WORLD PARAVOLLEY INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION RULES 2026

(WPV IM RULES)

The World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules are based on the IPC Classification Code 2025 and the International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation 2025.

The World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules have been reviewed, approved and adopted by the World ParaVolley Board of Directors and take effect as from the 21st day of July 2026.

Glossary of Defined Terms

The following definitions apply in these WPV IM Rules. Terms that appear with initial capital letters have the meanings set out below. Where a term is defined elsewhere in these WPV IM Rules or in the WPV Classification Rules 2026, that document's definition prevails in the event of any inconsistency.

Adaptive Equipment Any implement, apparatus, or technical aid adapted to the special needs of an Athlete to reduce the impact of their impairment(s) and that is permitted by World ParaVolley's rules. Refractive or optical correction (such as eyeglasses or corrective lenses) is not considered to be Adaptive Equipment.

Athlete Any athlete who has participated in any way in the Classification process, who has taken any step to engage in that process (for example by providing diagnostic information to their National Federation for the purposes of undergoing Classification), and/or who has entered or participated in any Covered Competition.

Athlete Support Person Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel, parent, or any other person working with, treating, or assisting an Athlete.

Classification (i) The determination of which athletes are eligible to compete in Para volleyball; and (ii) the grouping of eligible athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport, further to the process set out in the WPV Classification Rules.

Classification Master List The official list maintained and published by World ParaVolley that records the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of all classified Athletes, and which is updated following any Intentional Misrepresentation finding to include the Participant's Intentional Misrepresentation designation, together with the duration and date of commencement of their period of ineligibility.

Classification Panel A specified number of Classifiers appointed by World ParaVolley to conduct Evaluation Sessions and determine an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the WPV Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel Persons acting with the authority of World ParaVolley in relation to Classification, for example Classifiers and administrative officers.

Competition A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

Eligible Impairment An impairment that is permanent (i.e. unlikely to be resolved, meaning its principal effects are lifelong) and that falls within one of the categories catered for by World ParaVolley, as set out in the WPV Classification Rules.

Evaluation Session The formal assessment process (comprising the Eligible Impairment Assessment, MIC Assessment, and allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status) during which a Classification Panel evaluates an Athlete's impairment and determines their Sport Class, as further defined in the WPV Classification Rules.

Intentional Misrepresentation Has the meaning given to that term in these WPV IM Rules: in summary, conduct by a Participant that intentionally misleads (or attempts to mislead) World ParaVolley or its representatives in relation to any aspect of Classification, or intentional complicity in such conduct by another Participant.

International Federation An international sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a specific Para sport that is on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

IPC The International Paralympic Committee e.V., the international body responsible for governing the Paralympic Movement.

IPC Classification Code The 2025 IPC Classification Code (as amended from time to time), which sets out the framework and minimum standards for classification across all Para sports on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

IPC Member A member of the IPC pursuant to Part II of the IPC Constitution. World ParaVolley is an IPC Member. Periods of ineligibility imposed under these WPV IM Rules are recognised and enforced by all IPC Members.

Medical Review A review process initiated by World ParaVolley to reassess an Athlete's Classification where there has been a change in the nature or degree of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment, as further defined in the WPV Classification Rules.

Minor A natural person who has not reached the age of 18 years.

National Federation A national member of World ParaVolley.

Notice of Charge The formal written document sent by World ParaVolley to a Participant setting out the charge of Intentional Misrepresentation, the alleged facts, the sanctions proposed, and the Participant's rights and response deadline. See the Disciplinary Proceedings section of these WPV IM Rules.

Para sport Any sport in which persons with a disability participate in accordance with classification rules that are compliant with the IPC Classification Code and the related International Standards.

Paralympic Movement Comprises the IPC, IPC Members, Recognised International Federations, and any other persons that participate in Para sport or are involved in the promotion, organisation, or delivery of Para sport.

Participant For the purposes of these WPV IM Rules, a Participant means: (i) Athletes; (ii) Athlete Support Persons; (iii) National Representatives (i.e. office-holders or staff of, or persons who otherwise represent or work on behalf of, a National Federation); and (iv) any other persons under the jurisdiction of World ParaVolley who participate in any aspect of Classification.

Public Disclosure The dissemination or distribution of information to the general public, at a minimum by placing the information on World ParaVolley's website and leaving it up for the longer of one month or the duration of any period of ineligibility.

Recognised International Federation (RIF) An international federation granted RIF status by the IPC's Governing Board because it contributes to the development of the Paralympic Movement but is not on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme and is therefore not eligible to become an IPC Member. Periods of ineligibility imposed under these WPV IM Rules are also recognised and enforced by RIFs.

Sport Class A category for competition in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the extent to which their Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para volleyball, as set out in the WPV Classification Rules.

Sport Class Status A status applied to a Sport Class to indicate whether and when an Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future.

Substantial Assistance Assistance provided by a Participant in which they fully disclose all information they possess relating to Intentional Misrepresentation by another Participant and fully cooperate with the investigation and any hearing. Providing Substantial Assistance may result in a suspension of part of a Participant's period of ineligibility. See Annex B to these WPV IM Rules.

Underlying Health Condition A verifiable health condition (i.e. a disease, disorder, injury, or trauma, whether acute or chronic) that may lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by World ParaVolley.

WPV IM Panel The World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Panel: the body established by World ParaVolley to hear and determine disciplinary proceedings and appeals arising under these WPV IM Rules. See Annex A.

Introduction and Purpose of the WPV IM Rules

1. The World ParaVolley (WPV) IM Rules have been adopted pursuant to the provisions of the IPC Classification Code and the International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation, and are to be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with those documents. The purpose of the WPV IM Rules is to provide detailed rules and procedures in relation to the identification, investigation, and prosecution of Intentional Misrepresentation. Individual rules are referred to as 'Rule' or 'Rules'.

2. Defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) in these WPV IM Rules have the meaning as that given in the Glossary.

3. The processes referred to in these WPV IM Rules are distinct from the process of Classification and are not concerned with verifying or correcting the Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete, but with preventing and, if necessary, sanctioning instances of Intentional Misrepresentation.

Intentional Misrepresentation

4. The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation:

    4.1. A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally engages in conduct that misleads, or is intended to mislead, WPV or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or

    4.2. A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of: (i) Rule 4.1 above; or (ii) a period of ineligibility imposed on another Participant in relation to an act of Intentional Misrepresentation.

    4.3. A Participant can commit Intentional Misrepresentation even if that Participant does not know that their conduct will constitute a violation of these WPV IM Rules.

    4.4. A Participant can commit Intentional Misrepresentation irrespective of any designation, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete.

5. Without limiting Rule 4.1, examples of Intentional Misrepresentation include a Participant:

5.1. Submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence, nature, and/or degree of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment;

5.2. Deliberately underperforming during an Evaluation Session; deliberately tiring themselves out (in the case of Athletes) or deliberately tiring the Athlete out (in the case of other Participants) prior to an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;

5.3. Unless expressly provided otherwise in World ParaVolley's rules, intentionally undergoing an Evaluation Session without appropriate sports attire or Adaptive Equipment that the Athlete intends to use in competition and/or intentionally failing to disclose the intended use of such sports attire and Adaptive Equipment to the Classification Panel;

5.4. Intentionally failing to disclose the Athlete's use of any medication and/or medical device/implant and/or any medical procedure to the Classification Panel; or intentionally using a medical device to limit movement or restrict function when the device is not medically required.

5.5. Otherwise misrepresenting the Athlete's skills, abilities, and/or the existence, nature, and/or degree of the Athlete's impairment before, during, or after an Evaluation Session;

5.6. Disrupting an Evaluation Session, or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;

5.7. Not providing accurate information as to the Athlete's identity or having another person attend an Evaluation Session in the Athlete's place; and/or

5.8. Deliberately failing to notify WPV of any relevant Classification-related information, including that the Athlete has previously undergone Classification (for example, on an earlier occasion, or in the context of another Para sport) and/or that there has been a change in the nature or degree of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment that may necessitate a Medical Review.

6. Without limiting Rule 4.2, examples of Intentional Misrepresentation include:

6.1. Where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, Intentional Misrepresentation;

6.2. Where, having discovered that a Participant has committed or intends to commit Intentional Misrepresentation, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist WPV in the investigation or prosecution of that offence;

6.3. Where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant for that other Participant to violate, or attempt to violate, any period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to these WPV IM Rules; and/or

6.4. Where, having discovered that another Participant has violated or intends to violate any period of ineligibility imposed on them in relation to an act of Intentional Misrepresentation, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist WPV in the investigation or prosecution of that offence.

