



IPC Members
Via email

5 May 2021

Review of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code: Phase 1 consultation

Dear Membership,

As the Chair of the Code Drafting Team, I am delighted to write to inform you that the first phase of consultation for the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) review has commenced.

As previously announced, the review of the Code will incorporate three phases of open consultation. The feedback provided during these consultation phases will be analysed by the Code Drafting Team in their work to produce a new Code which will further advance the principles of classification. Full details can be found in the Code Review Process document available on our [Code review website](#).

Addressing the issues of classification is a stated priority of the IPC and, through this Code review consultation, the membership has a vital role to play in shaping a new Code. I urge you to engage in the consultation process by sharing your valuable feedback with us.

The consultation page to submit feedback can be found here: [Phase 1 consultation](#) and the deadline for submitting feedback is 17 September 2021.

Consultation is open for all; feedback can be submitted by anybody within and outside the IPC membership. The Code review page on the IPC website will continue to provide more information about the Code review process as it progresses and will shortly contain a direct link to the consultation form.

Please be aware that the IPC will be publishing all the feedback we receive. Feedback will not be anonymised.

Feedback can be submitted on an individual basis or on behalf of your organisation. However, we ask that there be only one set of feedback submitted on behalf of each organisation.

The consultation form is structured into sections, each dedicated to an instrument of the Code (i.e. the Code itself as well as its supporting International Standards). Feedback can be provided on every article of the Code and the International Standards. Furthermore, there are also specific targeted questions covering some of the issues raised at the 2019 IPC General Assembly:

- Should the Code regulate when an International Sports Federation can make changes to its Classification Systems? Should there be restrictions on timing of changes within the cycle?
- The new Code and International Standards are envisaged to enter force on 1 January 2025 for summer sports and 1 July 2026 for winter sports. Are you in agreement with these timescales?
- What is the biggest challenge and/or priority in classification? How (if at all) should this be dealt with by the Code review and in the new Code?

To encourage active engagement and dialogue with the membership, Code Drafting Team members (supported by the IPC management team) intend to hold targeted membership calls in June and July 2021. We would like to offer several calls targeted for NPCs, Regional Organisations, IOSDs, IFs, Recognised IFs, Athletes Council and Global Network or Paralympic Athletes community. The calls will be offered to anyone from our membership, including the CEOs/Secretary Generals/Presidents and IF Heads of Classification/NPC Classification leads. This will allow for discussions about the current Code and issues the members wish to bring forward for Code review. To ensure manageability of the calls, we just request a maximum of two participants per organisation.

Formal invites for these calls along with further instructions will be sent out in the coming weeks through the IPC membership team. Whilst the dates of these calls are TBC at the moment, **as a "save the date"** we anticipate the following timeframes:

Date range (TBC)	Activity
7-13 June	Calls with IF heads of classification and NPC classification leads
14-20 June	Calls with NPCs / Regional Organisations
5-9 July	Calls with IOSDs and IFs (including Recognised IFs) Calls with Athletes Council and Global Network / Paralympic Athletes community

Feedback can of course be submitted at any time before the 17 September deadline. However, the meetings in June and July provide an opportunity to firstly reflect on the Code at this stage, then submit feedback having had the opportunity to discuss Code review issues during those calls.

This is an extremely important project for the Movement, and we look forward to engaging with you throughout this first phase of consultation.

For any queries on the above, please feel free to contact classification@paralympic.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Field', written in a cursive style.

Scott Field
Chair of the Code Drafting Team
International Paralympic Committee