

## **Procedure for Applying for Exception due to Anatomical Limitation**

### **IPC Athletics Rules and Regulation - Rule 36**

07/03/2014

IPC Athletics shall maintain on its website a list of athletes who have been granted the exception of adherence to Rule 36 – IPC Athletics Rules and Regulations due to specific anatomical limitation and the requirements of Rule 36 that will not apply to the athlete. For example, an athlete with a single through-hip amputation cannot adhere to "... *sit so that both legs in contact with the seat surface from the back of the knee to the back of the buttock ...*" as required by rule 36.1(a). They will be granted an exemption however they will still be required to sit so that their intact leg remains in contact, as described in the rules.

Obtaining an exemption requires the athlete to submit an application to IPC Athletics through his/her NPC/NF and undergo an in-competition observation. The application must reach IPC Athletics no less than sixty (60) days prior to the competition in which the athlete intends to compete and undergo in-competition observation. The application form can be found on the IPC Athletics website via <http://www.paralympic.org/athletics/rules-and-regulations/rules>

Along with the application form, the following supporting documentation must be submitted to IPC Athletics:

- Medical documentation proving the anatomical limitation which prevents the athlete from complying with Rule 36;
- Elaborating in detail to which clause the rule(s), the athlete is seeking exception and to what extent;
- Picture(s) of throwing frame and its specifications;
- Videos of athlete throwing (in different perspectives)

Once an application has been received in full, IPC Athletics shall form a review panel consisting of those individuals with expertise in the fields of classification and technical officiating. The panel shall review the application, if required, may request further supporting materials/documentation in order for them to come to a decision. IPC Athletics shall inform the athlete through his/her NPC/NF of a preliminary decision of the review panel within twenty-eight (28) days.

The applicant may be requested to be present for a further assessment by an international classification panel prior to the competition. The final approval of the exception shall be made at the competition jointly by the Chief Classifier and the Technical Delegate following the in-competition observation.

*Note: Until an exception has been granted to the applying athlete following the in-competition observation referred to above, Rule 36 shall be strictly applied in respect of the applicant.*

During the course of the in-competition observation, the Technical Delegate and the Chief Classifier shall either confirm or reject the findings of the review panel and that decision shall be

final and non-appealable. If the TD and the Chief Classifier fail to agree the athlete will be permitted to compete at the competition at which the observation took place and the party that does not agree that the exception should be granted will provide a full written report of his or her reasons to IPC Athletics within 20 days of the date of the observation.

Athletes who have been granted an exception to Rule 36 following the initial assessment by the review panel and confirmed by both the TD and Chief Classifier at an event shall be permitted to compete according to the agreed exception until rules change in a material way. An athlete that did not satisfy both the TD and the Chief Classifier at an event will normally be scheduled to be observed again in-competition at a future event.

The aforementioned list of athlete granted with exceptions shall also be made available to the appointed Technical Delegate and/or technical officials at all competitions where those athletes are competing, so that those exceptions are taken into account.

An exception given under this provision may be revoked by the IPC Athletics Sport Technical Committee (STC) and/or IPC Athletics Management Team at any time if both the TD and Chief Classifier for an event file a written report indicating that they both disagree with the granting of the exception. The STC and/or the Management Team are not bound to follow the recommendation of such report, and it will generally ask the athlete affected by the report to submit his or her own statement in support of their exception before reaching a decision.