Obligations to Report and Cooperate

7. Each Participant, and each National Federation, must:

7.1. Report to WPV promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith any information they possess that a reasonable person would consider might evidence or otherwise reflect:

7.1.1. Any approach or invitation by any Participant (including themselves) to engage in conduct that might constitute Intentional Misrepresentation; and/or

7.1.2. Any incident, fact, or matter that might indicate the planning or commission of Intentional Misrepresentation by any Participant (including themselves).

7.2. Cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with all investigations carried out by WPV and/or by the IPC, including by answering any questions and providing access to any information, data, and/or documentation requested as part of that investigation;

7.3. Cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with any proceedings brought by WPV against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation; and

7.4. Not do anything (by act or omission) that has the object or effect of obstructing, preventing, delaying, or otherwise interfering with or frustrating any such investigation or proceeding.

7.5. On request, WPV will provide the IPC with information on the following, in the form requested by the IPC: (i) all credible reports or other intelligence that WPV has received which indicate potential Intentional Misrepresentation; (ii) the actions taken in relation to such reports; and (iii) updates in relation to all of its ongoing and completed investigations and proceedings relating to Intentional Misrepresentation.

Provision of False or Misleading Information

8. In relation to the provision of information:

8.1. No Participant or National Federation shall knowingly or recklessly provide information, allegations, or evidence that is false, misleading, incomplete, or otherwise deceptive with the intention of misleading WPV, disrupting or improperly influencing any Classification process, or causing harm, prejudice, or unnecessary inconvenience to any Participant, or exposing a Participant or National Federation to unwarranted investigation.

8.2. Conduct falling within Rule 8.1 shall constitute a disciplinary offence and shall be treated as such by WPV under the provisions of its disciplinary framework.

8.3. No Participant or National Federation shall suffer any prejudice in relation to the provision in good faith of any information that subsequently proves to be incorrect.

Investigations

9. Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a Participant might have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, WPV will initiate an investigation in a timely manner. Grounds do not need to be given to a Participant for the initiation of an investigation, and the decision to initiate an investigation cannot be contested.

10. Where a Participant is affiliated with WPV and one or more other International Federations, WPV may also assist those other International Federations in relation to any investigation(s) they initiate into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation by the Participant (including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations conducted by those other International Federations).

11. The IPC may:

    11.1. Offer assistance to WPV in conducting investigations into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations;

    11.2. Direct WPV to conduct an investigation in relation to suspected Intentional Misrepresentation that has come to the attention of the IPC (including, but not limited to in circumstances where a Participant is affiliated to WPV and one or more other International Federations, and a dispute has arisen as to which International Federation has the responsibility to investigate the suspected Intentional Misrepresentation); and/or

    11.3. Conduct its own investigations into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation, whether on its own initiative and/or as requested by WPV or another International Federation or otherwise. In such circumstances, references to WPV will, where the context requires, be interpreted as a reference to the IPC.

12. The objective for each investigation will be to gather information necessary to determine: (i) whether a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation; and, if so (ii) whether any other Participant has a case to answer for intentional complicity in that Intentional Misrepresentation. This will include gathering and recording all relevant information, developing that information into evidence, and identifying and pursuing further lines of enquiry that might lead to the discovery of such evidence.

13. WPV will conduct each investigation fairly, objectively, and impartially. It will be open to and consider all possible outcomes at each key stage of the investigation and will seek to gather not only any available evidence of Intentional Misrepresentation but also any available evidence indicating that there is no case to answer.

14. Except in exceptional circumstances, WPV will notify the Participant of the investigation and give the Participant an opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation. WPV will decide when this notification should be made.

15. WPV may make requests of any Participant, and of any National Federation, to assist an investigation by producing documents, information, and/or other material, including by answering questions.

16. Where during the course of any investigation WPV identifies any additional Participants who might also have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the investigation may be expanded to cover such additional Participants or (alternatively) a separate investigation may be commenced.

Disciplinary Proceedings

Confidentiality

17. All proceedings brought by WPV against a Participant in respect of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation will be confidential, including all documents, evidence, submissions, and other information relating to the proceedings. Neither the parties to the proceedings, nor any third party witness, expert, observer, or other participant in the proceedings will comment on the specific facts of any case (as opposed to general descriptions of the process), except that WPV may only make or issue such comments as it considers necessary in response to any public comments attributed to, or based on information provided by, the Participant who is the subject of the proceedings (or their entourage or representatives).

