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via Email

Bonn, 7 February 2017

Amendments to Competition Rules and Regulations 2016-2017

Dear President/Secretary General,

World Para Athletics would like to introduce a number of amendments to the *Competition Rules and Regulations 2016- 2017* published in January 2016.

These amendments (see appendix) are reflecting the feedback and recommendations received since the publication of the existing *Competition Rules and Regulations 2016-2017* and reviewed by Sport Technical Committee, Technical Advisory Group and management team. These amendments aim to provide further clarity to the application of the relevant rules and regulations, rectify errors and add omissions from the last publication. All these amendments will come into force with immediate effect **except** the amendment to Rule 6.16 which shall come into force from 1 March 2017.

World Para Athletics will also initiate a full competition rules and regulations review process in the coming weeks during which recommendations and proposals that of substantial impact to competition management, athletes' training and competition would be reviewed and considered. The detailed process and key timelines will be communicated with NPCs in due course.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haozhe Gao".

Haozhe Gao
World Para Athletics Senior Manager
International Paralympic Committee

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Appendix - Amendments to Competition Rules and Regulations 2016-2017

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| 20 | 5.1 b) | Amend | <p>Sports Class Status of Review (R) if a decision is taken by the IPC Athletics Classification Panel, and recorded on the athletes IPC Athletics Classification Card, that the review status is allocated due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The progressive nature of impairment, or; (ii) Impairment of fluctuating nature, or; (iii) A maturity review process. | <p>Sports Class Status of Review (R) with a Fixed Review Date which is after the date when the record was achieved. if a decision is taken by the IPC Athletics Classification Panel, and recorded on the athletes IPC Athletics Classification Card, that the review status is allocated due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The progressive nature of impairment, or; (ii) Impairment of fluctuating nature, or; (iii) A maturity review process. | <p>Athletes with a progressive or fluctuating impairment, or who are not yet physically mature are allocated with a Fixed Review Date which is recorded in the classification master list.</p> |
| 45 | Rule 5.3 | Renumber | <p>Failure to Participate</p> <p>3. At IPC Competitions (see Chapter 1.1) except as provided below, an athlete shall be excluded from participation in all further events (including other events in which he is simultaneously participating) in the competition, including relays, in cases where:</p> <p>a) A final confirmation was given that the athlete would start in an event but then failed to participate;</p> <p><i>Note: A fixed time for the final confirmation of participation shall be published in advance.</i></p> <p>b) An athlete qualified in a preliminary round of an event for further participation in that event but then failed to participate</p> | <p>Failure to Participate</p> <p>3. At IPC Competitions (see Chapter 1.1) except as provided below, an athlete shall be excluded from participation in all further events (including other events in which he is simultaneously participating) in the competition, including relays, in cases where:</p> <p>a) A final confirmation was given that the athlete would start in an event but then failed to participate;</p> <p><i>Note: A fixed time for the final confirmation of participation shall be published in advance.</i></p> <p>b) An athlete qualified in a preliminary round of an event for further participation in that event but then failed to participate</p> | <p>Logical delineation of rule. Aligns with IAAF competition rules.</p> <p>Renumber of the first 2 sentence of the last paragraph to sub-category c</p> |

