

- **RPC suspension – exceptional eligibility measure adopted by the IPC Governing Board**

In light of the continued progress made by the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) and the testing programme now in place, the IPC Governing Board has resolved to adopt the following exceptional eligibility measure regarding the participation of Russian Para athletes in the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and qualification events. The exceptional eligibility measure will come into effect on 12 February 2018, and on coming into force will replace the limited interim measure previously adopted by the IPC Governing Board on 3 September 2017.

1. The RPC will be permitted, in this limited capacity, to enter its licensed and eligible athletes into the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games (and qualification competitions for that event). However, such athletes (and any support personnel) will not represent their suspended National Paralympic Committee (i.e., the RPC), but instead will participate in an individual capacity as neutral athletes/support personnel.
2. The conditions of participation, as outlined below, shall govern all 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 this exceptional eligibility measure, and the IPC's decision on such matters shall be final and binding.

## **A. Participation of neutral athletes and support personnel**

### **Eligibility**

3. For the term of the exceptional eligibility measure, the RPC may only enter licensed and eligible athletes into the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games (and qualification competitions for that event). The RPC must notify the IPC in advance, by such deadline(s) as specified by the IPC, of its proposed neutral athletes and support personnel, each of whom the RPC considers to meet the conditions of this exceptional eligibility measure.
4. For each event, each neutral athlete must meet the precise testing requirements set out in reinstatement criterion 22(b) (which are available at [www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161121134559873\\_2016\\_11\\_21+RPC+reinstatement+criteria.pdf](http://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 (which, for purposes of the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, will be deemed to be 3 March 2018). Each neutral athlete must also be in the IPC's International Registered Testing Pool, RUSADA's National Registered Testing Pool, or their International Federation's Registered Testing Pool, at the time of the relevant event. The RPC must also provide evidence to demonstrate that each neutral athlete and support personnel has participated in and successfully completed an RPC anti-doping education session (in the form previously approved by the IPC Taskforce).
5. Each neutral athlete and support personnel must not be directly implicated in any way (knowingly or unknowingly) by the RPC's failure to have put in place adequate systems to protect and promote clean athletes, fair play, and the integrity and authenticity of sport. In

that respect, the IPC will consider such factors as it deems relevant, which may include (without limitation):

- (a) Any intelligence, investigation(s), and/or results management or other information or evidence of any kind impacting upon or implicating the individual (whether to his/her knowledge or otherwise).
- (b) Whether any coach, doctor or other support person with whom the individual has worked has ever been implicated in the commission of any anti-doping rule violation(s).
- (c) Whether any samples previously provided by the individual are currently in storage and/or subject to re-testing or other analysis.

In the event that the IPC considers that an individual does not meet the criteria set out in this paragraph, the relevant individual will bear the burden of demonstrating, to the comfortable satisfaction of the IPC, that he/she is not so directly implicated in any way (knowingly or unknowingly) by the RPC's failure. The IPC's decision in this respect will be final and binding, and not subject to appeal.

- 6. In any event, under no circumstances will officials, members or other representatives of any Russian Ministry or the RPC Governing Board be permitted to attend the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games (or any qualification competitions for that event) in any capacity, including as support personnel. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes all RPC Governing Board members as from the date of the RPC's suspension, including any members who have since resigned or otherwise ceased to be a member of the RPC Governing Board. No accreditation or any other access device to accredited areas will be granted to any such persons, and such persons will not be permitted to access any accredited areas, including the athlete village and Paralympic family lounge.

### **Event rules and regulations**

- 7. All provisions in the respective sport/competition rules and regulations that are applicable to athletes/support personnel participating in the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games (and qualification competitions for that event) will apply equally to neutral athletes/support personnel. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this exceptional eligibility measure shall be construed so as to permit, excuse or justify non-compliance with any of those requirements, including (without limitation) any obligations under the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games - Qualification Guide, the Manufacturer Identification Guidelines – PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards, the IPC Anti-Doping Code, and the IPC Code of Ethics.
- 8. Under the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games - Qualification Guide (published May 2016), there is also a maximum number of slots per sport that will be available for neutral athletes, due to the agreed maximum athlete and medal event quotas and maximum quota allocation per NPC for each respective sport. These slots will be allocated by way of redistribution of unused qualification slots, in accordance with the PyeongChang

2018 Paralympic Winter Games - Qualification Guide. While bipartite slot assessment is yet to be finalised, the maximum number of slots currently available for neutral athletes (subject to medal event quotas) are as follows:

	Female slots	Male slots
Alpine skiing	10	7
Biathlon and cross-country	14	0
Snowboard	6	10
Wheelchair curling	5	

## B. Protocol

- For the avoidance of doubt, the Manufacturer Identification Guidelines – PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games will apply to all neutral athletes/support personnel participating in the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

### Neutral athlete/support personnel uniform

- All neutral athletes and support personnel shall participate in uniforms approved by the Technical Director/Race Director of the relevant event or, for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, the IPC Design Services Manager. In that respect, all uniforms for neutral athletes and support personnel must be submitted to the respective Technical Director/Race Director/IPC Design Services Manager for inspection and approval prior to the beginning of the event, and must abide by any direction or ruling by that Technical Director/Race Director/IPC Design Services Manager concerning the uniform to be worn.
- Subject to paragraph 12 below, for qualification competitions all 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.
- In any event, all 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 the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and qualification competitions for that event.

### Neutral athlete/support personnel appearance and apparel

- For 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 any official venue, any competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities, hotels, athlete village,

international broadcast centre, main press centre, any other accredited or ticketed facility or Games transport, and at the airport on arrival/departure from South Korea.

#### **Equipment, mobility and medical devices**

14. 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 any official venue, any competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities, hotels, athlete village, international broadcast centre, main press centre, any other accredited or ticketed facility or Games transport, and at the airport on arrival/departure from South Korea.

#### **Flags, anthem and statement(s)**

15. 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 any official venue, any competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities, hotels, athlete village, international broadcast centre, main press centre, any other accredited or ticketed facility or Games transport, and at the airport on arrival/departure from South Korea.
16. 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 any official venue, any competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds/facilities, hotels, athlete village, international broadcast centre, main press centre, any other accredited or ticketed facility or Games transport, and at the airport on arrival/departure from South Korea.
17. No statement(s) shall be given, written, broadcast, posted or otherwise distributed in any format during the event by any neutral athlete/support person on behalf of anyone other than themselves as individuals.

#### **Ceremonies**

18. Paragraphs 10 to 17 above shall apply to participation in any medal ceremony. In addition, should a neutral athlete place first, second or third in any event that uses anthems and/or flags during such ceremonies, the IPC anthem shall be played (if the athlete placed first) and the IPC flag used during the ceremony instead of the anthem and/or flag of Russia.
19. Paragraphs 10 to 17 above shall apply to participation in any opening ceremony. In addition and when relevant, neutral athletes shall be represented at the opening ceremony by a placard bearing the name "Neutral Paralympic Athlete" 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 determined by the IPC.
20. Paragraphs 10 to 17 above shall apply to participation in any closing ceremony. In addition and when relevant, neutral athletes shall be represented at the closing ceremony by a placard bearing the name "Neutral Paralympic Athlete" 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 determined by the IPC.

## **Team and technical meetings**

21. Paragraphs 10 to 17 above shall apply to participation in any team or technical meeting of the event.

## **C. Conduct**

22. 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 or International Federation, the local organising committee, officials, other athletes, other athlete support personnel and each other, and spectators.

## **D. Financial conditions**

23. All financial obligations related to the participation of neutral athletes and support personnel in the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and qualification competitions for that event, including any IPC costs directly related to the implementation of this measure, shall be borne by the RPC or athlete/support personnel, as determined by RPC regulations. No such costs will be borne by the IPC.

## **E. Compliance/sanctions**

24. If it is determined at any time that a neutral athlete or support personnel has competed in the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and/or any qualification competition for that event without having met the conditions set out in this exceptional eligibility measure (or has otherwise breached such conditions), the IPC may disqualify the individual and/or team and/or delegation from the relevant event(s) (including, for the avoidance of doubt, disqualifying the full neutral athlete/support personnel delegation from the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games) with immediate effect, and may disqualify all results obtained by the individual/team/delegation in the relevant event(s), with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, ranking points, prize money, or other rewards.
25. Paragraph 24 is without prejudice to any consequences that might arise under any other applicable rules and regulations, including the IPC Code of Ethics.
26. In any event, where the IPC has determined that a neutral athlete or support personnel meets the conditions set out in this exceptional eligibility measure, it may reconsider that determination at any time where it deems it appropriate to do so (for example, if new facts or new evidence emerge).

## **F. Term**

27. This exceptional eligibility measure may be amended by the IPC at its absolute discretion and in any event will have effect only up until 31 March 2018 (following which there will be a further review by the IPC Governing Board). For the avoidance of doubt, this exceptional eligibility measure does not apply to (and has no effect in relation to) any events other than

the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and qualification competitions for that event.