

IPC Athletics Rules and Regulations

'New' Rule 35 & 36

11/11/2013

INFORMATION

During 2012 IPC Athletics announced that a new rule would be introduced to govern seated throws. During 2012 and 2013, IPC Athletics received recommendations from the membership and as such have revised the original rule.

The new rule is enclosed and will take effect on the 1 January 2014.

CHANGE OF CLASSIFICATION

IPC Athletics will introduce a New F57 Class of which the profile will be extended to include the existing F57 and F58 Classes. As a result of such, the F58 Class will cease to exist from 1 January 2014.

PROCESS OF THE INTRODUCTION OF 'NEW' RULE 35 AND 36

- On 31 December 2013, all F57 and F58 athletes will be moved across to the New F57 Class, retaining their same sport class status. E.g. F58 Confirmed (C) will become F57 Confirmed (C)
- Athletes currently in the F58 class, will be given the right to choose a competing position (Seated or Standing) until 31 December 2014. National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) will have until this date to submit an application on behalf of the athlete to exercise this choice.
- Following the application approval of IPC Athletics, the applicants shall be permitted to undergo international classification to officially exercise this choice within six (6) months of the approval date.
- Any athlete who does not submit an application by the 31 December 2014 or fails to present for classification after receiving approval from IPC Athletics shall lose his/her right to exercise choice of the competing position and will be deemed by default to have chosen to compete in a seated position.
- After 31 December 2014, an athlete who was previously in the F58 class, may request review of his/her choice of competing position provided there is a clear medical justification for changing. The NPC must submit a Medical Review request in line with the IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations. (Appendix One 3.3.1)

- All existing World records in class F58 will be held as historical data available on website. World Records applications in class F58 will be recognised as official records until 31 December 2013.

RULE 35: Secured Throwing Requirements

(Sport Classes F31-34, F51-57)

[Note to officials; for the purpose of interpreting this rule and other rules regarding the shape, dimensions, construction and other characteristic of competition equipment regard should be had to Regulation 3.3 regarding 'Technology and Equipment' and in particular the 'fundamental principles' set out at regulation 3.3.1.]

1. Throwing Frame Specifications:

- a) The maximum height of the seat surface, including any cushioning, shall not exceed 75 cm;
- b) Each throwing frame must have a seat which is square or rectangular in shape and each side at least 30 cm in length. The seat surface must be level or with the front higher than the back (i.e. inclined backwards). The front of the seat cannot be lower than the back.

Note: The front is the plane furthest from the athlete's spine with the athlete in a seated position regardless of the direction of the athlete in relation to the landing area.

- c) The seat may incorporate side and back rests for the purposes of safety and stability. They can either be made of non-elastic fabric (e.g., non-elastic canvas) or be a rigid construction that does not move (e.g., rigid steel or aluminium). The backrest may incorporate cushioning that must not exceed 5 cm in thickness.
- d) The back rest should not incorporate springs or movable joints or any other feature that could assist with propulsion of the throwing implement;
- e) The throwing frame may have a rigid holding bar. The holding bar must be a single, straight piece of material without curves or bends, and with a cross-sectional profile that is circular or square, not oval or rectangular. It must not incorporate springs or movable joints or any other feature that could assist with propulsion of the throwing implement;
Note: It is understood that most materials will flex and distort to some degree under pressure and it will not be practical or economically viable to engineer a solution whereby all flexing is totally eliminated. However, flexing must not be clear to the naked eye and in the opinion of the technical officials the spirit of these rules and Regulation 3.3 is being breached.
- f) No part of the throwing frame, including any holding bar, shall move (save for incidental movement that cannot reasonably be eliminated) during the throwing action.
- g) Footplates, if used, are for support and stability only.
- h) A daily wheelchair that satisfies these criteria is acceptable (including the requiring that it must not move during the throwing action).

2. Throwing Frame Measurement and Inspection

Throwing Frames will be measured and inspected in the Call Room or at the competition area prior to the commencement of the event. Once it has been measured and inspected an athlete's Throwing Frame must not be taken from the competition area before the start of the event. Throwing Frames can be re-examined by the officials before, during or after the event.

Note: Measurement will always take place without the athlete sitting in the frame.

3. Athlete's Responsibility for Throwing Frame Compliance

It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that their Throwing Frame conforms to the requirements stipulated in Rule 35.1. No event shall be delayed while an athlete makes adjustments to their throwing Frame.

4. Positioning of the Throwing Frame (Sport Classes F31-34, F51-57)

When positioning and securing the throwing frame inside the competition area all parts of the throwing frame, holding bar and footplates must remain inside the vertical plane of the rim of the circle throughout the trial. The leading edge of the holding bar must be positioned in the line of the vertical plane of the throwing circle

5. Time Allocation for Securing Frames (Sport Classes F31-34 & F51-57)

A reasonable time will be permitted for an athlete's frame to be placed in the circle before the commencement of their first trial, however the following times should not normally exceed:

- a) 2 minutes for Sports Classes F32-34 and F54-57, or
- b) 3 minutes for classes F31 and F51-53.

Note: While the responsibility for 'tying down' rests with officials and volunteers, the Technical Delegate will issue specific interpretations at each competition which ensure athletes do not engage in time-wasting tactics.

6. Holding Device/Holding Bar Failure (Sport Classes F31-34, F51-57)

If a holding device should break or fail during the execution of a throw then the overseeing official should:

- a) If the athlete does not fail, offer the athlete the option of re-taking that trial (i.e., if the athlete is happy with the distance and they haven't failed then the athlete has the option of counting the affected trial), or;
- b) If the athlete fails then the trial should not be counted and the athlete should be allowed to retake the affected trial.

RULE 36: Secured Throwing Technique, Lifting & Failure

1. In Secured Throw Events, all athletes (Sport Classes F31-34, F51-57) shall throw implements from a Throwing Frame in a seated position. The seated position is defined as follows:
 - a) The athlete must sit so that both legs are in contact with the seat surface from the back of the knee to the back of the buttock (Ischial tuberosity)
 - b) This sitting position must be maintained throughout the throwing action until the throw has been marked. Strapping across the upper thighs and or pelvis is encouraged.

Note(i): The intention of this rule is to minimize contribution of the legs to the athlete's performance.

Note(ii): If an athlete presents with anatomical limitation that prevents adherence to the above requirements, then an assessment will need to be made by IPC Athletics in advance of the event. IPC Athletics shall establish a process for such exception to be granted so that the athlete is throwing within the spirit of the rules.
2. An athlete shall commence his trial from a stationary seated position.
3. An athlete is not allowed to touch the strap(s) outside the vertical plane of the throwing circle.
4. It shall be a failure if an athlete moves from the seated position from the time the athlete takes the implement into the starting position of the trial until the throw has been marked by an official.