

NPC President / Secretary General
Via Email

Bonn, 02 September 2015

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Technology and Equipment

Dear NPC President / Secretary General

Following recent information received regarding the use of 'prototype' or 'non-commercially available' wheelchairs and/or prosthetics. IPC Athletics **again** wishes to reiterate and confirm that Technical Delegates, International Technical Officials and IPC Athletics will interpret IPC Athletics Regulation 3.3 (Technology & Equipment) widely and purposively and specifically prior to and during the IPC Athletics World Championships in Doha.

With regard to the 'Fundamental Principles' set out at 3.3.1 the following approach will be adopted.

Wheelchairs and/or prosthetics, their accessories and components, shall be of a type that is generally available and sold for use by anyone practicing para-athletics. If, as a result of production imperatives (time constraints etc.), a piece of equipment is not generally available for sale an exception may be requested from IPC Athletics for equipment that is in final product form that will be marketed for sale within the nine months following the date of the request.

Where an exception is granted for equipment not at that date generally available, the manufacturer must have published information on the equipment in question **[at the date of the request]** and have announced the date of its market launch.

Equipment designed especially for the attainment of a particular performance by a particular athlete or group of athletes (such as a record), and not generally available to all athletes practicing para-athletics, breaches the letter and spirit of Regulation 3.3.1 and shall not be authorized.

Rule 35 (Seated Throw)

As stated in previous correspondence IPC Athletics have received a number of questions regarding the shape, dimensions, construction and other characteristics of competition equipment.

We would like to inform you that if the equipment is manufactured according to the fundamental principles of IPC Athletics regulation 3.3.1 and there is no advantage gained from it, then there is no infringement of Rule 35, especially if frame is designed in a way to fit the body of the athlete on it according to the best sitting position he/she can have depending on the nature of his/her impairment.

We would ask that in line with our rules and regulations any NPC who has concerns against the design or availability of wheelchairs, prosthetics or any other para-athletics equipment that they send details to IPC Athletics ipcathletics@paralympic.org asking for approval of such design including the manufacturer published information on the equipment in question.

We would also like to inform NPCs that should IPC Athletics become aware of any such breach of the **'Fundamental Principles'** set out in 3.3.1, IPC Athletics will contact the NPC directly to resolve the matter.

We strongly recommend that NPC inform all athletes/coaches/support personnel of such this communication regarding IPC Athletics Regulation 3.3 (Technology & Equipment)

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Montgomery", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Ryan Montgomery
Head of IPC Athletics

Cc

IPC CEO

IPC Athletics Sports Technical Committee

IPC Athletics Management Team

IPC Legal Council