



International
Paralympic
Committee

IPC Athlete Classification Code

Rules, Policies and Procedures for Athlete Classification

July 2015

International Paralympic Committee

Adenauerallee 212-214 Tel. +49 228 2097-200
53113 Bonn, Germany Fax +49 228 2097-209

www.paralympic.org
info@paralympic.org



This IPC Athlete Classification Code is the revised version of the IPC Classification Code first published in 2007. This version incorporates revisions that were approved by the IPC General Assembly in 2015. The revised 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code is effective as of 1 January 2017 with compliance required by 1 January 2018.



Introduction

The vision of the Paralympic Movement is “to enable Para-Athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world.” The unique systems of Classification used in Para-sports perform two critical functions to support the realisation of this vision: (1) define who is eligible to compete in Para-sport and consequently has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; and (2) group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious. It is important to note that the competitive structure provided by Classification systems is not only important for elite sport but also is essential for promoting grassroots participation in Para-sports by people with an Impairment.

Classification has matured enormously since the Movement first began. Initially Classification was based on medical evaluation, placing little emphasis on assessing the impact on sport. In the 1980s and 1990s many Athletes and Classifiers recognised this shortcoming and drove the development of functional Classification systems, focused more fully on sport performance. Over this period there were no unifying principles to guide the development of new Classification systems and the rate of development varied greatly across Para-sports. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Governing Board recognised that, in order to secure the future of the Paralympic Movement, Para-sports required a more harmonised approach to Classification. In 2003 the Governing Board approved the Classification strategy, which led to the publication of the 2007 IPC Classification Code and International Standards. This document is the foundation for the evolution to very sport-specific Classification systems.

This revised edition of the Code is consistent with the first; aiming to provide a clear statement of the purpose of Athlete Classification, as well as a framework of policies and procedures that will uphold confidence in Classification systems across the Paralympic Movement. This edition of the Code places particular emphasis on a clear and easy to use language so that Athletes fully understand why they participate in Classification and promotes their active participation in the Classification process. The Code upholds that Classification works best when Athletes and Classifiers work cooperatively to determine the most appropriate Sports Class. The Code also includes five International Standards which provide specific, operational guidance in key areas of Classification.

The rapid pace of development in technology, training methods and medical advances present significant opportunities for Classification. This second edition of the Code provides a framework, which aims to permit the Paralympic Movement – Athletes, Classifiers, administrators and scientists – to manage the challenges and seize the opportunities to allow the realisation of the vision of the Paralympic Movement for the future.



1 Scope and Application

IPC and the Paralympic Movement

- 1.1 The IPC is the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement. Its members are National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), International Sport Federations (IFs), International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs), and Regional Organisations. The IPC acts as the IF for a number of sports. IOSDs may act as the IF for a number of sports.

[Comment to 1.1: detailed information on the membership structure and the sports under IPC governance is available on the IPC website.]

The term National Body is used in the Code and International Standards to refer to the member nation of an International Sport Federation. The term National Paralympic Committee is used to identify the member nations of the IPC.]

- 1.2 The IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) applies to all members of the Paralympic Movement and to all Athletes competing in Para-sport at International Competitions under the jurisdiction of the International Sport Federations.
- 1.3 The Code also applies to the International Recognised Federations.

IPC Classification Committee

- 1.4 The IPC Classification Committee is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to the Code, and coordinates any Code review process as requested by the IPC Governing Board. The IPC Medical & Scientific Director is responsible for the administration of the provisions of the Code. The IPC Medical & Scientific Director may delegate specific responsibilities to such person or persons at his/her discretion.

The Athlete Classification Code

- 1.5 The Code is the fundamental document upon which Classification in the Paralympic Movement must be based. The purpose is to uphold confidence in Classification and promote participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para-sports. The Code is intended to be specific enough to achieve harmonisation on Classification where standardisation is required and general enough in other areas to permit flexibility regarding the implementation of its principles.



International Standards

1.6 The Code is supplemented by International Standards that provide the technical and operational requirements for Classification. The International Standards relate to:

- 1.6.1 Eligible Impairments
- 1.6.2 Athlete Evaluation
- 1.6.3 Protests and Appeals
- 1.6.4 Classifier Personnel and Training
- 1.6.5 Classification Data Protection

Compliance with the International Standards is mandatory.

Models of Best Practice

1.7 Models of Best Practice are examples of excellence related to Classification. All members of the Paralympic Movement are strongly encouraged to adopt all or parts of the Models of Best Practice.

Classification Rules

1.8 Each International Sport Federation must have and publish its own Classification Rules. Classification Rules are an integral part of the rules of the sport within which Classification takes place. All participants in the sport accept these rules as a condition of participation. The Rules must be complemented with regulations, policies and procedures that address their practical implementation in a particular sport.

