Participant
Rules

Version 7.0

Date:	Reviewed by:	Version Number	Note
12/06/2021		6	Approved by board
29/04/2022	CEO	7	Approved by Governance Committee

1.0 TERMINOLOGY

"Code of Ethics"	means the joint Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport published by Sport Ireland (formerly the Irish Sports Council) and the Sports Council for Northern Ireland in 2000 and as amended from time to time;
"**Disciplinary Officer**"	means an individual, group of individuals or entity (preferably an individual) as so defined under the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures.
"National Federation" or "NF"	means a National Federation of a sporting body in Ireland whose international federation is at all material times recognized by the IPC offering international competitive opportunities for a sport on the Paralympic Programme as defined by the IPC from time to time
"Sub-Committee"	means a formally establish Sub-Committee of Paralympics Ireland with clear terms of reference.
"Participant"	means any individual who participates in any Paralympic sport, including but not limited to an athlete, an official, a volunteer, an employee, a competitor or a coach, under the authority of the Paralympics Ireland and have completed Paralympics Ireland's Participant Acceptance Form (schedule 2), or in the case of a minor, has had it signed by their relevant parent/guardian (schedule

“Person”	means a natural person.
“**Rules**”	Paralympics Ireland’s Participant Rules as amended from time to time.
“NPC”	National Paralympic Committee as recognised by the International Paralympic Committee.
“Procedures”	Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures as amended from time to time.
“Paralympics Ireland Event(s)”	event (including training camps or squad sessions) or gathering coordinated or officially sanctioned or endorsed by Paralympics Ireland or an event in which participation is partly or wholly funded by Paralympics Ireland, including the Paralympic Games.
“Paralympics Ireland Partner”	means the official sponsors, suppliers, supporters, licensees and any other commercial partners of Paralympics Ireland or the Irish Paralympic Team from time to time.

2.0 OVERVIEW

These Rules are designed to remind all Participants of their personal responsibilities regarding their participation in Paralympics Ireland events or while representing Paralympics Ireland. These Rules aim to ensure that a suitable environment is created to allow all Participants to perform to their optimum and portray high standards of behaviour as ambassadors of Ireland, Paralympics Ireland, and their National Federation (NF).

National Federations / Sports Sub-Committees should complement these rules with their own policies for their squads and these should be respected by all Participants from those organisations.

In the event of conflict between the codes of conducts, agreements or policies of National Federations or Sports Sub-Committees and these Rules, these Rules will take precedence at a Paralympics Ireland Event.

These Rules cover all Paralympics Events and travel to and from activities (including social and non-competition related activities) undertaken by Participants during Paralympics Ireland Events and the Paralympic Games. In addition, events coordinated by Paralympics Ireland, but not necessarily funded by them are covered by these Rules.

Paralympics Ireland will consider, on a case by case basis, providing interim administrative support to athletes wishing to compete in a Para Sport not currently included in PI membership categories to facilitate IPC licensing, international classification within the International Federation and registration in sanctioned competitions.

3.0 RULES

3.1 Each Participant, by completing the Participant Acceptance Form contained in Schedule 2 to these Rules and by participating in Paralympic Sports under the jurisdiction of Paralympics Ireland shall be deemed to have accepted these Rules and shall abide by the spirit and terms of these Rules and to recognise the authority and responsibility of Paralympics Ireland for administering these Rules, including the application of sanctions to Participants, and each Participant shall respect the authority of, and co-operate with Paralympics Ireland, Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland ("SDSI") and the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS") on all matters to which these Rules relate. Parents/Guardians of Participants under 18 years of age are required to complete Schedule 1 of these rules before the minor can participate.

3.1.1 For the avoidance of doubt, all anti-doping matters and breaches of Code of Ethics will be dealt with subject to the anti-doping rules of the relevant organisation and the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

3.2 Breach of these Participant Rules shall constitute a disciplinary violation for the purposes of these Rules and the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures.

3.3 While in competition each Participant is under the control of match officials and competition rules under the auspices of the International Federation for that sport.

3.3.1 A Participant may be reported to the Disciplinary Officer if alleged to have brought Paralympics Ireland into disrepute while competing on, or in the environs of, the field of play.

3.4 A citing commissioner authorised by an International Federation also has reporting authority to the Disciplinary Officer in respect of disciplinary violations under competition rules where the IPC act as the International Federation for the sport, and at Paralympic Games.

3.5 Any report to the Disciplinary Officer in respect of disciplinary violations under these Participant Rules must be received, in writing (mail, email or facsimile) within 21 days of the alleged disciplinary violation.

3.5.1 The procedures for dealing with any allegation or complaint are as outlined in the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures (and section 16 below) as amended from time to time.

3.6 Paralympics Ireland will correspond directly with Participants by whatever means necessary eg. email, post, telephone or fax and will not liaise with other individuals on the Participants behalf once they have reached the age of 18 years, unless exceptional circumstances apply.

3.7 For Participants under the age of 18 years, Paralympics Ireland will correspond with them "care-of" their parents or guardians.