18. WPV may, in its discretion (exercised subject to all relevant data protection requirements), decide that information should be shared with any Person or Persons on a confidential and need-to-know basis in order to assist in the discharge of WPV's functions (including in the investigation and prosecution of any offences under these WPV IM Rules and/or to protect its integrity and reputation, or that of the Paralympic

Movement or Para sport. Such Persons would include appropriate personnel within the International Federation, other International Federations, and the IPC, as well as other bodies with an investigatory or regulatory function.

Proceedings

19. If WPV determines that a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation, WPV will bring disciplinary proceedings against the Participant unless there are specific and extenuating circumstances that are notified to and accepted by the IPC.

20. Intentional Misrepresentation must be established to the satisfaction of the WPV IM Panel on a balance of probabilities. WPV bears the burden of proof in relation to the establishing of Intentional Misrepresentation.

21. Disciplinary proceedings brought by WPV for alleged Intentional Misrepresentation will be subject to these WPV IM Rules.

22. Disciplinary proceedings may not be commenced against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation unless such disciplinary proceedings are commenced within either: (i) ten years from the date that the Intentional Misrepresentation allegedly occurred; or (ii) two years after the discovery of such alleged Intentional Misrepresentation by WPV, whichever is later.

23. The IPC may, in its absolute discretion, direct WPV to bring disciplinary proceedings against a Participant that the IPC considers: (i) has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation; and/or (ii) has failed to cooperate with an IPC investigation in relation to Intentional Misrepresentation.

24. Disciplinary proceedings brought by WPV for alleged Intentional Misrepresentation must be heard before the World ParaVolley IM Panel (**WPV IM Panel**).

Notice of Charge

25. Where WPV brings disciplinary proceedings against a Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation, WPV will prepare and send a Notice of Charge to the Participant, copying: (i) the Participant's National Federation; and (ii) the IPC, which must contain (at a minimum) the following information:

25.1. the facts alleged in support of the charge and any other relevant information;

25.2. the sanction(s) that WPV says should be imposed if the charge is upheld;

25.3. the Participant's right:

25.3.1. to admit the charge and to accept the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge;

25.3.2. to admit the charge but dispute (or seek to mitigate) the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge, and to have the matter of sanctions determined by the WPV IM Panel if not agreed between the parties; or

25.3.3. to dispute the charge and to have the charge determined (along with any sanctions, if a charge is upheld) by the WPV IM Panel; and

25.4. the deadline for the Participant to provide a response to the charge (which must be no fewer than 14 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Charge by the Participant).

26. At any time after sending a Notice of Charge to the Participant, WPV may adduce further facts and/or other relevant information in support of the charge, provided that the Participant is given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the new facts/information.

27. Once the Notice of Charge has been sent to a Participant, WPV may publicly disclose the identity of the Participant and the nature of the alleged Intentional Misrepresentation where WPV considers that such disclosure is necessary, lawful and in the interests of protecting the integrity of Classification.

<u>Resolution of Charges – No Hearing</u>

28. Where the Participant:

28.1. admits the charge and accepts the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge (or accepts other sanctions proposed by WPV); or

28.2. fails to respond by the deadline specified in the Notice of Charge (which failure will be deemed to amount to: (i) a waiver of the Participant's right to have the charge and/or sanctions determined by the WPV IM Panel, (ii) an admission of the charge, and (iii) acceptance of the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge),

a hearing before the WPV IM Panel will not be required and WPV will proceed to issue a resolution of the case as provided in Rule 52 of these WPV IM Rules.

29. At any time prior to a final decision by the WPV IM Panel, WPV may decide to withdraw a Notice of Charge for good cause. WPV must inform the Participant, the National Federation to which the Participant is affiliated, and the IPC of the withdrawal of the Charge and the reasons for that withdrawal.

30. The IPC may within 15 days of receipt of the decision to withdraw a Notice of Charge, request a copy of all information and materials pertaining to the decision, and within 21 days of receipt of such information and materials appeal the decision to withdraw a Notice of Charge. Any such appeal must be made to the WPV IM Panel.

Resolution of Charges – Hearing

31. If the Participant disputes the charge and/or the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge, the Participant must set out (in summary form) the basis for their position within their response to the Notice of Charge.

32. If the Participant wishes to have a hearing to resolve the dispute, the Participant must provide a written request for a hearing to WPV within 14 days of the Participant's receipt of the Notice of Charge (or such longer period as may be specified in the Notice of Charge or agreed by WPV).

33. The WPV IM Panel will hear and determine Intentional Misrepresentation cases involving any Participant under its jurisdiction in accordance with the Procedural Guidelines for Hearings attached to these WPV IM Rules as **Annex A**.

