

DIVERSITY & PARALYMPIC SPORTS

UNITED KINGDOM



Main Reference:

1. BBC Sport, Rio Paralympics 2016: The Great Britain team
2. uksport.org.uk



Overview

This is a summary of our findings on the racial demographic of ParalympicsGB at the Rio 2016 Summer Paralympic Games. We looked at at:

1

The whole team

2

Individual sports

3

The funding model

This report was pulled together in light of recent events in an attempt to help drive a conversation around diversity within Paralympic sports. This report does not seek to challenge the effectiveness of the system but the fairness of it.

Context

Based on a 2011 census the general population of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is broken down as follows:

82.3%

White

17.7%

Non-White



ParalympicsGB

In 2016 ParalympicsGB sent 260 athletes to Rio for the 2016 Summer Paralympic Games. The break down of that team was as follows:

93% White

7% Non-White



This does not include competition partners in Boccia and accounts for the fact that Kadeena Cox represented the team in both athletics and cycling.

Rio '16



The 260 athletes that went to Rio in 2016 representing ParalympicsGB made up 19 teams. Of the 19 non-white athletes, 12 of them came from 3 sports:

- 5 Athletics
- 4 Wheelchair Basketball
- 3 Wheelchair Rugby

That equates to 7 non-white athletes out of a possible 169 across the remaining 16 sports, a representation of around 4%.

ParalympicsGB

Of the 19 teams that went to Rio, 8 were made up of only white athletes:

Rowing

Shooting

Boccia

Canoe

Triathlon

Wheelchair Tennis

Equestrian

Judo

The other 7 ParalympicsGB teams all had only 1 non-white athlete at the Rio Games each. Canoe, equestrian and shooting took only white athletes to both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Sports



1 of 51

1 of 46



Across the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2016 swimming and cycling took 1 non-white athlete each from total team sizes of 51 and 46 respectively.

Funding

In terms of funding the 3 highest funded Paralympic sports in the UK are:



Para-Athletics, £12.66m



Para-Cycling, £8.01m



Para-Swimming, £10.87m



Funding

The 8 sports that took 0 non-white athletes to the Paralympic Games in 2016 received over £19.5m in funding in the run up to Tokyo 2020, that's over 35% of all Paralympic funding.

£19.5m

35%



UK Sport

Published a document around the 2020 funding cycle called "Tokyo investment Principles". This outlined their purpose and 9 key principles.



Nowhere in the document and in the 9 principles does it mention diversity or inclusion.



Ref: uksport.gov.uk



Maximising the impact of sporting success by targeting investment at athletes and sports capable of winning medals...



Thoughts

- There are clearly some very similar trends in Paralympic and Olympic sports when it comes to diversity within teams attending Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- ParalympicsGB showed a noticeable underrepresentation of non-white athletes at Rio 2016. Similar to TeamGB but to a greater extent, they relied on a small number of highly diverse sports, such as athletics and basketball, to provide diversity across the whole team.



Considerations

- These figures were all formed from raw data put together using team announcements and athlete imagery. We apologise for any oversight and have done our best with the information available to us.
- It is clear that research into the impact of an athletes racial and socio-economic background in Paralympic sport is lacking when compared to the Olympic Games.



Suggestions

These findings only serve to reinforce the suggestions from our Diversity & Olympic Sports report:

Short Term

- 1** Diversity and inclusion to become a formal consideration for sports to receive National Lottery funding.
- 2** Invest in accelerator programs for non-white, comprehensively educated athletes in sports biased against them.

Long Term

- 3** Survey the accessibility of each sport and mitigate access restrictions or evaluate its eligibility for funding.



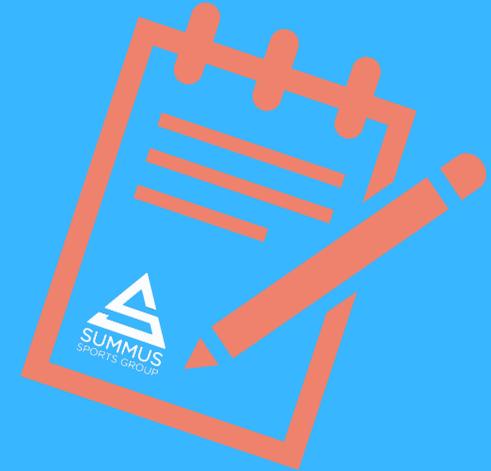
Commitment

They also serve to strengthen our resolve to deliver on our commitments as a business. These are to:

-  Work with our athletes and their partners to facilitate accelerator programs in the areas where they are most needed.
-  Continue to share information and prioritise purpose, equality and diversity at the heart of every athlete strategy and brand partnership.



Go to summussports.com/diversity for the full report.



Thanks for reading

#SportForAll