



International
Paralympic
Committee

IPC Taskforce: progress report, 13 February 2017

This report is provided on behalf of the IPC Taskforce and summarises the progress that the Russian Paralympic Committee (**RPC**) has made to date in meeting the conditions for reinstatement established by the IPC.

1. Background

- 1.1 By way of background, following publication of the report by Professor Richard McLaren on 18 July 2016 (the **McLaren Report**), the IPC Governing Board unanimously resolved to suspend the RPC from membership due to its inability to fulfil its IPC membership obligations, in particular its obligation to comply with the World Anti-Doping Code (to which it is also a signatory) and the IPC Anti-Doping Code.
- 1.2 In order to assist the RPC in bringing about the significant changes needed, the IPC has specified certain reinstatement criteria (supported by underlying verification criteria) that the RPC must meet in order to be reinstated as a member of the IPC (the reinstatement criteria are available at www.paralympic.org/russian-paralympic-committee-suspension). The IPC has also appointed this taskforce (the **IPC Taskforce**) to assist the IPC in determining whether or not the reinstatement criteria have been met.
- 1.3 In particular, the RPC must demonstrate (by its own efforts and also by securing the support and assistance of other relevant parties, as necessary) that the following reinstatement criteria have been met, and can reasonably be expected to continue to be met moving forward:
 - (a) The RPC complies with all requirements of the World Anti-Doping Program (including, in particular, the World Anti-Doping Code) and the IPC Anti-Doping Code.
 - (b) The RPC, IPC, International Federations that are members of the IPC, and RUSADA (the Russian national anti-doping organisation) are all able to carry out their respective anti-doping activities in Russia and in relation to Russian Para athletes and athlete support personnel effectively and without external interference (as part of this, the RPC will need to adequately address the findings of the McLaren Report).



- (c) As a result, the participation in IPC-sanctioned competitions of Para athletes and athlete support personnel under the RPC's jurisdiction will not jeopardise the integrity of those competitions.

2. **Progress to date**

2.1 I am pleased to report that there have been various positive developments since the IPC Taskforce commenced its work. In particular:

- (a) A constructive meeting was held with the RPC on 20 December 2016 to go through the reinstatement criteria in detail and ensure that all parties are clear as to what is expected.
- (b) A positive working relationship and dialogue has been established between the IPC Taskforce and the RPC.
- (c) The IPC Taskforce and the RPC are presently working to develop a detailed roadmap for the RPC's reinstatement to membership of the IPC, based on the reinstatement criteria.
- (d) In the meantime, the IPC and the IPC Taskforce are working with the RPC to establish an effective short-term testing programme for Russian Para athletes.
- (e) The IPC Taskforce is continuing to liaise as necessary with relevant third parties, including WADA and the Independent Public Anti-Doping Commission.

2.2 The IPC Taskforce is, however, concerned to note that there appears to have been little material progress to date (either by the RPC, or by the relevant Russian authorities) regarding the fundamental requirement to adequately address the findings made by Professor McLaren. That includes, in particular, the findings of an institutionalised and wide-ranging doping conspiracy and cover-up, and the involvement in that scheme of (among others) officials from the Ministry of Sport, the Centre of Sports Preparation of National Teams of Russia, and the FSB. As noted by the CAS Panel in Russian Paralympic Committee v International Paralympic Committee, CAS 2016/A/4745, at paragraph 95:

'What has occurred in Russia was not a minor breach of an obligation or a random failure. Instead, this situation of noncompliance has been ongoing for many years ... The RPC has not established that there was at the time of the Decision, or now, a systemic cure for the systemic failure that occurred within the RPC jurisdiction and "on the RPC's watch" and that clearly demonstrated that there had, at the least, been a



marked failure by the RPC to fulfil its obligations to ensure compliance with its Anti-Doping Policy.'

In that respect, the IPC Taskforce considers that Professor McLaren's findings must be specifically addressed, whether by acknowledging the findings and tackling the problems, or by properly rebutting the findings.

- 2.3 In particular, unless and until the problems that led to the RPC's suspension are fully understood and addressed, the IPC Taskforce is of the view that there can be no meaningful change in culture, and that Russian Para athletes cannot return to IPC-sanctioned competitions without jeopardising the integrity of those competitions.
- 2.4 Accordingly, at present the IPC Taskforce is clear that the reinstatement criteria have not yet been met, and therefore unanimously recommends that the RPC's suspension be maintained at this stage.
- 2.5 The IPC Taskforce looks forward to working with the RPC in this matter, and to assisting it in bringing about the changes needed and meeting the reinstatement criteria set.

Andy Parkinson
IPC Taskforce chair