

CHAPTER 1.1 - IPC CODE OF ETHICS

Preamble

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC), its Members, partners, officials, sportsmen and sportswomen affirm their commitment to the Paralympic ethos, which is rooted in the history of the Paralympics and the tradition of fair and honourable sports competition. Paralympic history and tradition are based on the principles of excellence in sport, opportunity to participate in fair competition, and enhancement of the dignity of athletes and sport. This necessitates acceptance of the fundamental values of honesty, human rights, fairness, justice, non-discrimination and personal integrity.

Consequently all Paralympic Games and activities will be conducted in a manner that respects the following rules and code. These ethical standards will be applied consistently across all stakeholders and members, and will be applicable to all IPC organized or sanctioned events, competitions and activities.

1. Dignity

- 1.1 Safeguarding the dignity of the individual and the sport is fundamental.
- 1.2 The athletes are the core constituents of the IPC. Their interests, priorities, and opportunity to participate in fair competition and excel in sport are the main objectives of the IPC.
- 1.3 There shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, philosophical or political opinion, marital status or sexual orientation. In particular, discrimination on the basis of impairment or disability is forbidden by the Paralympic ideals. Athletic classification, which promotes sport participation of athletes with disabilities, is not discrimination but empowerment.
- 1.4 There will be no toleration of a practice constituting any form of physical or mental injury to the participants. All forms of harassment against participants including physical, mental, professional, or sexual, are prohibited. Behaviours that are humiliating, intimidating, or insulting will not be tolerated.
- 1.5 It is recognized that athletes may have significant medical conditions that require treatment, but the use of any technique or medication whose sole purpose is sport performance enhancement while being detrimental or potentially detrimental to health will not be tolerated. Use of medications in this situation



will be evaluated based on whether the medication gives an unfair advantage, whether it is essential to the athlete's health in everyday life not just sport, and whether an alternative medication can be found. Everything possible should be done to contribute to the creation of a drug free sport environment for all Paralympic athletes in conjunction with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

- 1.6 Safety, well-being, and medical care of competitors regarding their physical and mental health and equilibrium will be maximized.
- 1.7 Members of the Paralympic Family will respect and protect individual privacy and personal information concerning participants, including oral, written, and electronic means.
- 1.8 Members of the Paralympic Family will avoid any behaviour action that would tarnish or give the impression of tarnishing the reputation of the Paralympic Movement.

2. Integrity

- 2.1 IPC bodies and their representatives will have no undisclosed direct or indirect interest in or any relationship with any outside organization or person that might affect, or be reasonably misunderstood by others to be affecting his/her objectivity, judgement, or conduct in carrying out the duties and responsibilities that he or she has in conjunction with the Paralympic activities. This also applies to spouses, family members, businesses, or organizations to which IPC bodies or representatives may belong.
- 2.2 Circumstances in which a conflict of interest could arise include material or their direct personal involvement with suppliers, vendors, contractors, sponsors, and candidate organizing committees for IPC events, competitions or activities.
- 2.3 Any action, which results in or creates the impression of the following, should be avoided:
 - 2.3.1 Utilizing association with the IPC for private gain or preferential treatment;
 - 2.3.2 Impeding the IPC's efficiency or economy of office;
 - 2.3.3 Loss of independence or impartiality;
 - 2.3.4 Adversely affecting public confidence in the integrity or the reputation of the IPC;



- 2.3.5 Endangering life, health, or safety.
- 2.4 If the situation where a potential conflict of interest or a conflict exists, it must be presented to the Ethics Committee of the IPC.
- 2.5 All persons shall be responsible for extending the loss, damage, misuse or theft of property, records, funds or other assets belonging to the IPC. All IPC assets must be used exclusively for conducting IPC activities.
- 2.6 There is a fiduciary responsibility of the officers and representatives of the IPC. There shall be no illegal or unethical payments including bribes, kickbacks, grafts, unauthorized commissions, unauthorized finder fees from the assets or resources of the IPC or otherwise.
- 2.7 No person shall use for his/her personal gain or disclosure outside the IPC any confidential or trademark information obtained through his/her association with the IPC. This includes spoken, written, and computer generated data relating to IPC business.
- 2.8 No person shall seek gifts or gratuities for him/herself, his/her family or friends from any outside organization or person having or seeking to have an involvement with the IPC. Only gifts of nominal value that shall be determined by the IPC Governing Board in accordance with prevailing local customs may be given or accepted by the IPC representatives in the spirit of respect or friendship. Any other gift must be immediately turned over to the appropriate IPC organization. This includes entertainment, non-business travel or other favours such as loans, services, or non-approved compensation.
- 2.9 Any person elected to a general leadership position, such as the IPC Governing Board or Sports' Council Management Committee in the IPC shall work for the benefit of the entire IPC and all its athletes and not just a particular constituent such as an NPC, IOSD, or sport.
- 2.10 The International Paralympic Committee and the Paralympic Family must not be involved with any firms, organizations or persons whose activity is inconsistent with the Paralympic constitution, ethos and code.
- 2.11 There must be an appropriate accounting and records and reports for all assets, liabilities, transactions, and dispositions of the assets of the IPC. Financial statements will be presented in accordance with International Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) or other applicable International Accounting



Standards (IAS) recognized by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

- 2.12 Other than the advancement of sport for persons with a disability and democracy, empowerment, and equality within the IPC, the Paralympics shall not be used to promote any political agenda.
- 2.13 IPC values and ethical standards will be applied to all IPC events, competitions and activities and they shall overrule any local or national practices, traditions, or customs.

3. Athletes

- 3.1 All athletes agree to participate in Paralympic events, competitions and activities in the true spirit of fair play for the glory of sport.
- 3.2 All athletes should respect the performance of their fellow competitors and not cause any illegal obstruction, damage or bodily harm to them.
- 3.3 All athletes shall respect their coaches and team officials and not follow any illegal advice that would violate the Paralympic ideals of fair play.
- 3.4 All athletes must respect the classification process and participate fully in it. They must respect the final decision of classifiers and officials and understand that failure to do so would jeopardize their ability to participate in IPC events and competitions. Athletes and team officials will only lodge a protest when there is genuine doubt about the classification of an athlete.
- 3.5 Athletes must not support or assist other athletes to gain illegal or unfair advantage and must report this to responsible officials.
- 3.6 Athlete autonomy will be respected as long as it does not violate fair competition and the Paralympic ethos.
- 3.7 The IPC, recognizing that the honour of winning competitions lies in sporting performance and excellence, will award only prizes of nominal value such as medals to athletes. Prizes including money prizes given by others, such as sponsors and organizing committees, are not promoted by the IPC, but are acceptable if given in accordance with the spirit of sportspersonship and fair competition.



4. Coaches and team officials

- 4.1 Coaches and team officials must comply with the Paralympic ideals in the spirit of fair play.
- 4.2 Coaches and team officials must never compromise true sportsmanship or the Paralympic code to obtain personal, team or national advantage.
- 4.3 Coaches and team officials must observe and follow all the classification and competition rules and regulations and must report any irregularity to the sport officials.
- 4.4 Coaches and team officials must respect the classification process and ensure that their athletes perform honestly and make protests only when there is genuine doubt about the classification of a competitor.

5. Classifiers

- 5.1 Classifiers must perform their duties courteously, competently, consistently, and objectively for all athletes regardless of team or national origin.
- 5.2 Classifiers must declare any potential conflicts of interest.
- 5.3 Classifiers must not abuse their positions or capacity to obtain advantage or benefits.
- 5.4 Classifiers must respect athletes and coaches and be sure that there is a courteous attitude during the classification process. They must maintain confidentiality of athlete information and respect the dignity of the athletes.

6. Sports technical officials

- 6.1 Sports technical officials must apply the respective rules consistently for all athletes and ensure fair play at all times.
- 6.2 Sports technical officials must make all decisions with absolute impartiality and objectivity.
- 6.3 Sports technical officials must declare any potential conflict of interest that would prevent them from being impartial.

7. Sports leaders and administrators

- 7.1 Sports leaders and administrators must make all decisions with absolute impartiality in the best interest of the athletes and the sport.
- 7.2 All elected sports leaders and administrators must respect the democratic election process and not offer any material benefits, directly or indirectly, to the voting constituencies to influence the result of an election.
- 7.3 No material benefits should be offered to any voting constituent member to influence the voting on any policies within the IPC.
- 7.4 All sports leaders and administrators must declare any potential conflict of interest and not act in association with any national or vested interest.
- 7.5 All sports leaders and administrators must not abuse their positions or capacity in obtaining advantages or benefits.
- 7.6 There must be no association with any agencies or persons that are inconsistent with the principles of the Paralympic Movement and its ideals.
- 7.7 The IPC sports leaders, administrators, and elected officers shall promote the IPC Code of Ethics by role modelling, peer monitoring, and active peer support.

8. Paralympic partners and supporters

- 8.1 All relationships and activities with partners, supporters, and sponsors must be done in the spirit of promoting the Paralympic athletes and IPC sports in the true spirit of fair play and in keeping with the Paralympic ideals.