3.8 Participants are responsible for ensuring Paralympics Ireland are kept informed of their contact details at any given time and for informing Paralympics Ireland of any changes promptly.

4.0 General Obligations

4.1 Participants agree to:

4.1.1 Observe and comply with this agreement, with the laws of Ireland and with the laws of any host nation to an event in which the Participant is representing Paralympics Ireland.

4.1.2 Comply with the Rules of Paralympics Ireland and its policies and procedures (insofar as they are applicable to these rules as a Paralympics Ireland Participant) as same may be amended from time to time. The Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules, Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures, and other relevant policies may be downloaded from http://www.paralympics.ie/policies-downloads/

4.1.3 Be subject to and observe and comply with all reasonable control, management and direction of Paralympics Ireland, through the person appointed to such a management position by the Board of Directors of Paralympics Ireland.

4.1.4 Conduct themselves in a proper manner so as not to run the risk of bringing themselves, Paralympics Ireland, the Paralympic movement, the members of Paralympics Ireland, or any Participant into public disrepute.

4.1.5 Consent to their participation on the anti-doping programmes/activities of Paralympics Ireland, Sport Ireland (SI), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the IPC recognised International Federation for their sport, and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

4.1.6 Accept the provisions on Anti-Doping in these Rules [Rule No. 6] and the anti-doping rules of Paralympics Ireland which are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules (the "IADR") as amended from time to time.

4.1.7 Agree to comply at all times with Section 1.10 of the IPC Code of Ethics, which requires that members of the Paralympic family (which includes Paralympics Ireland 'Participants') must abstain from participating in, supporting, or promoting betting related to Paralympic Games or any other IPC sanctioned event or Paralympics Ireland event.

4.1.8 Conduct themselves in such a manner so as to obtain and maintain their best possible physical fitness and health to carry out their responsibilities to Paralympics Ireland to the best of their ability.

4.1.9 Accept that Paralympics Ireland as the National Paralympic Committee for Ireland are the sole body responsible for communication with the IPC and for entry of Participants to events sanctioned by the IPC, including Paralympic Games.

4.1.10 Travel to and from events coordinated by Paralympics Ireland on designated flights and under such reasonable terms as Paralympics Ireland shall have approved or communicated in writing to them in advance of travelling.

4.1.11 Reside in accommodation designated for them by Paralympics Ireland, and in accordance with the Paralympics Ireland Accommodation Policy as amended from time to time and available to download from http://www.paralympics.ie/policies-downloads/

4.1.12 Attend any Paralympics Ireland events as reasonably requested by Paralympics Ireland.

4.1.13 Consider and respect the interests of other Participants who have yet to finish competing in any given event.

4.1.14 Comply with all Paralympics Ireland Sports Science and Medical Team advice proffered either generally or specifically to them.

5.0 Code of Conduct as Paralympics Ireland Participants

These Rules aim to ensure that a suitable environment is created to allow all Participants to perform to their optimum and portray high standards of behaviour as ambassadors of Ireland, Paralympics Ireland, and their National Federation (NF). Participants acknowledge and agree that the following are examples of unacceptable behaviour, and such behaviour may result in disciplinary action being taken by Paralympics Ireland in accordance with the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures:

5.1 Engagement in aggressive, threatening, sexist and/or racist behaviour or language directed at any person. This includes any commentary made by non-verbal means such as text messaging, blogging, or messaging on internet discussion boards or social networking websites or apps or any other medium.

5.2 Defamatory statements or commentary (slander or libel), whether with malicious intent or not, made against any Participant, Paralympics Ireland Board of Directors, volunteers, Paralympics Ireland employees or agents.

5.3 Threat of, or actual, physical assault or violence of any kind against fellow Participants or any person while representing Paralympics Ireland.

5.4 Fraud or theft perpetrated against any person while representing Paralympics Ireland. This includes deliberate damage to property owned by Paralympics Ireland, or any person.

5.5 Bullying (as defined in the "Code of Ethics") of any kind perpetrated against any person while representing Paralympics Ireland.

Paralympics Ireland have additional approved codes of conduct in place for Participants to ensure the appropriate behaviour of Participants in relation to safeguarding young athletes and vulnerable adults. Schedule 3 lists specific codes for:

A) Officials, volunteers & employees
B) Young persons
C) Parents/Guardians/Carers

The gravity of offences will be reflected in the sanction imposed (if any) which can include expulsion from Paralympics Ireland events and the Paralympic Games for the Participant and/or their parent/guardian.

6.0 DOPING

Participants agree that:

6.1 Sole responsibility for ensuring that substances on the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) List of Prohibited Substances are not taken rests with each individual athlete.

6.2 In the case of equestrian athletes, sole responsibility for ensuring that substances on the (FEI) List of Prohibited Substances are not taken by the horse, rest with the athlete.

6.3 In the event of a notification of an anti-doping rule violation during an event, the procedures to be followed will be in accordance with the applicable anti-doping rules for that event. Any investigation or appeal proceedings are the responsibility of the Participants NF and in accordance with their NF's Anti-Doping Policy. In the case of sports in which Paralympics Ireland is the recognised National Federation for Ireland, an investigation or appeal proceedings will be conducted by the National Anti-Doping Organisation – Sport Ireland. If an anti doping rule violation occurs at an IPC sanctioned event, or if a test conducted out-of-competition on behalf of the International Paralympic Committee (the "IPC"), sanctions will be applied to the Participant by the IPC.

6.4 The anti-doping rules in place for IPC sanctioned competitions, including the Paralympic Games, are those of the IPC which take precedence over the IADR

6.5 To abstain from the practices known as “blood doping”, “boosting” and other physical manipulations.

6.6 They will not take any recreational drugs or abuse other drugs while a Participant at a Paralympics Ireland event.

6.7 Sport Ireland Anti-Doping recognises Paralympics Ireland is responsible for para athletics and para swimming and for summer para sports at the Paralympic Games. Therefore, athletes competing in sports not covered by the remit of Paralympics Ireland are solely responsible for familiarising themselves with the Sport Ireland and IPC Anti-Doping Code and be fully responsible for complying with it.

7.0 Sports Science & Medicine

Participants acknowledge and understand that all consultations with Paralympics Ireland Sports Science & Medical Personnel are confidential. Subject to the foregoing, Participants undertake and agree:

7.1 Only to access these Sports Science and Medicine Service provided by Paralympics Ireland in accordance with the procedures agreed with the individual provider and Paralympics Ireland.

7.2 That the Chief Medical Officer of Paralympics Ireland, may discuss certain issues concerning their medical fitness (in relation to sports participation) with medical professionals, coaches, sports science providers and managers/team leaders representing Paralympics Ireland or similar professionals independently employed by him/her to provide a similar role. They understand that any discussions are part of an integrated team approach to optimize our success in Paralympic competition.

8.0 Media, Broadcasting and Photography

Participants agree that they will not:

8.1 Be accredited or act as a journalist or in any media capacity on any broadcasting platform (including but not exclusive of TV, Radio, Online) at any time while participating in any Paralympics Ireland event, including Training Camps and the Paralympic Games. This also includes participation in any IPC sanctioned event or an event partly or wholly funded by Paralympics Ireland.

8.2 Permit their name to be used as the author or contributor to any article or column appearing in the media at any time during a Paralympics Ireland event, without prior written consent of Paralympics Ireland.

8.3 Enter into any arrangement whereby they receive payment for any interview or commentary they give during a Paralympics Ireland event, without prior written consent of Paralympics Ireland.

8.4 Provide exclusive interviews or commentaries or enter into any contractual arrangement or understanding under which, or as a result of which, they agree to provide exclusive interviews with, or appearances on any element of the media anytime during a Paralympics Ireland event, without prior written consent of Paralympics Ireland.

When dealing with the media, Participants agree that they will:

8.5 Make every effort to project the best possible image of Paralympics Ireland, the team and their own participation as a representative of Ireland.

8.6 Only comment on their own sport, event(s), prospects and performance(s).

8.6.1 In relation to Support Staff or Volunteers, they will only comment on areas within their area of expertise and within their professional competency, respecting rules of conduct and confidentiality where required by their profession.

8.7 Not disclose any information to the media or to any other individual or any organisation on any other Participant of Paralympics Ireland, the team, or the Irish delegation or any other team or competitor which may prove damaging, humiliating or defamatory either to Paralympics Ireland, the Team, a Participant, or competitor.

8.8 Not refer to any commercial organisation which is not a Paralympics Ireland partner during the period of a Paralympics Ireland event.

If so requested by Paralympics Ireland, Participants agree:

8.9 To attend, speak, give interviews and be photographed or recorded at Paralympics Ireland events, press conferences etc. provided that Paralympics Ireland will on every occasion use its reasonable endeavours to facilitate their attendance at any such Paralympics Ireland event or press conference.

From time to time, Paralympics Ireland may wish to use Participants, names, photographs and/or footage taken of Participants at Paralympics Ireland events (including the Paralympic Games) for its own purposes including, but not limited to promoting Ireland's participation in the Paralympic Games/Paralympics Ireland event and/or any future Paralympic Games/Paralympics Ireland event and/or as part of current or historical records or publications of or concerning Paralympics Ireland or the Irish Paralympic Team.

8.10 Participants agree that Paralympics Ireland may use my name and/or likeness free of charge for any such purpose and Paralympics Ireland may licence the appropriate use of the Participants images to other organisations if in the sole opinion of Paralympics Ireland the use of the image will benefit either the Participant, Paralympics Ireland or the Paralympic movement generally.

9.0 SPONSORSHIP AND TEAM CLOTHING

The purpose of this Rule is to ensure the continued ability of Paralympics Ireland to raise funds to finance the Irish Paralympic Team and to provide support services to Paralympics Ireland members for the benefit of present and future Paralympians.

9.1 Participants agree that:

(a) Be available, as required for, and to voluntarily appear and participate in advertising, promotions and marketing events in connection with promoting Ireland's participation in the Paralympic Games or Paralympics Ireland event provided that such requirements be the subject of reasonable notice.

(b) Permit Paralympics Ireland to use their name, likeness or image, in connection with Ireland's participation in the Paralympic Games or Paralympics Ireland event.

(c) Assist and co-operate with Paralympics Ireland and the Paralympics Ireland Partners and comply with all reasonable requests of the Paralympics Ireland in assisting Paralympics Ireland and Paralympics Ireland Partners to maximise the promotional benefits from their sponsorship, or supply of goods/services, to Paralympics Ireland.

9.2 When provided with official uniforms or kit by Paralympics Ireland, or it's official suppliers, for Paralympics Ireland events (including Paralympic Games) Participants agree to only wear the authorised sports clothing provided by Paralympics Ireland/Paralympics Ireland suppliers at all times during the event at competition venues, warm-up venues, award sessions, photo sessions, press conferences, television or online interviews. Official uniform must be worn to designated Paralympics Ireland events provided reasonable notice is issued to Participants by Paralympics Ireland.

9.3 Participants agree to keep all items of official clothing by Paralympics Ireland or Paralympics Ireland suppliers in good condition and not to modify them in any way or attach anything to them without prior consent. Participants further agree to ensure that the relevant supplier's trademark and/or name are clearly visible at all times on these items.

9.4 Participants agree that they have no rights to use any item of official team clothing at any time for any promotional, commercial or other purpose, or permit any such use by any third party, unless approved by Paralympics Ireland.

9.5 Participants agree not to ambush market Paralympics Ireland or Paralympics Ireland partners by any means at Paralympics Ireland events. This includes having any logo or trade-mark of non Paralympics Ireland partners appearing on clothing worn or visible on their body, or in any other form such as body art, tattoos, piercings, hairstyle etc.

10.0 RESTRAINT OF TRADE

Participants acknowledge that these rules restrict their freedom (while participating in Paralympics Ireland events) to exploit their likeness, name and sports performance and they expressly acknowledge and agree that such restrictions are necessary and reasonable for the purposes of funding the preparation, participation and reward of potential and actual Paralympics Ireland Participants, of protecting and promoting the IPC, Paralympics Ireland and the Paralympic movement in Ireland, and the development and participation of Participants in future Paralympics events, including Paralympic Games.

11.0 RELEASE AND INDEMNITY

11.1 For the purpose of this Rule 11, Paralympics Ireland shall mean and include Paralympics Ireland, Paralympics Ireland Board of Directors, volunteers and Paralympics Ireland employees or agents.

11.2 Participants agree and acknowledge that they take part in Paralympics Ireland events of their own free will and at their own risk and that Paralympics Ireland shall not be nor be deemed to be responsible or liable whether in contract or in tort or at common law or under any statute for any injury, illness or other mishap whatsoever and howsoever it may arise which may be suffered by them or be sustained to property belonging to them, unless it arises as a direct result of a deliberate and wrongful or reckless act or omission of Paralympics Ireland.

11.3 Participants agree and acknowledge that they hereby indemnify and will at all times hereafter indemnify and keep Paralympics Ireland fully indemnified from and against all actions, suits, causes of action, proceedings, demands, costs

and expenses whatsoever which may be taken or made against Paralympics Ireland or incurred or become payable by Paralympics Ireland as a consequence of their misconduct; including without limitation any breach by them of any of their obligations pursuant to these Rules.

12.0 ACCREDITATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Participants acknowledge and agree that:

12.1 Paralympics Ireland have sole and exclusive authority to issue accreditation to Participants at Paralympic Games, for IPC Governed Championships such as European & World Championships, Paralympic World Cups, Paralympic Grand prix or similar events.

12.2 Their accreditation may be withdrawn by Paralympics Ireland at any time after being issued.

12.3 In the event of Paralympics Ireland withdrawing their accreditation, all benefits and obligations (except for those obligations and provisions contained in clause 16 which will continue in full force and effect) will cease with immediate effect and further agree that Paralympics Ireland is permitted to transfer their accreditation to another Participant of Paralympics Ireland's choosing.

13.0 MINORS (THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE)

13.1 Participants under 18 years of age on the date they become a Participant agree that these rules are for their benefit and that their participation as a Participant and their ability to receive benefits under these rules are conditional on their parents or guardians signing the Parents/Guardians Acknowledgement For Minors Form contained in schedule 1 of these Rules.

13.2 Participants under 18 years (and their parents or guardians), acknowledge and agree that their participation as a Participant is conditional on full compliance with the Paralympics Ireland's Safeguarding Policy as amended from time to time and available to download from http://www.paralympics.ie/safeguarding/ .

13.3 Eligibility for selection and participation at the Paralympic Games for Participants under 18 years of age is conditional on a written agreement being concluded between Paralympics Ireland and the relevant parents/guardians.

14.0 Rules for Irish Team Members while representing Paralympics Ireland at Paralympics Ireland Events

Participants agree with the following provisions while representing Paralympics Ireland at Paralympics Ireland events are a breach of the expected behaviour of a high performance team and are subject to sanction in accordance with these Rules and the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures should they violate them:

14.1 Participants have a right to an environment supportive of high performance. This includes low noise levels, adherence to "retire to bed" times issued by the lead of the specific team or sport etc.

14.2 Participants agree to adhere to the rules and regulations of local organising committees as detailed in Eligibility Codes or other similar documents.

14.3 Purchase of alcohol by Participants under 18 years, and or on behalf of participants under 18years.

14.4 The consumption of alcohol by Participants under 18 years.

14.5 Participants visibly under the influence of alcohol while representing Paralympics Ireland.

14.6 Participants consuming alcohol while recognisable as a Participant, eg. wearing Paralympics Ireland branded attire, except when permission to do so is expressly given by the CEO or Chef de Mission.

14.7 Participants agree to fully adhere to the local laws of the country in which the event in taking place and any local rules introduced by the organising committee or hosts of such events.

15.0 Selection for the Paralympic Games & Other IPC Championships

15.1 Athlete and support staff selection for the 2024 Irish Paralympic Team will be in accordance with the 2024 Irish Paralympic Team Selection Principles & Criteria Document as published on http://www.paralympics.ie/policies-downloads/

15.2 Selection for other IPC Championship events will be in accordance with selection criteria agreed by the NF or Sub Committee and ratified by Paralympics Ireland.

15.3 All Participants agree on request of Paralympics Ireland to undergo a medical screening in 2024 with the Paralympics Ireland medical officer, prior to the final date of selection for the Paralympic Games.

15.4 Selected team members only will be notified in writing by the President of the Paralympics Ireland following ratification of any team under the auspices of Paralympics Ireland (IPC Championships Only such as European, World or Paralympic Games)

15.5 Issuance of all accreditation for IPC events is at the sole discretion of Paralympics Ireland.

15.6 Participants selected for participation in the Paralympic Games or other IPC Championships may be called upon to complete individual team member agreements specific to those events by Paralympics Ireland as an eligibility condition of selection and such Participants hereby agree to completing and signing any such contracts if required to do so.

16.0 BREACH AND TERMINATION

16.1 Participants agree that provisional sanctions may be applied for breach of any of these Rules while an event is proceeding as well as further sanctions being applied following the completion of proceedings in accordance with the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures.

16.2 Provisional sanctions may be applied at the discretion of the Chef de Mission (at Paralympic Games) or the senior authorised representative of Paralympics Ireland at other Paralympics Ireland events. The sanctions which may be applied by the Chef de Mission or the Authorised Representative of Paralympics, and by the disciplinary panel (as per the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures) include:

16.2.1 Suspension or termination of membership of participation; and/or

16.2.2 Requirement to leave the designated accommodation, including the Paralympic Village; and/or

16.2.3 Exclusion from the competition or event; and/or

16.2.4 Cancellation and/or withdrawal of accreditation; and/or

16.2.5 Cancellation and/or withdrawal of all benefits to which the Participant would have been entitled pursuant to these Rules; and/or

16.2.6 Immediate return to Ireland; and/or

16.2.7 Imposition of a financial penalty; and/or

16.2.8 Any other penalty considered appropriate

16.2.9 In the case of a Participant being sent home, the Participant (or his/her parent/guardian in the case of minors) will be liable for repayment to Paralympics Ireland for all costs incurred as a result.

16.3 Before the Chef de Mission or the authorised representative of Paralympics Ireland imposes any of the penalties above, Participants shall be informed of the claim or any allegation(s) made against them, given an opportunity and reasonable time to state a case in defence of any allegations made against them, and provided with an opportunity to be present and/or represented in making their defence. Paralympics Ireland shall in its absolute discretion decide on the applicable procedures (including any appeals procedure), rules, jurisdiction and law. Paralympics Ireland has the right (but not the obligation) to refer any matter immediately to CAS for determination in emergency circumstances at the Paralympic Games. Nothing in the procedure shall prejudice the Participant's rights to natural justice; however Participants explicitly acknowledge and agree that the time limit for any response which they wish to make to certain decisions by the Chef de Mission or the Authorised Representative of Paralympics Ireland pursuant to this Rule may, of necessity, be shorter than which might ordinarily obtain.

16.4 Despite any action by the Chef de Mission or the Authorised Representative of Paralympics Ireland pursuant to Rule 16.3, the obligations upon Participants under these rules will continue to be in full force and effect throughout the term of these rules.

16.5 Participants agree that, failure by the Chef de Mission or the Authorised Representative of the Paralympics Ireland to enforce at any time any of the provisions of these rules shall not be construed as a waiver of such provision and shall not preclude subsequent enforcement by Paralympics Ireland, the Chef de Mission or the Authorised Representative of Paralympics Ireland of that provision.

