



## Chapter 2.1 - Rights and obligations of IPC members

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**International Paralympic Committee**

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## Preamble

The IPC membership is composed of independent registered organisations that have freely agreed to join the IPC with the aim to support the development of the Paralympic Movement, its vision and mission and to deliver its responsibilities as members. The assembly of the IPC members is the ultimate governing body of the IPC.

The IPC management team shall keep an accurate record of the status of each organisation in membership with IPC, and shall keep public an updated official list of current membership.

## The different categories of IPC members

Subject to compliance with the IPC Constitution, membership shall be open to the following categories:

- National Paralympic Committee (NPC): a national organisation recognised by the IPC as the sole representative of the Paralympic Movement in that country or territory to the IPC, and recognised as such by the respective national sports council or similar highest sports authority within a country. NPCs undertake the co-ordination within the respective country or territory and are responsible for relations and communications with the IPC.
- International Organisations for Sport for Disabled (IOSD): an independent organisation recognised by the IPC as the sole representative of a specific disability group to the IPC.
- International Federation (IF): an independent sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of the specific sport for athletes with impairment and being granted the status of Paralympic sport by the IPC Governing Board.
- Regional Organisation: an independent Regional Organisation recognised as the sole regional representative of IPC members within a specific region, as recognised by the IPC.

## Provisional membership

An applicant for IPC membership that has complied with all conditions for IPC membership may be granted by the IPC Governing Board the status of 'Provisional IPC Membership' until such time as the IPC General Assembly can formally approve the IPC membership. 'Provisional membership' cannot be held beyond the first General Assembly taking place following the date



of IPC granting provisional membership. Provisional members shall have all the privileges of membership, with exception of the following rights: i) the right to vote at the General Assembly, ii) the right to submit motions, iii) the right to submit nominations for election to the IPC Governing Board, and iv) the right to submit nominations for the IPC Athletes Council elections. Provisional members shall comply with all obligations imposed on members in the IPC Constitution and bylaws and elsewhere. If the provisional member breaches any of the obligations imposed on full members this will be taken into account and may form a reason for the Governing Board not bringing forward a recommendation to the General Assembly to approve the membership.

## 1 Rights

### 1.1 General rights

All IPC members shall have the right to:

- 1.1.1 Vote and be heard at any meeting of the members of the IPC, including the IPC General Assembly, subject to their delegates being duly mandated in writing and in accordance with the published procedures;
- 1.1.2 Nominate candidates for membership to the IPC Governing Board, and propose to the IPC Governing Board candidates for membership into the IPC standing committees and Sport Technical Committees, subject to compliance with the procedures published by the IPC;
- 1.1.3 Submit motions to the IPC General Assembly, in accordance with the relevant IPC standing order. The IPC Governing Board will provide the IPC General Assembly with its recommendations on such motions;
- 1.1.4 Participate in IPC activities such as congresses/conferences and any other scientific, educational or promotional activities organised by the IPC, subject to meeting the relevant eligibility conditions established by the IPC for each particular activity.



## 1.2 Specific rights for NPCs

Every NPC in membership with the IPC shall have the right to:

- 1.2.1 Enter their athletes in the Paralympic Games and all competitions sanctioned by the IPC, subject to compliance with the IPC rules and regulations and the decisions of the IPC;
- 1.2.2 Nominate one athlete for election onto the IPC Athletes' Council, subject to compliance with the nomination and election procedures as outlined in the IPC bylaws;

## 1.3 Specific rights for IOSDs

Every IOSD in membership with the IPC shall have the right to:

- 1.3.1 Be represented in the IPC Council of IOSDs as established by the IPC;
- 1.3.2 Conduct its own competitions, whilst respecting the specific calendar co-ordination policy established by the IPC;

## 1.4 Specific rights for IFs<sup>1</sup>

Every IF IPC member shall have the right to:

- 1.4.1 Be represented in the IPC Sports' Council as established by the IPC;

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<sup>1</sup> IPC and IOSDs are considered IF when governing their respective "Sports on the Paralympic Programme" and consequently the rights and obligations under article 1.4 and 2.4 apply. Equal provisions are made for the IPC when governing wheelchair dance sport excluding those provisions that apply to the Paralympic Games. The list of sports on the Paralympic Programme is attached as an appendix.



- 1.4.2 Conduct its own competitions; whilst respecting the specific calendar co-ordination policy established by the IPC;
- 1.4.3 Be eligible to receive an annual grant specifically for the ‘Sport on the Paralympic Programme’ in accordance with the regulations established by the IPC.
- 1.4.4 Propose the programme of the sport on the Paralympic programme including the sport/discipline, medal events, athletes’ quota, and competition format in accordance with the IPC’s rules, criteria and conditions for approval by the IPC;
- 1.4.5 Establish and enforce the criteria of eligibility and sport-specific qualification criteria of the Paralympic Games as approved by the IPC.
- 1.4.6 Nominate candidates to the IPC for the sport specific technical delegate appointment for the Paralympic Games
- 1.4.7 Contribute to the development of the sport specific technical requirements for the Paralympic Games established for each Games edition.
- 1.4.8 Use of certain Paralympic properties to designate its sports association with the Paralympic Movement and Paralympic Games in accordance with the IPC ‘IF usage of Paralympic Properties’ policy.

