Limited Interim Measure: Conditions of Participation

Russian Paralympic Committee neutral athletes/support personnel

8 September 2017
On 3 September 2017, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Governing Board resolved to adopt a 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 Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) is reinstated. The limited interim measure permits the RPC to enter its licensed and eligible athletes into such events for a limited time period. Such athletes (and any support personnel) will not, however, represent their suspended National Paralympic Committee (i.e., the RPC), but instead will compete in an individual capacity as neutral athletes/support personnel (RPC neutral athletes/support personnel).

This document sets out the supplemental regulations adopted by the IPC to govern the precise conditions of participation for such RPC neutral athletes and support personnel.

The conditions of participation, as outlined below, shall govern all RPC neutral athletes and support personnel (including, but not limited to, team officials). The IPC shall have the discretion to decide on any matters not provided for in these regulations, and the IPC’s decision on such matters shall be final and binding.

1 Participation of RPC neutral athletes and support personnel

1.1 Eligibility

1.1.1 Qualification events

For the term of the limited interim measure, the RPC may only enter licensed and eligible athletes into qualification events for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

1.1.2 Testing requirements

For each qualification event, each RPC neutral athlete must meet the precise testing requirements set out in reinstatement criterion 22(b) (which are available at https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161121134559873_2016_11_21+RPC+reinstatement+criteria.pdf). In particular, each athlete must have undergone at least two tests during the six months immediately preceding the relevant event.

1.2 Qualification event rules and regulations

All provisions in the respective sport/competition rules and regulations that are applicable to athletes/support personnel participating in the qualification event will apply equally to RPC neutral athletes/support personnel. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these regulations shall be construed so as to permit, excuse or justify non-compliance with any of those
requirements, including (without limitation) any obligations under the World Anti-Doping Code, the IPC Anti-Doping Code, the IPC Code of Ethics, and the respective World Para Sport athlete licence and participation agreement.

2 Protocol

2.1 RPC neutral athlete/support personnel uniform

2.1.1 Uniform inspection and approval
All RPC neutral athletes and support personnel shall participate in uniforms approved by the Technical Director/Race Director of the relevant event. In that respect, all RPC neutral athletes and support personnel must bring their uniform(s) to the Technical Director/Race Director of the event for inspection and approval prior to the beginning of the event, and must abide by any direction or ruling by the Technical Director/Race Director concerning the uniform to be worn.

2.1.2 Uniform selection
Subject to paragraph 2.1.3 below, all RPC neutral athletes and support personnel may participate in the event in any neutral uniform of their choice, provided it otherwise complies with the rules and regulations of the respective sport and event.

2.1.3 Prohibition of national colours, names, emblems and similar
All RPC neutral athletes and support personnel are prohibited at all times from wearing a uniform that includes any national colour(s), flag, name (in any language or format), emblem, symbol, insignia or the like of Russia, or otherwise bears any resemblance to the team uniform and/or flag of the RPC/Russia, during their participation in any qualification event.

2.2 RPC neutral athlete/support personnel appearance and apparel

2.2.1 Appearance and apparel
For RPC neutral athletes and support personnel, no national colour(s), flag, name (in any language or format), national emblem, symbol, insignia or the like of Russia shall appear on their body (including without limitation hair colouring, skin colouring, jewellery, hair shaving and nail varnishes) or apparel (including without limitation clothing, jewellery, hairbands, shoes, stickers, patches and bags) at any time while in the vicinity of any venue associated with the event, including but not limited to the competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities or hotel.

2.3 Equipment, mobility and medical devices
2.3.1 Equipment, mobility and medical devices

No national colour(s), flag, name (in any language or format), national emblem, symbol, insignia or the like of Russia shall appear on any sport equipment, mobility or medical devices (including without limitation bandages, tapes and stickers) at any time while in the vicinity of any venue associated with the event, including but not limited to the competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities or hotel.

2.4 Flags, anthem and statement(s)

2.4.1 Flags, banners, posters and signs

No flags, banners, posters, signs or the like bearing the national colour(s), name, flag, emblem, symbol, insignia or the like of Russia shall be taken into the vicinity of any venue associated with the event, including but not limited to the competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities or hotel.

2.4.2 Anthem

The national anthem of Russia shall not be played or sung at any time within the vicinity of any venue associated with the event, including but not limited to the competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities or hotel.

2.4.3 Statement(s)

No statement(s) shall be given, written, broadcast, posted or otherwise distributed in any format during the event by any RPC neutral athlete/support person on behalf of anyone other than themselves as individuals.

2.5 Ceremonies

2.5.1 Medal ceremonies

Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 above shall apply to participation in any medal ceremony. In addition, should an RPC neutral athlete place first in any event that uses anthems and/or flags during such ceremonies, the IPC anthem shall be played and the IPC flag used during the ceremony instead of the anthem and/or flag of Russia.

2.5.2 Opening ceremony

Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 above shall apply to participation in any opening ceremony. In addition and when relevant, RPC neutral athletes shall be represented at the opening ceremony by a placard bearing the name “Neutral Athletes” and, where nation flags are included, the IPC flag. The placard/flag shall be paraded into the opening ceremony venue in a way and time to be proposed by the local organising committee.
2.5.3 Closing ceremony

Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 above shall apply to participation in any closing ceremony. In addition and when relevant, RPC neutral athletes shall be represented at the closing ceremony by a placard bearing the name “Neutral Athletes” and, where nation flags are included, the IPC flag. The placard/flag shall be paraded into the closing ceremony venue in a way and time to be proposed by the local organising committee.

2.6 Team and technical meetings

2.6.1 Team and technical meetings

Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 above shall apply to participation in any team or technical meeting of the event.

3 Conduct

3.1 General

3.1.1 Behaviour

RPC neutral athletes and support personnel are expected at all times to demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour during their participation in any event, both on and off the field of play. In addition, they shall act at all times with the utmost good faith towards representatives of the IPC, the respective World Para Sport, the local organising committee, officials, other athletes, other athlete support personnel and each other.

4 Financial conditions

4.1 General

4.1.1 Participation costs

All financial obligations related to the participation of RPC neutral athletes and support personnel in a qualification event shall be borne by the RPC or athlete/support personnel, as determined by RPC regulations. No such costs will be borne by the IPC or the respective World Para Sport.
5 Sanctions

5.1 General

5.1.1 Breach of conditions of participation

If it is determined at any time that an RPC neutral athlete or support personnel has competed in a qualification event for the 2018 PyeongChang Paralympic Winter Games without having met the conditions set out in the limited interim measure and these regulations (or has otherwise breached such conditions), the IPC may disqualify the individual from the event with immediate effect, and may disqualify all results obtained by the individual in the event, with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, ranking points, prize money, or other rewards.

5.1.2 Other rules and regulations

Paragraph 5.1.1 is without prejudice to any consequences that might arise under any other applicable rules and regulations, including the IPC Code of Ethics.