



# **IPC HANDBOOK**

## **IPC CODE OF ETHICS: APPENDIX B**

### **GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS**

# CONTENTS

1	Code of conduct .....	3
1.1	General conduct .....	3
1.2	Relations with other candidates .....	4
1.3	Undue influencing, benefits, gifts, social functions .....	4
1.4	Relations with media.....	6
2	Campaign rules.....	6
2.1	Prior to the start of the official campaign period .....	6
2.2	The official campaign period and campaign locations .....	7
2.3	Public endorsement .....	7
2.4	Campaign material / publications .....	9
2.5	Use of social media .....	10
2.6	Candidates attending IPC membership gatherings, events and competitions .....	11
2.7	Participation in public debate.....	11
2.8	Campaign budget .....	13
3	Guidelines for IPC member organisations, officials and voting delegates .....	13
4	Compliance and elections oversight panel.....	14

# 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).

It shall be noted however, that incumbent office holders who are standing for re-election, and in particular the President and Vice-President, can continue carrying out their duties associated with their function throughout and until the end of their term of office, including media interviews.

## 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.  
  
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.
- 1.1.6 All candidates shall fully respect the election campaign directions as may be issued by the IPC Elections Oversight Panel from time to time.
- 1.1.7 All candidates shall give their full co-operation to the IPC Nominations Panel which 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.

- 1.1.8 Where a candidate engages an agency or consultant to campaign on their 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 Elections Oversight Panel 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.
- 1.2.4 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.
- 1.2.5 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.
- 1.2.6 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 (e.g. 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 their 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 (e.g. 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 their 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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. 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 Elections Oversight Panel (e.g. 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 indirectly 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.
- 1.3.6 For the avoidance of doubt, activities set out in the hosting agreement for a General Assembly will not constitute a breach of these Regulations (e.g. official dinners, or costs to be covered by the host).

## **1.4 RELATIONS WITH MEDIA**

- 1.4.1 Subject to respecting the principles set out in these Regulations, 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 Elections Oversight Panel 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 (e.g. 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 i.e. the Candidate Booklet by the IPC of all valid candidatures for election.
- 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 Nominations Panel 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 summer Paralympic Games and any direct campaigning during the Games is prohibited.

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

- 2.2.1 The official campaign period starts with the IPC public announcement, i.e. publishing the Candidate Booklet, 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 (e.g. posts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X (formerly known as Twitter) and other similar sites) to all relevant persons or groups, subject to compliance with the IPC Code of Ethics and 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. The 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, including the involvement and/or endorsement of an individual government official in the campaign. 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 Elections Oversight Panel (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 Management Team members and IPC officials, which includes members of the Governing Board, Sub-Committees, Committees, Nominations Panel, Elections Oversight Panel, and Athletes' Council, whether paid or not, shall not publicly endorse any candidate. 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, e.g. during Games at a chef de mission meeting or at any other event where IPC members are gathered.

2.3.4.3 Public endorsement by individuals who do not have, or no longer have, any involvement with the IPC as mentioned under 2.3.4.1 and 2.3.4.2 above is not prohibited. However, any person endorsing a candidacy shall not enter into any promise or undertaking for the direct or indirect benefit of any other party in order to influence the result of the elections. The promotion of a candidate by any person shall always be conducted with dignity and moderation and shall at all times comply with the IPC Code of Ethics and any specific



standards set out in these Regulations. The candidate may be held responsible for any public testimony or promotion by a third person used in their campaign.

#### 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/list 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 Booklet as published by the IPC may also be freely distributed as individual campaign material by the candidate, without further notice to the IPC Elections Oversight Panel.

2.4.1.2 The candidate's content within the Candidate Booklet as published by the IPC, may also be translated into multiple languages by the candidate at their own expense. 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 Elections Oversight Panel for reference only. The IPC will take note of such text, but will have no responsibility in relation to the translation/s and nor will the IPC publish the translated text. 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 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 Elections Oversight Panel in advance of its publication. However, a copy must 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. There are no exceptions to this and this prohibition also applies for any person or organisation that may be funding the candidate's campaign.

- 2.4.2.2 The use of the (stand-alone) IPC 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 their 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 Elections Oversight Panel a candidate may individually use social media, video messages or any other modern communication tools. There are no restrictions to using any such communication tools, except that posts on social media in the framework of campaigning for election are also considered as 'campaign material' and therefore the same rules, principles and standards referred to under section 2.2 and 2.3 apply.
- 2.5.2 Subject to compliance with these Regulations, and in particular with section 1.3 and section 2.3, the endorsement of individuals (other than

by the IPC Management Team or IPC officials) in reaction to a post on social media is not prohibited.

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

- 2.6.1 All candidates are permitted to attend IPC membership gatherings, 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 standards set out in these Regulations or issued from time to time by the Elections Oversight Panel; 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 their 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 positions 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 positions (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 a maximum of 3 in total regardless of who is organising it, and will be decided by the Elections Oversight Panel.
  - 2.7.2.2 The IPC will not organise any public debate, however 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 Elections Oversight Panel 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 Elections Oversight Panel which must include that:

- The Elections Oversight Panel shall oversee the event and the IPC shall moderate the debate or will appoint a neutral moderator for it. Travel and accommodation costs for the IPC moderator and/or member of the Elections Oversight Panel shall be covered by the organiser.
- 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 they 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 their competitor during debate shall be submitted to the Elections Oversight Panel 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 No live events may be organised providing an opportunity for public debate among, or with, candidates for the Member-at-Large positions.

2.7.3.2 The candidates running for Member-at-Large positions shall have an opportunity for a live presentation during the Conference prior to the General Assembly. These presentations will be held in accordance with the Regulations for the Candidate Presentations for the IPC Governing Board Elections.

2.7.3.3 It is recognised that to some extent there may be an unfair advantage for those members running for two positions (e.g. 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 Elections Oversight Panel 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 Elections Oversight Panel for information but shall not be published.
- 2.8.3 The Elections Oversight Panel has the authority to ask further questions or for 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 Elections Oversight Panel.

## **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 Elections Oversight Panel 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 Elections Oversight Panel.
- 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 Elections Oversight Panel and awaiting the completion of a full investigation which may lead to further sanctions.

## **4 COMPLIANCE AND ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT PANEL**

### **4.1 For candidates and nominating bodies:**

4.1.1 A breach of any of these Regulations may result in the Elections Oversight Panel deciding on sanctions as outlined in the Elections Oversight Panel rules.

4.1.2 In addition, a breach of any of these Regulations may also be considered as an infringement of the IPC Code of Ethics, which may be further investigated following any elections and may result in further sanctions.

### **4.2 For member organisations, its officials or voting delegates:**

4.2.1 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 Elections Oversight Panel may be contacted to seek advice and, where relevant, seek permissions. This may be done by contacting [elections@paralympic.org](mailto:elections@paralympic.org).