



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## IPC Award Selection Policy

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**International Paralympic Committee**

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## 1 Policy statement

The IPC recognises and values the granting of awards as an important tool to give personal and public recognition to the achievements and contributions of Paralympic athletes, other members of the Paralympic Family, and individuals who have illustrated the Paralympic values through their actions, have achieved remarkable merit in the Paralympic sporting world or have rendered outstanding services to the Paralympic ideal.

Furthermore the worldwide media attention that award winners often obtain contributes in the delivery of the IPC vision statement to 'enable Para athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world'.

The IPC encourages its members to identify opportunities and nominate suitable candidates for IPC Awards and for any other relevant external award that increases the visibility of Paralympic sport.

The IPC reconfirms its commitment to the IPC Diversity Policy and to meeting the gender-equity targets also in connection to the nomination and selection process for the IPC Awards. The IPC calls on its members to give special consideration to nominating suitable candidates from any under-represented diversity group, and in particular to nominating female candidates.

The IPC is committed to ensure through this Policy that a clear, transparent and fair procedure is in place by which nominees and award winners are selected.



## 2 Application

This policy statement above and the principles mentioned in article 3 below shall apply for:

IPC Awards presented in following categories:

- Paralympic Order
- Certificates of Appreciation,
- Paralympic Honour
- IPC Sport Medal
- The Paralympic Awards: Sport, Media and Scientific
- The Paralympic Hall of Fame

External Awards for which the IPC is invited to submit nominees.

The attached chart on IPC Awards and external awards mentioned under article 8 provides an overview on the type of recognition, the reasons and conditions for the recognition, and the body responsible to select the IPC Award Winner or the nominees for external awards.

## 3 Principles

The following principles shall apply:

- 3.1 Full confidentiality shall be assured during the nomination and selection process. Award Selection Committee members and the IPC Membership Department shall not disclose any information outside of the respective committee on any of the candidates, nor on the nature of their decision.



- 3.2 All candidates shall be given fair and equal consideration based on their merits and achievements. Additional information and personal relationships shall not influence the decision of the Award Selection Committee.
- 3.3 In those cases where the nominations received would represent a firmly established direct conflict of interest for a member of the Award Selection Committee, he/she may be asked to refrain from voting and may be replaced by a substitute. No substitute shall be appointed where it is felt possible to make a decision with fewer members than the normal composition.

## 4 Awards

### 4.1 Paralympic Order

The Paralympic Order is presented to following two categories:

#### 4.1.1 Paralympic Order to members of the Paralympic Family:

The Paralympic Order is presented to individuals and/or organisations in the Paralympic Family who have had an outstanding and long-lasting contribution to the Paralympic Movement. The Paralympic Order shall normally be presented during a ceremony held at the IPC General Assembly.

- 4.1.1.1 Nominations may be submitted by IPC members and members of the IPC Governing Board, IPC Sports Technical Committees, IPC Committees and the IPC Athletes' Council, with a limit of one entry per nominator.
- 4.1.1.2 A Selection Committee shall evaluate the nominations received and make recommendations to the IPC Governing Board for approval.
- 4.1.1.3 The composition of the Selection Committee is at the discretion of the Governing Board; there is no pre-set composition.



#### 4.1.2 Paralympic Order to OCOG representatives:

The Paralympic Order is presented during Games time to OCOG representatives who have had an outstanding contribution to the success of the Games. The Paralympic Order shall normally be presented during a ceremony held at the Closing Ceremony or at another occasion during the Games.

- 4.1.2.1 On the recommendation of the IPC CEO, the IPC President shall make a proposal to the IPC Governing Board on the awarding of the Paralympic Order to certain OCOG representatives. The IPC Governing Board shall consider the proposal submitted for approval.

#### 4.2 Certificate of Appreciation

The Certificate of Appreciation has a nomination process that is linked to the Paralympic Order nomination process, and is equally presented to the same two categories. The Certificate of Appreciation may be sent by post.

##### 4.2.1 Certificate of Appreciation to members of the Paralympic Family

The Certificate of Appreciation is presented to people who have made remarkable contributions to the Paralympic Movement.

- 4.2.1.1 The same Award Selection Committee as established for the review of nominations for the Paralympic Order will further consider the nominations submitted for Paralympic Order and will decide which of the nominees who were not selected to receive a Paralympic Order are eligible to receive the Certificate of Appreciation.
- 4.2.1.2 It shall be at the sole discretion of the above mentioned Award Selection Committee established by the Governing Board to make a final decision on the awarding of the Certificate of Appreciation.



#### 4.2.2 Certificate of Appreciation to OCOG representatives

The Certificate of Appreciation is presented to OCOG representatives who have contributed significantly to the success of the Games. This prestigious award often is given to individuals and/or organisations who were finalists for the Paralympic Order.

- 4.2.2.1 The IPC CEO shall make a proposal to the IPC President on the awarding of the Certificate of Appreciation to certain OCOG representatives. The IPC President shall consider the proposal for approval.

#### 4.3 IPC Sport Medal

The IPC Sport Medal is awarded every two years to individuals who have served in a sport governed by the IPC and have made outstanding and long-lasting contribution to the development of this sport. The IPC Sport Medal normally is presented alongside the Media Awards and the Paralympic Order during an event organised to coincide with the General Assembly or during an IPC Sport Championships (for medals to that particular sport).

- 4.3.1 Only IPC members can nominate candidates for the IPC Sport Medal.
- 4.3.2 Once received, final nominations are then submitted by the IPC CEO, in consultation with the respective Sport Technical Committee, to the IPC Governing Board for approval.

#### 4.4 Paralympic Honour

The Paralympic Honour is awarded to high-ranking dignitaries and officials partnering with the Paralympic Movement (including a Head of State, Royalty, Minister of Sport, the President of a World Championships Organising Committee, Mayors and major sponsors) who have contributed significantly to the Movement or to some specific IPC event in one or another way. The Paralympic Honour shall normally be presented at a reception or protocol event.



- 4.4.1 Nominations may be submitted by IPC members and members of the IPC Governing Board.
- 4.4.2 The decision to award the Paralympic Honour is at the sole discretion of the IPC President.

#### 4.5 Paralympic Hall of Fame

The Paralympic Hall of Fame honours athletes, teams and coaches who have achieved a high and sustained level of success in Paralympic competition, as well as an exemplary contribution to the Paralympic Movement. The Paralympic Hall of Fame includes four categories, i.e., male athlete, female athlete, team and coach (note. athletes from team sports also may be considered for individual awards). The Induction Ceremony shall take place in the conjunction with the Paralympic Games. A separate policy outlining the criteria and selection process in more detail is attached as an appendix to this document.

- 4.5.1 Nominations may be submitted by IPC members and members of the IPC Governing Board, IPC Sports Technical Committees, IPC Committees and the IPC Athletes' Council, with a limit of one entry per category.
- 4.5.2 A Selection Committee appointed by the IPC President shall review the nominations and shall develop for each of the three categories a shortlist of five nominees for the Governing Board to vote on.

#### 4.6 Paralympic Awards

Paralympic Awards are presented in three different categories, i.e., Sport Award, Media Award, and Scientific Award. The Sports and Media Awards are normally presented during a ceremony in connection to the IPC General Assembly following the respective Paralympic Games (summer or winter). The Scientific Award ceremony is normally presented at the bi-annual VISTA conference.

- 4.6.1 Paralympic Sports Award



The Sports Award is presented to athletes who had an outstanding sporting performance at the previous edition of the Paralympic Games (summer or winter). The award has five categories

- Best Male Athlete: awarded to one male athlete for his accomplishments during the Paralympic Games the previous year.
- Best Female Athlete: awarded to one female athlete for her accomplishments during the Paralympic Games the previous year.
- Best Team Performance: awarded to one team for their accomplishments during the Paralympic Games the previous year.
- Best Paralympic Games Debut Male: awarded to one male athlete who competed in the Paralympic Games the previous year for the first time and has an outstanding performance.
- Best Paralympic Games Debut Female: awarded to one female athlete who competed in the Paralympic Games the previous year for the first time and has an outstanding performance.
- Exemplary Paralympic Games Official Award: awarded to one male or female Paralympic Games official for his/her performed leadership skills during the Paralympic Games the previous year.

