MEMORANDUM

To:      NPC’s / IOSD’s Widely and Regularly Practising Athletics
          IPC Athletics Classifiers
From:   IPC Athletics STC
Date:   15/07/2010
Re:     IPC Athletics Classification Rules

Dear Colleagues,

IPC Athletics have undertaken a preliminary review of the classification rules. As a result there have been some amendments made to the following official publications.

- Classification Project for Physical Impairments – Final Report (from here, Classification Final Report). Note that this report will serve as the basis for a new edition of the IPC Athletics Classification handbook which will be in place from the closing ceremony of the 2012 London games onwards)
- Guidelines for Hosting International Classification Opportunities.

Please see below four (4) amendments with immediate effect (rationale provided accordingly).

• **Amendment 1: Introduction of Age Requirement for T40/41 and F40/41 Sport Classes**

Rationale: The 2006 system has age as a requirement for eligibility in Appendix 1, but is silent on it in section 18. Therefore Section 18 will be altered so it is consistent with Appendix 1.

In the Classification Final Report, the rule reads: "To receive a permanent T41 class an athlete must be less than or equal to 18 yrs of age." The wording will be amended for two reasons:
1. “permanent” is not an official classification status – new, review and confirmed are the principle ones. The intent of the rule was to indicate that status could not be confirmed till 18 yrs of age;
2. many children / junior athletes with no disability at all would meet the eligibility criteria – based solely on height and arm length – and would therefore, according to the rule, be eligible to receive a T/F40 or 41 class. This is obviously not what is intended. Therefore the relevant rules will be reworded so that \( \geq 18 \) yrs is part of the eligibility criterion.

The new wording will be "To be eligible for classification, a potential T/F 40/41 sport class athlete must be 18 yrs of age at the date of assessment"

Athletes that are currently allocated class F40 and that do not meet the above criterion will be considered non-eligible for competition until they meet the age criterion (at which time they will be re-assessed). NPCs will be informed in case this rule change applies to one of their athletes.

• **Amendment 2: IPC Athletics Classification Panels will consist of 2 international classifiers (instead of 3)**

Rationale: If IPC Athletics were to require three classifiers on a panel, in order to have a re-assessment of athletes that initially are found 'non-eligible' or to resolve protests in a way that is Code compliant, Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) would be required to appoint a minimum of six (6) classifiers - an initial panel of three, plus three additional classifiers who were not involved in the original classification (IPC Classification Code, International Standard for Protests and Appeals, 2.6: IPC Classification Code, International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, 7.6, 11.3) . Funding six (6) classifiers to an event may have an impost on Local Organizing Committees (who must fund them) and may be a significant barrier to increase the number of recognized competitions (which athletes need in order to achieve qualifying standards for World Championships and Paralympic Games, as well as set records). Additionally, the regulation change allows for optimal spread of available IPC Athletics Classifiers over more events.

For major competitions where more then 2 panels will be involved or where the nature of classification requires it (e.g. World Championships, Regional Games, Paralympic Games), a dedicated Chief Classifier may be appointed in addition to the panels.
• Amendment 3: Wording change from ‘Athlete Not Compliant (ANC) to ‘Intentional Misrepresentation (IM)’

Rationale: The change aligns the wording of IPC Athletics Classification rules with the wording from the IPC Classification Code and International Standards (November 2007)

• Amendment 4: Introduction of the provision ‘Medical Review’

Rationale: Classification is based on the relationship between impairment and sports activity. If an athlete has an intervention that materially and permanently alters his/her impairment profile (e.g. corrective surgery, progressive impairment, medication use, ...), he/she should be re-assessed, regardless of whether sports class status is review or confirmed. It is the responsibility of the athlete to inform IPC Athletics who will review the motivation supporting the ‘Medical Review’. In the case the ‘Medical Review’ is accepted, the athlete’s sport class status will be changed into ‘Review’ (with immediate effect), and the athlete will be re-assessed at forthcoming opportunity.

IPC Athletics may consider filing an investigation for ‘Intentional Misrepresentation’ (IPC Classification Code, 11) in the case the Athlete fails to notify IPC Athletics of a change in medical condition that may impact on his/her sport class allocation.

The updated classification documents will be uploaded to the IPC Athletics website available for your future reference.

May I invite your NPC / IOSD to share the information enclosed with the responsible person/s for the sport of IPC Athletics.

We would like to inform the IPC Athletics Classification Membership that a detailed Classification Rules Review process will be initiated in Summer 2010 to align terminology and content of IPC Athletics Classification Rules with the IPC Classification Code. Any input or considerations by your NPC/IOSD is appreciated and can be submitted to Ms. Helen Murphy, IPC Athletics Sports Manager at ipcathletics@paralympic.org

Should you have any questions in relation to this memo please contact Ms. Helen Murphy, IPC Athletics Sports Manager, at ipcathletics@paralympic.org
Kind Regards

Jason Hellwig  
Chairperson STC IPC Athletics

Dr Peter Van de Vliet  
IPC Medical & Scientific Director

CC. IPC Athletics Classification Advisory Group  
IPC Athletics Spots Technical Committee  
IPC Athletics Classifiers & Officials