

Intentional Misrepresentation Information for Athletes & Athlete Support Personnel

What is Intentional Misrepresentation?

Intentional Misrepresentation is cheating in Paralympic sport. It is a deliberate attempt by an athlete or athlete support personnel (either by fact or omission) to misrepresent:

- the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para-sport; and/or
- the degree and/or nature of eligible impairment

Intentional Misrepresentation may occur during the athlete evaluation and/or any other point after the allocation of sport class. It may include an athlete or athlete support personnel attempting to deceive or mislead a classifier, classification panel, an International Federation (IF), National Paralympic Committee (NPC) or National Federation (NF).

The IPC Athlete Classification Code describes Intentional Misrepresentation to be:

Misrepresentation during Athlete Evaluation

An athlete must not intentionally attempt to deceive or mislead a classifier/classification panel and misrepresent their skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of eligible impairment to a classification panel/ classifier during the Athlete Evaluation.

Misrepresentation after Allocation of Sport Class

An athlete must not intentionally misrepresent their skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of eligible impairment through any acts or omissions following the Athlete Evaluation and allocation of sport class.

This includes failure to disclose a medical intervention, or change in the eligible impairment, where an athlete or athlete support personnel suspects or knows that it may affect the sport class allocated.

Assisting Intentional Misrepresentation

Any participant must not knowingly assist, omit, disrupt, cover up or be in any other way complicit in Intentional Misrepresentation.

Who does this apply to?

Athlete	A person who participates in the sport and/or classification process
Athlete Support Personnel	Any coach, manager, administrator, medical support (such as physiotherapist, doctor), sport scientist, trainer, carer, team staff, or other individual working with athletes in preparation for classification or competition. For athletes being classified in Australia, this may also include parents, guardians or other individual supporting athletes in preparation for classification or competition.
Participant	Any athlete and/or athlete support personnel and/or other person

Intentional Misrepresentation Information for Athletes & Athlete Support Personnel

1. Be smart: know the rules

Know the Intentional Misrepresentation rules of your sport and of Paralympic sport.

These rules are in the classification rules published by the International Federation for your sport and the IPC Athlete Classification Code ("The Code").

The Code specifies athletes and athlete support personnel rights and responsibilities. All athletes and athlete support personnel are to be knowledgeable of and comply with the Code.

<https://www.paralympic.org/classification/2015-athlete-classification-code>

Athletes and athlete support personnel may also be required to sign agreements which have reference to classification rules such as;

- consent for classification
- IPC Eligibility Code form (for participation in IPC competitions including Paralympic Games)
- IF agreement (for participation in international competitions).
- NF agreement (for membership and/or participation in Australian competitions)

If you break the rules, you and/or your athlete support personnel will be caught and risk disciplinary action including a potential lifetime ban from your sport.

2. Be clean: fairness and honesty in Para-sport classification

Be fair, honest and respectful of the classification processes and rules within your sport and the IPC Athlete Classification Code.

Athletes shall follow these principles:

- understand all classification rules, requirements and expectations
- perform to the best of your abilities
- always truthfully represent your skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of physical, visual or intellectual impairment to a classification panel
- respect and abide by the requests of the classifiers, and seek clarification if required
- provide medical diagnostic documentation from relevant specialists detailing your health condition and impairment as detailed by your sport
- attend classification like you would competition: be rested and in your best form
- declare any medicine prescribed and taken to the classification panel
- declare the use of any assistive aids or adaptive equipment to the classification panel
- declare any medical interventions or changes in impairment that have the potential to impact your classification to your sport in a timely manner and provide medical documentation as required

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Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel will cooperate with any investigations concerning classification violations in your sport.

Never attempt to adversely influence the classification outcomes. Do not put yourself in a position where you may be seen to be misleading or deceiving the classification panel, or where you breach the classification rules.

3. Be safe: don't engage in actions that may lead to intentional misrepresentation

It is best to play safe and not intentionally, or inadvertently engage in, actions that may lead to intentional misrepresentation:

- never instruct, encourage or facilitate any athlete to intentionally misrepresent
- never instruct, encourage or facilitate any athlete or athlete support personnel to withhold information that impacts their class allocation before, during and following the classification
- never assist, cover up or be complicit in any act or omission relating to intentional misrepresentation
- never instruct, encourage or facilitate any athlete support personnel to assist an athlete to intentionally misrepresent
- do not engage in any behaviours relating to classification which that may lead to disciplinary action relating to intentional misrepresentation.

4. Be open: tell someone if you have genuine concerns

You must tell someone at your sport or the APC if:

- You know of something suspicious in relation to intentional misrepresentation
- Anyone encourages or instructs you to intentionally misrepresent, or act in a manner that assists intentional misrepresentation
- Someone threatens, advises or instructs you to omit or withhold information relating to classification that may be considered intentional misrepresentation

Any IM concerns will follow the relevant processes.

Any relevant evidence of true and genuine concerns of intentional misrepresentation should always be reported to your sport or the APC. You will need to provide as much information and evidence as possible about the suspected intentional misrepresentation.

The APC may be contacted via phone (02) 9704 0500 or email classification@paralympic.org.au.

If the APC believes that an individual is raising an intentional misrepresentation concern knowing that the basis is untrue, or is intended to be malicious or cause distress, the matter may be referred further for review and possible disciplinary action.