



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## **2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code Compliance**

**International Federation Compliance Review Strategy**

January 2017

**International Paralympic Committee**

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## 1 Introduction and Scope

The purpose of this Code Compliance Strategy to monitor compliance with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code (the ‘2015 Code’) by the International Federations (IFs) is to identify:

- the framework under which Code Compliance monitoring will be undertaken;
- the terms of reference for Code Compliance monitoring.

Terms used in this Strategy are defined terms from the 2015 Code, unless otherwise identified in this Strategy.

The IPC Classification Committee initially focuses its compliance work to the IFs, and will decide on its course of action towards National Paralympic Committees and National Federations at later stage in line with articles 12.2.1 and 12.3.1 of the 2015 Code.

## 2 2015 Code Provisions

The following articles in the 2015 Code are directly relevant to this Compliance Strategy:

Art. 1.1.2 The IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) applies to all members of the Paralympic Movement and to all Athletes competing in Para-sport at International Competitions under the jurisdiction of the International Sport Federations.

Art. 1.1.3 The Code also applies to the International Recognized Federations.

Art. 2.2 The purpose of Classification is to define who competes in Para-sport and to ensure that the impact of Eligible Impairment in each event is minimized. To achieve this purpose, an International Sport Federation must develop and implement a Classification System that Complies with the Code and the International Standards.

...

Art. 12.1.1 The roles and responsibilities of the International Paralympic Committee include:

...

- To require, as a condition of membership, that all IPC members, including International Sport Federations, International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled, Regional Organisations, and National Paralympic Committees, are in Compliance with the Code.
- To monitor Compliance with the Code of International Sport Federations and National Paralympic Committees.



Art. 12.1.2 The IPC will take appropriate action to ensure Compliance with the Code and International Standards by its members, including by:

- Seeking to promote, conduct, commission, seek funding and co-ordinate Classification education and research;
- Adopting and implementing Classification Rules for the Paralympic Games which conform to the Code;
- Withholding some or all funding of International Sport Federations and National Paralympic Committees in case of non-Compliance;
- Suspending membership and rights to participate in the Paralympic Games of organisations that are not in Compliance with the Code.

Art. 12.2.1 The roles and responsibilities of International Sport Federations include:

- To develop, implement and regularly review and publish Classification Rules, including eligibility criteria, in Compliance with the Code;
- To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-Compliance with the Code;
- ...
- To recommend as a condition of membership that Classification Rules in National Bodies should be in Compliance with the applicable provisions of the Code;

...

Art. 12.3.1 The roles and responsibilities of the National Paralympic Committees include:

- To ensure that national Classification Rules conform with the Code and make recommendations for Compliance with the Code;
- To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-Compliance with the Code;

...

Art. 12.4.1 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include:

- To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code;

...

Art. 12.4.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:

- To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code;

...



Art. 13.1.1 This Code takes effect 1 January 2017 onwards and each International Sport Federation and International Recognized Federation of the Paralympic Movement must have Code Compliant rules no later than 1 January 2018.

Art. 13.1.2 A list of all members with Classification Rules in Compliance with the Code will be made public by the IPC on 1 January 2018.

*[Comment to art. 13.1.1-13.1.2: From the moment of adoption of the Code by the IPC General Assembly, each International Sport Federation and each International Recognised Federation of the Paralympic Movement can introduce revised Classification rules that adopted this Code to take effect from 1 January 2017 onwards, after having presented these to the IPC for review.*

*No later than 1 January 2018, each member must have Code Compliant Classification Rules, which have been reviewed and approved by the IPC. The IPC will issue a statement of Code Compliance to each International Sport Federation and International Recognized Federation upon receipt and review of the revised Classification rules.]*

Art. 13.1.3 National Bodies must align their national Classification rules with those of the International Sport/Recognized Federation once these are considered in Compliance with the Code.

Art. 13.2.1 To facilitate monitoring, each IPC member must report on its Compliance with the Code as requested by the IPC, and must explain reasons for any non-Compliance.

Art. 13.2.2 Explanations for non-Compliance with the Code may be considered, and, in extraordinary situations, a temporary extension may be granted.

Art. 13.2.3 The non-Compliant member must submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for Compliance subject to the approval by the IPC Governing Board. Non-Compliance with the Code results in sanctions that may include:

- Disciplinary actions against the member.
- Exclusion from the Paralympic Games and any other IPC sanctioned events.
- Suspension of IPC membership.

### 3 Compliance Definition

Compliance is defined in the 2015 Code as follows (2015 Code – Appendix: Glossary):



*The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance'.*

## **4 Monitoring Compliance – The Code's Principles**

Code Compliance is monitored by the IPC and each Code signatory shall report to the IPC on its compliance.

The general principles include:

- Dialogue with signatories
- Regular assistance and guidance
- Decision-making on compliance criteria being met
- Possibility for signatories to take corrective measures

## **5 Compliance Criteria**

See detail on criteria in appendix.