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| | | | <p>further;</p> <p>An athlete and/or the accompanying guide-runner failed to compete honestly with bona fide effort. The relevant Referee will decide on this and the corresponding reference must be made in the official results. A medical certificate, provided by and based on an examination of the athlete by the Medical Delegate appointed under Rule 2.2 or if no Medical Delegate has been so appointed, by the Medical Officer of the Organising Committee, may be accepted as sufficient evidence that the athlete and/or the accompanying guide-runner became unable to compete due to illness or injury, even if he is able to compete in further events on a subsequent day of the competition. Other justifiable reasons (e.g., factors independent of the athlete's own actions, such as problems with the official transport system) may also be accepted by the Technical Delegate(s).</p> | <p>further;</p> <p>c) An athlete and/or the accompanying guide-runner failed to compete honestly with bona fide effort. The relevant Referee will decide on this and the corresponding reference must be made in the official results.</p> <p>A medical certificate, provided by and based on an examination of the athlete by the Medical Delegate appointed under Rule 2.2 or if no Medical Delegate has been so appointed, by the Medical Officer of the Organising Committee, may be accepted as sufficient evidence that the athlete and/or the accompanying guide-runner became unable to compete due to illness or injury, even if he is able to compete in further events on a subsequent day of the competition. Other justifiable reasons (e.g., factors independent of the athlete's own actions, such as problems with the official transport system) may also be accepted by the Technical Delegate(s).</p> | |
| 48 | Rule 6.16 | Amend and Add Note (ii) | <p>Eye mask</p> <p>16. Athletes in Sport Classes T/F11 must wear approved opaque glasses or an appropriate substitute during all track and/or field events. The opaque glasses or their substitute must be checked and approved by the responsible technical</p> | <p>Eye patches and mask</p> <p>16. Athletes in Sport Classes T/F11 must have their eyes/eye cavities completely covered by gauze patches or an equivalent material, and must wear approved opaque glasses or an appropriate substitute during all track</p> | <p>A similar practise as Goalball to further minimise the opportunity of cheating. Also creates more consistency with the rule and removes element of interpretation by judges.</p> <p>Extra clarification for road races</p> |

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| | | | <p>official and must in their opinion be effective in blocking out all light. The opaque glasses or their substitute may be inspected again at any time, including immediately before the start and/or after finish.</p> <p><i>Note: it is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that the opaque glasses or appropriate substitute meet this requirement.</i></p> | <p>and/or field events. These opaque glasses or their substitute must completely cover the eyes of the competitor and must be checked and approved by the responsible technical official and must in their opinion be effective in blocking out all light. These opaque glasses or their substitute may be inspected again at any time, including immediately before the start and/or after finish.</p> <p><i>Note(i): it is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that these eye patches and opaque glasses or appropriate substitute meet this requirement.</i></p> <p><i>Note (ii): it is not required for athletes to wear eye patches and masks during road races.</i></p> | <p>even though this has been the current practice in road events for years.</p> <p>Come into force from 1 March 2017</p> |
| 50 | 7.3 | Add as new | | e) Ambulant athletes who are competing from a standing position using a wheelchair to access the field of play | Incongruence and potential advantage of ambulant athlete using wheelchairs to access field of play |
| 53 | Rule 7.16 | Amend | For athletes in Sport Classes F11 and F12 an assistant may bring athletes to the throwing circle or Javelin runway. The assistant may assist the athlete by orientating them with the throwing circle or on the Javelin runway before each attempt. The assistant must leave the throwing circle or Javelin runway before | For athletes in Sport Classes F11 and F12 anone assistant may bring athletes to the throwing circle or Javelin runway. The assistant may assist the athlete by orientating them with the throwing circle or on the Javelin runway before each attempt. The assistant must leave the throwing circle or Javelin runway before | |

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| | | | <p>each attempt begins. Acoustic orientation is permitted before, during and after each attempt. Athletes may only be escorted from the throwing circle or Javelin runway after the officials have determined whether or not the attempt was a valid one.</p> <p><i>Note: If the official in charge of the event decides that an assistant who is providing acoustic orientation is in an unsafe location then the official has the right to require the assistant to move.</i></p> | <p>each attempt begins. Once the athlete is oriented, the assistant may also provide acoustic orientation Acoustic orientation is permitted before, during and after each attempt. Athletes may only be escorted from the throwing circle or Javelin runway after the officials have determined whether or not the attempt was a valid one.</p> <p><i>Note: If the official in charge of the event decides that an assistant who is providing acoustic orientation is in an unsafe location then the official has the right to require the assistant to move.</i></p> | |
| 53 | Rule 7.18 Note(i)&(ii) | Amend | <p><i>Note (i): Acoustic orientation is permitted before, during and after each attempt. Once an attempt has begun, only acoustic orientation is allowed by the assistant(s) until Athletes may only receive guidance other than acoustic orientation from the assistant(s) after the officials have determined whether or not the attempt was a valid one.</i></p> <p><i>Note (ii): During throwing events athletes in Sport Class F11 can be accompanied onto the field of play by one assistant.</i></p> | <p><i>Note (i): Acoustic orientation is permitted before, during and after each attempt. Once an attempt has begun, only acoustic orientation is allowed by the assistant(s) until Athletes may only receive guidance other than acoustic orientation from the assistant(s) after the officials have determined whether or not the attempt was a valid one.</i></p> <p><i>Note (ii): The assistant(s) may be positioned on or beside the Long Jump runway or behind the landing area. The assistant(s) may be in front of or behind the take-off area, but shall not stand in the take-off area (powdered area) or landing area.</i></p> <p><i>Note: (iii) The assistant(s) must not</i></p> | <p>The original wording of note (ii) was a repetition of Rule 7.16.</p> <p>Clearly defines the placement of the assistant for the VI Long Jump events.</p> <p>This covers the idea that the assistant cannot reach into the long jump pit to pull an athlete onto the deck since it is only at this point the official can call the attempt valid.</p> |

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| | | | | <i>stand in a position that hinders the view of officials nor run along-side or behind the athlete during an attempt.</i> | |
| 54 | Rule 7.20 | Amend | <p>For athletes in Sports Class T/F12, only one assistant is allowed to accompany the athlete onto the field of play to act as caller and/or escort in Jumping and Throwing Events.</p> <p><i>Note: The assistant must stand in a position that does not hinder the view of officials. The assistant must not run along-side or behind the athlete during a trial.</i></p> | <p>For athletes in Sports Class T/F12, only one assistant is allowed to accompany the athlete onto the field of play to act as caller and/or escort in Jumping and Throwing Events. The assistant shall observe Rule 7.18.</p> <p><i>Note: The assistant must stand in a position that does not hinder the view of officials. The assistant must not run along-side or behind the athlete during a trial.</i></p> | <p>Provide extra clarity.</p> <p>Assistant in throwing Events for Class F12 is covered under Rule 7.16.</p> |
| 50 | Rule 7.4b) | Correction | b) Medical examination / treatment and/or physiotherapy necessary to enable an athlete to participate or continue participation once on the competition area. Such medical examination / treatment and/or physiotherapy may be provided either on the competition area under Rule 7.1. | b) Medical examination / treatment and/or physiotherapy necessary to enable an athlete to participate or continue participation once on the competition area. Such medical examination / treatment and/or physiotherapy may be provided either on the competition area under Rule 7.1. | Aligns with IAAF competition rules. |

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| 52 | Rule 7.9.Note (iii) | Amend | <i>Note (iii): It is recommended that cones or some other visual markers are placed on both sides of the track at the point 10m from the finish so that guide-runners may visually identify the position at which they can release their athletes if so desired.</i> | Note (iii): It is recommended that e Cones or some other visual markers (minimum height 0.2m) shall be are placed on both sides of the track at the point 10m from the finish so that guide-runners may visually identify the position at which they can release their athletes if so desired. | At this point in a race some guide runners are extremely taxed and are unable to distinguish the track marking that denotes the beginning of the 4 x 400 exchange zone. Not having cones or visual markers mandated is akin to not having cones at the break line for 800m races where the start is run in lanes. |
| 52 | Rule 7.13.Note i&ii | Correction | <i>Note(i): Upon request, Technical Delegate may permit an assistant to accompany the athlete to the start to set the blocks under special circumstances. The assistant shall withdraw from the field of play prior to the start of the race.</i> <i>Note(ii): To ensure a safe transfer for athletes in Sport Class T12, Technical Delegate may also permit an assistant to accompany the athletes through the Call Room up to the field of play. The assistant shall withdraw from the field of play prior to the start of the race.</i> | <i>Note(i): Upon request, the Technical Delegate may permit an assistant to accompany the athlete to the start to set the blocks under special circumstances. The assistant shall withdraw from the field of play prior to the start of the race.</i> <i>Note(ii): To ensure a safe transfer for those athletes in Sport Class T12 who do not run with a guide-runner, Technical Delegate may also permit an assistant to may accompany the athletes through the Call Room up to the field of play. The assistant shall withdraw from the field of play prior to the start of the race.</i> | For safety reasons, athletes in T12 who do not run with a guide-runner may require assistance transferring from the Call Room to the Field of Play. |

