



International
Paralympic
Committee

Membership criteria for applicant impairment organisations (IOSDs)

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International Paralympic Committee

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1 – Basic Governance Requirements – Documents

Applicant IOSDs will be required to provide to the IPC the following documents. The IPC Management Team will carry out a review of the documentation to ensure that this establishes the Applicant's eligibility according to the requirements set out below.

- IOSD Application form,
- List of the organisation's own members per country, identifying any that are not in good standing with the organisation
- List of board members with name and title
- Copy of the organisation's constitution including bylaws, codes and policies (English version)
- Organisation's official registration with confirmation of current good standing with registration authorities
- Signed Declaration form, formally accepting the IPC World Anti-Doping Code
- Signed Declaration form, formally accepting the IPC Classification Code
- Signed Declaration form, formally accepting the IPC Medical Code
- Letter from WADA stating that organisation's rules are in line with World Anti-Doping Code
- Financial statements or annual accounts for the three years prior to the date of application, approved by the Board and certified as accurate by an external party authorised to carry out auditing/certifying of accounts (if the accounts are not independently certified then the organisation should provide an explanation why).
- Agreements with the relevant International Federations of Paralympic sports on the inclusion of athletes represented by the Applicant (at least one must be provided).

The above documents must be in an acceptable form and following a review by the IPC Management Team the Applicant organisation may be required to provide further supporting documentation or information.

Advisory Statement

Membership of the IPC does not guarantee that a member's athletes will be able to compete at the Paralympic Games. Membership might be considered a 'first step' to Paralympic Games participation, however the events on the Paralympic Games programme are controlled by the respective International Federations for the various Paralympic sports, in conjunction with the IPC. Opportunities for new events are limited by the restrictions agreed with the IOC and the OCOGs on sports and disciplines on the Games programme and on the total numbers of accredited individuals.



2 – Outline of the information required under the IOSD Application Form.

2.1 – The information required through the completion of the IOSD Application Form must establish that the Applicant is eligible for membership by virtue of having a fully compatible Vision and Mission with that of the IPC.

2.2 – The Applicant will be required to provide information on its own background and history, together with recent organisational resolutions relating to this Application (such as Executive Committee/Board and GA resolutions supporting the Application).

2.3 – The Applicant’s general membership, and the athletes, must be fully supportive of the Application based on a proper understanding of the consequences of IPC Membership. A 2/3rds majority vote at the Applicant’s General Assembly in favour of becoming a member of the IPC will be considered “fully supportive”.

2.4 – The Applicant will need to demonstrate how IPC Membership will benefit their own organisation, members, athletes, partners and stakeholders and also how it will contribute to IPC’s Vision and Mission.

2.5 - The Applicant is required to provide a full explanation of why the relevant impairment profile should be added to the list of eligible impairments currently contained within the IPC Classification Code and the IPC Policy on Eligible Impairments. The Applicant will take note of the principles set out in the *‘Position Statement on Background and Scientific Rationale for Classification in Paralympic Sport’* (October 2009) (*‘Position Statement’*).

2.6 – The Applicant’s classification system must clearly establish eligibility criteria that are consistent with the basic eligibility principles set out in IPC’s Classification Code (having regard to the provisions of the Position Statement). In other words: evidence that the impairment leads to an irreversible and measurable limitation of the ability to participate on equal basis with able-bodied athletes must be provided.

2.7 – The IPC will need to understand the range of sports being practiced by the Applicant’s athletes, with an indication of the numbers per sport. Membership of the IPC cannot be granted until the Applicant has secured an agreement with at least one International Federation controlling a sport on the Paralympic Games programme, confirming that the International Federation is prepared to accept the transfer of governance of those athletes competing within that sport both at the national level and internationally. The International Federation should also confirm its commitment to develop specific sport opportunities for the Applicant’s impairment group within their sport.

2.8 – The main focus of the Applicant’s activities must be the promotion of sport for persons with the relevant impairment. The numbers of athletes regularly competing under the



jurisdiction of the Applicant must be provided together with an assessment of the proportion of those athletes that are likely to meet the IPC Classification Code eligibility requirements (having regard to the provisions of the Position Statement).

3 – IPC’s duty to take account of the best interests of the Paralympic Movement, the IPC Members and its key Stakeholders and Partners.

3.1 – The IPC is constituted as a private Voluntary Association under German law and the issue of Membership is exclusively a matter to be determined by the IPC Constitution and the will of the IPC Membership. No organisation has an automatic right to membership of the IPC.

3.2 – The IPC needs to be satisfied that the Application is in the best interests of the IPC and its members. The IPC will take account of its Vision and Mission, the IPC Constitution, the other fundamental governing instruments of the IPC (Classification Code, Code of Ethics, Anti-Doping Code, the various sport Rules and Regulations) and fundamental contractual commitments (such as IOC/IPC Games Cooperation Agreements).

3.3 – The IPC will need to be satisfied that no conflict exists between the activities of the Applicant and the activities of the IPC or any of IPC’s members.

3.4 - The information that is sought from the Applicant through the basic application documents set out at section 1 above will be evaluated according to the requirements of the Application Form and the provisions of section 2 of this Policy, taking account of the matters described in section 3 of this Policy.