



# **IPC GUIDE TO PARA AND IPC TERMINOLOGY**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The IPC Guide to Para and IPC Terminology is a detailed reference document on the terminologies associated with the International Paralympic Committee and the Paralympic Movement. It covers a wide range of topics such as correct usage of terms, event naming, acronyms and more.

## 2 USAGE OF PARA AND PARALYMPIC

Paralympic, Paralympics and Paralympian can only be used with reference to the Paralympic Games. For all sport outside of that, the word Para can be used (capitalised and followed by a space), provided that the International Federation (IF) is a member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or recognised by the IPC.

<b>Preferred Term: Para athlete</b>
<p>A general term for pro and amateur athletes with an impairment who play sport but have not competed at a Paralympic Games.</p> <p>An athlete is only a Paralympian once he/she has taken part in a Paralympic Games</p> <p><u>Incorrect terms:</u> Paralympian, Paralympic athlete</p>
<b>Correct Term: Paralympian / Paralympic athlete</b>
<p>An athlete who has taken part in a Paralympic Games.</p> <p>A Paralympian is never a former/ex-Paralympian. If a Para athlete has taken part once, he/she is a Paralympian 'for life'. If the person is no longer an athlete, then he/she is a former athlete.</p> <p><u>Incorrect terms:</u> Para Olympian / Former Paralympian</p>
<b>Correct Term: Paralympic sport</b>
<p>A general reference to any sport on the Paralympic Games programme.</p> <p>This is only used when referring to the sport's involvement in the Paralympic Games.</p> <p>The International Federation of the sport must be recognised by the IPC.</p> <p><u>Incorrect terms:</u> Para Olympic sport</p>
<b>Correct Term: Para sport or sport for athletes with a disability, athlete/person with disability, athlete/person with vision impairment, athlete/person with physical and intellectual impairment.</b>

Para sport will be defined to mean any sport in which people with a disability participate and which has classification rules compliant with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.

All sport for athletes with a disability whether they feature on the Paralympic programme or not. And the respective International Federation must, however, be recognised by the IPC.

The term 'Para' can only be used for sports that are recognised by the IPC.

The IPC chooses the first-person language, ie, addressing the athlete first and then his/her disability. Therefore, the right term encouraged by the IPC is 'athlete/person with disability' and 'persons/people with disabilities'.

Incorrect terms: disabled sport, disability sport, disabled athlete, disabled person, blind athlete, blind person

### 3 PARALYMPIC/IPC TERMINOLOGY

Term	Description
IPC sport/World Para sport	A sport governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
IF sport	A sport governed by an International Federation (IF)
IOSD Sport	A sport governed by an International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSD).
Exhibition event	An example of a promotional opportunity/an event opportunity.
Demonstration events	Sport events hosted at a Paralympic competition with the purpose of becoming a sport on the Paralympic Programme.
Paralympic Games or Paralympics (informal term)	The summer and winter Games held every four years for Paralympic athletes. <u>Incorrect Term</u> : Para Olympics
Paralympic anthem	The Paralympic anthem is played when the Paralympic flag is raised.
Paralympic emblem	The three Agitos (from the Latin meaning 'I move') encircling a central point symbolise motion, emphasise the role of the Paralympic Movement in bringing athletes together from all corners of the world to compete. The three colours of the Agitos -

	red, blue and green - are most widely represented in national flags around the world.
<b>Paralympic Family</b>	All the persons belonging to the IPC or Paralympic Movement
<b>Paralympic flag</b>	White flag with Paralympic emblem
<b>Paralympic flame</b>	The Paralympic flame is lit from the Paralympic Torch at the start of the Paralympic Games. It remains lit until extinguished at the end of the Closing Ceremony.
<b>Paralympic vision</b>	To make for an inclusive world through sport
<b>Paralympic mission</b>	To lead the Paralympic Movement, oversee the delivery of the Paralympic Games and support members to enable Para athletes to achieve sporting excellence.
<b>IPC narrative</b>	Change Starts With Sport
<b>Paralympic Movement</b>	Paralympic Movement includes the Members of the IPC and other persons and entities involved in the promotion, organisation, or delivery of Para sport or who participate in it. All athletes and officials from the NPCs, the IOSDs, the International Federations, the Regional Organisations, the IPC Regional Committees, the IOSD Sports, the IPC Sports Committees, IPC Councils, IPC Standing Committees, other IPC bodies and any other persons or organisations who agree to be guided by the IPC Constitution and Bylaws form a part of the Movement. The criteria for being a part of the Movement is a formal membership or recognition by the IPC, or the Paralympic Family.
<b>Paralympic programme</b>	Collective term for the sports events taking place at the Paralympic Games.
<b>Paralympic spirit</b>	The aura of the Paralympic Movement
<b>Paralympic sponsors</b>	Commercial supporters of the IPC
<b>Paralympic sport(s)</b>	A sport that is on the Paralympic programme
<b>Paralympic Torch</b>	The Paralympic Torch is lit a few days before the Paralympic Games.
<b>Paralympic torchbearer</b>	A Paralympic torchbearer carries the Paralympic Torch.