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| 64 | Rule 17.7 Note (i) | Amend | <i>Note (i): Any motion by an athlete that does not include or result in the athlete's foot / feet losing contact with the foot plate(s) of the starting blocks, or the athlete's hand/hands losing contact with the ground, shall not be considered to be the commencement of the start. Such instances may, if applicable, be subject to a disciplinary warning or disqualification.</i> | <i>Note (i): Any motion by an athlete that does not include or result in the athlete's foot / feet losing contact with the foot plate(s) of the starting blocks (or where starting blocks are not used, the ground), or the athlete's hand/hands losing contact with the ground, shall not be considered to be the commencement of the start. Such instances may, if applicable, be subject to a disciplinary warning or disqualification.</i> | Due to involuntary muscle movement, it is not always possible for athletes in CP classes to remain motionless before the start. When starting blocks are not used, as long as such motion/movement does not result in foot (feet) or hand(s) losing contact with the ground, it shall not be deemed as a false start. |
| 68 | Rule 18.9 | Amend | 9. An athlete and/or the accompanying guide-runner who during the course of a race voluntarily leaves the track, the athlete will not be allowed to continue in the race and shall be recorded as not finishing the event. Should the athlete and/or his guide-runner attempt to re-enter or continue in the race the athlete shall be disqualified by the Referee. | An athlete and/or the accompanying guide-runner, who during the course of a race voluntarily leaves the track prior to the finish, the athlete will not be allowed to continue in the race and shall be recorded as not finishing the event. Should the athlete and/or his guide-runner attempt to re-enter or continue in the race the athlete shall be disqualified by the Referee. | Provide extra clarify in application. |
| 69 | Rule 19.1.Note | Correction | 1. The position of the finish of a race shall be denoted by a white line 50mm wide. <i>Note: In the case of events finishing outside the stadium, the finish line may be up to 0.30m in width and maybe of any colour contrasting distinctively with the surface of the finish area.</i> | 1. The position of the finish of a race shall be denoted by a white line 50mm wide. <i>Note: In the case of events finishing outside the stadium, the finish line may be up to 0.30m in width and may be of any colour contrasting distinctively with the surface of the finish area.</i> | |

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| 70 | Rule 19.4 | | 4. In races for athletes in Sports Class T11 and T12 competing with a guide-runner then the athlete must reach the nearer edge of finish line in front of the guide-runner or the athlete will be disqualified. | 4. In races for athletes in Sports Class T11 and T12 competing with a guide-runner then the athlete must reach the nearer edge of finish line in front of the guide-runner or the athlete will be disqualified. When photo finish is in use, the Chief Photo Finish Judge shall make this determination and apply any disqualification. In any other case, or where a Photo Finish image is not available, the Track Referee shall decide. | Provide clarity on responsibility of the Chief Photo Finish Judge. |
| 72 | Rule 20.16 | Correction | 16. In order to confirm that the camera is correctly aligned and to facilitate the reading of the Photo Finish image, the intersection of the lane lines and the finish line shall be coloured backed in a suitable design. Any such design must be solely confined to the intersection, for no more than 20mm beyond, and not extended before, the leading edge of the finish line. Similar black marks may also be placed on each side of the intersection of an appropriate lane and the finish line to further facilitate reading. | 16. In order to confirm that the camera is correctly aligned and to facilitate the reading of the Photo Finish image, the intersection of the lane lines and the finish line shall be coloured backed black in a suitable design. Any such design must be solely confined to the intersection, for no more than 20mm beyond, and not extended before, the leading edge of the finish line. Similar black marks may also be placed on each side of the intersection of an appropriate lane and the finish line to further facilitate reading. | |