16.6 Participants acknowledge and agree that Paralympics Ireland shall have the sole and absolute right to appoint/select Participants as Participants (team members etc.) and to suspend and/or terminate their appointment as Participants (team member).

17.0 Continuing Effect

The operation of these Rules will continue beyond the term of participation of the Participants in Paralympics Ireland events (including the Paralympic Games).

18.0 GOVERNING LAW

Subject to Rule 19 these rules shall be governed by the laws of Ireland.

19.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

If any dispute or difference arises between the parties to these rules in relation to its provisions, application, interpretation or otherwise the parties agree to:

19.1 Proceed in accordance with the applicable procedures as laid out in the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures as amended from time to time.

19.2 Participants agree to undertake and abide by the provisions of the mediation and/or arbitration rules of Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI) and to execute in good faith any decisions of SDSI.

19.3 Should the dispute be submitted for exclusive, final and binding determination to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), Participants agree to undertake and abide by the provisions of the Code of Sports-Related Arbitration and to execute in good faith any decisions of CAS.

20.0 PROPERTY & INSURANCE

20.1 Each Participant is responsible for all personal property they bring to an event. Paralympics Ireland accepts no responsibility for loss or damage to this property, or for the provision of insurance cover for this property.

20.1.1 For the purposes of clarity, guide dogs and horses are deemed as "personal property".

20.2 Paralympics Ireland will provide standard travel insurance for Participants at Paralympics Ireland events overseas. Participants are personally responsible for declaring, when requested, pre-existing conditions for full cover to be in place. Participants are also responsible for insuring personal equipment including sports equipment, wheelchairs etc. and to note that these items are not covered as specified items in the policy purchased by Paralympics Ireland.

20.2.1 In the case that any additional premium applied for pre-existing condition deemed to be excessive, Paralympics Ireland reserve the right to seek a contribution for this premium from the nominating NF or Sub Committee, and/or the Participant.

21.0 DATA PROTECTION

Participants consent to:

21.1 Their personal details which they have provided to Paralympics Ireland being processed and provided to necessary third parties as is necessary to facilitate their participation at Paralympics Ireland events.

21.2 Their personal biographical details being included in Paralympics Ireland publications and being posted on the Paralympics Ireland website, its members websites or any other website which Paralympics Ireland deems appropriate in connection with their Paralympics Ireland event participation.

21.3 Their personal details being retained by Paralympics Ireland and processed for the purpose of maintaining an accurate historical record of all Irish Paralympians. These details may from time to time be used by Paralympics Ireland.

22.0 CONFIDENTIALITY

Participants agree that the details of matters discussed in these Rules are confidential between Participants and Paralympics Ireland and should not be openly discussed or disclosed to third parties unless they are required to do so by Law. All Participants undertake at all times both during and after the termination of their Participation in Paralympics Ireland events to keep secret, except to the extent that disclosure is expressly authorised by Paralympics Ireland, all information which is of a confidential nature (whether or not marked as such) and/or of value to Paralympics Ireland.

23.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR PARALYMPICS IRELAND SELECTION

Whilst specific eligibility requirements for selection by Paralympics Ireland to represent Ireland in IPC sanctioned events and the Paralympic Games shall be subject to the 2024 Irish Paralympic Team Selection Principles & Criteria Document referred to in Rule 15 above, in order for a Participant to consider applying for accreditation or recognition by Paralympics Ireland for Team Ireland any intending Participant must have a valid Irish Passport, with the exception of non-athletes except where sport specific eligibility rules apply eg. Tandem pilot, ski guide

23.1 Participants agree that to the extent that any Selection Principles & Criteria Document reference any event(s) which has taken place before the publication of such Selection Principles & Criteria Document that the Participant's performance or otherwise at such event(s) shall be taken into account as part of the selection process.

24.0 MISCELLANEOUS

24.1 Any other deviation from these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules or the procedures referred to in these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules shall not invalidate any finding, procedure, decision or result under these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules unless by relying on such deviation establishes that it is established that material doubt on the validity of such finding procedure, decision or result and the other parties to the proceedings cannot rebut that doubt or otherwise establish the validity of such finding, procedure, decision or result.

24.2 To the greatest extent allowable under applicable law, any challenge to these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules or to a decision made pursuant to these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules shall be made exclusively in accordance with the provisions of these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules and shall not be made by recourse to any Court or other forum.

24.3 Unless otherwise specified, time periods in these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules are total consecutive days irrespective of weekends or holidays. When a deadline falls on a weekend or a statutory holiday, the next working day shall be the deadline for the purpose of these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules.

Notice is deemed to be received by Participants as follows:

24.3.1 If hand-delivered, at the time of delivery
24.3.2 Notice by post – 5pm two days following the date of posting
24.3.3 Notice by email – 12 hours following transmission

24.4 All acts done in good faith by any Person in the implementation of these Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment or authority of such Person so acting, shall be as valid as if every such Person had been duly appointed or authorised.