## **6 Code Compliance Review Committee**

It is proposed that the IPC Classification Committee acts as the 'Code Compliance Review Committee', supported by the (preliminary) work of the IPC Management Team (IPC Medical & Scientific Director and IPC Classification Coordinator).

This mandate is complementary to the responsibility of the IPC Classification Committee "*[to recommend] policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to the Code, and [to coordinate] any Code review process as requested by the IPC Governing Board.*" (2015 Code, art. 1.2).

## **7 Terms of Reference for Code Compliance Review**

The IPC Classification Committee, in its mandate as the Code Compliance Review Committee, will provide expert advice, recommendations and guidance where required to the IPC Governing Board as identified under section 8.

The objectives/key activities include:



- Provide expert guidance to the IPC Governing Board on the set up of the Code Compliance Strategy;
- Analyse preliminary reports from the IPC Management Team in an objective and independent way;
- Decide which signatories should receive an in person audit either to evaluate their Code Compliance or to ensure that corrective actions have been implemented;
- Make a recommendation to the IPC Governing Board of those signatories that are deemed in compliance with the 2015 Code, following the established compliance criteria; and
- Make recommendations to the IPC Governing Board for non-compliance decisions to be taken.

The Committee will work in close cooperation with the IPC Management Team and has a mandate, through its Chairperson, to report directly to the IPC Governing Board.

The Committee, in agreement with the IPC, may seek assistance from outside experts from time to time.

The Code Compliance Review process is initiated on the basis of a self-audit by each IF to assess to which extent all criteria listed under Section 5 of this document are complied with. Each IF will be required to document how each criterion is met (by means of reference to the applicable rule, rulebook and/or supportive documentation), or document which process, including reasonable and realistic timelines, is in place to achieve compliance.

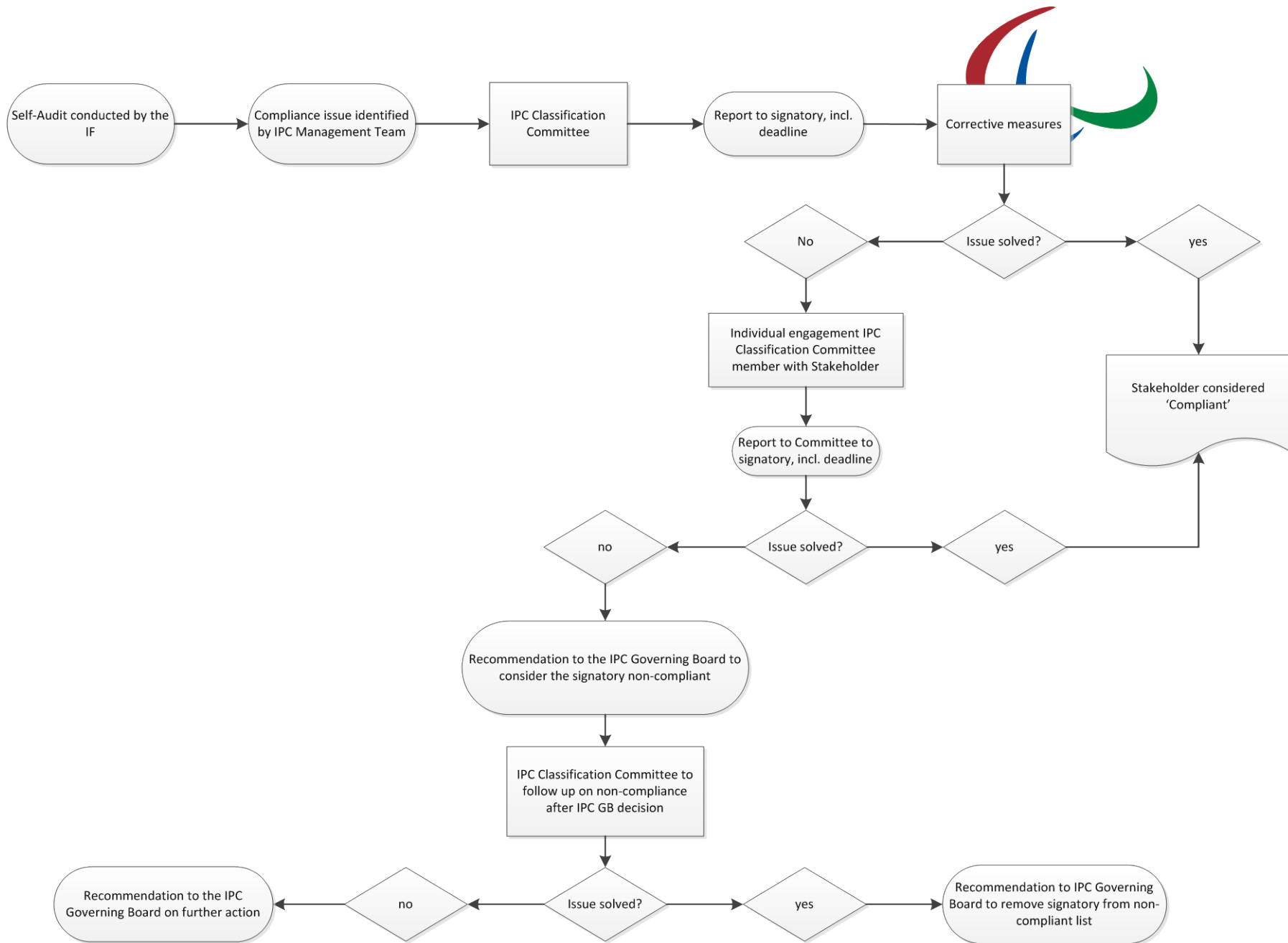
The Committee will normally operate on the basis of consensus and maintain as informal a manner as is possible or appropriate for the conduct of Committee business. In the case of divergence of opinion or disagreement concerning recommendations, the majority of the voting members (no secret ballot voting, abstention will not be taken into account for the calculation of the majority) will rule. In case of a tie, the Chairperson will have a casting vote.

