



**IPC HANDBOOK**  
**SECTION 2, CHAPTER 1.1**  
**IPC CODE OF ETHICS: APPENDIX B**  
**GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGN RULES**

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# 1 CODE OF CONDUCT

Members of the Paralympic Family shall abide by and respect the IPC Code of Ethics at all times and adhere to its ethical standards.

In addition, the rules below apply to all candidates for election as well as to their respective nominating bodies and where relevant any other third party associated with a candidate or nominating body (e.g., Embassies).

## 1.1 GENERAL CONDUCT

- 1.1.1 The conduct of all candidates shall comply with all other provisions outlined in the IPC Code of Ethics.
- 1.1.2 Each candidate and/or their respective nominating body has the right to promote the candidature, subject to these Regulations and the IPC Code of Ethics.
- 1.1.3 Nominees and/or their respective nominating body shall not Campaign in any way prior to the official public announcement by the IPC of all valid candidates for election. (see also section 2.1 & 2.2)
- For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, to “Campaign” shall mean any effort or action - including (but not limited to) any contact by way of letter, email or via any form of social media - the purpose of which is to influence the decision-making process of any relevant person or group in any IPC elections.
- 1.1.4 The promotion of a candidate by any person or organisation shall always be conducted with dignity and moderation.
- 1.1.5 All candidates shall fully respect the IPC Regulations Concerning Candidate Presentations for the IPC Governing Board Elections as issued by the IPC from time to time. (see also section 2.7)
- 1.1.6 All candidates shall fully respect the election campaign directions as may be issued by the IPC Electoral Commission from time to time.
- 1.1.7 All candidates shall give their full co-operation to the IPC Credentials Commission which under the IPC Legal and Ethics Bylaws will verify whether nominations for election to the IPC Governing Board are in compliance with the conditions for nominations and where needed seek further clarification from the candidate and/or nominating member (see also declaration and consent on Nomination Form part 2)
- 1.1.8 Where a candidate engages an agency or consultant to campaign on his/her behalf the candidate is responsible to ensure that such agency

or consultant complies with the same rules and regulations that apply for all candidates to election.

- 1.1.9 Candidates and/or their respective nominating body shall seek the advice of the Electoral Commission where any doubt about the proper interpretation of the Rules and Regulations may arise.

## **1.2 RELATIONS WITH OTHER CANDIDATES**

- 1.2.1 Candidates must have the intent and ambition to run for election and to be elected, and their candidature shall not have the sole purpose of disturbing another candidate's election.
- 1.2.2 Each candidate and/or their respective nominating body shall, with dignity and consideration, and within the framework of promoting their candidature, fully respect the other candidates, the IPC Members and the IPC itself.
- 1.2.3 Personal attacks shall not be made in public about any other candidate.
- 1.2.3.1 Candidates are strongly advised to also refrain from any negative remarks or personal attacks on other candidates in private conversations, as these always risk becoming public, even though unintended.
- 1.2.3.2 Candidates are however allowed to, with dignity and respect, raise legitimate matters of difference that may exist between them and another candidate, and express differences of views on a particular issue, if asked to do so in a public environment.
- 1.2.4 At no time shall the candidates, their respective nominating body or any member organisation publicly announce or circulate a list of preferred candidates for election.

## **1.3 UNDUE INFLUENCING, BENEFITS, GIFTS, SOCIAL FUNCTIONS**

- 1.3.1 No candidate and/or their respective nominating body or any other third party associated with a candidate or nominating body (eg Embassies) shall enter into any promise or undertaking to be performed, whatever the timing of such performance, for the direct or indirect benefit of any third party in order to influence the result of the elections or to be performed should the candidate be successful in his or her election bid.