## 1.5 Specific rights for regional organisations

Every Regional Organisation in membership with IPC shall have the right to:

- 1.5.1 Be represented in the IPC Council of Regions established by the IPC;
- 1.5.2 Act as liaison with the IPC on behalf of its NPCs in the respective region, whilst recognising that such liaison cannot supersede the NPC’s rights to directly liaise with the IPC on all IPC matters;
- 1.5.3 Award, supervise and control the respective regional games in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the IPC for such competitions;
- 1.5.4 Develop other regional sport events in consultation with respective IFs, whilst respecting the specific calendar co-ordination policy established with the IPC;



- 1.5.5 Levy a capitation tax at regional games and Championships, subject to the amount being approved by the IPC;
- 1.5.6 Establish a regional membership fee; with the condition that non-payment shall not be a reason for withdrawing an NPC's speaking and voting rights at General Assemblies of the region on all topics related to IPC activities and/or preventing their athletes from participating in a regional games or any other regional sport event;
- 1.5.7 Create an 'associate member' category within the IPC regions for territories belonging to NPC members from other regions in accordance with the IPC regulations in this matter;
- 1.5.8 Be eligible to receive an annual grant in accordance with the regulations established by the IPC.

## 2 Obligations

### 2.1 General obligations

All IPC members shall have the obligation to:

- 2.1.1 Respect and abide by the IPC Constitution, the IPC bylaws, codes, rules, regulations and any other decisions taken by the IPC General Assembly and the IPC Governing Board; in particular to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code, the IPC Classification Code, and the IPC Medical Code;
- 2.1.2 Contribute to the development of the vision, mission, objects, purposes and goals outlined in the IPC Constitution;
- 2.1.3 Pay the annual membership fee approved by the IPC General Assembly within the timeframe established by the IPC. Under special circumstances the IPC Governing Board may consider a request for reduction or waiving of the annual membership fee. Any such formal request must be submitted in writing prior to the established deadline for payment. Until the Governing Board has taken a position on such formal request received, a delayed or non-payment cannot form a reason for suspension from membership. Members that have not met this obligation by the established deadline ('not in good standing') will not be entitled



to exercise the general rights described in article 1.1 above until such payment is made;

- 2.1.4 Submit for IPC approval its constitution in English to the IPC and inform the IPC of any subsequent changes to this constitution;
- 2.1.5 Inform the IPC of any changes to the composition of the respective IPC member Board/Executive Committee and the IPC members official contact details as soon as they occur;
- 2.1.6 Include the IPC Governing Board member elected by the IPC General Assembly in the board of the respective IPC Member that has submitted the nomination, in the form that this member considers most appropriate;
- 2.1.7 Inform the IPC on any matter coming to their attention which may hinder the effective development of the Paralympic Movement or which may adversely affect the IPC or the Paralympic Games;
- 2.1.8 Maintain regular and on-going communication with the IPC and, in particular, respond to their official requests in a timely manner;
- 2.1.9 Promote towards their respective individual members the principles outlined in the IPC Code of Ethics;
- 2.1.10 Submit a report on the usage of any financial contribution granted by the IPC and to comply with the terms and conditions agreed for the funding.

## 2.2 Specific obligations for NPCs

Every NPC IPC member shall have the obligation to:

- 2.2.1 Include the word 'Paralympic' in their constitutional name and title;
- 2.2.2 Include as members all national federations affiliated to the IFs governing 'Sports in the Paralympic Programme' or their representatives in the NPC General Assembly;
- 2.2.3 Act as the national governing body for sports governed by the IPC
- 2.2.4 Include representation of Paralympic athletes in the NPC decision-making bodies mentioned above in the form that the NPC considers most appropriate;



