



IPC POLICY ON SPORT EQUIPMENT

Approval Authority: Governing Board for section 1,2 and 3
CEO for section 4.
Responsible Office or Department: IPC Medical Department & Scientific Department
Approval Date: GB approval on 2 April 2011
Revision Date(s):
Related Policies:

1. Policy Statement:

The International Paralympic Committee recognizes the important role of sports equipment in enabling Paralympic competition, and is committed to a sport environment where there are fair and clear rules governing the use of sport equipment for each sport.

2. Application:

This Policy shall apply to all Paralympic Sports and any other sport associated to the IPC or the Paralympic Movement.

Sports equipment in this policy refers to all the implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Paralympic athletes, and used by athletes during competition on the Field of Play to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results (e.g. wheelchairs, seated throwing devices, bicycles, sit-ski, prostheses and orthoses)

3. Principles & Definitions

3.1 The fundamental principles regarding the use of equipment used during IPC Sanctioned Competitions and Events, and at Paralympic Games, are:

3.1.1 *Safety*

All Equipment in use must protect the health and safety of the user, other competitors, officials, spectators and may not cause damage to the environment (e.g. Field of Play).

3.1.2 *Fairness*

Equipment needs to be regulated in sports rules in sufficient detail.

3.1.3 *Universality*

The cost and large scale availability of (principal components of) equipment should be considered to guarantee access to a sufficiently large number of athletes in the sport.



3.1.4 *Physical Prowess*

Human performance is the critical endeavor to the sport performance, not the impact of technology and equipment.

- 3.2 Equipment that results in sport performance not primarily being generated by the athlete's own physical prowess but being generated by automated, computer aided, or robotic devices is prohibited in IPC Sanctioned Competitions and Events, and at Paralympic Games.
- 3.3 Sports in the Paralympic Movement have the responsibility to ensure the provisions of this policy are reflected in the respective IPSF rules and regulations. These provisions shall also include rules and regulations governing equipment control and inspection, the certification authority and clear timelines and procedures to handle protest and arbitration.
- 3.4 Sports in the Paralympic Movement have a responsibility to support the development of universally available high-standard sports equipment.

4. Procedures

- 4.1 The Procedures and timelines to ensure and monitor the implementation of this policy by the respective Sports shall be determined by the IPC Chief Executive Officer who shall report any established non-compliance to the IPC Governing Board.
- 4.2 The respective IPSF rules shall be developed in compliance with this Policy the latest by 2014.