- 1.3.2** No candidate and/or their respective nominating body or any other third party associated with a candidate or nominating body (eg Embassies) shall hold or promote a social function for any IPC Member or other person or group who may have influence in the relevant elections with the aim, or in the framework of, promoting his or her candidature. This prohibition shall include receptions, lunches and dinners at the elections venue or at any other location prior to the formal elections process, and shall also include the distribution of vouchers for drinks or meals.
- 1.3.3** Candidates and their respective nominating body or any other third party associated with a candidate or nominating body (eg Embassies) may in no circumstances give presents, offer monetary inducements or compensation or gifts (including payment for accommodation and/or flights) or grant advantages of any kind including the promise of any valuable reward to any IPC Member or other person or group who may have influence in the relevant elections.
- In particular they shall not pay, or make promises to pay for travel, accommodation, registration fees or any other form of grant for voting delegates to attend the elections General Assembly.
- 1.3.4** Candidates and their Nominating Bodies and any other third party associated with a candidate or nominating body (eg Embassies) shall avoid any (perceptions of) undue influencing or (perceptions of) bribery. In particular, but not limited to, the following shall be respected;
- 1.3.4.1** Shall not invite, or enter into promises to invite member organisations, its officials, voting delegates, and/or athletes to any event, development programme, incentive, social or other function, or any other form of benefit without the express prior approval of the IPC Electoral Commission (eg to ensure that ongoing development programmes or earlier approved events can continue). This rule will apply from 6 months prior to the election to one year following the election (for successful candidates) and is regardless as to whether the invitation is directly or in-directly intended as influencing the vote.
- 1.3.4.2** The rules in relation to public endorsement of a candidature and the prohibition of government interference shall be strictly respected (see section 2.3.2).
- 1.3.5** No support or service in relation to a candidature may be requested from any IPC department or from any member of the IPC Management Team.

## **1.4 RELATIONS WITH MEDIA**

- 1.4.1 Subject to respecting the principles set out in this Code of Conduct candidates shall be allowed to give interviews to media on their individual candidacy. Candidates shall not however give any media statements or interviews on behalf of the IPC.
- 1.4.2 Candidates shall provide to the IPC Electoral Commission a copy of any press article or link to any other media interview of which they are aware concerning (in whole or in part) their candidature. Where possible, this copy shall be provided prior to publication or the posting online of such media, with an accompanying English translation. For the avoidance of doubt, no approval of the IPC is required; this is for reference only.

## **2 CAMPAIGN RULES**

The rules below apply to all candidates for election as well as to their respective nominating bodies and where relevant any other third party associated with a candidate or nominating body (eg Embassies).

### **2.1 PRIOR TO THE START OF THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD**

- 2.1.1 Nominees and/or the respective nominating body shall not campaign prior to the official public announcement by the IPC of all valid candidatures for election (see also section 2.2).
- 2.1.2 Nominees and/or their respective nominating body shall however, be allowed to issue a written or verbal statement publicly announcing such nomination. Any such public announcement prior to the IPC's official candidature announcements is allowed only to announce the intention to run for election; further position statements which would cross into campaigning are not allowed.
- 2.1.3 While it is allowed to publicly confirm the intention to run (only), it must be clearly understood that such confirmation relates to the nomination only, i.e., it does not imply that the nominee is an accepted candidate. A nominee's candidature is only accepted after review and validation by the IPC Credentials Commission and following the IPC's formal publication of the list of valid candidates for election.
- 2.1.4 For the avoidance of doubt, in practice the official campaign period will not start until after the end of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and any direct campaigning during the Games is prohibited.

## **2.2 THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD & CAMPAIGN LOCATIONS**

- 2.2.1 The official campaign period starts with the IPC public announcement of the approved nominees for election and ends at midnight prior to the elections day. This means that no further campaigning is allowed on the day of the elections.
- 2.2.2 Following the IPC public announcement of the approved nominees candidates shall be allowed to promote their candidacy and distribute their promotional document, including by electronic means such as email, social media (being posts on Facebook, Twitter and other similar sites) to all relevant persons or groups, subject to compliance with the IPC Code of Ethics and compliance of these Regulations.
- 2.2.3 No candidate promotional material shall be distributed at any time in the formal IPC General Assembly/Conference meeting rooms or at any IPC competition venues. IPC may however designate a special area where campaign material may be displayed.

