



2015 IPC ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW PROCESS

March 2021

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BACKGROUND

1. Classification in Para sports performs two critical functions to support the realisation of the IPC's mission: (1) it defines who is eligible to compete in Para sports and consequently has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; and (2) it groups athletes into sport classes which aim to ensure that the impact of impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which athlete or team is ultimately victorious.
2. In line with the IPC Strategic Plan, as the Paralympic Movement continues to evolve it is important to strengthen the effectiveness of the Movement at all levels, including in relation to classification. The previous review of the IPC Athlete Classification Code was initiated in 2013. Since then, through the implementation of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and through member feedback, the IPC has identified opportunities for further improvement, growth and harmonisation. Following the commitment of the IPC President at the 2019 General Assembly, the IPC Governing Board therefore wishes to initiate and lead a review of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and accompanying International Standards. This review will take into account the learnings from the IPC's governance review process and the WADA 2021 Code review process (for example, as to the structure and approach).

RELEVANT 2015 IPC ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION CODE PROVISIONS

13.3 Modifications to the Code

13.3.1 The IPC Governing Board shall be responsible for overseeing the evolution and development of the Code. Athletes and Signatories shall be invited to participate in this process.

13.3.2 The Code and International Standards may be reviewed on a regular basis including following the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

13.3.3 The IPC Classification Committee, upon request of the IPC Governing Board initiates proposed amendments to the Code. It must ensure a consultative process is in place to both receive and respond to recommendations and to facilitate review and feedback from Athletes, Signatories and other parties.

13.3.4 Amendments to the Code must, after appropriate consultation, be approved by the IPC General Assembly. Amendments to the International Standards, after appropriate consultation, must be approved by the IPC Governing Board.

13.3.5 The IPC must implement any amendment to the Code within one year of approval by the IPC General Assembly.

The 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code can be accessed using the following [link](#).

PROCESS

3. Following preliminary official discussions in the latter half of 2020, the IPC Governing Board formally approved and initiated the review of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code on 25 January 2021. The process and anticipated timelines are set out in the table below. These are based on the learnings from the IPC's governance review, the WADA 2021 Code review, and the previous review of the IPC Athlete Classification Code. Careful thought has been given to ensure appropriate time is provided for member feedback, discussion, and analysis (bearing in mind that this is a complex area, with multiple connecting documents to be reviewed).

Table 1. Code Review Process - Anticipated Timeline	
Date	Event
February to March 2021	Appointment and meeting(s) of the Code Drafting Team and Sub-groups.
May to September 2021	Phase 1 consultation. All feedback will be published on the IPC website and will <u>not</u> be anonymised.
24 August to 5 September 2021	Paralympic Games
October to December 2021	Phase 1 analysis of feedback and drafting.
December 2021	IPC General Assembly (election GA)
January to April 2022	Phase 1 analysis of feedback and drafting.
4-13 March 2022	Paralympic Games
May 2022	First draft discussed with and agreed by the IPC Governing Board.
June to August 2022	Phase 2 consultation - new draft circulated to the IPC membership. All feedback will be published on the IPC website and will <u>not</u> be anonymised.
September 2022 to January 2023	Phase 2 analysis of feedback and drafting.
February 2023	Second draft discussed with and agreed by the IPC Governing Board.
March to May 2023	Phase 3 consultation - new draft circulated to the IPC membership. All

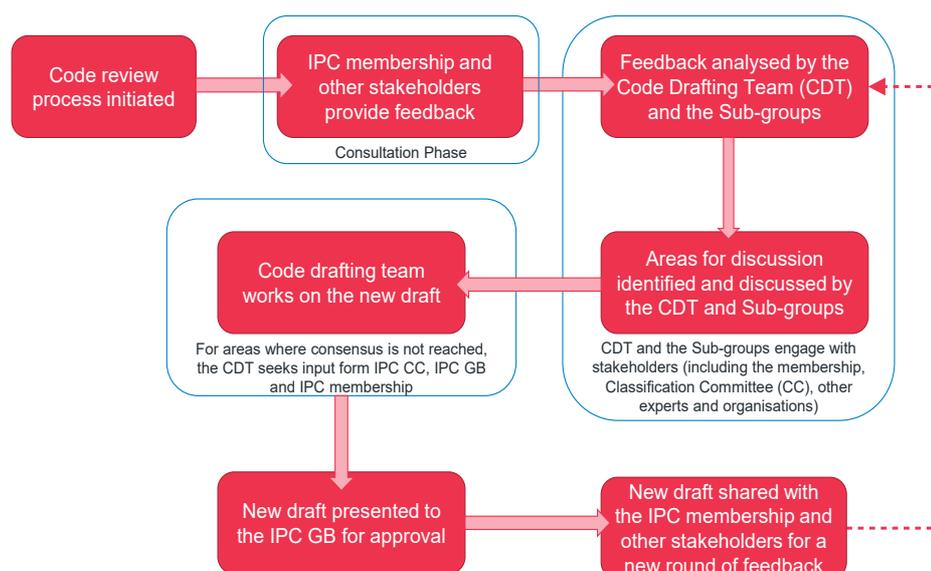
Table 1. Code Review Process - Anticipated Timeline	
Date	Event
	feedback will be published on the IPC website and will <u>not</u> be anonymised.
June to September 2023	Phase 3 analysis of feedback and drafting.
October 2023	Final draft discussed with and agreed by the IPC Governing Board.
December 2023 (date TBC)	Final draft approved at the IPC General Assembly.
October 2023 - January 2024	Model Rules developed.
1 January 2024	Final documents published (including Model Rules for IFs).
28 August to 8 September 2024	Paralympic Games
1 January 2025 (date TBC)	New Code and International Standards enter into force for summer sports (subject to consultation with the IPC membership).
2025	IPC General Assembly (election GA)
6 - 15 March 2026	Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games
1 July 2026 (date TBC)	New Code and International Standards enter into force for winter sports (following the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games, and for the start of the next winter season) (subject to consultation with the IPC membership).

