first priority. For example, the M-58kg national champion will receive first priority for entry in the M-58kg Olympic weight category.
    b. National champions in the boundary World weight categories will then be considered in order of their most recent 2027 WT Olympic ranking, with the highest-ranked athlete receiving priority. For example, the boundary categories for the M-58kg Olympic weight category are M-54kg and M-63kg.

Requirement 3: Current 2027 WT Olympic Rankings

- Athletes are eligible for consideration based on WT Olympic ranking if, by the entry deadline for the relevant Grand Prix Challenge, they have:
    - Earned at least 4.32 WT Olympic Kyorugi ranking points as per the most recent WT Olympic Ranking update; *and*
    - Competed in at least two (2) WT calendar events during the 12 months immediately preceding that deadline.

- If the number of athletes eligible through the WT Olympic Ranking exceeds the available quota places in a given division, Taekwondo Canada will rank and enter athletes according to the following criteria:
    - Total Olympic Ranking points earned fighting at the coinciding World Weight divisions of:
        - Women: W-49kg, W-57kg, W-67kg, W+73kg
        - Men: M-58kg, M-68kg, M-80kg, M+87kg
    - Total Olympic Ranking points earned regardless of the World Weight they were earned in.

Requirement 4: Progressing to Senior Division Athletes

- Former or current Junior National Champion athletes that are either 17 or 18 years old in the year of the relevant Grand Prix are eligible for entry into a selected Olympic weight category providing that they have met *one* of the following performance criteria:
    - Have previously participated and won at least one match at a WT Junior Championships; *or*
    - Have previously medaled at a WT recognized Junior Pan American Championships.

ENTRY LIMITS, WT ELIGIBILITY, AND ENTRY PROCESS

Eligible athletes will be entered up to a maximum of four (4) per division following a priority order based on meeting Requirement 1 -> Requirement 2 -> Requirement 3 -> and then Requirement 4. If fewer than four (4) eligible athletes request entry in an Olympic weight category, Taekwondo Canada will submit only those entries. Athletes who do not meet at least one of the requirements above will not be entered to fill unused places.

All athletes must also meet the WT eligibility requirements published in the official event outline.

At the time of submitting an Expression of Interest form, all athletes must provide the name and contact information for an eligible coach that will be coaching them at the event. Coach certification requirements will follow the WT regulations for the respective G-level of event. If a registered coach withdraws after the entries have been completed, Taekwondo Canada may also withdraw the athlete's entry from the relevant Grand Prix Series event unless alternate plans and arrangments have been approved by Taekwondo Canada a minimum of 15 days out from the start of the competition.

Submitting an Expression of Interest form does not guarantee entry. WT will determine final acceptance after reviewing submissions from all Member National Associations (MNAs).

NON-ATTENDANCE OR FAILURE TO MAKE WEIGHT

Any athlete who requests registration and subsequently fails to attend the event, or attends but fails to make weight, will not be permitted to enter the next WT Grand Prix Challenge.