## **2.3 PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT**

### **2.3.1 Endorsement by Member Organisations:**

Although it is not encouraged, it is not prohibited for IPC member organisations (other than the nomination body) to publicly endorse a candidacy subject to respecting the IPC Code of Ethics and any specific standards set out in these Regulations. In particular, any party endorsing the nomination, shall not enter into any promise or undertaking for the direct or indirect benefit of any other third party in order to influence the result of the elections should the candidate be elected.

### **2.3.2 Endorsement by Governments, Government Agencies or Embassies:**

Government interference in any form is strictly prohibited. Embassies and/or any other government agency interference or contact with member organisations and/or voting delegates to influence the vote is prohibited. For the avoidance of doubt, such contact is not only prohibited in relation to direct attempts to influence the vote; also, any other contact under the guise of e.g. invitations, offering development projects or other type of activities is not allowed during the campaign period unless previously approved by the Electoral Commission. (see rule 1.3.4)

### **2.3.3 Endorsement by other third parties:**

Public endorsement of a candidate by any external organisation such as NGOs and by any commercial organisation or sponsors is prohibited.

### **2.3.4 Endorsement by individuals:**

**2.3.4.1** IPC staff members and IPC officials, whether paid or not, shall not publicly endorse any candidate. This includes IPC committee members, STC members, classifiers and technical officials who are appointed or approved by the IPC. Such public endorsement is considered as internal organisational influencing and is prohibited.

**2.3.4.2** The prohibition to publicly endorse a candidate also applies to IF officials when working at IPC sanctioned events/ Paralympic Games. For the avoidance of doubt, this rule only relates to public endorsement. It does not relate to an official discretely talking to an individual person. There should be no statements made about preferred candidates in a public environment, eg during Games at a chef de mission meeting or at any other event where IPC members are gathered.

### **2.3.5 Slate of preferred candidates for election:**

Whereas a candidate for election or any other person -subject to the restrictions above - may individually endorse another candidate, it is prohibited to circulate or publicly announce a slate of preferred candidates. Any campaigning or public endorsement should be focused on the individual candidate only.

## **2.4 CAMPAIGN MATERIAL / PUBLICATIONS**

**2.4.1** The IPC shall publish an official presentation of all approved candidates, the content of which will be agreed in advance by each candidate acting reasonably.

**2.4.1.1** The candidate's official presentation as published by the IPC may also be freely distributed as individual campaign material by the candidate, without further notice to the IPC Electoral Commission.



- 2.4.1.2** The candidate's official presentation as published by the IPC may also be translated into multiple languages. It is the responsibility of the nominating body and the candidate to ensure that the translation reflects, as closely as possible, the same content as the English version. A copy of any translated text, for each language used, shall be submitted to the IPC Electoral Commission for reference only. The IPC will take note of such text, but will have no responsibility in relation to the translation/s. The nominating body and the candidate shall always be liable for the accuracy of the translation/s.
- 2.4.2** Subject to complying with the IPC Code of Ethics and any specific standards set out in these Campaign Regulations, candidates may also produce, at their own expense a manifesto or other campaign material promoting their candidature. There is no requirement to submit the campaign material for approval to the Electoral Commission in advance of its publication. However, a copy will be sent for reference only.
- 2.4.2.1** The candidate's campaign material may include the branding of the candidate's nominating body but may not include any branding or other references to any third party that might suggest endorsement of the candidate by that party.
- 2.4.2.2** The use of the (stand-alone) IPC logo or Agitos Foundation logo on any campaign material is prohibited. The use of photos of the candidate with the IPC logo in the background (e.g., flag, backdrop at an event) is not prohibited. However, the use of such photos is only allowed on the basis that candidates limit the use of such photos and that the IPC logo on the photo is only incidental - not front and centre.
- 2.4.2.3** Photos of the candidate together with other individuals such as IPC officials is prohibited. Only photos with the same group of people allowed to publicly endorse a candidacy may be included (see section 2.3)
- 2.4.2.4** There are no restrictions to numbers, size and format and to the use of multiple languages on the candidates' personal campaign material.
- 2.4.2.5** Candidates are encouraged to undertake their best efforts in ensuring that their campaign material is accessible for all.
- 2.4.3** The prohibition to distribute gifts as mentioned under section 1.3 above also includes any promotional material of low value such as pins, pens, and/or any other handouts of low value.