24.5 None of Paralympics Ireland members, directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives and other Persons involved in the administration of these Rules shall be liable to any Person in any way, in relation to acts done or omitted to be done in good faith in connection with these Rules.

24.6 If any Rule or provision of these Rules is held invalid, unenforceable or illegal for any reason, these Rules shall remain otherwise in full force apart from such Rule or provision which shall be deemed deleted insofar as it is invalid, unenforceable or illegal.

24.7 Where a matter arises that is not otherwise provided for in these Rules, the Person or body called upon to resolve the matter shall have discretion to do so in such manner as he or she or it sees fit, provided that such resolution does not materially undermine the reliability of proceedings under these Rules or otherwise cause material injustice to the Participant to whom these Rules are being applied.

24.8 All Participants (save for those employed as employees directly by Paralympics Ireland) are independent contractors and no employment relationship shall be deemed to exist between Paralympics Ireland and any Participant (save for those employed directly).

SCHEDULE 1

PARENTS'/GUARDIANS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR MINORS (i.e. those Participants under the age of 18 years as at the date of signing acknowledgement and acceptance of these Rules)

In consideration of Paralympics Ireland accepting _____ [name of minor] as a Participant, I/We*, the undersigned parent(s)/guardian(s)* of the athlete agree (and if more than one agree jointly and severally) that:

1) the Participant is under the age of 18 years as at the date of signing the acknowledge and acceptance of these rules;

2) I/We* have read and understood these Rules and the relevant code of conduct has been fully explained to the athlete the terms and effects of these Rules and have sought or obtained independent clarification and advice wherever it was necessary;

3) The Participant has read these Rules and code of conduct and together with our full explanation understands its terms and effects;

4) Our approval is given for the Participant, and I/We* shall procure that the Participant will, submit to doping tests;

5) these Rules are for the benefit of the Participant;

6) the Participants participation may be terminated in the event of any breach of these Rules by the Participant, or their parent or guardian;

7) the Participant may be subject to other penalties as set out in these Rules for any breach of these Rules.

Signed by:

_____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)* Signature(s)

_____

_____

_____

Address(es) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)'*

_____

*Delete as appropriate

SCHEDULE 2

PARTICIPANT ACCEPTANCE FORM

SURNAME: _____ FIRST NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

_____ POSTCODE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: (Home) _____(Mobile)_____

1. I have read and understood the terms of the Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules and code of conduct (the "Rules").

2. I have had an opportunity to seek independent advice regarding the Rules.

3. I agree to the terms of the Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules and participant code of conduct and the Paralympics Ireland Disciplinary Procedures as if they were set out in full and attached to this Participant Acceptance Form.

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____

For under 18 year old participants parents/guardians/carers should sign below;
Signed by:

_____
Parent(s)/Guardian(s)* Signature(s)

_____

Address(es) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)'* if different from above.
_____

SCHEDULE 3 – APPROVED CODES OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Paralympics Ireland takes the safeguarding of young people and vulnerable adults in its care very seriously. Occasionally, athletes under the age of 18 years display significant athletic talent that qualifies them for competition sanctioned by the International Paralympic Committee or Paralympics Ireland. These approved codes of conduct for Participants are issued as guidelines to expected behaviour of all forms of Participant under the auspices of Paralympics Ireland at Paralympics Ireland events.

SECTION A – OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS & EMPLOYEES

Officials, volunteers and employees involved in young peoples sport have a great opportunity to be a positive role model and help build an individual's confidence.

Officials, volunteers and employees are expected to:

- Ensure the safety of all young people by careful supervision, proper pre-planning of coaching sessions, using safe methods at all times.
- Treat all young people equally and ensure they feel valued. Have no favourites.
- Not allow any rough or dangerous actions, bullying, or the use of bad language or inappropriate behaviour.
- Appreciate the efforts of all young people and not over-train the young person.
- Be positive, approachable and offer praise to promote the objectives of Paralympics Ireland at all times.
- Not let any allegations of abuse of any kind to go unchallenged or unrecorded if appropriate. Incidents and accidents to be recorded in the Paralympics Ireland incident/accident book. Parents will be informed.
- Report accidents or incidents of alleged poor practice or abuse to the Paralympics Ireland designated person.
- Challenge problematic power relationships to ensure the misuse of power at all levels is unacceptable in any situation, given the young person's respect for individuals in authority.
- Ensure the rights and responsibilities of youth participants are enforced
- Maintain confidentiality about sensitive information.
- Respect and listen to the opinions of young people.
- Take time to explain coaching techniques and selection criteria to ensure they are clearly understood.
- Ensure any physical contact is always intended to meet the needs of the young person, NOT the adult's. The adult will use appropriate contact when the aim is to assist in development of the skill or activity or for safety reasons, e.g. to prevent or treat an injury. This should be in an open

environment with the permission and understanding of the participant. In general

- Contact should be determined by the age and developmental stage of the participant - Don't do something that a athlete can do for themselves
- Never engage in inappropriate touching such as touching of groin, genital areas, buttocks, breasts or any other part of the body that might cause an athlete distress or embarrassment
- Adhere to the sport specific guidelines provided by the persons sport or profession.

