

IPC GB approves progress report on inclusion of ID athletes in IPC Sanctioned Events

Following the release of the joint position statement by IPC and INAS-FID on the combined efforts to re-include athletes with intellectual disability in future Paralympic Games and other IPC-sanctioned competitions, significant progress on the three key areas (eligibility, sport-specificity and on-site protests and appeals) has been reported to the IPC Governing Board meeting of 28-29 March 2009. The progress is the outcome of further meetings of the IPC/INAS-FID Working Group, the associated Research Group, and a meeting with representatives of different sports targeted for short-term inclusion.

1. The IPC GB approved the action plan that foresees in the following process in place by Summer 2009:
 - a. INAS-FID to approve medical documentation that is submitted via the National Federations in support of the diagnosis of intellectual disability on the basis of the following criteria:
 - i. Intellectual disability as defined by international recognized definition of IQ < 75, adaptive behaviour, and age onset < 18 years (definition as set by WHO, AAMR)
 - ii. Reduced number of tests to measure IQ as part of point i. (list to be approved at the INAS-FID General Assembly, April 2009)
 - iii. Verification process of the evidence presented under point i. by an international expert panel (INAS-FID to implement this panel by May 2009).
 - b. On-site verification of sport-specific eligibility by means of a computerized test-battery (see further under point d.) under the authority of 'classifiers' (experts appointed by the International Sport Federation). Participation in the testing is mandatory requirement for ID athletes that want to participate in IPC Sanctioned Events
 - c. Observation in competition of ID Athletes on the basis of a checklist of performance related parameters. Inconsistencies between observations and test-profile (point b.) will allow the classifiers to identify athletes that need closer monitoring and can be protested. This process may include review of initial documentation and retest of sport-specific eligibility.
 - d. A research team will assess the use of the test-battery (point c.) at the upcoming 2009 INAS-FID Global Games in Liberec, Czech Republic, in July 2009, and fine-tune the instrument afterwards.
 - e. As research data will further be available, a sport-related weighting mechanism for the different components of the test-battery will be considered to set cut-off scores to define 'minimal

disability' for future inclusion in events. The criteria may differ from sport to sport.

2. The IPC GB approved the inclusion of ID athletes participation in the upcoming 2009 IPC Swimming European Championships in Reykjavic, Iceland and the 2009 Youth Asian Para Games in Tokyo, Japan (for IPC Athletics and IPC Swimming) under the conditions set forth under point 1. Participation in the test-battery is mandatory requirement for event participation. Only athletes that fulfil the criteria set forth under point 1.a-c will be included in an ID Athlete classification master list per sport and allocated 'R' (Review) status, and only results from those athletes will be considered for rankings and records.
3. The IPC GB approved the proposal to recognize the 2009 INAS-FID Global Games (Liberec, Czech Republic, July 2009) in order to secure participation of different nations where ID athletes resort under NPC Responsibility.

The above are interim measures awaiting the final resolution on this matter by the IPC General Assembly in November 2009.