



International
Paralympic
Committee

Wheelchair Dance Sport Nationality Policy Exemption

Temporary Waiver of Nationality Policy to Encourage the Development of the Sport

October 2013

International Paralympic Committee

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Legal Basis

The IPC Nationality Policy governs the participation of competitors in all IPC competitions and requires that every competitor be a national of the country of the NPC which is entering him or her. However, in exceptional circumstances, the IPC may reconsider aspects of the Policy. The IPC Governing Board has delegated the authority to the IPC Chief Executive Officer to decide and resolve all matters relating to the determination of the country that a competitor may represent in IPC Competitions. IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport is one of the sports governed by the IPC as International Federation and as such, all competitors in all Wheelchair Dance Sport competitions are required to abide by the Nationality Policy.

IPC WDS has received a number of requests from NPCs regularly practicing the sport for an exemption of the Nationality Policy on the following basis.

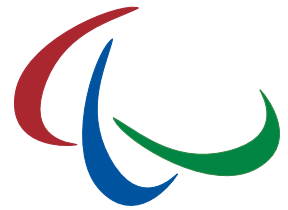
Factual Issues

Wheelchair Dance Sport is a small but fast-growing sport. Despite recent growth, in some regions and countries, the community remains small and it has often been difficult for athletes to find suitable partners who share their nationality. Prior to 1998, Wheelchair Dance was not governed by IPC regulations at all and until the latest version of the Nationality Policy was adopted in December 2011, the Policy did not explicitly address 'competition partners.' Therefore, for many years, mixed-nationality couples competed without objection.

At this time, although the sport continues to grow quickly, the situation still arises that some athletes are unable to find suitable partners who share their nationality and therefore wish to compete with a partner of a different nationality. Due to this difficulty and given the historical practice within the sport, the 2011 Nationality Policy has not been strictly enforced.

The Nationality Policy continues to reflect the policy of the IPC and its member organizations that all competitors should endeavour to find partners of the same nationality. However, strict enforcement would leave some athletes unable to participate in IPC Wheelchair Dance competitions at all and would force others to immediately undertake to find a new partner. As an athlete-centred organization, it has been determined that a transitional period would both be fairer to current athletes and promote the development of more athletes in the future, particularly where the sport remains small.

On the other hand, it would be inappropriate for any exception from this policy to encourage athletes to form mixed-nationality couples purely to gain a competitive advantage. Therefore, during the transitional period, the marquee international competitions will enforce the



Nationality Policy as written, while all other competitions will be free to allow mixed-nationality couples to compete if they so choose.

Exemption

An exemption from the Nationality Policy shall be granted to IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport competitions for four (4) years from today, **not to include** the World Championships, or Regional Championships. In all other competitions, it will be left to the discretion of the organizers to allow or disallow couples without shared nationality to compete. In no case will organizers allow a couple to compete where neither of the competitors is a national of the NPC that enters them into the competition.

Any ranking earned by mixed-nationality couples will not contribute to the couple's or either partner's qualification for the World Championships or Regional Championships. Points or rankings are given to the couple and not to either athlete individually and shall be disregarded for qualification and quota slot allocation to the World Championships or Regional Championships.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xavier Gonzalez', is positioned below the text.

Xavier Gonzalez
IPC Chief Executive Officer