Committee members will be bound to disclose any conflict of interest if such arises.

Except for the formal recommendations to the IPC Governing Board, the discussion within the Committee and internal communication with IPC Management Team remains confidential.

## **8 Different Steps of the Compliance Process**

The following flowchart identifies the different steps of the Code Compliance Strategy:



## Appendix: Code Compliance Criteria

The IPC Classification Committee identified the following area and compliance criteria to be successfully met by an IF:

<p>1. Classification Rules Written and Available</p>	<p>The IPC has produced Model Rules which are preferably adopted by the IF and which will allow for an easy matching of the IF rules. In the alternative scenario, the IF will need to identify with reference to the applicable rule how each of the Model Rules provisions has been implemented, or explain why certain elements are not upheld.</p> <p>The IF Classification Rules must be available from the IF website and a link must be provided.</p>
<p>2. Purpose of Classification</p>	<p>The IF Classification Rules must uniquely identify the purpose of classification, and any wording used must be in alignment with the provisions of the 2015 Code, art. 2. In the alternative scenario, the IF must explain why its purpose is different from the 2015 Code.</p> <p>The IF definition on the purpose of classification must be publicly available to its Membership and to the IPC.</p>
<p>3. Specify Eligible Impairments</p>	<p>The IF must clearly and uniquely identify which impairments are eligible for the sport, and for which impairments it requires details on the underlying health condition, as identified in the 2015 Code – International Standard for Eligible Impairments, art 5. If not part of the IF Classification Rules, the IF must have these criteria publicly available to its Membership and to the IPC.</p> <p>The IF must specify how it deals with the 2015 Code – International Standard for Eligible Impairments, art. 5.3-5.4.</p>
<p>4. Specify Severity of Eligible Impairments</p>	<p>The IF must clearly and uniquely identify the Minimum Impairment Criteria as identified in the 2015 Code – International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, art. 4.</p> <p>The measurement methods must be detailed in the IF</p>





	Classification Rules.
5. Define Sport Class Profiles	<p>The IF must specify the underlying reasoning on how athletes are grouped according to the extent of sport specific activity limitation resulting from impairment, and detail any (research) activity it undertakes (or plans to undertake) to revise its actual classification system.</p> <p>In the alternative scenario the IF must detail why there is no need for a critical review of the current classification system.</p> <p>The measurement methods to define Sport Classes must be detailed in the IF Classification Rules.</p> <p>In the event the IF considers Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue (2015 Code – International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, art. 14.3-14.7), it must detail the provisions hereof, including implications on for example, protests and appeals.</p>
6. Observation Assessment	<p>The IF Classification Rules must specify how observation in competition is dealt with (procedures + decision-making criteria) in order to ensure a fair, transparent and standardized procedure is in place.</p>
7. Sport Class Not Eligible	<p>The IF Classification Rules must specify how Not Eligible decisions are dealt with in order to ensure a fair, transparent and standardized procedure is in place.</p>
8. Rules for Intentional Misrepresentation	<p>The IF must provide procedures on how to identify and manage allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation that are compliant with the provisions of the 2015 Code, art. 6.</p> <p>These procedures must be publicly available to its Membership and to the IPC.</p>
9. Protest and Appeal Procedures	<p>The IF Classification Rules must specify protest and appeal procedures that are compliant with the provisions of the 2015 Code, art. 5 and with the 2015 Code – International Standard for Protests and Appeals.</p> <p>Appeal Bylaws must be publicly available to its Membership and to the IPC, if the IF did not designate the IPC Board of Appeal of</p>



	Classification as its Appeal Body.
10. Classification Master List	A link must be provided to the IF Classification Master List and specification must be provided on how this Master List is kept up to date.
11. Classification Personnel Profiles and Certifications	The IF must provide to the IPC the detailed procedures for the recruitment, certification and re-certification of Classifier Personnel which are consistent with the provisions of the 2015 Code – International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.
12. Classification Data Protection	The IF must detail which Data Protection mechanisms are in place, and, to the extent possible, provide supportive evidence of its Classification Rules being in compliance with the applicable legislation.