- 2.2.5 Comply with the membership structure of each IF when entering athletes in regional games and competitions under the patronage of the IPC;
- 2.2.6 Consider for selection into the National Paralympic team, without any form of discrimination, all athletes from the respective country/territory who, according to the respective IF, qualify for the Paralympic Games;
- 2.2.7 Observe and comply with the administrative and operational guidelines issued by the IPC regarding eligibility, qualification, entry and team management and preparation for the Paralympic Games and other IPC competitions;
- 2.2.8 Observe standards, where possible, similar to those of the IPC in relation to notice of meetings, nominations for office, voting, general democratic practice and the IPC Code of Ethics;
- 2.2.9 Create a Paralympic emblem in accordance with the conditions outlined in the IPC intellectual property bylaws, and subject to the approval of the IPC;
- 2.2.10 Respect the rights and obligations in relation to the IPC's intellectual property rights, including to:
  - 2.2.10.1 Be responsible to the IPC for the observance in its country or territory of the Paralympic properties and the appropriate usage as outlined in the IPC intellectual property rights bylaws. The NPC shall take steps to prohibit any use of any Paralympic properties, which would be contrary to such definition and usage;
  - 2.2.10.2 Ensure whenever and wherever possible, that the Paralympic emblem of an NPC must be susceptible to registration, i.e., of legal protection, by the NPC in its country. The NPC must carry out such registration within six months of such emblem's approval by the IPC and provide the IPC with proof of registration;
  - 2.2.10.3 Respect the regulations on the devolved use of the Paralympic properties as defined in the IPC intellectual property bylaws;
  - 2.2.10.4 Authorise the use of such devolved Paralympic properties in consultation with the IPC and in accordance with the IPC intellectual property rights bylaws;
  - 2.2.10.5 Accept the right of the IPC to initiate an International Marketing Programme (IMP) with other partners, agencies, subject to individual and/or collective consultations with IPC stakeholders and as outlined in the IPC intellectual property bylaws;





- 2.2.10.6 Support the International Marketing Programme (IMP) of the IPC and through the IPC, future Paralympic Games Organising Committee's (or if one and the same, Olympic Games Organising Committee's) marketing plans.
- 2.2.10.7 Ensure the continuous promotion of the Paralympic Movement through supporting IPC authorised broadcasters of the Paralympic Games using Paralympic properties to promote the broadcasts of the Paralympic Games as outlined in the IPC intellectual property bylaws.

### 2.3 Specific obligations for IOSDs

Every IOSD in membership with the IPC shall have the obligation to:

- 2.3.1 Co-ordinate its development activities with the IPC and co-operate with the IPC in providing the disability specific expertise required to develop the Paralympic Movement.

### 2.4 Specific obligations for IFs<sup>2</sup>

Every IF IPC member shall have the obligation to:

- 2.4.1 Accept that the IPC Governing Board has the sole authority to decide on the inclusion of a sport/discipline/event in the Paralympic Games;
- 2.4.2 Abide by all the IPC bylaws, codes, rules and regulations and all the IPC decisions in relation to the Paralympic Games;
- 2.4.3 Develop the technical requirements for the sport at the Paralympic Games, in conformity with the IPC Handbook and to submit these to the IPC for approval;

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<sup>2</sup> IPC and IOSDs are considered IF when governing their respective "Sports on the Paralympic Programme" and consequently the rights and obligations under article 1.4 and 2.4 apply. Equal provisions are made for the IPC when governing wheelchair dance sport excluding those provisions that apply to the Paralympic Games. The list of sports on the Paralympic Programme is attached as an appendix.



- 2.4.4 Assume the responsibility for the technical control and direction of the sport at the Paralympic Games, regional games and competitions under the patronage of the IPC;
- 2.4.5 Appoint the necessary IF games officials (judges, referees, classifiers, etc.) for the Paralympic Games from the host country and abroad within the limits established by the IPC upon its recommendation for the sport.
- 2.4.6 Establish the final results and rankings for the sport at the Paralympic Games;
- 2.4.7 Produce and maintain world and Paralympic records lists for the sport at the Paralympic Games;
- 2.4.8 Co-ordinate its development activities with the IPC and co-operate with the IPC in providing the sport specific expertise required to develop the sport for athletes with a disability from the initiation to the elite level;
- 2.4.9 Ensure competitors in the sport on the Paralympic programme comply with the IPC Manufacturing and Trademark Guidelines at the Paralympic Games;
- 2.4.10 Provide the IPC access to and use of all necessary sport data and information, including images, used for the technical preparation and general promotion of the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Movement.

## 2.5 Specific obligations for regional organisations

Every Regional Organisation in membership with the IPC shall have the obligation to:

- 2.5.1 Open the membership to the Regional Organisation to all NPCs in membership with IPC belonging to that region;
- 2.5.2 Observe standards, where possible, similar to those of the IPC in relation to notice of meetings, nominations for office, voting, general democratic practice and the IPC Code of Ethics;
- 2.5.3 Co-ordinate its development activities with the IPC and co-operate with the IPC to ensure the development of Paralympic sport within the respective region;



- 2.5.4 Create a Paralympic emblem in accordance with the conditions outlined in the intellectual property bylaws, and subject to the approval of the IPC prior to any usage;
- 2.5.5 Agree that the IPC and the Regional Organisations shall establish a special agreement on any usage of the Paralympic properties for advertising, commercial or profit-making purposes. Any such usage shall not contradict with the International Marketing Programme (IMP). The protection of the adopted IPC fundraising and sponsorship programme shall have priority as outlined in the IPC intellectual property bylaws.