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# ParalympicsGB Intentional Misrepresentation Procedure

## 1 Introduction

This document has been developed by the British Paralympic Association (ParalympicsGB) to establish a procedure to be used when managing reports of Intentional Misrepresentation (IM).

The UK Classification Code considers IM as one of the biggest risks to the integrity of Paralympic sport.

## 2 Background to Intentional Misrepresentation

### 2.1 Jurisdiction

Section 3.2 of the UK Classification Code states that the Code "applies to ParalympicsGB, its member organisations and their members, agencies within the UK sporting system that support ParalympicsGB and its members, as well as to identified groups of individuals". These individuals include but are not limited to athletes, athlete support personnel, parents and classifiers.

### 2.2 Definition

Section 9.1 of the UK Classification Code states that in the context of National Classification, IM is when:

- a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleading or attempting to mislead an organisation delivering National Classification or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of classification, attempts to deceive the classification panel during classification evaluation.

- a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, being intentionally complicit in any violation or attempted violation of a period of ineligibility imposed on another Participant.

A 'participant' could include athletes, athlete support personnel, classifiers and any other person covered by the UK Classification Code engaging with classification.

Examples of behaviours constituting Intentional Misrepresentation include (without limitation):

- Submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment the athlete does not have.
- Deliberately underperforming during any stage of the classification process.
- Deliberately tiring themselves, or an athlete out prior to an evaluation session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel.
- Intentionally failing to disclose the athlete's use of any medication and/or medical device/implant and/or medical procedure to the Classification Panel.
- Otherwise misrepresenting the athlete's skills, abilities and/or existence, nature and/or degree of the athlete's impairment(s) at any point before, during or after the classification process.
- Disrupting the classification process or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel with the intention of misleading.
- Not providing accurate information as to the identity of the athlete or having another person attend in their place.
- Inducing, instructing, facilitating, assisting, encouraging or conspiring with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, Intentional Misrepresentation.

- Upon discovery, concealing or covering up an offence or information which would assist an organisation delivering National Classification in the investigation or prosecution of the offence.
- Inducing, instructing, facilitating, assisting, encouraging or conspiring with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, a violation of a period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to Articles 9.6 of the UK Classification Code.

### 2.3 Sanctions

Under Section 9.7 of the UK Classification Code, anyone who is found to have committed intentional misrepresentation will be subject to the following sanctions:

- **Disqualification of results:** all results, medals, prizes, ranking points obtained from the date the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred must be disqualified.
- **Period of ineligibility:** a default period of ineligibility of four years will apply, which may be i) increased by an additional period of up to a lifetime ineligibility depending on the seriousness of the violation and nature of any aggravating circumstances, or ii) reduced depending on the seriousness of the violation and nature of any mitigating circumstances.
- **Other sanctions:** such other sanctions as the organisation delivering National Classification or Hearing Panel considered appropriate and proportionate within the circumstances of the case.

The severity of these sanctions reflects the seriousness of the charge of IM.

Aggravating and mitigating circumstances, multiple violations and conditions of any sanctions will be considered in accordance with Article 9.7 of the UK Classification Code.

ParalympicsGB will recognise, respect and enforce any ban imposed on anyone who is found to commit IM by a signatory to the IPC Classification Code.

## 3 How to raise a report of IM

Anyone with relevant information of genuine concerns of Intentional Misrepresentation (IM) should report those concerns either to their sport's National Governing Body, or where there are reasons those concerns cannot be shared with the National Governing Body (NGB) of the sport, information should be sent to classification@paralympics.org.uk.

If you want to report concerns anonymously, you can do so by clicking on the following link: https://forms.office.com/e/M9xPtR0C6m.

## 4 Procedure for managing a report of IM

The below procedure outlines the approach that ParalympicsGB will take when receiving a report of IM under its jurisdiction.

ParalympicsGB's Athlete Services Manager (Classification) will lead this procedure. Full details on how to raise a report of IM is available on the ParalympicsGB's website. ParalympicsGB's Athlete Services Manager (Classification) will maintain a confidential log of all IM reports received by ParalympicsGB.

In order to most effectively respond to reports of IM, ParalympicsGB asks that the person making the report confirms their identity and provides their contact details. They will also be asked whether they give consent for their details to be passed on to either the National Governing Body (NGB) or the International Federation (IF) (if relevant). If a person wishes to raise a concern anonymously or they do not provide consent for their personal details to be passed on, ParalympicsGB will still consider the information they have provided but may be more limited in the action that they can take.

Only reports that point to activity of a Participant committing IM as defined in Section 9.1 of the UK Classification Code will be carried forward. The following are not considered evidence of IM:

- Performance Data
- Athletes being considered less severely impaired than others in the same class as their own

### 4.1 International Classification

If the report submitted to ParalympicsGB in relation to IM that calls into question the validity of an athlete's international sport class, the report should be forwarded to the sport's IF in its entirety.

In practice, this process involves ParalympicsGB sharing the report with the relevant UK National Governing Body (NGB), on the understanding that the NGB will, in turn, share the information with their IF, subject to the consent of the individual who raised the report.

Where the individual does not provide their identity, or does not consent to it being shared, the substantive information within the report should still be passed to the UK NGB and subsequently the IF, with any identifying details appropriately redacted.

ParalympicsGB and the UK NGB will cooperate fully with any follow-up actions taken by the IF.

If the report implicates the CEO or Board of the NGB as being complicit in IM, then the report may be forwarded directly to the IF and not the UK NGB.

### 4.2 National Classification

If the report relates to IM that calls into question the validity of an athlete's national sport class, ParalympicsGB will follow these 11 steps:

1. Does the report implicate the CEO or Board of the NGB as being complicit in IM, or is there any other reason why this report should not be shared with the NGB?

If yes, proceed to step 2.

If no, log the report and pass onto the NGB to manage with its own processes. While in most cases reports of IM will be managed by the sport's NGB, ParalympicsGB reserves the right to initiate an investigation into and/or bring a case against one of its member NGBs and/or their members following a report of IM.

2. Review the content of the report that has been made:

    a. Is the source from inside the sport, outside of the sport or anonymous?
    b. Is the report based on a first-hand account?
    c. Does the content of the report sound likely?
    d. Does the content of the report supplement information already received?
    e. Is the content of the report relevant to IM?

This step should involve consideration of the report by the Head of Athlete Services and Director of Sport.

In deciding whether to initiate an investigation, ParalympicsGB must consider whether the report is sufficiently detailed and reputable to suggest an individual may have committed IM and warrants further scrutiny.

If, following the review, it is determined that an investigation is warranted, proceed to step 3.

If an investigation is not warranted, ParalympicsGB will log and securely store the report for accessing in the event ParalympicsGB receives any further reports relating to the same individual or organisation. These reports will be logged for at least five years and, beyond that, for as long as is considered reasonable by ParalympicsGB, with due regard to the relevant individuals' continued participation in Paralympic Sport.

3. ParalympicsGB's Athlete Services Manager (Classification) will recommend to the ParalympicsGB Chief Executive Officer and Director of Sport that ParalympicsGB ask Sport Resolutions to appoint an Investigator to substantiate the claims. The Terms of Reference and scope of the investigation will be agreed with Sport Resolutions and the Investigator prior to the investigation commencement. The Investigator may need access to all paperwork held by the NGB relating to the individual or group of people referenced in the report(s). This paperwork may include medical diagnostic information, physio reports and national classification evaluation of an athlete. The Investigator may also need to interview athletes, support staff and national classifiers.

4. ParalympicsGB may at any stage make a written request to an individual to provide ParalympicsGB and/or a Sport Resolutions Investigator with any information, record, article or thing in their possession or control that ParalympicsGB reasonably believes may evidence or lead to the discovery of evidence of IM. The individual should comply with a request in such reasonable period of time as determined by ParalympicsGB and set out in the request.

5. The Investigator will produce a report for ParalympicsGB's Athlete Services Manager (Classification) to review. ParalympicsGB will then decide whether the Sport Resolutions investigation provides sufficient evidence for ParalympicsGB to bring disciplinary proceedings against an individual or organisation. When deciding whether to bring disciplinary proceedings, ParalympicsGB will apply the balance of probabilities standard of proof.

If disciplinary proceedings are to be brought, proceed to step 6a. If not, proceed to step 6b.

6. ParalympicsGB Athlete Services Manager (Classification) to summarise the actions taken to date and in confidence share with ParalympicsGB's Director of Sport and Chief Executive Officer, along with the initial report and supporting documentation and either:

    a. Recommend initiating disciplinary proceedings against an Organisation, athlete and/or athlete support personnel, proceed to step 7; or
    b. Recommend logging and securely retaining this information for accessing in the event ParalympicsGB receives any future reports relating to the same person or group of people. This log must include explicit reasons why a disciplinary proceeding was not brought.

7. ParalympicsGB Member Handbook establishes an obligation on ParalympicsGB members to comply with the UK Classification Code. Therefore, if an investigation determines that a member organisation is complicit in IM, ParalympicsGB will pursue sanctions against that Member following the Compliance Procedures in Section 6 of ParalympicsGB Member Handbook. Alternatively, if disciplinary proceedings are being pursued against an individual, ParalympicsGB Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel Disciplinary Policy will apply. For clarity any person supporting an athlete with classification will be considered an athlete support personnel regardless of their role. If there are inconsistencies between the provisions in this ParalympicsGB Intentional Misrepresentation Policy and those of the ParalympicsGB Member Handbook or ParalympicsGB Athlete and Athlete Support Personnel Disciplinary Policy, the terms of this policy with prevail.

    The individual will be notified of the issue in writing and invited to attend a disciplinary hearing. Sport Resolutions will constitute the hearing panel. This notice will give details of the time and venue for the hearing and advise the individual of the right to be accompanied and to be represented by Counsel at the hearing. Sport Resolutions operates a Pro Bono Legal Advice & Representation Service which the individual(s) would be eligible to apply to access if facing a disciplinary hearing, more information is available here. ParalympicsGB will seek to ensure that the time, place, and location of any disciplinary hearing are reasonable; it will take place as soon as is reasonably practicable. Individuals will be given at least Seven (7) days' notice if the date, time and location of the disciplinary. While the Investigator's report may be used as evidence in the hearing, an Investigator will not be a member of the hearing panel. ParalympicsGB may impose a provisional suspension on the individual pending a hearing.

8. If the individual fails to respond to the Charge, or fails to attend the hearing, a hearing will take place in their absence whereby the issue of whether the individual is found proven of committing IM will be resolved on the basis of the evidence available.

9. If the hearing panel, appointed by Sport Resolutions, finds in favour of the accused, ParalympicsGB must not publish that outcome unless explicitly directed to by the accused.

10. Both the accused and ParalympicsGB have the right to appeal the decision made by Sport Resolutions. In the event of such an appeal, Sport Resolutions will constitute a new hearing panel in line with its Arbitration Rules. The time-limit for the receipt by Sport Resolutions and for the service by the Appellant on the Respondent of the Notice of Appeal shall be Ten (10) days from the date of the decision from which the appeal is made or to be made. The appeal should be lodged in writing to resolve@sportresolutions.com and classification@paralympics.org.uk.

11. ParalympicsGB will maintain a log of all received reports of IM and follow-up actions taken by the NGB. This log should be reviewed at least once per year by ParalympicsGB's Director of Sport.

### 4.3 Welfare

At all times, the welfare of the individual(s) making the report as well as the individual(s) implicated in the report must be considered. ParalympicsGB should consider offering an appropriate person to support each of the parties impacted by the report being raised. ParalympicsGB's Investigation of Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy should be followed.

Ongoing, unsubstantiated claims of IM can be considered bullying or harassment. If ParalympicsGB experiences this, ParalympicsGB's or respective NGB's Disciplinary Policy procedures should be followed.

## 5 Limitations

No disciplinary proceedings may be commenced unless such disciplinary proceedings are commenced within either of the following, whichever is later:

- Eight years from the date the alleged Intentional Misrepresentation occurred.
- Two years after the discovery of the alleged Intentional Misrepresentation.

***Document owner: Athlete Services Manager (Classification)***

***Approved by: ParalympicsGB Executive Team***

***Date: September 2026***

***Review date: September 2028***

**Appendix**

**Appendix 1 - Definitions**

UK Classification Code - The national framework that governs classification in Paralympic sport across the UK.

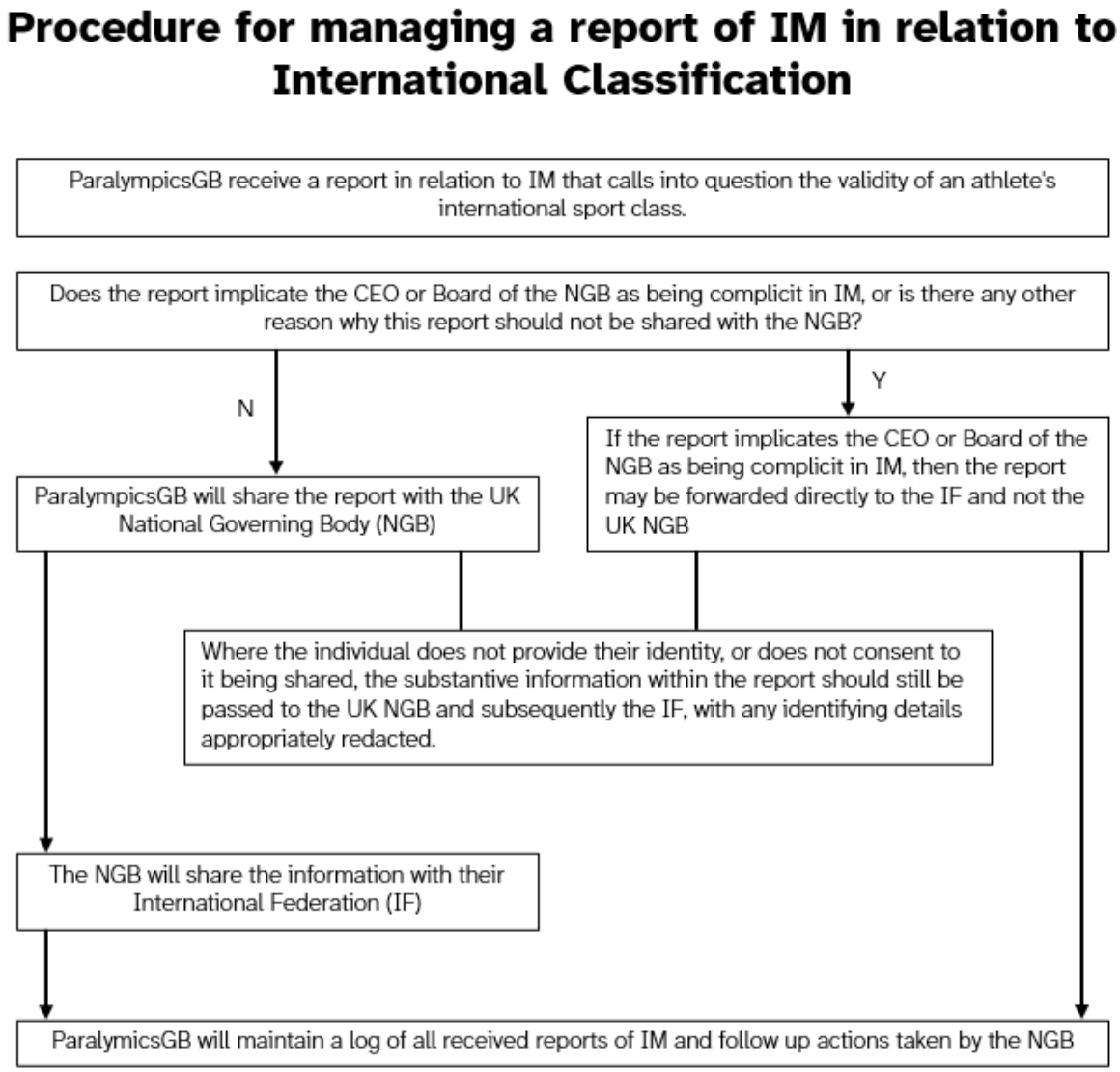
ParalympicsGB – The National Paralympic Committee for Great Britain

Member NGB – A sports National Governing Body that is a member of ParalympicsGB

ParalympicsGB Member – A member organisation of the National Paralympic Committee for Great Britain

An athlete support personal – Any individual that supports an athlete through and during a classification process

**Appendix 2**



**Appendix 3**

# Procedure for managing a report of IM in relation to National Classification

