

# The International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability



President: Dr Bob Price

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**Monday, 29 June 2009**

To: All Member nations  
CC: Executive and Technical Committee  
INAS-FID/IPC Joint Working Group

Dear Member Nations

In 2007, the IPC approved a new Classification Code. All International Federations in membership of IPC – including INAS-FID - wishing to participate within Paralympic sport are required to adopt and implement procedures which meet the requirements of the code.

As part of the work to re-include events for athletes with an intellectual disability in Paralympic competition, led by the joint INAS-FID/IPC working group, it is now necessary for INAS-FID to make changes to its eligibility checking process.

These changes will be implemented over a period of months, but will begin immediately. This letter is intended to outline the main changes, and shortly, a framework document will be published which will provide the necessary policy and procedure by which the process will be managed in the future.

The letter contains a lot of detailed information, but is intended to bring you as up to date as possible. A presentation will be made during the Global Games at which questions can be answered and the process discussed in more detail.

## **Main changes**

Over the next few months, the process of checking the eligibility of athletes for ID competition will become a two-stage process, to be known as “Athlete Classification”

Stage One is the Primary Eligibility Check.

After the Primary Eligibility Check, athletes will progress to Stage Two: Sports Classification.

## **Primary Eligibility Check**

As before, athletes seeking classification will be required to present primary evidence of intellectual disability, namely an IQ report, Adaptive Behaviour assessment and proof of Age of Onset.

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In future, Primary Evidence will be assessed by a new 'International Eligibility Committee' - a panel of at least 3 psychologists. The committee will be managed by a new post of "Head of Eligibility".

An interim panel is already in place and has been reviewing all athletes currently registered for INAS-FID competition and all new applications received in preparation for the Global Games.

An advert and job description for each of these posts is attached. Recruitment for these posts will begin immediately, and we anticipate that the panel will be in place no later than August 2009. Please circulate the advert as widely as possible. We will also write to those people who previously applied to join the former eligibility committee.

## **Primary Eligibility Criteria**

To ensure the Primary Eligibility Check is as robust as possible, the wording of the INAS-FID Eligibility Criteria has been revised to make it clearer and more specific. The criteria itself remains unchanged.

The revised wording is attached and is effective immediately.

## **IQ Tests – closed list**

In line with the INAS-FID/IPC Joint Working Group, and after consultation with a number of psychologists, the Executive Committee have determined that in future, INAS-FID will only recognise assessments based upon variations of the Wechsler Family of tests (ie. WISC, WAIS, HAWIE, etc), Stanford Binet or Raven Matrices.

This is to ensure greater consistency across the World and there will be no exceptions.

A revised Classification Application Form will shortly be made available incorporating these changes.

## **Adaptive Behaviour and Age of Onset**

The methods of assessment of Adaptive Behaviour will remain the same, however it will be necessary to provide more detailed reports than previously. A template will be made available within the revised Classification Application Form.

The method of assessment of Age of Onset will also remain the same.

## **Athletes previously registered using alternative tests**

A small percentage of athletes currently holding INAS-FID registration were assessed using tests that no longer appear on the closed list. The Secretariat will shortly advise those athletes who are affected by this.

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Athletes wishing to compete in INAS-FID competition, who provided evidence based on an IQ test that does not appear in the closed list will need to provide a new IQ assessment for any INAS-FID competition taking place after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

Athletes wishing to compete in IPC competition (ie. 2009 IPC European Swimming Championships in Iceland or Asian Youth Para Games) must provide a new IQ assessment no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. We understand the difficulties this may cause but it will only affect a very small number of athletes.

For all other athletes who were recently reviewed and endorsed by the interim eligibility panel, there is no need for further assessment.

## **Sports Classification**

Stage two of the classification process is being developed by an international research group funded jointly by INAS-FID and the IPC, under the direction of the Joint Working Group. The systems that have been developed will be tested and refined further during the Global Games and the IPC European Swimming Championships later this year.

More information about sports classification will be available in Liberec and in due course we will work with IPC to identify a panel of Sport Classification Officers and Head of Sports Classification who will manage Stage Two.

## **Summary**

I hope that the above information gives you a greater understanding of the revised process, and the changes that will be implemented over the coming weeks and months. I'm sure you will have many questions and we will provide an opportunity during the Global Games to answer as many of these as possible.

I am grateful for your continued support and patience as these changes are implemented.

Yours Sincerely

Nick Parr  
On behalf of the INAS-FID Secretariat