National Paralympic Committee
Presidents / Secretaries General
Via Email

01 October 2026

2027 IPC Athlete Registration and Licensing Programme

Dear NPC Presidents/Secretaries General,

We open the system for NPCs to register and license athletes for the 2027 season (1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027) on 01 October 2026.

The purpose of this letter is to formally commence the athlete registration and licensing process for the 2027 season for the World Para Summer Sports currently governed by the IPC, and to remind you of key aspects of the process (including changes put in place since the 2026 season).

1 LICENCE FEES

The World Para Summer Sports have seen significant growth in licensing since 2012. As a consequence, we restructured the licensing programme format in 2017 and introduced a licence fee per sport (athletics, powerlifting, shooting, swimming) per NPC, replacing the previous package-based, all-sport system.

The current licence fee (on a per-sport basis) is invoiced annually and allows access to an unlimited number of licences for your NPC in the relevant sport for the season. The licence fee charged per sport per NPC has been calculated based on the number of licences activated per season in the previous Games cycle (2020-2023). The unlimited licence packages allow immediate licensing after confirmed registration.

The fee that is charged per NPC, per sport is calculated as the average number of licences (rounded) activated in the sport per season, multiplied by €15 Euro per licence, plus a €20 Euro fixed fee to cover any administration costs (bank charges etc.) that the IPC may incur.

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Example

	No. of athletes licensed by the NPC per season					
Sport	2020	2021	2022	2023	Average	Rounded Flat Fee € (euro) for **Unlimited** Licences, incl. Bank Charges etc
Athletics	25	30	50	55	40	€ 620
Powerlifting	22	28	28	30	27	€ 430
Shooting	15	18	22	35	23	€ 360
Swimming	20	25	33	39	29	€ 460

NPCs do not need to apply for any licence package or invoice. An invoice for licences per sport will be created automatically by the IPC Sport Data Management System ("**SDMS**") at the start of each season and should be downloaded by the NPC via SDMS (*Licences & Invoices > packages*).

Please transfer the amount in question to the account indicated on the invoice. If the package is bought and athletes are licensed before 31 December 2026 their licences are valid from 1 January 2027 onwards. After 1 January 2027, the licences will be active from the date of activation.

Please indicate the invoice number on the payment form. The IPC has previously faced some problems in tracking payments, leading to a delay in activating licences. We kindly request you to send a proof of payment immediately to the IPC Finance Department at accounts@paralympic.org if your payment is not confirmed in SDMS within one week.

NPCs that face difficulties in transferring money due to sanctions or other limitations on the international transfer of funds should please contact the IPC Finance Department (accounts@paralympic.org) before 16 January 2027 to identify a suitable payment option. Please also do not hesitate to contact the IPC Finance Department for any further questions regarding payments.

2 LICENSING PROCESS

The IPC has made amendments to the IPC Athlete Eligibility Agreement which is now referred to as the IPC Athlete Eligibility Agreement (**version four**).

The updated version includes wording which reflects the terms of the new IPC Anti-Doping Privacy Notice, available here.

To be eligible to be licensed/relicensed, classified and to participate in competitions, all athletes will be required to provide their agreement to the new version four of the Athlete Eligibility Agreement.

We would like to remind you of the following:

- All athletes who wish to obtain a licence will need to submit a valid form of photo identification which is within its expiration date (e.g. passport, ID card, etc). Any athlete who does not submit an up to date (i.e. current, non-expired), valid form of ID will not be relicensed.
- The relevant World Para Sport will only confirm the athlete's registration status and open the athlete's licensing opportunity once all athlete registration data fields and documentation have been fully and properly completed by the NPC, and the sport has reviewed and approved all data and documentation (including without limitation any medical diagnostic information and other documentation that may be requested by the sport prior to scheduling the athlete for classification).
- Please see the applicable Rules and Regulations of the individual World Para Sports together with the Licensing Regulations of those sports for the detailed licensing and eligibility requirements of those sports.
- In order to facilitate the process of registering each athlete's acknowledgement to the Agreement, the **SDMS Athlete Portal** (the "**Portal**") has been launched.
- Athlete Identification Cards and seasonal Licence Cards can be printed out for the new summer season 2027. SDMS offers a section under 'Licence Management' to select licensed athletes and download their cards as PDF files for printing and distribution.
- An athlete needs to be licensed in order to proceed to classification.
- An athlete also needs to be licensed prior to a competition for their results to be recognised for rankings and records purposes (see the Rules and Regulations and Licensing Regulations of the individual World Para Sports for details).

- In accordance with the reminder letters send out by the World Para Sports in June 2024, NPCs are reminded that each athlete should only have **one** SDMS profile throughout their career.
- It is the responsibility of each NPC/NF to check whether an athlete has ever previously been registered and/or licensed, put forward for classification and/or competed in any World Para Sport (and therefore already has an SDMS profile). If so, the NPC **must** use the athlete's existing SDMS profile for all purposes relating to licensing/classification and/or competitions. This includes circumstances in which the athlete's SDMS profile has been changed to "retired" or "historic" status.
- NPCs/NFs should contact the relevant sport where they require an athlete's "historic" profile to be re-activated.
- NPCs/NFs must **not** create a new SDMS profile for athletes who have previously been registered and/or licensed, put forward for classification and/or competed for that NPC/NF (including in circumstances where the athlete's name or other details may have changed).

3 ATHLETE REGISTRATION PROCESS

A specific licensing guide is available online here. In the following instructions guides are also considered as athletes.

3.1 ATHLETE REGISTRATION PHASE

The following steps are to be followed in the athlete registration process:

1. **NPCs access** the SDMS online with the same NPC Username and Password previously assigned. For NPCs that have not activated their account previously or are changing any of the users' data, please complete the NPC Account Request Form which can be found on the SDMS login page, underneath the login panel.
2. **NPCs with active athletes registered or licensed for the 2026 season and who have already provided their agreement to the new IPC Athlete Eligibility Agreement (version four)** will find all required athlete registration data fields and documentation available for review and ready to action, unless new documents have been uploaded that require review by the responsible World Para Sport. NPCs are kindly requested to replace expired athlete passports with a new version as continued proof of nationality.
3. **For NPCs adding new athletes** and those without any athletes registered or licensed for any previous season, please complete the mandatory athlete

registration data fields, and upload the following documentation for each athlete:

a. agreement to the IPC Athlete Eligibility Agreement (**version four**). The strongly recommended option is for the athlete to provide their agreement electronically in the SDMS Athlete Portal. Alternatively, the paper form can be signed and uploaded as per previous practice;

b. a recent passport size photo;

c. a copy of the athlete's passport or ID card. NPCs are reminded that the terms of the IPC Nationality Regulations apply to athletes in the World Para Sports (as referenced in the rules and regulations of the World Para Sports). Athletes who have already represented another NPC must comply with the process set out in the IPC Nationality Regulations (and referred to in the reminder letter sent by the World Para Sports to NPCs in June 2024) for a change of nationality **before they are permitted to compete** for their new NPC;

d. all fully complete and accurate classification-related forms and documentation, including without limitation any medical diagnostic information requested by the sport, as outlined in section 2 of this letter, uploaded to the Classification section of their SDMS profile.

Once all athlete registration data fields and documentation have been completed, eligibility conditions have been fulfilled, and the IPC has reviewed the data and documentation, the IPC will confirm the registration status and open the athlete's licensing opportunity.

In 2021, the IPC introduced the module on SDMS for submission of an Athlete's **Medical Review Request**. It is mandatory for NPCs to submit any Medical Review Request via SDMS. For more information and instructions please refer to the Guide available here.

3.2 ATHLETE LICENSING PHASE

The following steps are to be followed in the athlete licensing process:

1. NPCs download and pay the invoice for an unlimited licence package as outlined above. Invoice recipient addresses might be subject to validation to ensure the accuracy and quality of addresses. Validation is required to ensure further processing of invoices in line with current accounting standards.
2. Once the package payment is confirmed NPCs select individual athletes for licensing.

The Athlete Licence is valid until 31 December 2027. It is important to refer to the Rules and Regulations of the World Para Sports together with any separate

Licensing Regulations in order to understand the differences in an athlete's participation, results recognition for rankings and records and international classification between athletes not registered, registered or licensed.

In preparation for the 2027 athlete registration and licensing process, please find attached the user guide for the SDMS Athlete Portal and the IPC Athlete Eligibility Agreement (version four) for new athletes.

4 DATA PROTECTION OFFICER (DPO)

As a reminder, the details of the World Para Sports' data protection officer (**DPO**) are as follows:

Boris Reibach
Scheja und Partner Rechtsanwälte mbB
Adenauerallee 136
53113 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49 (0)228 2272260
Contact form: https://scheja-partners.de/kontakt/

Please ensure you inform all your athletes of the DPO's details. The rights of World Para Sport athletes in relation to their personal data are set out in the Athlete Eligibility Agreement. Athletes should contact the relevant sport or the DPO if they have any questions about each World Para Sport's use of their personal data.

5 INVESTIGATIONS AND POTENTIAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION

As set out in the reminder letter sent by the World Para Sports to NPCs in June 2024, the World Para Sports and/or the IPC may investigate any misuse of the above licensing process and consider if potential disciplinary action is warranted.

This includes a situation where an athlete has been put forward for licensing under multiple SDMS profiles (including under a different name/identification document/personal details). This may also include investigation of an athlete who has been put forward for classification under multiple SDMS profiles/names for the offence of intentional misrepresentation. The athlete's support personnel and representatives of their NPC and/or NF may also be investigated for potential complicity in intentional misrepresentation.

In addition, the World Para Sports and/or the IPC may investigate any failure by an NPC to follow the procedures set out in the Nationality Regulations (for example by failing to declare that an athlete has previously represented another NPC) as a potential attempt to circumvent those Regulations and consider any appropriate disciplinary action.

We hope that the above fully explains all processes and changes. If you have any problems in understanding the above, please contact the IPC.

Yours sincerely,

Christian Holtz

Managing Director of World Para Sports

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Massimo Dighe	Director of World Para Sports and interim Head of World Para Powerlifting
Paul Fitzgerald	Head of World Para Athletics
Craig Nicholson	Head of World Para Swimming
Tyler Anderson	World Shooting Para Sport Senior Manager
Alexander Picolin	Head of Sports Information Technology