- Be a role model (disciplined / committed / time keeping).
- Refrain from smoking and consumption of alcohol during Paralympics Ireland activities in which they are responsible for the care of young people.
- Protect themselves from false accusation by…
  - Not spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
  - Never taking children to their home.
  - Not administering First Aid involving the removing of a young persons clothing unless in the presence of others.
- Make the experience of participation in Paralympics Ireland activities enjoyable

Officials, volunteers and employees have a right to:

- Support in the reporting of suspected abuse or poor practice.
- Access to professional support services.
- Fair and equitable treatment by Paralympics Ireland.
- Be protected from abusive behaviour or language by participants or other adult officials and parents.
- Not to be left vulnerable when working with young people.

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with immediately and reported verbally to the Paralympics Ireland designated person. Persistent breach of the code will be dealt with under the terms of Rule 16 of the Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules.

SECTION B – YOUNG PERSONS

Young peoples involvement with Paralympics Ireland should offer a positive experience were they can enhance their sporting opportunities in a safe and positive environment. The following are expectations young people have of other young people involved in Paralympics Ireland.

Youth participants are expected to:

- Be loyal and give their friends a 2nd chance.
- Be friendly and particularly welcoming to athletes joining the team.
- Be supportive and committed to other team members, offer support when required.
- Not get involved in inappropriate peer pressure and push others into something they do not want to do.
- Keep within the defined boundary of the training camp and coaching area.
- Behave and listen to all instructions from the coach/ volunteer/official.
- Take care of equipment owned by Paralympics Ireland or own governing body.
- Refrain from the use of bad language or racial/sectarian references. This includes bullying using new technologies like social media sites or texting.
- Refrain from bullying or persistent use of rough and dangerous play. Challenge or report the bullying of your peers
- Show respect to other youth participants/leaders and show team spirit.
- Keep themselves safe.
- Report inappropriate behaviour or risky situations for youth members.
- Compete fairly and be trustworthy.
- Respect officials and accept decisions.
- Show appropriate loyalty and be gracious in defeat by respecting opponents.
- Not cheat or be violent/aggressive.
- Make the experience of participation in Paralympics Ireland enjoyable

Young people have the right to:

- Be safe and enjoy the experience when involved in Paralympics Ireland activities.
- Be listened to, respected and treated fairly
- A certain level of privacy.
- Enjoy your involvement in Paralympics Ireland in a protective environment.
- Be referred to professional help if needed.
- Be protected from abuse by other members or outside sources.
- Participate on an equal basis, appropriate to their ability and experience competition and the desire to win.
- Be believed and listened to if they ask for help.

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be addressed by the immediate coach and reported verbally to the Paralympics Ireland designated person. Parents will be informed at all stages.

Persistent breach of the code will be dealt with under the terms of Rule 16 of the Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules.

SECTION C – PARENT / GUARDIAN / CARER

Parent/ Guardian/Carer are expected to:

- Positively reinforce their young person and show an interest in their chosen competition.
- Not place their young person under pressure or push them into activities they do not want to do.
- Ensure the Chief Medical Officer of Paralympics Ireland is informed of any medical issues pertaining to their young person's participation with Paralympics Ireland.
- Deliver and collect their young person punctually to and from arranged coaching/training sessions.
- Ensure their young person is properly and adequately attired for the weather conditions of the time, including shorts, shirt, socks, tracksuit, sweat-tops, hat, gloves etc…
- Ensure that proper footwear and protective equipment are worn at ALL times in accordance with Health and Safety Regulations. Any young person not in possession of the fundamental requirements will not be permitted to participate in coaching/training sessions.
- Any changes in the state of the young person's health should be reported to the coach/team manager prior to coaching/training sessions or competitions.
- Encourage their young person to play by the rules and teach them that they can only do their best.
- Behave responsibly on the sidelines, do not embarrass your young person.
- Show appreciation and support the coach, Paralympics Ireland team
- Ensure their young person is punctual for coaching/training sessions
- Be realistic and supportive.
- Ensure their young person's hygiene and nutritional needs are met.
- Accept the official's judgement.
- Acknowledge the importance and role of the governing body coaches and Paralympics Ireland officials who provide their time to ensure your young person's participation in the event.
- Promote their young person's enjoyment in Paralympics Ireland events and sport in general.

Parent/ Guardian/Carer have the right to:

- Know their young person is safe
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to their young person
- Be informed if their young person is injured

- Have their consent sought for issues such as trips/ accommodation arrangements
- Complain if they have concerns about the standard of coaching or organisation of events

Any misdemeanours and breach of this code of conduct will be dealt with immediately by a Paralympics Ireland Official. Persistent concerns or breaches will result in the parent/guardian/carer being asked not to attend training or competitions if their attendance is detrimental to the young person's welfare.

The ultimate action should a parent/guardian/carer continue to breach the code of conduct may mean the Paralympics Ireland officials regrettably asking the young person to leave the training or event.