Sanctions

34. A Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation will be subject to the sanctions set out in these WPV IM Rules.

Sanctions for Participants

Period of ineligibility

35. A period of ineligibility of four years, which may be:

35.1. increased depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of any aggravating circumstances up to a period of ineligibility of a lifetime; and/or

35.2. reduced depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of any mitigating circumstances, except that the resulting period of ineligibility imposed must not be less than 12 months.

36. Aggravating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

36.1. the age and experience of the Participant, and in particular their experience in relation to the Classification process;

36.2. a lack of remorse on the part of the Participant;

36.3. a finding that the Participant received or expected to receive a significant benefit as a result of their Intentional Misrepresentation;

36.4. a finding that the Participant committed Intentional Misrepresentation on multiple occasions and/or over an extended period of time;

36.5. a finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation was part of a wider scheme involving other Participants; and/or

36.6. a finding that the Participant engaged in deceptive or obstructive conduct to avoid the detection or adjudication of Intentional Misrepresentation.

37. Mitigating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

37.1. the youth or inexperience of the Participant, especially in relation to the Classification process;

37.2. genuine remorse on the part of the Participant.

38. The period of ineligibility will start on the date of the relevant decision or such other date as specified by WPV (in an agreed case) or the WPV IM Panel (in a contested case), and will in accordance with their commitments made pursuant to the Classification Code be recognised, respected, and enforced by all IPC Members and RIFs.

39. WPV may require in its sole discretion that a National Federation or other relevant organization to reimburse WPV for all reasonably incurred and proportionate costs (including but not limited to hearing expenses and legal costs) related to a violation of these WPV IM Rules committed by any Participant affiliated with the National Federation. Any dispute as to whether costs are reasonable and proportionate shall be resolved by the WPV IM Panel whose decision shall be final and without recourse to appeal.

Multiple violations

40. The period of ineligibility that will be imposed on a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation:

40.1. for a second time, will be twice the period of ineligibility that would otherwise be applicable to the second violation; and

40.2. for a third or subsequent time, will be a lifetime period of ineligibility.

41. An Intentional Misrepresentation violation will only be considered a second or third Intentional Misrepresentation violation if WPV can establish that the Participant committed the additional Intentional Misrepresentation violation after receiving a Notice of Charge (or after WPV made reasonable efforts to draw the Notice of Charge to the Participant's attention) in relation to a preceding Intentional Misrepresentation violation. Otherwise, the violations will be considered together as one single violation, and the sanction imposed will be based on the violation that carries the more severe sanction.

42. If WPV establishes that a Participant has committed a second or third Intentional Misrepresentation violation during a period of ineligibility imposed for a previous

Intentional Misrepresentation violation, the periods of ineligibility for the multiple violations will run consecutively rather than concurrently.

Possible reductions or suspensions to the period of ineligibility

Voluntary admission

43. If a Participant voluntarily admits the commission of Intentional Misrepresentation before being notified by WPV of its investigation into that Participant, and that admission is the only reliable evidence of the Intentional Misrepresentation at the time of admission, the period of ineligibility may be reduced, by a maximum of one half of the period of ineligibility otherwise applicable (i.e., after any adjustment based on aggravating or mitigating factors).

44. If a Participant voluntarily admits the commission of Intentional Misrepresentation within a reasonable period of time after being notified by WPV of its investigation into that Participant, the period of ineligibility may be reduced by a maximum of a quarter of the period of ineligibility otherwise applicable (i.e., after any adjustment based on aggravating or mitigating factors).

Substantial Assistance

45. A period of ineligibility may be suspended in full or in part based on the provision by a Participant of Substantial Assistance, as detailed in **Annex B** to these WPV IM Rules.

Status during ineligibility

46. During a period of ineligibility, a Participant is prohibited from participating in any capacity in:

46.1. Classification;

46.2. any Competition, event, programme, or other activity (other than authorised education programmes) organised, authorised, or recognised by: (a) WPV (b) any WPV member; (c) any club or other member of a member of WPV; and/or (d) any professional Para sport league or international or national level Para sport Competition organisation; and

46.3. any elite or national-level Para sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.

47. An Athlete may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a National Federation or other organisation during the last two months of their period of ineligibility.