<b>Paralympic venue</b>	This is a venue where a Paralympic sport is being held at the Paralympic Games.
<b>Paralympic Village</b>	The Village is where the athletes live during the Paralympic Games.
<b>IPC member</b>	All sport entities (NPCs, IFs, IOSDs, ROs) who are recognised and full members of the International Paralympic Committee.
<b>IPC headquarters</b>	The city and country where the International Paralympic Committee is located - Bonn, Germany.
<b>ParalympicSport.TV</b>	The IPC's Internet TV channel: <a href="http://www.ParalympicSport.TV">www.ParalympicSport.TV</a> <a href="http://www.YouTube.com/ParalympicSportTV">www.YouTube.com/ParalympicSportTV</a>

## 4 EVENT TERMINOLOGY

### 4.1 PARALYMPIC GAMES

When addressing the Paralympic Games, use various formal or informal terms depending on the inclusion of the city and/or year. The preferred term should be used on first usage, after which other formal or informal terms may be used where appropriate.

Format	Term
<b>Paralympic Summer Games</b>  [City] [Year] Paralympic Games	<b>First usage:</b> Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games  <b>Subsequent usage:</b> 2020 Paralympic Games, Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, Tokyo 2020
<b>Paralympic Winter Games</b>  [City] [Year] Paralympic Winter Games	<b>First usage:</b> Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games  <b>Subsequent usage:</b> Beijing 2022 Winter Paralympics, Paralympic Winter Games, 2022 Paralympics, Beijing 2022

Note:

- The Paralympic Games should not be referred to by the number of its edition (eg, XI Paralympic Winter Games) or as Games of the Paralympiad.

- The term Paralympic Games refers only to summer editions of the Paralympic Games. Any reference to winter editions should use the term Paralympic Winter Games.
- The bid phase/period includes the applicant and candidate phase/period.
- A city is first an Applicant City (applying to become a Candidate City), until it has been chosen by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as a Candidate City. One of the Candidate Cities then becomes the Host City.

## 4.2 IPC SPORT EVENTS

Event	Format	Example
<b>National Championships</b>	Multi-Sport: [Year] [Nation] Para National Games	2019 Colombia Para National Games 2019 Colombia Para Sport Games
	Single Sport: [Year] [Nation] [Sport] Championships	2015 Japan Para Swimming Championships
<b>State/Local Championships</b>	Multi-Sport: [Year] [State/Local] Para Games	2016 Ontario Para Games
	Single Sport: [Year] [State/Local] [Sport] Championships	2017 Barcelona Archery Championships
<b>World and Regional Championships, World Cups and Grand Prix</b>	Please get in touch with Ms. Annika Zeyen, World Para Sports Brand Manager at <a href="mailto:Annika.Zeyen@paralympic.org">Annika.Zeyen@paralympic.org</a> for naming conventions	

Note:

- For non-IPC sports, the official event title should be used.
- The term 'Paralympic Games' cannot be used for a national event.
- The IPC would prefer NPCs to adhere to this format for National and State Championships to maintain consistency.

## 5 IPC COMMITTEES AND ASSEMBLY OFFICIAL NAMES

Committee/Assembly	Official Term
IPC General Assembly	[Year] IPC General Assembly Eg: 2019 IPC General Assembly
Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committees	[City] Organising Committee of the [year] Olympic and Paralympic [Winter] Games  Eg: First usage: Tokyo Organising Committee of 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games  Subsequent usage: Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee

## 6 SPORTS AND DISCIPLINES

- Sports and disciplines are always written in lower case, except if they refer to the brand name, eg, World Para Athletics.
- The brand name should never be shortened.
- Abbreviations may only be used for results, but never in external documents.
- 'Para' may be used before the sport, if a distinction is necessary between able-bodied sport, eg, John Smith was world champion on the able-bodied ski circuit, before he began Para table tennis.
- 'Para' should always be capitalised and be followed by a space.

Sports and disciplines governed by the IPC		
Abbreviation	Sport	Brand name/Federations
AS	Para alpine skiing	World Para Alpine Skiing
AT	Para athletics	World Para Athletics
BT	Para biathlon	World Para Nordic Skiing
CC	Para cross-country skiing (If the context is clear, this can on second reference be informally referred to as cross-country)	World Para Nordic Skiing
NS	Para nordic skiing	World Para Nordic Skiing
IH	Para ice hockey	World Para Ice Hockey
PO	Para powerlifting	World Para Powerlifting

SB	Para snowboard	World Para Snowboard
SH	Shooting Para sport	World Shooting Para Sport
SW	Para swimming	World Para Swimming
DS	Para dance sport	World Para Dance Sport
<b>Sports and disciplines governed by IOSDs</b>		
FB	Football 5-a-side	IBSA
GB	Goalball	IBSA
JU	Para judo	IBSA
WF	Wheelchair fencing	IWAS
<b>Sports and disciplines governed by International Federation (IF)</b>		
AR	Para archery	World Archery
BO	Boccia	BISFED
CY (CR - Cycling Road, CT - Cycling Track)	Para cycling (disciplines: road and track)	UCI
EQ	Para equestrian (disciplines: dressage)	FEI
TT	Para table tennis	ITTF
RO	Para rowing	FISA
SV	Sitting volleyball	World ParaVolley
WB	Wheelchair basketball	IWBF
WC	Wheelchair curling	WCF
WR	Wheelchair rugby	IWRF
WT	Wheelchair tennis	ITF
TR	Para triathlon	WT
CA	Para canoe	ICF
BD	Para badminton	BWF
TK	Para taekwondo	World Taekwondo

## 7 REGIONS

A Regional/Continental Paralympic Organisation is an independent organisation recognised as the sole representative of the IPC members within a specific region/continent as recognised by the IPC.

- European Paralympic Committee (EPC)
- Oceania Paralympic Committee (OPC)
- Asian Paralympic Committee
- Americas Paralympic Committee
- African Paralympic Committee

Note: For African Paralympic Committee, Asian Paralympic Committee and Americas Paralympic Committee, use full names as much as possible. Acronym (APC) should be used only if the reference is to one region in specific.

## 8 ACRONYMS

Acronyms can only be used upon second use and should be avoided altogether in external documents.

Acronym	Terminologies
BAC	Board of Appeal of Classification
BISFED	Boccia International Sports Federation
BWF	Badminton World Federation
CAS	Court of Arbitration for Sport
CISS	International Committee of Sports for the Deaf
CPISRA	Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association
EBU	European Broadcasting Union
EPC	European Paralympic Committee
FEI	International Federation for Equestrian Sports
FIPFA	International Federation of Powerchair Football Association
FISA	World Rowing Federation
FOP	Field of Play
IPC GA	IPC General Assembly
GAISF	Global Association of International Sports Federations

IBSA	International Blind Sports Federation
IBSF	International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation
ICAS	International Council of Arbitration for Sport
ICF	International Canoe Federation
ICSSPE	International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education
IF	International Federation
IFCPF	International Federation of CP Football
IFSC	International Federation of Sport Climbing
IGF	International Golf Federation
IHF	International Handball Federation
FIH	International Hockey Federation
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOSD	International Organisation of Sport for the Disabled
IPC	International Paralympic Committee
IPC SF	IPC Sports Forum
IPD	International Paralympic Day
ITF	International Tennis Federation
ITTF	International Table Tennis Federation
IWAS	International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation
IWBF	International Wheelchair Basketball Federation
IWRF	International Wheelchair Rugby Federation
Virtus	Virtus - World Intellectual Impairment Sport
LOC	Local Organising Committee
MQS	Minimum Qualification Standard
NPC	National Paralympic Committee
OCOG	Organising Committee for the Olympic Games
ODI	Organisational Development Initiative
OGKS	Olympic Games Knowledge Service
OPC	Oceania Paralympic Committee

PG	Paralympic Games
POC	Paralympic Organising Committee
PRIS	Paralympic Results Information Systems
PSD	Paralympic School Day
PWG	Paralympic Winter Games
RC	Regional Championships
RO	Regional Organisation
IPC SC	IPC Sports Council
SCMC	IPC Sports Council Management Committee
SOI	Special Olympics International
SSC	Sport Science Committee
TD	Technical Delegate
TO	Technical Official
TOK	Transfer of Knowledge
TOP	Olympic Partner Programme
UCI	International Cycling Union
UIPM	Modern Pentathlon International Union
UWC	Universality Wild Card
VIK	Value in Kind
WA	World Archery
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency
WADC	World Anti-Doping Code
WAF	World Armwrestling Federation
WCH	World Championships
WCUP	World Cup
WCF	World Curling Federation
WFDF	World Flying Disc Federation
WKF	World Karate Federation
WPV	World ParaVolley

WSF	World Squash Federation
WS	World Sailing

## 9 COUNTRY NAMES AND CODES

For all official documents and protocol occasions use the official country name in the order below.

Country (Code)	Country (Code)	Country (Code)
Afghanistan (AFG)	Algeria (ALG)	Andorra (AND)
Angola (ANG)	Antigua and Barbuda (ANT)	Argentina (ARG)
Armenia (ARM)	Aruba (ARU)	Australia (AUS)
Austria (AUT)	Azerbaijan (AZE)	Bahrain (BRN)
Barbados (BAR)	Belarus (BLR)	Belgium (BEL)
Benin (BEN)	Bermuda (BER)	Bhutan (BTN)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH)	Botswana (BOT)	Brazil (BRA)
Brunei Darussalam (BRU)	Bulgaria (BUL)	Burkina Faso (BUR)
Burundi (BDI)	Cambodia (CAM)	Cameroon (CMR)
Canada (CAN)	Cape Verde (CPV)	Central African Republic (CAF)
Chile (CHI)	Chinese Taipei (TPE)	Colombia (COL)
Comoros (COM)	Congo (CGO)	Costa Rica (CRC)
Côte d'Ivoire (CIV)	Croatia (CRO)	Cuba (CUB)
Cyprus (CYP)	Czech Republic (CZE)	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (PRK)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (COD)	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (TLS)	Denmark (DEN)
Djibouti (DJI)	Dominican Republic (DOM)	Ecuador (ECU)
Egypt (EGY)	El Salvador (ESA)	Estonia (EST)

Ethiopia (ETH)	Faroe Islands (FRO)	Fiji (FIJ)
Finland (FIN)	France (FRA)	Gabon (GAB)
Gambia (GAM)	Georgia (GEO)	Germany (GER)
Ghana (GHA)	Great Britain (GBR)	Greece (GRE)
Grenada (GRN)	Guatemala (GUA)	Guinea (GUI)
Guinea-Bissau (GBS)	Guyana (GUY)	Haiti (HAI)
Honduras (HON)	Hong Kong, China (HKG)	Hungary (HUN)
Iceland (ISL)	India (IND)	Indonesia (INA)
Iraq (IRQ)	Ireland (IRL)	Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI)
Israel (ISR)	Italy (ITA)	Jamaica (JAM)
Japan (JPN)	Jordan (JOR)	Kazakhstan (KAZ)
Kenya (KEN)	Kiribati (KIR)	Kuwait (KUW)
Kyrgyzstan (KGZ)	Lao People's Democratic Republic (LAO)	Latvia (LAT)
Lebanon (LBN)	Lesotho (LES)	Liberia (LBR)
Libya (LBA)	Liechtenstein (LIE)	Lithuania (LTU)
Luxembourg (LUX)	Macao, China (MAC)	Madagascar (MAD)
Malawi (MAW)	Malaysia (MAS)	Maldives (MDV)
Mali (MLI)	Malta (MLT)	Mauritius (MRI)
Mexico (MEX)	Mongolia (MGL)	Montenegro (MNE)
Morocco (MAR)	Mozambique (MOZ)	Myanmar (MYA)
Namibia (NAM)	Nepal (NEP)	Netherlands (NED)
New Zealand (NZL)	Nicaragua (NCA)	Niger (NIG)
Nigeria (NGR)	North Macedonia (MKD)	Norway (NOR)
Oman (OMA)	Pakistan (PAK)	Palestine (PLE)
Panama (PAN)	Papua New Guinea (PNG)	Paraguay (PAR)
People's Republic of China (CHN)	Peru (PER)	Philippines (PHI)
Poland (POL)	Portugal (POR)	Puerto Rico (PUR)

Qatar (QAT)	Republic of Korea (KOR)	Republic of Moldova (MDA)
Romania (ROU)	Russian Federation (RUS)	Rwanda (RWA)
Samoa (SAM)	San Marino (SMR)	Sao Tome and Principe (STP)
Saudi Arabia (KSA)	Senegal (SEN)	Serbia (SRB)
Seychelles (SEY)	Sierra Leone (SLE)	Singapore (SGP)
Slovakia (SVK)	Slovenia (SLO)	Solomon Islands (SOL)
Somalia (SOM)	South Africa (RSA)	Spain (ESP)
Sri Lanka (SRI)	St Vincent and the Grenadines (VIN)	Sudan (SUD)
Suriname (SUR)	Sweden (SWE)	Switzerland (SUI)
Syrian Arab Republic (SYR)	Tajikistan (TJK)	Thailand (THA)
Togo (TOG)	Tonga (TGA)	Trinidad and Tobago (TRI)
Tunisia (TUN)	Turkey (TUR)	Turkmenistan (TKM)
Uganda (UGA)	Ukraine (UKR)	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
United Republic of Tanzania (TAN)	United States of America (USA)	Uruguay (URU)
US Virgin Islands (ISV)	Uzbekistan (UZB)	Vanuatu (VAN)
Venezuela (VEN)	Vietnam (VIE)	Yemen (YEM)
Zambia (ZAM)	Zimbabwe (ZIM)	