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| 73 | Rule 20.22 | Amend | 22. In conjunction with his Assistants, the Chief Photo Finish Judge shall determine the placing of the athletes and, as a consequence, their official times. He shall ensure that these results are correctly entered in or transferred to the competition results system and conveyed to the Competition Secretary. | 22. In conjunction with his Assistants, the Chief Photo Finish Judge shall determine the placing of the athletes and, as a consequence, their official times. He shall ensure that these results are correctly entered in or transferred to the competition results system and conveyed to the Competition Secretary. He shall also make any necessary determination and disqualification under Rule 19.4 | |
| 82 | Rule 23.4 | Added note as new | | <i>Note: For wheelchair relays, the Local Organising Committee shall provide helmet socks to each team of a distinctive colour so as to be easily identified during the race.</i> | Even with different uniform colours, the sitting position of the athletes in their racing chairs doesn't help the track officials to identify which team is leading at the 200m point. With four distinctive colours for helmet socks, it will help track officials to easily identify leading athletes in the distance during the race for positioning of change-over orders in 4x400m. |
| 86 | Rule 23.19 | Amend | 19. In any relay race, when lanes are not being used, including when applicable, in 4x200m and 4x400m, waiting athletes/guide-runners can take an inner position on the track as incoming team members approach, provided they do not jostle or obstruct another athlete/guide-runner so as to impede his progress. In 4x200m and 4x400m, waiting | 19. In any ambulant relay race, when lanes are not being used, including when applicable, in 4x200m and 4x400m, waiting athletes/guide-runners can take an inner position on the track as incoming team members approach, provided they do not jostle or obstruct another athlete/guide-runner so as to impede his progress. In 4x200m and 4x400m, | |

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| | | | athletes/guide-runners shall maintain their order in accordance with Rule 23.17. If an athlete/guide-runner does not follow this Rule, his team shall be disqualified. | waiting athletes/guide-runners shall maintain their order in accordance with Rule 23.17. If an athlete/guide-runner does not follow this Rule, his team shall be disqualified. | |
| 86 | Rule23.20 | Add as new | | 20. In any wheelchair relay race, when lanes are not being used, including when applicable, in 4x200m and 4x400m, waiting athletes will be allocated two adjacent lanes, in their order in accordance with Rule 23.17. The waiting athletes may use either of these two lanes but must remain in these two lanes until after the takeover has been completed. In wheelchair relay races waiting athletes cannot take up an inner position or any other position than in the two allocated lanes. If an athlete does not follow this Rule, his team shall be disqualified. | |
| 127 | Rule 34.5 | Amend | c) Use of gloves except for athletes in Classes F51-53 that is not in contravention Rule 34.6(d) | c) Use of gloves except for athletes in Classes F31-33 and F51-53 that is not in contravention Rule 34.6(d) | Performance of athletes with moderate to severe spasticity in non-throwing arm, may be significantly impacted by increase in hypertonia in non-throwing arm with effort (associated reaction) resulting in increased flexion in arm and postural asymmetry. Giving a blanket approval to Sport Classes F31-33 for strapping |

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| | | | | | non-throwing hand shall ensure a levelled field within those classes. |
| 127 | Rule 34.6 | Amend | d) The use of gloves that is not in contravention of Rule 34.5(c); Athletes in Sport Classes F51-53 (i.e., quadriplegic athletes) use strapping or a glove on their non-throwing hand and anchor/attach that hand to the throwing frame or holding bar. | d) The use of gloves that is not in contravention of Rule 34.5(c); Athletes in Sport Classes F31-F33 and F51-53 (i.e., quadriplegic athletes) use strapping or a glove on their non-throwing hand and anchor/attach that hand to the throwing frame or holding bar. | Same as above |
| 150 | Rule 49.8 (i) | Add as New | | Guide-runners may collect refreshments for their guided athlete from the official stations provided they are passed to the athlete within the designated area from which refreshments can be received or collected. | |