48. If a Participant violates any period of ineligibility imposed upon them, a new period of ineligibility equal in length to the original period of ineligibility (subject to adjustment at the discretion of WPV based on the Participant's degree of fault and other circumstances of the case) will be added to the end of the original period of ineligibility. In such circumstances, WPV will promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of its decision. The Participant and/or the IPC will have the right to appeal such decision to the WPV IM Panel within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision.

Consequences for Teams and National Federations

49. Any consequences to be applied to teams of which a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation is a member will be at the discretion of WPV provided always that such consequences shall be both proportionate and reasonable.

50. Any consequences (in addition to those referred to at Rule 39) to be applied to a National Federation to which a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation is affiliated will be at the discretion of WPV provided always that such consequences shall be both proportionate and reasonable.

Decisions

51. The WPV IM Panel must notify its decision to the parties in a written reasoned decision, in accordance with the WPV IM Panel Procedural Guidelines at **Annex A**. The decision will address and determine, at a minimum, the following issues:

51.1. whether the Participant committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the factual basis for such determination, and the specific provisions of WPV's Classification Rules found to have been violated; and

51.2. the applicable sanctions imposed by the WPV IM Panel.

52. WPV will disclose the decision of the WPV IM Panel to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC. If WPV is aware that the Participant who is the subject of the decision is a Participant in any other Para sport, WPV will also send the decision to the relevant International Federation.

53. In a case where Rule 28 of these WPV IM Rules applies, WPV will produce a written reasoned decision which it will provide as a minimum to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, the IPC, and any other relevant International Federation or RIF which will take effect as if it were a final decision of the WPV IM Panel.

Appeals

54. WPV, the Participant and the IPC each have the right to appeal decisions of the WPV IM Panel within 21 days from the date of receipt of the relevant decision by the appealing party, except that if the IPC may have an extra 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of the documents and materials pertaining to the decision.

Public Disclosure

55. Public Disclosure means the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public at a minimum by placing the information on WPV's website and leaving the information up for the longer of one month or the duration of any period of ineligibility.

56. WPV will publish (subject to any applicable laws) information relating to the disposition of the matter, including the identity of the Participant, the nature of the Intentional Misrepresentation involved, and the consequences imposed, and publish an updated version of its Classification Master List to include the Participant's Intentional Misrepresentation designation, together with the duration and date of commencement of their period of ineligibility.

57. WPV may also decide to make public the written reasons for the determination or decision and may comment publicly on the matter.

58. In any case where it is determined, after a hearing or appeal, that the Participant did not commit Intentional Misrepresentation, the fact that the decision has been appealed may be Publicly Disclosed. However, the decision itself and the underlying facts may not be Publicly Disclosed except with the consent of the Participant who is the subject of the decision. WPV will use reasonable efforts to obtain such consent, and if consent is obtained, will Publicly Disclose the decision in its entirety or in such redacted form as the Participant may approve. Public Disclosure will not be required where the Participant who has been found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation is a Minor at the time the decision is issued.

Annex A

World ParaVolley IM Panel (WPV IM PANEL)

PROCEDURAL RULES FOR HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Hearings conducted by the World ParaVolley IM Panel (which includes both hearings and appeals) shall be conducted according to the processes detailed in this Annex.

1. The WPV IM Panel

1.1. The WPV IM Panel is comprised of persons appointed by WPV who are determined to have the skills, experience and expertise to resolve disciplinary matters involving Intentional Misrepresentation. The WPV IM Panel shall be coordinated and led by the Chair of the WPV IM Panel ('Chair').

1.2. WPV is responsible for the conduct of disciplinary proceedings arising under the Rules. If those proceedings result in a dispute that requires resolution, WPV will submit a written request to the Chair for determination of the dispute, including a copy of the Notice of Charge and any written response; an indication as to any special features of the proceedings (including but not limited to, the case involves a Minor, and/or whether expedited proceedings are required); and confirmation that a copy of the request, together with all enclosures, is being served simultaneously on any other party or parties entitled to notification of the same.

2. Forming a Hearing Panel

2.1. In relation to the resolution of disciplinary proceedings, the Chair shall appoint a hearing panel made up of three persons, one acting as chair of the hearing panel, to hear and determine the issue, unless the Chair decides that the matter is suitable for determination by a sole person. A sole person shall still be referred to as the 'hearing panel'.

2.2. In relation to appeals, the Chair shall appoint a panel made up of three persons, one acting as chair of the panel ('the appeal panel'), unless the Chair decides that the matter is suitable for determination by a sole person. A sole person shall still be referred to as the 'appeal panel'.

2.3. The Chair may appoint themselves to be a chair of a hearing panel or an appeal panel.

2.4. In these Rules, unless otherwise indicated the term 'panel' means a hearing panel and/or an appeal panel.

2.5. Members of panels must remain impartial and independent at all times and must have had no prior involvement with the relevant dispute. A person is independent if they are free from any close connection to World Paravolley and if, from the perspective of an objective outsider, they would be viewed as independent. A person may still be deemed to be 'independent' even if they are a member of World Paravolley and/or play the sport. Examples of a 'close connection' include that they are or have within the last four years been actively involved in World Paravolley affairs, e.g. as a representative of a specific interest group within World Paravolley such as a sporting discipline, a region or a home country, or have close family ties with any of World Paravolley directors or senior employees.

2.6. The chair of a panel should be where possible a person with legal experience. The members of a panel should have where possible experience of legal, disciplinary, classification and/or sports administration matters or experience as an athlete and/or coach or be otherwise competent to resolve the issues to be determined by the panel.

2.7. The Chair shall advise the parties of the identity of the panel members. Any party having any legitimate objection to the appointment of any panel member must communicate its objections to the Chair within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the appointment. The Chair shall rule on any such objection and the Chair's decision shall be final.

2.8. A member of a panel may also be challenged by any party where, following the formation of the panel, circumstances arise that create legitimate doubts as to a panel member's impartiality or independence. Such a challenge must be made within fourteen (14) days of that party becoming aware of such circumstances. The Chair shall decide on the challenge, unless the challenged panel member withdraws or all parties agree to the challenge, and the Chair's decision shall be final.

2.9. If a panel member gives notice to resign from, or becomes unwilling, unable or unfit to sit on such panel for any reason, the Chair shall revoke that member's appointment and may at their discretion either appoint another person to the panel or, with the agreement of the remaining panel members and having regard to the circumstances of the case and the stage of the proceedings, authorise the remaining panel members to continue to hear and determine the matter alone.

3. Conduct of the Hearing

3.1. The panel shall determine the dispute in accordance with the World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules (**Rules**).

3.2. The parties shall be entitled, at their own expense, to be accompanied by a representative.

3.3. The panel shall have all powers necessary for, and incidental to, the discharge of its responsibilities, including (without limitation) the power, whether on the application of a party or of its own motion:

3.3.1. to make all appropriate procedural directions in relation to the conduct of the hearing;
3.3.2. to expedite or to adjourn, postpone or suspend its proceedings, upon such terms as it shall determine, where fairness so requires;
3.3.3. to extend or abbreviate any time-limit provided by the Rules or its own orders;
3.3.4. to request any party to make any property, document or other thing in its possession or under its control available for inspection by the panel and any other party;

3.4. As soon as practicable after the formation of the panel, the chair of the panel may issue directions to the parties in relation to the procedure and timetable to be followed in the proceedings. If the chair of the panel deems appropriate, a directions hearing may be held prior to issuing such directions. In particular, the directions shall:

3.4.1. fix the date, time and venue of the hearing

3.4.2. establish a schedule for the exchange of written submissions and evidence in advance of the hearing;

3.5. Hearings shall be conducted on a private and confidential basis, attended only by the parties to the proceedings and their representatives and witnesses.

3.6. The procedure to be followed at the hearing shall be at the discretion of the chair of the panel, provided always that the hearing is conducted in a fair manner, with a reasonable opportunity provided for each party to present evidence (including the right to call and to question witnesses) and address the panel.

3.7. The panel shall have discretion as to whether to receive evidence from witnesses in person, by telephone, by video conference or in writing, and shall have the right to question a witness and control the questioning of witnesses by a party.

3.8. Unless the panel orders that parties may make submissions in writing only, all parties should attend hearings in person, along with any representative(s). The non-attendance of any party or his representative at the hearing, after proper notice of the hearing has been provided, shall not prevent the panel from proceeding with the hearing, whether or not written submissions have been made by or on behalf of that party.

3.9. Once the parties have completed their respective submissions, the panel shall determine in private its decision, which may be unanimously or by majority.

3.10. The panel shall have the power to decide on the admissibility, relevance and weight of any evidence (including the testimony of any fact or expert witness) and shall not be bound by any judicial or evidential rules in relation to such matters. Facts may be established by any reliable means, including admissions.

