



International
Paralympic
Committee

IPC Taskforce: progress report, September 2017

This report to the IPC Governing Board is provided on behalf of the IPC Taskforce and summarises the progress that the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) has made to date in meeting the conditions for reinstatement established by the IPC (available at www.paralympic.org/russian-paralympic-committee-suspension).

A. Outstanding requirements

1. Since the last Taskforce report to the IPC Governing Board in May 2017, the RPC has made significant progress towards meeting the reinstatement criteria. The Taskforce continues to be encouraged by the steps taken by the RPC, and by the constructive dialogue between the Taskforce and the RPC Coordination Committee. The Taskforce is particularly pleased with the recent progress made in the areas of anti-doping education, including the involvement of Para athlete anti-doping ambassadors and production of athlete awareness videos; the launch of the RPC's reporting doping hotline; and various improvements and developments relating to testing. The Taskforce also wishes to acknowledge the RPC's sustained and ongoing efforts to effect a real change in culture within Russia regarding anti-doping matters.
2. Barring any unexpected developments, the Taskforce therefore anticipates that it will be in a position to recommend the reinstatement of the RPC to membership of the IPC on the completion of the following outstanding matters (as detailed in the agreed roadmap for the RPC's reinstatement):
 - (a) The finalisation of the RPC Anti-Doping Rules, to be approved by the Taskforce.
 - (b) The approval of the RPC's constitution by the IPC membership department.
 - (c) Completion of all budget-related aspects of the reinstatement criteria.
 - (d) The provision and confirmation of certain additional information by the RPC regarding personnel and governance (reinstatement criteria 10 and 14.2), as specified by the Taskforce.
 - (e) The provision of further information relating to the composition of the RPC board, to be defined by the Taskforce (reinstatement criterion 12).
 - (f) The full reinstatement of RUSADA by WADA.



- (g) The provision of an official response specifically and adequately addressing the findings made by Professor McLaren, including the findings of an institutionalised and wide-ranging doping conspiracy and cover-up, and the involvement in that scheme of (among others) officials from the Ministry of Sport, the Centre of Sports Preparation of National Teams of Russia, and the FSB.
3. The Taskforce anticipates that the outstanding requirements in 2(a) to (e), above, can be met within a reasonably short timescale. However, as mentioned in both the February and May 2017 reports, the Taskforce has significant concerns as to the lack of any material progress regarding the provision of an official response from the Russian authorities adequately addressing the findings made by Professor McLaren (which is also a requirement of the WADA roadmap for the reinstatement of RUSADA, itself a reinstatement criterion for the RPC). As has been repeatedly communicated by the Taskforce, Professor McLaren's findings must be specifically addressed, whether by acknowledging the findings and tackling the problems, or by properly rebutting the findings. This is a fundamental requirement, as unless and until the problems that led to the RPC's suspension are fully understood and addressed, they cannot be fixed for the future. The Taskforce notes that there has presently been no such acknowledgement or acceptance, nor any proper rebuttal.
4. The Taskforce wrote to the Russian Minister of Sport on 6 June 2017 to again express its concerns as to the lack of progress on this fundamental issue, and to request additional information. It chased that letter on 22 August 2017, and a response was received on the day of the Taskforce meeting on 29 August 2017. This response failed to provide the necessary requested information, including in respect of the investigation carried out by the Ministry of Sport into the McLaren reports (which the Taskforce has been advised is 'for official use only' and cannot therefore be shared).

B. Recommendation

5. Subject to the below, as the reinstatement criteria have yet to be met in full, the Taskforce is not presently in a position to recommend the reinstatement of the RPC and it therefore unanimously recommends that the RPC's suspension be maintained at this stage.
6. The Taskforce is, however, greatly encouraged by the RPC's progress, and is also conscious that the position of RUSADA (which will include WADA's own assessment of any response received from the Russian authorities relating to the findings made by Professor McLaren) is due to be considered at the WADA Foundation Board meeting in



November 2017. Accordingly, and in light of the significant progress made by the RPC and the testing programme now in place, the Taskforce recommends that the IPC consider putting in place an appropriate and limited interim measure with the sole intention of providing Russian Para athletes with the opportunity to compete in qualification events for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games (to preserve their ability to participate if the RPC is reinstated), strictly on the following basis:

- (a) The RPC will be permitted to enter its licensed and eligible athletes into qualification events for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games. However, such athletes (and any support personnel) will not represent their suspended National Paralympic Committee, but instead will compete in an individual capacity as neutral athletes/support personnel.
- (b) The regulations governing the precise conditions of participation of such neutral athletes and support personnel will be determined by the IPC. In particular, for each event, each athlete must meet the testing requirements set out in reinstatement criterion 22(b), e.g. he/she must have undergone at least two tests during the six months immediately preceding the event.
- (c) All provisions in the respective sport/competition rules and regulations that are applicable to athletes/support personnel will apply equally to neutral athletes/support personnel.
- (d) Under no circumstances will officials, members or other representatives of any Russian Ministry or the RPC Governing Board be permitted to attend such events in any capacity, including as support personnel (and no accreditation will be granted to any such persons).
- (e) This limited interim measure will have effect only up until a further review by the Taskforce following the WADA Foundation Board meeting in November 2017 (and following which the Taskforce may recommend to the IPC that such interim measure be withdrawn, maintained or revised, as it sees fit).

Andy Parkinson
IPC Taskforce Chair