4. The above process will also include:
- Seeking feedback from the Athletes' Council, Medical Committee, Science and Research Working Group, Board of Appeal of Classification, classifiers, human rights experts, and other appropriate experts;
 - Possible presentations at the 2021 General Assembly and 2022 membership gathering;
 - Membership meetings/calls throughout the consultation phases; and
 - Education sessions, particularly during 2024.
5. It is important to note that the current 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and accompanying International Standards remain in place until the new Code's implementation date, which is yet to be confirmed.

CODE DRAFTING TEAM AND SUPPORTING SUB-GROUPS

6. The role of the Code Drafting Team will be to obtain and analyse stakeholder feedback, and to determine how best to incorporate such feedback into the working drafts of the new Code. Where possible, the Code Drafting Team will seek to build consensus. However, where there is no consensus, the IPC Governing Board will decide which diverging stakeholder views should be incorporated. The final draft will then have to be approved by the IPC Membership at a General Assembly.
7. The Code Drafting Team will be closely supported in its work by the full IPC Classification Committee. In particular, the IPC Classification Committee will assist in reviewing and analysing stakeholder feedback, as well as providing input on the new drafts of the Code and related documents. Due to its extensive expertise and knowledge in the area of classification, as well as its previous experience with reviewing the Code, the IPC Classification Committee will play a key role in steering the process and providing recommendations to the Code Drafting Team and the IPC Governing Board.
8. Figure 1 shows the process of reviewing the Code and International Standards, starting from initiating the consultation process, through reviewing and discussing the feedback, preparing a new draft and presenting it to the IPC Governing Board and the Membership.

Figure 1. Flowchart process for reviewing the Code and International Standards.



9. The Code Drafting Team's composition includes key representation from the IPC Membership and from the classification field. Whenever possible, their role will also be to communicate with the membership, and by doing so, educate them on the process and areas that are being reviewed, collect their feedback, and pass on any learnings.
10. The Code Drafting Team will be comprised as follows:

Position	Role	Name(s)
Chair	To lead the group as an independent individual, and to lead on presenting to the General Assembly/membership/IPC Governing Board etc.	Scott Field
IPC Governing Board representative	To represent the IPC Governing Board and act as a liaison between the Board and Code Drafting Team.	Tim Reddish
IPC Classification Committee representative	To represent the IPC Classification Committee and act as a liaison between the Committee and Code Drafting Team.	Anne Hart
Two athlete representatives	To provide an athlete voice to the group. One appointed from the Athletes' Council, and the other through a robust selection process to find the right candidate.	1 - Kurt Fearnley 2 - Jens Sauerbier
IF representative	To draw on experience and bring an IF perspective to the group.	Tom Dielen
Two NPC representatives	To draw on experience and bring a national perspective to the group.	1 - Leila Marques Mota 2 - Hilary Beeton
IOSD representative	To draw on experience and bring an IOSD perspective to the group.	Rudi Van den Abbee
Classifier representative	To draw on experience and bring a classifier perspective to the group.	Fatima Fernandes

Lead drafter	To be responsible for the formal drafting of documents.	Jonathan Taylor QC
Ex officio member	IPC Classification Senior Manager	Tea Cistic
Ex officio member	IPC Classification Compliance Senior Manager	James Lancaster
Ex officio member	IPC General Counsel	Liz Riley

11. The Code Drafting Team will also be supported by several Sub-groups, who will lead on the drafting of the various supporting documents. Ad-hoc members can be added to these groups to address specific areas, such as medical experts on intellectual impairment, vision impairment and physical impairments, sport science experts, or other experts as deemed appropriate by the Code Drafting Team and the Sub-groups.

Note: The International Standards for Athlete Evaluation and Protests and Appeals are envisaged to be dealt with by the Code Drafting Team.

The International Standard for Eligible Impairments:

- Jürgen Schwittai / Moran Samuel, lead
- Sean Tweedy
- Iain Gowans
- Peter Derksen
- Jan Burns
- Viola Altman

The International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training:

- Jenni Cole, lead
- Pablo Perez
- Erin Popovich / Jürgen Schwittai
- Raul Reina
- Sharyn Gregory

The International Standard for Classification Data Protection:

- Daniel Cooper, lead
- Graham Arthur
- Catherine Ure
- Fatima Fernandes

12. There will be an internal IPC steering group to support the review process, comprising of the following departments:

- Classification
- Legal
- Communications
- Membership Engagement
- Athletes Engagement
- President Office
- IT

CLASSIFICATION AND THE FUTURE

13. Classification is a unique, ever-evolving area, so maintaining an effective classification system requires a proactive approach. Advancing classification is of prime significance to the continued development of the Paralympic Movement. It follows that classification will always be a key concern for the IPC and addressing the long-term challenges is a stated priority of the current IPC's Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the IPC is committed to regularly reviewing its policies in order to remain a robust fit-for-purpose organisation. The approach to the IPC Athlete Classification Code is no different. It is fitting and necessary that the Code be reviewed on a regular basis, so that, with the growth and development of the Paralympic Movement, it too remains up-to-date and effective.
14. This 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code Review Process is therefore the product of forward-thinking organisational strategy and the continued requirement for a proactive approach to Classification. It is right to review the Code now, and it will be right to habitually review the Code again in the future. Technology, training methods and medical innovations continue to develop at speed. And so, the approach to classification must also continue to evolve. Commencing the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code Review Process presents an exciting opportunity to meet these objectives as part of maintaining a successful long-term strategy towards classification.