1.9 Classification Rules shall include provisions related to:

- 1.9.1 Eligible Impairments and Minimum Impairment Criteria (in accordance with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments)
- 1.9.2 Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation (in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation)
- 1.9.3 Protests and Appeals (in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals)
- 1.9.4 Classifier Personnel and Training (in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training)
- 1.9.5 Data Protection (in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection)

2 Definition and Purpose of Classification in Para-sport



- 2.1 Athlete Classification in the Paralympic Movement (referred to in the Code as “Classification”) is a defining feature of Para-sport. It is defined as grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline.
- 2.2 The purpose of Classification is to define who competes in Para-sport and to ensure that the impact of Impairment in each event is minimised. To achieve this purpose, an IF must develop and implement a Classification system that complies with the Code and the International Standards. Specifically, a Classification system must:
 - 2.2.1 Clearly state that an Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment in order to compete in the sport. Such Impairments must come from the list of Eligible Impairments presented in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.
 - 2.2.2 Set processes and procedures for assessing whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment. These processes and procedures must conform with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.
 - 2.2.3 Set Minimum Impairment Criteria for each Eligible Impairment. Minimum Impairment Criteria must be written in a way that can be objectively assessed and comply with the International Standard for Eligible Impairment and for Athlete Evaluation.
 - 2.2.4 Require that Athletes be allocated a Sport Class based on the extent to which Athletes are able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the Para-sport or discipline. The means by which Sport Classes are allocated must comply with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

3 Classification Personnel

- 3.1 An International Sport Federation must appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for the International Sport Federation, in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.
- 3.2 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) a clear set of professional conduct standards which all Classification Personnel must comply with. These standards are referred to as a, ‘Classifier Code of Conduct,’ in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.



- 3.3 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) procedures for reporting and investigating complaints of non-compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct that must include procedures for taking disciplinary measures against Classification Personnel in respect of any violation of the Classifier Code of Conduct.

4 Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Allocation

- 4.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with an International Sport Federation's Classification Rules. It must be done in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.2 Each International Sport Federation must ensure that a process is in place whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments and the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation. This process shall be contained in the Classification Rules of each International Sport Federation.
- 4.3 The International Sport Federation's Classification Rules must detail the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class.
- 4.4 A Sport Class is a category defined by each International Sports Federation in the Classification Rules of the sport, in which Athletes are categorised in reference to the ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport in a non-competitive environment.
- 4.5 A Sport Class and Sport Class Status must be allocated to each Athlete in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Eligible Impairments following Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.6 Following the allocation of a Sport Class, the Athlete must be designated a Sport Class Status. A Sport Class Status indicates evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities. A Sport Class Status must be designated in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

5 Protests and Appeals

Protests

- 5.1 A Protest is the procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved. Protests must be conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals. Each International Sport Federation must include a Protest process in its Classification Rules in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.



Appeals

- 5.2 An Appeal is the process to resolve Classification procedural disputes. Appeals should be conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals. Each International Sport Federation must include an Appeal process in its Classification Rules in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

6 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 6.1 Each International Sport Federation must provide procedures on how to identify and manage allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation in the International Sport Federation's Classification Rules.
- 6.2 An Athlete must not intentionally misrepresent his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment to a Classification Panel. If an Athlete attempts to deceive the Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation, he or she is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 6.3 An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment by any other act or omission is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

[Comment to art. 6.3: This includes misrepresentation away from Athlete Evaluation, including misrepresentation after allocation of a Sport Class such as a failure to make a medical notification as to a change in circumstances that an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel knows does or may affect a Sport Class.]

- 6.4 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, who knowingly assists, covers up or disrupts the evaluation process with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel, or is in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 6.5 If an International Sport Federation commences disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect to Intentional Misrepresentation (and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation), the International Sport Federation may impose a provisional suspension from all Competitions.
- 6.5.1 An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is subject to a provisional suspension may not, during the period of provisional suspension, participate in any capacity in any Competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by the International Sport Federation;
- 6.5.2 An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who receives notice of a provisional suspension may apply to the International Sport Federation for any provisional suspension to be lifted on the basis that facts exist that make it clearly unfair, in all of the circumstances, for a provisional suspension to be imposed.



- 6.5.3 If an International Sport Federation imposes a provisional suspension it should ensure there can be an expedited hearing no later than 14 days after the date of imposition of the provisional suspension if the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel requests such a hearing.
- 6.6 The consequences that will be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation must be one or more of the following: (a) Disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred; and (b) Not Eligible for Athlete Evaluation or other participation in Competitions for a specified period of time ranging from 12 to 48 months.
- 6.7 The consequences that will be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion is up to a lifetime period of being Not Eligible from Athlete Evaluation or other participation in Competitions.
- 6.8 If an International Sport Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect to Intentional Misrepresentation which results in the imposition of a period of being Not Eligible, that period of being Not Eligible must be recognised, respected and enforced by all Signatories of the Code.
- 6.9 Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of the relevant International Sport Federation.