4. Decision

4.1. The panel shall announce its decision verbally as soon as possible after the hearing. A summary of the decision shall be provided to the parties in writing, dated and signed by at least the chair of the panel within seven (7) working days of the end of the hearing. The written summary shall set out and explain:

4.1.1. the panel's findings;

4.1.2. matters required by the Rules

4.1.3. any sanction imposed pursuant to the Rules;

4.1.4. any rights of appeal.

4.2. Subject to the provisions of the Rules each of the parties shall bear its own costs, legal, expert or otherwise.

5. Appeals

5.1. The hearing panel decision may be appealed by any person who is given such a right of appeal in the Rules (the "**Appellant**"). The decision being appealed shall remain in full force and effect pending determination of the appeal unless the hearing panel orders otherwise.

5.2. An Appellant shall have the right to receive a copy of the record of the proceedings that led to the decision, including a copy of any transcripts. If such request is made, WPV shall supply the record and/or transcript to such party as soon as reasonably practicable. The record, including any audio recording or transcript produced, shall only be held by WPV as long as is necessary.

5.3. The scope of review on appeal includes all issues relevant to the matter. Any party to the appeal may submit evidence, legal arguments and claims that were not raised in the first hearing so long as they arise from the same cause of action or same general facts or circumstances raised or addressed in the first hearing.

5.4. Any party who wishes to appeal must lodge a document (a "**Notice of Appeal**") with WPV within 21 days of receipt of the decision being appealed, containing or accompanied by the following the contact details of the party/parties to the appeal; a copy of the decision being appealed; a statement of the grounds for the appeal; any proposals in relation to the conduct or venue of the appeal and an indication as to any special features of the appeal and/or whether expedited proceedings are required;

5.5. Where a Notice of Appeal is filed with WPV, WPV shall notify the Chair and provide the Chair with the Notice of Appeal and supporting documents. The Chair shall appoint an appeal panel, and these Procedural shall apply to the Appeal.

5.6. Appeals should be conducted expeditiously. Save where all parties agree, or fairness requires otherwise, the appeal hearing shall take place no later than forty (40) days after the Chair receives the Notice of Appeal.

5.7. The appeal panel's decision shall be final and binding.

6. Communications and Other Matters

6.1. Any notice or other communication required to be given by a party must be given in writing and must be sent by e-mail.

6.2. Where a matter arises that is not otherwise provided for in these Procedural Rules, the Chair or the chair of a panel shall resolve the matter as they see fit.

6.3. None of the Chair or any member of any panel shall be liable for anything done or omitted in the discharge of their functions in connection with any proceedings unless the act or omission is shown to have been in bad faith.

6.4. WPV may as a transitional measure appoint an *ad hoc* panel to resolve disciplinary proceedings arising under the Rules which shall be treated in all material respects as being the WPV IM Panel. Such a panel must comply with the standards established by these Procedural Rules.

Annex B

Substantial Assistance

1. A part of the period of ineligibility imposed on a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation may be suspended, at WPV's discretion, where the Participant has provided Substantial Assistance which results in either WPV or another International Federation or similar organisation bringing forward a case of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation against another Participant.

2. WPV will not suspend any period of ineligibility without first consulting with the IPC.

3. WPV must promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of any such suspension.

4. The decision to suspend may be appealed by the Participant and/or by the IPC to the WPV IM Panel within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision.

5. A Participant providing 'Substantial Assistance' must:

   5.1. fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information they possess in relation to Intentional Misrepresentation by another Participant; and

   5.2. fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to that information, including, for example, providing testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by WPV, another International Federation or hearing panel.

6. The Substantial Assistance provided may relate to Intentional Misrepresentation alleged to have been committed by a Participant in another Para sport.

7. The extent to which the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility may be suspended will be based on the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation committed by the Participant and the significance of the Substantial Assistance provided by the Participant to the effort to combat Intentional Misrepresentation. No more than three-quarters of the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility (i.e., after any adjustment based on: (i) aggravating or mitigating factors; and (ii) any voluntary

admission) may be suspended. If the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility is a lifetime, the non-suspended period of ineligibility under this Rule must be no less than eight years.

8. If the Participant fails to continue to cooperate and to provide the complete and credible Substantial Assistance upon which a suspension of a period of ineligibility was based, WPV will reinstate the original period of ineligibility. If WPV decides to reinstate a suspended period of ineligibility or decides not to reinstate a suspended period of ineligibility, that decision must be promptly notified to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC and may be appealed by the Participant and/or the IPC to the WPV IM Panel within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision.