

MEMORANDUM

To: IPC Membership
From: Mr. Xavier Gonzalez, CEO
Date: 2 July 2010
Re: Update on the Status of Re-Inclusion of Athletes with Intellectual Impairment in Paralympic Sports

In November 2009, the IPC General Assembly voted in favour of the following motion:

The IPC General Assembly:

- 1 Acknowledges the progress made by the joint IPC - INAS-FID Working Group in defining and assessing general eligibility, sport specificity and on-site testing and protest management; and*
- 2 Notes that the system currently developed and being further refined uses a scientific approach that is compliant with the IPC Classification Code; and*
- 3 Notes that effective sports input currently in place will be continued;*

Thereby, the IPC General Assembly confirms that the criteria and processes for the re-inclusion of athletes with an intellectual disability (ID) in Paralympic sport as specified by previous IPC General Assemblies have substantially been met.

Therefore, subject to compliance with the sports specific minimal disability scores outlined in the attached rationale, the IPC General Assembly recognizes that athletes with intellectual disability will be eligible, at the discretion of the IF, to compete in the respective International Federation sanctioned competitions, including the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The IPC Governing Board and INAS-FID Executive Committee receive regular updates on the progress and acknowledge that certain elements of the classification process have not yet been completed. The enclosed Memo provides an update on the status of the provisions in place to monitor the pathway to re-inclusion in the different sports.



Step 1. General Eligibility Criteria

The procedure to assess 'Eligibility Criteria' (step 1) is explained in the Memo of 15 December 2009. This process goes through INAS-FID for all athletes, independent of the sport they participate in. Further details of the procedure can be retrieved from the [INAS-FID website](#).

INAS-FID furthermore organizes regional workshops to help National Members and NPCs to further their understanding of the administrative processes on the 'Eligibility Criteria'. A first workshop took place in Singapore on 3-4 June. A next workshop will be held in Cairo, Egypt, on 20-24 September upcoming ([invitation](#)). INAS will announce further workshops in the America and Europe region later this year via its website.

National INAS-FID member organizations are responsible for 'Step 1' of the process. This procedure should be initiated at earliest convenience. The collection of all evidence as well as the review by INAS-FID may take some time, and athletes will not be able to proceed to 'Step 2' without the needed approval. National INAS-FID member organizations should work closely with their NPCs and National Sports Federations (e.g., for Table Tennis and Rowing) to establish mutual co-operation to facilitate the administrative pathways for re-inclusion of Athletes with Intellectual Impairments in Paralympic sports.

Step 2. Sport-specific Assessment

After successful completion of the 'Eligibility Criteria' process (see above) the athlete will proceed to on-site testing at forthcoming occasion by a classification panel, appointed by the International Federation responsible for that sport. The on-site testing will focus on the assessment of cognitive domain factors, relevant to that particular sport. This may include the assessment of reasoning, reaction time, visual-spatial abilities and working memory, jointly referred to as 'sports intelligence'. Only athletes that will successfully pass the threshold measures on these sport-specific tests, as defined by the IF, will be allowed to participate in the competition.

Awaiting finalization of the project, events for athletes with an Intellectual Impairment fall under conditions set by the respective IF, temporary sport-specific minimal disability scores may apply and sport class status 'Review' will be allocated to each athlete that participates in events for Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment. We appreciate your full support to the project by having your athlete participate in the different projects to collect the data needed.

It is the responsibility of the International Federation that governs the sport to outline the details of this sport-specific testing in the Classification Handbook



that applies for that particular sport, once policies and procedures are available and agreed upon.

IPC Athletics

A research team collected data on athletes with intellectual impairments at the recent INAS-FID Athletics World Indoor Championships in Sweden (April 2010). The investigation focused on assessment of biomechanical parameters relevant to shot put and long jump and on the assessment of generic cognitive data related to 'sports intelligence'.

Data analysis is initiated and will be continued through autumn. No later than 14 February 2011, IPC will announce the criteria by which athletes will be able to enter in the London 2012 Paralympic Games in the ['London 2012 Paralympic Games Qualification Guide'](#).

IPC Swimming

Data collected during the INAS-FID 2009 Global Games (Liberec, Czech Republic) and the IPC 2009 European Championships (Reikjavic, Iceland) are currently analyzed and the criteria by which athletes will be able to enter in the London 2012 Paralympic Games will be announced no later than 15 September 2010 in the ['London 2012 Paralympic Games Qualification Guide'](#).

ITTF Table Tennis

Representatives from ITTF and INAS-FID met with the IPC - INAS-FID research group on the table-tennis specific system on two occasions over the past 6 months, and the development of a sport-specific classification system has been further discussed at these meetings.

The system will be tried out at upcoming INAS events. INAS will announce these events to its National Members at its earliest convenience. In parallel, ITTF is making provisions for classifier training and inclusion of classification criteria for TT11 players in its rulebooks.

Based upon the progress reports received from this group, the ITTF Executive Committee will consider the report from its working group on the inclusion of TT11 players in the London 2012 Paralympic Games by the end of August 2010 and following the piloting in September 2010, a decision will be made.

Additionally, ITTF and INAS agreed to strengthen co-operation in the operational aspects of table tennis competitions for athletes with intellectual impairments.



FISA Rowing

Representatives of FISA and INAS-FID met with representatives of the IPC – INAS-FID Working Group in February and initiated the work on the development of a sport-specific classification system from that day onwards.

The FISA Council has decided in its meeting of 19 June that rowers with intellectual impairment will not be included in the London 2012 Paralympic Games. FISA motivates its decision after a survey of member national federations which showed that there was not yet an adequate number of federations ready or able to prepare crews in time for 2012. It was felt that this would have significantly affected the credibility of the Paralympic regatta. As well, the FISA members commented on the additional strain that would be placed on financial and human resources when they are already in the middle of the current quadrennium.

FISA however reinforces its strong commitment to include rowers with intellectual impairments and will continue the development of a sport-specific classification system in close collaboration with INAS-FID and IPC.

Further Information

The IPC Governing Board and INAS-FID Executive Committee have decided to prolong the mandate of the IPC – INAS-FID Working Group to continue monitoring the different actions by IPC, INAS-FID and the International Federations that target for inclusion of athletes with intellectual impairment on the basis of the conceptual framework agreed upon by IPC and INAS-FID (see Memo 15 December 2009). The mandate of the IPC – INAS-FID Working Group will last until the closing of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Sports other than those listed above that seek for inclusion of Athletes with Intellectual Impairment should liaise with the Working Group to seek guidance on the process and should extend their classification system on the basis of the model agreed upon by IPC and INAS-FID.

Both IPC and INAS-FID reiterate that the final decision on inclusion of athletes with intellectual impairment in future Paralympic Games is the responsibility of the International Federation that has jurisdiction over the sport on the Paralympic Games programme.

Whom to contact for further questions?

For detailed information on the eligibility and sport-specific procedures:

- general eligibility information: www.inas-fid.org.
- Sport-specific procedures
 - o IPC Athletics: www.ipc-athletics.paralympic.org
 - o IPC Swimming: www.ipc-swimming.org



- ITTF: www.ittf.com (section Para-TT)
- FISA: www.worldrowing.com

For further general questions and or clarification on the process and procedures:

- INAS-FID Secretariat, inas-fid@mencap.org.uk
- IPC Medical & Scientific Director, peter.vandevliet@paralympic.org
(contact for the IPC – INAS-FID Working Group)