7 Intelligence Gathering and Investigations

- 7.1 Each International Sport Federation must have policies and procedures in place to ensure that Classification intelligence captured or received is handled securely and confidentially, taking into account the nature of the source and the circumstances in which the intelligence has been received, and that the sources of intelligence are protected.
- 7.2 All data must be dealt with in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.

8 Data Storage and Data Protection

- 8.1 Each International Sport Federation must ensure that processes and procedures are in place whereby Athlete data is stored and protected. These processes and procedures must be in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.



9 Classification Master List

- 9.1 To assist in the process of Classification, International Sport Federations must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which should include at least the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 9.2 International Sport Federations must make available their Classification Master List to their respective National Federations (NFs) relevant National Paralympic Committees, and to the IPC.



10 Education and Research

Education and Awareness

- 10.1 International Sport Federations must implement Classification education and awareness programmes for Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and any other stakeholder (media, spectators). Such programme must describe and explain Classification Rules and clarify compliance with the Code. International Sport Federations must involve Athletes in the development and delivery of such education and awareness programmes.

Classification Research

- 10.2 International Sport Federations must develop sports-specific Classification Systems through multidisciplinary scientific research. Such research must be evidence-based and focus on the relationship between Impairment and key performance determinants. Athlete input must be solicited to assist in research and improvement in Classification systems.
- 10.3 Classification research must comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.

11 Changes to Classification Systems

- 11.1 International Sport Federations must provide appropriate notice to National Federations and National Paralympic Committees of anticipated changes to Classification systems and any other change(s) that might impact on Sport Class allocation. The aforementioned parties must be provided a rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation and any transition rules, as applicable. The same parties must be provided an opportunity to submit feedback and comments.
- 11.2 International Sport Federations must notify the IPC before Classification system changes and any other change(s) that might impact on Sport Class allocation with the rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation, transition rules, as applicable, and an overview of the process of consultation that is initiated as part of the system review process. The IPC must be provided an opportunity to submit feedback and comments.



12 Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

12.1 The roles and responsibilities of the IPC include:

- 12.1.1 To develop, maintain and monitor implementation of the Code, International Standards and Models of Best Practice.
- 12.1.2 To develop, maintain and implement example rules which conform to the Code.
- 12.1.3 To require, as a condition of membership, that all IPC members, including International Sport Federations, International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled, Regional Organisations, and National Paralympic Committees, are in compliance with the Code.
- 12.1.4 To monitor compliance with the Code of International Sport Federations and National Paralympic Committees.

12.2 The IPC will take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Code and International Standards by its Members, including by:

- 12.2.1 seeking to promote, conduct, commission, seek funding and coordinate Classification education and research;
- 12.2.2 adopting and implementing Classification Rules for the Paralympic Games which conform to the Code;
- 12.2.3 withholding some or all funding of IFs and NPCs in case of non-compliance;
- 12.2.4 suspending membership and rights to participate in the Paralympic Games of organisations that are not in compliance with the Code.

International Sport Federations (IFs)

12.3 The roles and responsibilities of International Sport Federations include:

- 12.3.1 To develop, implement and regularly review and publish Classification Rules, including eligibility criteria, in compliance with the Code.
- 12.3.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.
- 12.3.3 To initiate Classification education and research.
- 12.3.4 To recommend as a condition of membership that Classification Rules in National Bodies should be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Code.
- 12.3.5 Developing, implementing and maintaining a clear Classifier recruitment, training and development pathway.



National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)

- 12.4 The roles and responsibilities of the National Paralympic Committees include:
- 12.4.1 To ensure that national Classification Rules conform with the Code and make recommendations for compliance with the Code.
 - 12.4.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.
 - 12.4.3 To promote the development of a national Classification strategy.

Athlete and Support Personnel

- 12.5 The Roles and Responsibilities of Athletes include:
- 12.5.1 To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code.
 - 12.5.2 To participate in Athlete Evaluation when requested.
 - 12.5.3 To ensure that adequate information related to the Eligible Impairment and diagnostic evidence is made available where appropriate.
 - 12.5.4 To cooperate with any investigations concerning Classification Rule violations.
 - 12.5.5 To actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.
- 12.6 The Roles and Responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:
- 12.6.1 To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code.
 - 12.6.2 To use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication.
 - 12.6.3 To assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification systems.
 - 12.6.4 To cooperate with any investigations concerning Classification violations.

13 Implementation, Compliance and Modifications

Implementation of the Code and International Standards

- 13.1 This Code takes effect 1 January 2017 onwards and each International Sports Federation and International Recognised Federation of the Paralympic Movement must have Code compliant rules no later than 1 January 2018.



- 13.2 A list of all Members with Classification Rules in compliance with the Code will be made public by the IPC on 1 January 2018.

[Comment to art. 13.1-13.2: From the moment of adoption of the Code by the IPC General Assembly, each International Sport Federation and each International Recognised Federation of the Paralympic Movement can introduce revised Classification Rules that adopt this Code to take effect from 1 January 2017 onwards, after having presented these to the IPC for review.]

No later than 1 January 2018, each member must have Code compliant Classification Rules, which have been reviewed and approved by the IPC. The IPC will issue a statement of Code compliance to each International Sport Federation and International Recognised Federation upon receipt and review of the revised Classification Rules.]

- 13.3 National Bodies must align their national Classification rules with those of the International Sports/Recognised Federation once these are considered in compliance with the Code.
- 13.4 In implementing the Code, International Sports/Recognised Federation are strongly recommended to consider the Models of Best Practice developed by the IPC.

Monitoring Compliance with the Code

- 13.5 To facilitate monitoring, each IPC member must report on its compliance with the Code as requested by the IPC, and must explain reasons for any non-compliance.
- 13.6 Explanations for non-compliance with the Code may be considered, and, in extraordinary situations, a temporary extension may be granted.
- 13.7 The non-compliant member must submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for compliance subject to approval by the IPC Governing Board. Non-compliance with the Code results in sanctions that may include:
- 13.7.1 Disciplinary actions against the member.
 - 13.7.2 Exclusion from the Paralympic Games and any other IPC sanctioned events.
 - 13.7.3 Suspension of IPC membership.
- 13.8 The imposition of sanctions may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Modifications to the Code

- 13.9 The IPC Governing Board shall be responsible for overseeing the evolution and development of the Code. Athletes and Signatories shall be invited to participate in this process.
- 13.10 The Code and International Standards may be reviewed on a regular basis including following the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.
- 13.11 The IPC Classification Committee, upon request of the IPC Governing Board initiates proposed amendments to the Code. It must ensure a consultative process is in place to both receive and respond to recommendations and to facilitate review and feedback from Athletes, Signatories and other parties.



- 13.12 Amendments to the Code must, after appropriate consultation, be approved by the IPC General Assembly. Amendments to the International Standards, after appropriate consultation, must be approved by the IPC Governing Board.
- 13.13 The IPC must implement any amendment to the Code within one year of approval by the IPC General Assembly.

Withdrawal of Acceptance of the Code

- 13.14 Any Signatory may withdraw acceptance of the Code after providing the IPC six months written notice of their intent to withdraw.

14 Interpretation of the Code

- 14.1 The official text of the Code must be maintained by the IPC and must be published in English.
- 14.2 The Code must be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of the IPC.
- 14.3 The headings used for the various parts and articles of the Code are for convenience only and must not be deemed part of the substance of the Code or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 14.4 The Introduction, Glossary and International Standards are integral parts of the Code.
- 14.5 The comments annotating various provisions of the Code and International Standards must be used to interpret the Code.
- 14.6 The Code does not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the date the Code is accepted by an IPC member and implemented in its rules.

APPENDIX: GLOSSARY

Appeals: The means by which a complaint that an International Sport Federation has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by each International Sport Federation) or national level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

Athlete Evaluation: The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the Classification rules of an International Sport Federation in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.



Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

Chief Classifier: The Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specified Competition.

Classification: Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

Classification Master List: A list made available by an International Sport Federation that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class that permits them to participate in an International Competition.

Classification Panel: A group of Classifiers, appointed by the International Sport Federation, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules of the International Sport Federation.

Classification Personnel: Persons other than Classifiers acting with the authority of a Classification organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

Classification Rule: Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by an International Sport Federation in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

Classifier: A person authorised as an official by an IF to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

Classifier Code of Conduct: The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by the International Sport Federation.

Code: The Classification Code.

Competition: A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

Conflict of Interest: A pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the ability to make an objective decision or assessment.

Eligible Impairment: An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para-sport, as detailed in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.

Health Condition: A general term for pathology, disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury or trauma.

Impairment: A physical, visual or intellectual Impairment, which is not an Eligible Impairment for competing in Para-sport.



International Competitions: A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

International Sport Federations: A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para-sport by the IPC. The IPC and IOSD act as an IF for certain sports.

International Standards: A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

Major Competition Organiser: An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

Models of Best Practice: An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

National Body: Refers to the national member of an International Sport Federation.

National Paralympic Committees (NPC): The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC.

Paralympic Games: Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

Para-sports: All sport for Athletes with an Impairment whether they feature on the Paralympic programme or not. These terms are used for all other sports events outside of the Paralympic Games.

Protest Panel: A Classification Panel appointed to resolve a Protest.

Protests The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Signatories: Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

Sport Class: A category for Competition defined by an International Sport Federation by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

Sport Class Status: A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.