



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CP FOOTBALL

IFCPF Policy on Accrued Number of Proven Intentional Misrepresentation in Classification

Accrued Number of Proven Intentional Misrepresentation in Classification by teams

Effective Date: 4 April 2025

Policy Purpose:

To establish clear guidelines and consequences for teams that accrue multiple (more than one (1)) proven instances of intentional misrepresentation in classification within the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF). This policy aims to uphold the integrity of the sport, ensure fair competition, and maintain trust among teams, athletes, and stakeholders.

Scope:

This policy applies to all teams and their associated staff (coaches, managers, and officials) participating in IFCPF-sanctioned events.

Definitions

1. **Intentional Misrepresentation:** Deliberate actions or omissions aimed at manipulating the classification process to gain a competitive advantage. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Falsifying medical or functional ability documentation.
 - b. Misrepresenting an athlete's functional abilities during classification evaluation.
 - c. Encouraging or coercing an athlete to underperform or exaggerate limitations during classification.

IPC Handbook. IPC Classification Code. Chapter 4: Intentional Misrepresentation. 51. Intentional Misrepresentation.¹

51.1. The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation:

51.1.1. a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead an International Federation or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or

51.1.2. a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type

¹[IPC Classification Code. Chapter 4: Intentional Misrepresentation - www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/IPC%20Classification%20Code%2001_01_2025.pdf](http://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/IPC%20Classification%20Code%2001_01_2025.pdf)

of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of: (i) Article 51.1.1 above; or (ii) a period of ineligibility imposed on another Participant pursuant to Article 8.2.3 of the International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation.

2. **Proven Misrepresentation:** Misrepresentation that has been substantiated through a formal investigation and supported by credible evidence.
3. **Accrued Number:** The cumulative count of proven instances of intentional misrepresentation by an individual or team over a defined period.
4. **Multiple:** More than one (1) proven instance of intentional misrepresentation in classification.

Policy Guidelines

1. **Obligations to report and cooperate:** *According to the IFCPF Classification Rules² IPC Handbook. International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation. Chapter 4. Obligations to report and cooperate.³*

4.1 Each Participant, and each National Federation, must:

4.1.1 report to their International Federation promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith any information they possess that a reasonable person would consider might evidence or otherwise reflect:

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

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

4.1.2 cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with all investigations carried out by an International Federation 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;

4.1.3 cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with any proceedings brought by an International Federation against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation; and

4.1.4 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.

²[IFCPF Classification Rules 2024 - www.ifcpf.com/about-classification](http://www.ifcpf.com/about-classification)

³[IPC Handbook. International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation.](http://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/International%20Standard%20for%20Intentional%20Misrepresentation%2001_01_2025.pdf)

www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/International%20Standard%20for%20Intentional%20Misrepresentation%2001_01_2025.pdf

2. Investigation Process: *According to the IFCPF Classification Rules*⁴

3. Consequences for Teams with Accrued Proven Misrepresentation:

- a. Separate and in addition to any sanctions on individual cases, the IFCPF reserve the right to issue disciplinary sanctions including but not limited to:
 - i. A written warning issued to the team.
 - ii. Mandatory education for the team's players and staff on classification rules and ethics.
 - iii. Disqualification of the team from current and future IFCPF-sanctioned events for a period as decided by IFCPF.
 - iv. Suspension of the team from all IFCPF-sanctioned events for a period as decided by IFCPF.
 - v. Public disclosure of the violation.
 - vi. Financial penalties.

4. Accrued Number Tracking:

- a. The IFCPF will maintain a public database to track accrued instances of proven intentional misrepresentation by individuals and teams.
- b. Offenses will remain on record for a period of 10 years, or for the length of any suspension served (whichever is the greater) before being expunged, subject to review.

5. Disciplinary Committee:

- a. An IFCPF appointed Discipline Committee shall be responsible for hearing all disciplinary matters.
- b. The Disciplinary Committee shall be formed of:
 - i. One (1) Medical Classification representative
 - ii. One (1) Technical Classification representative
 - iii. One (1) IFCPF Management Team representative
- c. The committee members will have no significant relationship with the affected party, will have had no involvement with the decision being appealed, and will be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.
- d. The Discipline Committee has the power to levy further suspensions in cases of excessive misconduct.
- e. The Discipline Committee will communicate any disciplinary action to teams, following the approval of the IFCPF Board.

6. Appeals Process:

- a. Teams may appeal the decision within 21 days of receiving the outcome of the investigation.
- b. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the IFCPF Management Team, accompanied by new evidence or justification for reconsideration, along with an appeal fee of 250 EUROS.
- c. The Appeals Committee shall be formed of:
 - i. One (1) Medical Classification representative

⁴ [IFCPF Classification Rules 2024 - www.ifcpf.com/about-classification](http://www.ifcpf.com/about-classification)

- ii. One (1) Technical Classification representative
 - iii. One (1) IFCPF Management Team representative
 - iv. All representatives shall be different from that of the Discipline Committee.
- d. The committee members will have no significant relationship with the affected party, will have had no involvement with the decision being appealed, and will be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.
- e. Indisputable evidence is required for an official's decision to be overturned. Video footage shall be accepted to support an appeal and should be submitted to the Appeals Committee with the appeal.
- f. Any evidence received after the appeal has been made will not be accepted.
-

Matters not provided for and force majeure

No rules can be all-embracing, and it is necessary to honour the intention of the rules as well as their literal interpretation.

Matters not provided for in this policy or cases of force majeure shall be decided by the IFCPF Management Team.

Education and Prevention

The IFCPF will provide regular training and resources to teams and their staff on the importance of ethical classification practices.

Workshops and seminars will be conducted to raise awareness about the consequences of intentional misrepresentation.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Amendments may be made based on feedback from stakeholders and changes in the sport's landscape.

Approval:

This policy has been approved by the IFCPF Management Team on 25/03/2025.

International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF)