

CHAPTER 2.5 - BYLAWS COUNCILS

2.5.1 IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL (AC) BYLAWS

1. FUNCTION

1.1 General Role

The IPC Athletes' Council (AC) is the collective voice of Paralympic athletes within the IPC and the greater Paralympic Movement. In general, the role of the AC is to provide feedback and advice and report to the IPC Governing Board on behalf and in the interest of the athletes in all IPC matters, including but not limited to:

- 1.1.1 Support the IPC Governing Board in its duty of be the guardian of the Paralympic Vision;
- 1.1.2 Support the IPC Governing Board in the delivery of the Paralympic Mission;
- 1.1.3 Advise the IPC Governing Board in all matters that are within the IPC General Assembly authority;
- 1.1.4 Make recommendations to the IPC Governing Board in the development of the Strategic plan;
- 1.1.5 Advise the IPC Governing Board in the development of IPC policies;
- 1.1.6 Provide a forum for exchange of information on matters of common interest;
- 1.1.7 Promote the concept of 'unity in diversity' among the athletes;
- 1.1.8 Collaborate and share information with other IPC councils and committees and be the advocate for athletes' interests within the Paralympic Family;
- 1.1.9 Establish and maintain a method of communication with athletes to solicit input, identify issues, provide education, and disseminate information;
- 1.1.10 Act as liaison between IPC decision-makers, Paralympic athletes and athlete representatives on each of the IPC Sports Committees;



- 1.1.11 Provide effective input into IPC decisions at all levels of the organization. To this end, the AC works with the IPC to promote effective athlete representation on IPC councils, committees and commissions, as well as to create other opportunities for athlete representation both within and outside the IPC;
- 1.1.12 Promote the concept of athlete-centred decision making, thereby ensuring that the rights of the athletes are respected at all times;
- 1.1.13 Act as an athletes' advisory body within the Paralympic Movement and other forums of international sport.

1.2 Consultative Role

The AC shall be consulted by the IPC Governing Board in all matters concerning the appointment of any AC representatives to IPC councils, committees or working groups wherever and whenever is deemed appropriate and relevant, as well as concerning the nomination of AC representatives to external bodies and organizations, prior to taking a decision/position on that matter.

1.3 Delegated Authorities

The IPC Governing Board may delegate some of its authorities to the AC.

2. STRUCTURE

2.1 Composition

- 2.1.1 The AC may be composed of elected members, co-opted members, and ex-officio members. Only elected members will have speaking rights and voting rights; co-opted members and ex-officio members have speaking rights only. In these Bylaws, elected members will be referred to as voting members.
- 2.1.2 Normally the AC shall consist of nine (9) elected members and one (1) ex-officio member, including:
- Six (6) elected Summer athlete representatives;
 - Three (3) elected Winter athlete representatives;
 - One (1) ex-officio IOC Athletes' Commission representative, nominated by IOC-AC.
- 2.1.3 Should the composition of the elected AC not represent the diversity of the Paralympic Movement in terms of the IPC regions, sports, range of disabilities or gender, then the AC may co-opt up to two (2) members to balance out the composition for a term of up



to a maximum of four (4) years, subject to approval by the IPC Governing Board.

2.1.4 From the elected members, the AC shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the procedures for which shall be established in a policy of the AC and are subject to approval by the IPC Governing Board. For the election of its Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the AC will use a staggered cycle, holding elections every two (2) years. The positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will not be open for election at the same time. The election of the AC Chairperson will follow the cycle of elections of the IPC Governing Board members, ie, 2009, 2013, 2017 etc. Consequently, the election of the AC Vice Chairperson will be in 2007, 2011, 2015 etc.

2.1.5 In case of absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall assume the responsibilities of Chairperson for as long as required. In case of a vacancy for the position of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall assume the responsibilities of Chairperson until the next meeting of the AC, at which time the election for a new Chairperson will occur.

2.2 Staffing

The IPC Management Team will provide support to the AC. The level of support will be determined in consultation with the IPC CEO.

2.3 Reporting

2.3.1 The Chairperson of the AC, together with the IPC staff member appointed by the IPC Management Team, are responsible for keeping accurate records of the meetings of the AC.

2.3.2 Written minutes of AC meetings shall be circulated according to the IPC policy and procedures as outlined in the IPC Policy on Confidentiality.

2.3.3 AC members are responsible for reporting regularly on the activities of the various Councils / Committees on which they sit.

2.3.4 The Chairperson shall report regularly to the other AC members.

2.3.5 The IPC CEO shall ensure that recommendations to the IPC Governing Board resulting from AC meetings are included on the agenda of the IPC Governing Board. The IPC CEO shall ensure that the subsequent decisions from the IPC Governing Board are communicated to the members of the AC.



- 2.3.6 A report on the activities of the AC will be developed by the Chairperson, and will be included in the overall biennial report to the IPC General Assembly.

2.4 Representation on external bodies

- 2.4.1 The AC shall be entitled to nominate members as Athletes' Representatives to the following IPC bodies:

- 2.4.1.1 The IPC Governing Board. The AC Chairperson is the ex-officio Athletes' Representative on the IPC Governing Board;

- 2.4.2 The AC shall submit the nomination of its Chairperson to the IPC Governing Board for approval to be the AC representative on the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission.

- 2.4.3 The AC shall nominate individuals with the skills and abilities to represent the Paralympic Movement effectively. Where a Committee or Commission requires a specialized skill set not within the collective talent pool of the members of the AC, the AC may nominate a non-Council member, meeting the definition of an 'active Paralympic Athlete' as defined in article 3.1 of these bylaws, to represent the AC in this function. The Chairperson or his/her delegate shall act as liaison with non-members appointed in this fashion.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Members of the Council

To be eligible for election to the AC, an individual must be an active Paralympic athlete, defined as having competed in the Paralympic Games within the past eight (8) years at the time of the election.

3.2 Process for nominations/elections

- 3.2.1 AC elections take place at every Paralympic Games. At each edition of the Summer Paralympic Games, six (6) Summer AC members are elected, and at each edition of the Winter Paralympic Games, three (3) Winter AC members are elected. Nomination and election procedures shall be established by policy of the AC and ratified by the IPC Governing Board. Said policy and procedures should be distributed at least six (6) months prior to the relevant election.

- 3.2.2 At every AC election, each NPC may nominate only one (1) candidate for election to the AC. At Summer Paralympic Games a



nominated candidate must be a Summer athlete, whilst at Winter Paralympic Games a candidate must be a Winter athlete.

- 3.2.3 Only athletes with an “Aa” accreditation at the relevant Paralympic Games are eligible to vote in AC elections.

3.3 Terms of Office

- 3.3.1 The term of office for an elected member of the AC shall be four (4) years. Members can be re-elected, provided that at the time of the election they still meet the criteria stated in article 3.1.

- 3.3.2 The terms of office for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the AC shall be four (4) years. Either of these officers will be eligible to run for subsequent terms.

- 3.3.3 In case the terms of office for the Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson expire after the individual’s term of office as an elected member expires, the Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson will remain on the AC serving as the Chair and Vice Chair for the remainder of the four (4) year term.

3.4 Vacancies

- 3.4.1 Vacancies in the AC occurring through resignation, termination of membership in accordance with article 6, death or any other reason, may be filled by appointment by the Council for a term lasting until the next election at the appropriate Summer or Winter Paralympic Games.

- 3.4.2 Vacancies shall be filled by inviting the subsequent highest non-elected candidate(s) on the elections result list from the last AC elections. Vacancies of Summer athlete representatives will be filled by Summer athletes, whilst vacancies of Winter athlete representatives will be filled by Winter athletes.

4. IPC ATHLETES’ COUNCIL (AC) MEETINGS

- 4.1 The AC shall meet at least once a year at the invitation of the Chairperson or upon request of the IPC Governing Board. Additional meetings must be approved by the IPC Governing Board or IPC CEO.

- 4.2 The voting members of the AC each have one (1) vote at AC meetings, with no proxies allowed. Quorum shall be 50% + 1 of the voting members attending the meeting. Ex-officio members have no voting rights.



- 4.3 The Chairperson shall circulate an agenda at least 10 days prior to the meeting and be responsible for conducting the meetings.

5. MOTIONS

- 5.1 The AC has the right to submit motions to the IPC Governing Board, subject to compliance with the timelines established for the IPC Governing Board meetings.

- 5.2 The AC has the right to submit motions to the IPC General Assembly, through the IPC Governing Board, subject to compliance with the relevant IPC Standing Order. The IPC Governing Board shall make recommendations to the IPC General Assembly on all motions submitted by the Council.

6. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 Membership, including co-opted membership, of the IPC Athletes Council may be terminated by the IPC Governing Board following the recommendation of a 2/3 majority of the members of the IPC Athletes Council, for reasons of non-compliance, not fulfilling his/hers duties, responsibilities or other serious breaches of IPC rules and regulations, including but not limited to absence from two (2) consecutive official meetings without reasonable regrets, or violation of the IPC Anti-Doping Code.

7. FINANCES

- 7.1 The Chairperson of the AC will, in co-operation with the IPC CEO, produce a budget for the Council. The Council budget will be included in the overall IPC Budget and submitted for approval to the IPC Governing Board and the IPC General Assembly in accordance with the IPC financial policies.

- 7.2 Reasonable travel and other expenses incurred by members of the AC shall be reimbursed by IPC in compliance with the financial procedures issued by IPC Headquarters from time to time.

- 7.3 Members shall send a copy of their reimbursement forms to the AC Chairperson.

8. DISSOLUTION

The AC can only be dissolved by a decision of the IPC General Assembly.



9. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

- 9.1 Amendments to the AC Bylaws shall be passed by vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of voting members present at an AC meeting and must be approved by the IPC Governing Board.
- 9.2 AC members shall be given thirty days (30) advance notice of suggested Bylaw amendments. This requirement may be waived by consent (in writing) of two-thirds (2/3) of AC members.
- 9.3 The Chairperson shall be responsible for the circulation of proposed Bylaw amendments.