- 2.4.4 The distribution of business cards that refer to the candidate's candidature for a specific position on the IPC Governing Board is permitted. This may include a photo of the candidate and a link to his or her electronic campaign material.

## **2.5 USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

- 2.5.1 Provided that the candidate at all times complies with the IPC Code of Ethics and any specific standards set out in these Regulations or issued by the Electoral Commission a candidate may individually use social media, video messages or any other modern communication tools. There are no restrictions to any such activities.

## **2.6 CANDIDATES ATTENDING IPC MEMBERSHIP GATHERINGS, EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

- 2.6.1 All candidates are permitted to attend IPC membership gathering, events and competitions subject to the following.
- 2.6.1.1 The candidate shall at all times comply with the IPC Code of Ethics and with any specific standard set out in these Rules or in any Campaign Regulation as issued from time to time by the Electoral Commission; and provided they comply with the organiser's conditions for registration/participation in the specific event.
- 2.6.1.2 The attendance of any candidate's campaign agent at such gatherings, events, and competitions is however prohibited.
- 2.6.2 Whereas candidates may individually speak to members and refer to his/her candidacy in a purely factual manner, there shall be no public campaigning or written material provided at these gatherings, events and competitions.

## **2.7 PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DEBATE**

- 2.7.1 Participating in a public debate between candidates is reserved for candidates to the President and Vice President position only; candidates for the Member-at-Large positions shall be provided by the IPC with other opportunities to present themselves to the membership. (see section 2.7.3 below)
- 2.7.2 **For President and Vice President positions:**
- 2.7.2.1 Public debate among, or with, candidates for the President or Vice President position (which may also attract wider media attention) is

considered a valuable tool to ensure that members acquire a good understanding of the candidates' visions and plans for the future. However, such debates shall normally be limited to maximum 3 in total regardless of who is organising it, and as will be decided by the Electoral Commission.

**2.7.2.2** In addition to the IPC organising a public debate, other bodies (e.g., Regions) may also host an event that includes a candidates' debate. This must be held in compliance with the IPC regulations, and is subject to approval of the Electoral Commission in consultation with the IPC to ensure a coherent communication strategy.

**2.7.2.3** Conditions for allowing other bodies to organise such public debate shall be set by the Electoral Commission which must include that:

- The Electoral Commission shall oversee the event and the IPC shall moderate the debate or will appoint a neutral moderator for it.
- All candidates for the same position shall be invited to the event
- Travel and accommodation for those candidates to attend the event should be covered, and/or
- Appropriate modern technology shall be made available at the expense of the organising body to allow those participants unable to attend in person to also participate in the debate on an equal basis.

**2.7.2.4** During public debate candidates are allowed to ask questions to the other candidates. However, only neutral questions are permitted, i.e., to clarify the candidate's views and future plans and programmes should he/she be elected. Personal questions are not allowed. To avoid misunderstanding on what may or may not be allowed, the questions that a candidate wishes to raise to his/her competitor during debate shall be submitted to the Electoral Commission in advance for approval. To allow spontaneous debate, these questions do not need to be disclosed to the other candidate in advance.

