



## **PROPOSAL FOR THE IPC SWIMMING SUMMIT SUBMITTED BY HELLENIC SPORTS FEDERATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

### **1. Rules**

Since Beijing Paralympic Games eight months have past and the IPC Swimming Rules did not changed according to the amendments agreed at the IPC Swimming Forum in Durban (December 2006).

We propose that when FINA changes a rule, this rule should be evaluated by the IPC Swimming Technical Committee and, if applicable, should be incorporated it within a period of two months in the IPC Swimming Rule Book.

### **2. International Classification at National Championships**

The decision not to provide international classification at National Championships, when a country is requesting and undertaking the cost, is not in line with to the policy IPC is always promoting: to reduce the number of athletes who need to undergo classification at Paralympic Games.

The advantages of having International Classification at National Championships are many:

- The swimmers know their class in advance and they can prepare more efficiently.
- The number of swimmers for classification is reduced at major events. (Greece, for instance, offered to its swimmers international classification at Nationals from 2006 to 2008. Thus, none of our swimmers had to undergo classification in Beijing).

- The budget for a country to send the swimmers abroad for classification is much higher compared to the cost needed for the international classifiers' invitation.
- The national classifiers working side by side with the international classifiers have the opportunity to gain more experience.

### **3. Classification Manual**

The IPC Swimming Classification Manual needs to include the classification system for swimmers with visual impairment and for swimmers with an intellectual disability.

### **4. Qualification for Paralympic Games**

Allocating slots to each NPC for the Paralympic Games, while there are many more swimmers who reached the MQS, is considered unfair by the swimmers and it is always a painful process, sometimes with legal consequences, for the country which has to find other criteria in order to select the team.

For that reason we propose the following:

- Any swimmer who reached the standards can be entered by his/her NPC.
- MQS will be set according to the ranking lists in order to reach the maximum number of swimmers (650 in total) for all the events offered.
- Any NPC can enter maximum of three swimmers per event provided that they have met the MQS.
- Only swimmers with P or R status will be qualified for P.G.
- Procedures, number and timelines for the events to be included in the future P.G. should be clearly defined.

### **5. Independent Federation**

Is there a business plan in place for the independence of the Sport? And what are the steps taken so far?

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