

Intentional Misrepresentation

Information for Para athletes and their support personnel

What is Intentional Misrepresentation

It is a disciplinary offence whereby an Athlete intentionally misrepresents (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

It is also a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.

In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation a hearing will be convened by the NSO or IF to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.

The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:

- disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
- being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;
- suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
- publication of their names and suspension period.

Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.

Mitigation of Intentional Misrepresentation

Know the Rules

All athletes, and their support personnel, need to know the Classification rules of the sport and their roles and responsibilities. This is compliance to the IPC Athlete Classification Code and the sports IF Classification rules.

Athletes are required to sign documents which have reference to abiding by the Classification Rules. If these are broken by the athlete, or their support personnel, they risk disciplinary action. Such rules could include the following:

- Classification Consent Form
- An IPC, IF or NF Agreement Form



- An IPC Eligibility Form for Paralympic Games competitions

Athlete and Support Personnel Code of Conduct and Spirit of Fair Play

Athletes and their support personnel need to respect the IPC Athlete Code of Conduct and act in an honest and fair way. There are basic principles they need to abide by:

- understand the sport Classification rules,
- perform to their best ability,
- honestly present their skills and abilities,
- follow all classifier requests,
- declare all current medications and take as prescribed on day of classification and performance,
- declare all assistive devices/equipment used in competition,
- do not engage or instruct any athlete to intentionally or inadvertently engage in any actions that could lead to Intentional Misrepresentation,
- do not cover up any disclosed acts of Intentional Misrepresentation,
- always disclose acts of potential Intentional Misrepresentation if there are suspicions of such, or instructions to carry out such an act.