4.6.1.1 Nominations may be submitted by IPC members and members of the IPC Governing Board, IPC Sports Technical Committees, IPC Committees and the IPC Athletes' Council, with a limit of one entry per category.

4.6.1.2 An Awards Voting Panel shall evaluate the nominations received and shall be composed of:

- IPC Governing Board (IPC President will act as Awards Voting Panel Chairperson)
- Two (2) members of the IPC Athletes' Council
- One (1) member of the IPC management team
- One (1) member of the awards sponsor

4.6.1.3 Once all the votes have been cast and counted, an Awards Selection Committee, appointed and chaired by the IPC CEO shall then meet to ratify the results. The Committee shall be composed of::





- IPC CEO (will act as Awards Selection Committee Chairperson)
- One (1) member of the IPC Governing Board
- One (1) member of the IPC Athletes' Council.

#### 4.6.2 Paralympic Media Awards

The Paralympic Media Award honours members of the international media for their exceptional coverage of the previous edition of the Paralympic Games (summer or winter). The Media Award is presented in four categories

- **Broadcast:** awarded to the TV or radio broadcaster that presented the highest quality and most dynamic coverage of the previous edition of the Paralympic Games, which can include the use of social media. This could be for the overall coverage of the games or the coverage of one specific athlete or team that competed at the Paralympic Games. Entries need to be sent in DVD or MP3/,wav digital file format, and should be a highlights package no longer than five (5) minutes.
- **Written (print and online):** awarded to journalists (individuals or organisations) that present the highest quality and most dynamic coverage of the previous edition of the Paralympic Games, which can include the use of social media. This could be for an editorial piece, overall coverage of the Games or the coverage of one specific athlete or team that competed at the Paralympic Games. Entries need to be sent as one electronic file (PDF) of the relevant article.
- **Photography:** awarded to a photographer that presents the highest quality and most dynamic photo from the previous edition of the Paralympic Games, which can include the use of social media. The photographer must have been an accredited photographer at the Paralympic Games and the photo must have been taken between the beginning of the Paralympic Torch relay and the Closing Ceremony. Entries need to be sent as a high-resolution (300dpi), electronic file.

4.6.2.1 Nominations may be submitted by IPC members and members of the IPC Governing Board, Sports Technical Committees, and Committees/Councils with a limit of one entry per category.



4.6.2.2 A Selection Committee shall evaluate the nominations received and shall have the authority to make the final decision.

4.6.2.3 The Selection Committee shall be appointed by the IPC CEO and shall be composed of:

- One (1) member of the IPC Governing Board (will act as Selection Committee Chairperson)
- One (1) expert in broadcast media
- One (1) expert in radio media
- One (1) expert in written media
- One (1) expert in photo media

#### 4.6.3 Scientific Awards:

The Scientific Award recognises the work of one academic researcher for his/her contribution to research in the field of sports for persons with an impairment. This award also serves to promote and encourage further study in this area. To be eligible for this award, candidates must have contributed through significant scientific publications related to the scientific study of sport for persons with an impairment in any discipline, have received national and/or international recognition for his/her work, and place an emphasis on the practical application of research with direct or indirect benefit to the Paralympic Movement.

4.6.3.1 Nominations may be submitted by IPC members and members of the IPC Governing Board, IPC Sports Technical Committees, IPC Committees and the IPC Athletes' Council, with the exception of the IPC Sports Science Committee. The IPC may seek for valuable candidates outside of the IPC membership nominations received, subject to respecting the provisions of article 3 of this policy. The IPC may call for nominations hereto from the wider academic/scientific community.