### **2.7.3 For Member-at-Large positions**

**2.7.3.1** Whereas no live events may be organised providing an opportunity for public debate among, or with, candidates for the Member-at-Large positions, the IPC itself shall provide on-line opportunities for the candidates to present themselves. This will be in addition to the live presentations organised the day prior to the election General Assembly.

**2.7.3.2** The IPC communications team shall look into options for organising such presentations through an on-line platform, e.g., through video

material submitted in advance or through webinars. To avoid any unfair advantage the impact of the different time zones shall be observed. This could e.g., be in the form of multiple webinars with 3 or 4 candidates from the same time zone.

- 2.7.3.3 Only the questions prepared by the IPC may be answered during the presentation and these questions shall not be circulated to the candidates in advance.
- 2.7.3.4 It is recognised that to some extent there may be an unfair advantage for those members running for two positions (eg for Vice President and Member- at-Large) in presenting themselves. All reasonable efforts shall be made by the IPC to minimise any such unfair advantage.

## **2.8 CAMPAIGN BUDGET**

- 2.8.1 Whereas no budget limitations are imposed, candidates may be asked by the Electoral Commission to disclose the budget that was spent on their campaign and to identify where those resources come from.
- 2.8.2 Such report shall only be provided to the Electoral Commission for information but shall not be published.
- 2.8.3 The Electoral Commission has the authority to ask further questions or evidence (statement of expenditure, bank statements) where deemed necessary.
- 2.8.4 Through the undertaking that candidates are required to sign as part of their nomination for election, candidates shall commit to the funding of their campaign originating from legal sources.
- 2.8.5 For the avoidance of doubt and with reference to the prohibition of any government interference during the campaign period (see section 2.3.2), it is clarified that government funding or funding by government agencies for the campaign is allowed subject to this being disclosed to the Electoral Commission.

### **3 GUIDELINES FOR IPC MEMBER ORGANISATIONS, OFFICIALS AND VOTING DELEGATES**

- 3.1 All IPC member organisations, its officials and voting delegates shall always abide by and respect the IPC Code of Ethics and adhere to its ethical standards.
- 3.2 No gifts, hospitality, or any other form of agreement, payment, benefit, or promises therefore shall be accepted from a candidate, the nominating body or any third party associated to them, that could reasonably be perceived as influencing the vote.
- 3.3 Where in doubt the member organisation, official or voting delegate has the obligation to seek the advice of the Electoral Commission prior to accepting any such benefit.
- 3.4 Member organisations and their officials or voting delegates have the obligation to report any infringement of these rules or any assumption of infringements to the Electoral Commission.
- 3.5 Infringements by member organisations, its officials or voting delegates may result in an interim suspension and the member organisation losing its vote during the elections General Assembly. This is subject to a decision by the IPC Legal and Ethics Committee and awaiting the completion of a full investigation which may lead to further sanctions.

### **4 COMPLIANCE AND IPC ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

- 4.1 For Candidates and Nominating bodies:
  - 4.1.1 A breach of any of these Rules may result in the IPC Electoral Commission deciding on sanctions as outlined in the IPC Electoral Commission rules under article 10.5 of the IPC Legal and Ethics Committee Bylaws.
  - 4.1.2 In addition, a breach of any of these Rules may also be considered as an infringement of the IPC Code of Ethics, which may be further investigated by the IPC Legal and Ethics Committee following any elections and may result in further sanctions.
- 4.2 For member organisations, its officials or voting delegates:

Suspected breaches of the IPC Code of Ethics will be governed by the *'IPC regulations governing the procedure for dealing with complaints regarding alleged breaches of the IPC Code of Ethics'*.

- 4.3** Where there is any doubt as to the proper interpretation of the rules and regulations the IPC Electoral Commission shall be contacted to seek advice and, where relevant, seek permissions.

(This may be done by contacting [leen.coudenys@paralympic.org](mailto:leen.coudenys@paralympic.org))