Bonn, 3 February, 2015

IPC Classification Code Review Process – Update #3

Dear President and Secretary General,

It is our pleasure to provide you with the second draft of the 2017 IPC Classification Code and International Standards with an invitation for a third and final Membership consultation round.

During the second consultation round in 2014 (1 July to 30 October 2014), approximately 1700 amendments to the first draft of the 2017 Code and International Standards were received from over 50 Members, other organizations and individuals. Also considered were recommendations from the IPC Classification Committee and IPC Management Team based on the first consultation round as well as outcomes from reaching out to stakeholders including the IPC Sports Council, the International Federation Heads of Classification meeting and the inaugural National Classification experts meeting in August 2014, and from the first ever IPC Membership Gathering in Berlin in October 2014. We recognize the diversity and extent of feedback and very much appreciate your engagement, which was significant for the IPC Classification Committee to draft Version 2 of the 2017 Code and International Standards.

This communication provides an overview of the subsequent changes in Version 2 of the 2017 Code and International Standards (see next pages). It is the start of the third and final Code consultation round, with feedback due 10 April 2015 at the latest. This will allow for the IPC Classification Committee to consider all final input and submit a final version of the Code and International Standards for the IPC Governing Board meeting in June. Contingent on their approval, the 2017 Code will be presented by the IPC Governing Board as a motion for approval to the IPC General Assembly in November 2015.

As a reminder, these are the timelines we are working from to finalise this project.
January 2015  | IPC Classification Committee meeting
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February 2015  | IPC Governing Board meeting
03 February 2015  | Release of the 2017 Code _v2 for Membership Consultation (final round)
10 April 2015  | Deadline 3rd Membership Consultation Round
April-May 2015  | IPC Classification Committee to consider all feedback and submit final version of the Code and International Standards to the IPC Governing Board
5-7 June 2015  | IPC Governing Board meeting to approve final version of 2017 Code as a motion for the IPC General Assembly
November 2015  | IPC General Assembly – Motion to approve 2017 Code

Over the next period the IPC and the IPC Classification Committee will continue to reach out to different stakeholders to present the final draft 2017 Code and International Standards. We welcome your feedback, by means of the enclosed review form, by 10 April 2015 the latest. All submissions should be sent to Greg Vice, IPC Classification Coordinator, at greg.vice@paralympic.org.

The IPC Classification Committee appreciates the support and contributions made to this work and looks forward to the next round of feedback. May we kindly ask you to pass this correspondence on to all relevant stakeholders within your Organization, and engage all in providing input to your feedback and comments.

Kind regards

Anne Hart
Chairperson Classification Committee
International Paralympic Committee
2017 IPC Classification Code and International Standards - From Version 1 to Version 2

The IPC Classification Committee wishes to thank all the many contributors for the feedback in the previous round, which was organized around these themes:

Theme 1. Long term objective – athlete centred and visionary
Theme 2. Definition, purpose and principles of Classification
Theme 3. Clarify when and where classification takes place
Theme 4. NPC roles and responsibilities
Theme 5. IPC role in classification
Theme 6. Data protection
Theme 7. Code administration

Taking into account the organizational role themes played in the first feedback round, and the support received on these main ‘drivers’, feedback from round two (June – October 2014) is summarized by document to highlight the major changes between the 2017 Code and International Standards, version 1 and the 2017 Code and International Standards, version 2.

**Most important changes to 2017 Classification Code Version 2**

1. The feedback was quite widespread regarding overlap and duplication between concepts and operational and technical requirements. Care was taken to ensure concepts presented in the International Standards were moved to the Code, with operational and technical requirements detailed in the International Standards and in some cases, through a Model of Best Practice.
2. The Code now has a subtitle ‘Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures for Athlete Classification’ to emphasize the athlete-centeredness of the document.
3. Special attention has been given to ensure a user-friendly language by eliminating expert terminology and avoiding long and complex sentences.
4. There was a consensus in the feedback on the overuse of comments and the importance of content in many of the comments that should be reflected in articles. Reduction of comments was made from the Code and Standards with valuable comments moved into specific articles, and explanatory information and examples
maintained in comments (on a related subject the IPC Classification Committee is initiating the work on ‘Models of Best Practice’ to provide template policies and procedures that might be useful under the provisions of the revised Code).

5. The concept of ‘intelligence gathering and assessment’ to support organizations to deal with an increasing number of submissions of different nature on (presumed) classification allegations has been introduced.

6. The implementation date of the 2017 Code is moved from 1 January 2017 to 1 January 2018, giving a broader timeframe from acceptance to implementation. This revised date gives (another) two-year timeframe to Sports and International Federations to achieve Code compliance by creating sport-specific classification systems.

Significant changes to International Standards

International Standard of Classification Personnel and Training

1. Based on overwhelming feedback to reintroduce this Standard, content was moved from Article 3 of the Code V1 back into this Standard. The title was changed from the International Standard of Classifier Training to better reflect the comprehensive content of this standard.

2. Revisions were done to provide better clarification on the content from the 2007 version of the Standard. Examples include the need to identify classifier profiles and competencies and the importance of independent and impartial decision-making.

International Standard on National Classification

1. Following the August 2014 meeting with national classification experts, this Standard was withdrawn. The principle was much appreciated but concerns were expressed that mandatory requirements for such a Standard such were premature.

2. The suggestion was made to begin with a Model of Best Practice for National Classification. The major concepts from this standard were moved to the Code and the IPC Classification Committee initiates work on a Model of Best Practice for National Classification.

3. The recommendation remains for reconsideration of such a Standard in the future.
International Standard for Athlete Evaluation

1. The process of Athlete Evaluation has been clarified, including definition of the parts and steps in Athlete Evaluation. This went hand-in-hand with the introduction of a new Standard on eligible impairments (see further).
2. The concepts of Remote Athlete Evaluation, introduced in the previous version, caused confusion. The concept has been redefined and better explained to provide clarity and to maintain the principle of increased athlete classification opportunities.
3. Observation has been defined to mean Observation in Competition and the principles and purpose refined.

International Standard of Eligible Impairments

1. Policies currently residing in the IPC Handbook (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 3.13: ‘Policy on Eligible Impairments in the Paralympic Movement’) have been captured in this new Standard. Upon approval, this new Standard makes the current policy redundant.
2. This Standard provides detail for what is and what is not an eligible impairment for participation in Para Sport, and how assessment can be dealt with. This includes the introduction of decision-making on Eligible Impairments by the IF prior to an athlete presenting for Athlete Evaluation in front of a Classification Panel.

International Standard for Protest and Appeals

1. The principle of an IF protest received wide support. There are no major changes in the Standard in this version, further clarification is provided to the content.

International Standard for Classification Data Protection

1. There are no major changes in the Standard in this version, further clarification is provided to the content.