4.6.3.2 Whereas the IPC Sports Science Committee is not permitted to submit nominations, the individual members of the IPC Sports Science Committee can bring nominations forward.



- 4.6.3.3 Actual members of the IPC Governing Board and IPC Committees cannot be nominated during the period of their mandate.
- 4.6.3.4 A Selection Committee shall evaluate the nominations received and shall have the authority to make the final decision. The Selection Committee may decide not to award the Award if no candidate meets the criteria set forth under article 4.6.3.
- 4.6.3.5 The Selection Committee for the Scientific Award shall be appointed by the IPC CEO, who shall specifically pay attention to avoid a conflict of interest and which shall normally be composed of:
- One (1) member of the IPC Governing Board (will act as Selection Committee Chairperson)
  - One (1) member of each official IPC Research Partner
  - The chairperson of the IPC Sports Science Committee
  - One (1) member of the IPC management team, normally the IPC Medical and Scientific Director.

## 5 Award Selection Committees

Subject to a positive evaluation, members of an IPC Award Selection Committee shall normally serve for four (4) years corresponding to the term of office of the members of the IPC Governing Board. Members may be re-appointed to serve for a consecutive term; there should be no limitations to the number of terms a member can be re-appointed to an IPC Award Selection Committee.

## 6 Procedures for nominations and selection, and IPC Membership Department responsibilities

Where members of the IPC are invited to nominate recipients for the Paralympic Order (outside games time) and the Paralympic Awards (Sport, Media and Scientific) the following procedures shall apply:



- 6.1 The IPC Membership Department shall send an invitational letter and a nomination form to all members, with a request to submit nominations for the awards including timelines and criteria. In addition, for the IPC Scientific Award, the IPC will call for nominations hereto from the wider academic/scientific community (i.e., Official IPC Science Partners (ACSM, FIMS, ICSSPE), Research Centres and Universities and Professional Research Associations (e.g. IFAPA).
- 6.2 Submitters of nominations are required to thoroughly complete the form with the candidate's contact details and the relevant information specific to the award and once completed send the form (electronically) back to the IPC. Submitters are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided.
- 6.3 The IPC Membership Department shall collate all data and shall to the best of its abilities, check that the data is accurate.
- 6.4 The IPC Membership Department shall provide the full nominations and information package to each Award Selection Committee member.
- 6.5 The Award Selection Committee members shall thoroughly review all nominations and submit their recommendation within the timelines set by the IPC.
- 6.6 Subject to the scope of the Award, committee members may be asked to rank the candidates in order of preference to select the final nominees and winners.
- 6.7 In the case of a tie between two or more candidates, the final decision shall be made by the IPC President.
- 6.8 When the results are sent to the IPC, the Membership Department shall inform the relevant IPC departments for operational follow up and communicate the decision to the relevant parties.



- 6.9 All parties shall maintain full confidentiality until the public announcement of the awards winners.

## 7 External awards

In addition to the IPC Awards, the IPC also nominates and where relevant assists in the selection of a number of other External Awards such as:

- 7.1 Awards presented by external organisations for nominees proposed and submitted by the IPC. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Laureus World Sports Awards
  - SportAccord Spirit of Sport Awards
  - International Fair Play Committee (CIFP) Awards
- 7.2 Other external awards for which the IPC co-operates, e.g., in the form of having IPC representation in the selection jury or by promoting the opportunity towards its members. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
- IPC/ International Association for Sport and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) Distinction for Accessibility to sports and leisure
  - Dr Whang Youn Dai Achievement Award
- 7.3 The IPC Policy statement in article 1 and the general principles mentioned in article 3 above also apply for these external awards. The chart on External Awards as mentioned under article 6 and attached outlines the type of recognition, the reasons for recognition, conditions, and the body responsible to select these external award winners.



## 8 Appendix

Chart on IPC Awards

Chart on External Awards

Hall of Fame Policy