



Dear Members and Chef de Mission,

Along with the Local Organising Committee of the Istanbul 2025 European Para Youth Games (EPYG), we are happy to share the Technical Manual.

This document contains all of the key information needed for you to enter athletes to this summer's event, and through this letter we have an important update to share.

When the current European Paralympic Committee Board was elected in 2021 and in response to your feedback, we made it clear that the aim of the EPYG was to offer as much value as possible to Members and athletes and for it to support your development efforts, particularly with regards to classification.

We have been working diligently and confidently on that basis alongside the LOC and with all International Federations since awarding the 2025 EPYG to Istanbul.

Unfortunately, just a couple of weeks ago as we were preparing to open entries, World Para Athletics suddenly informed us that they would not be providing international classification in Istanbul and would instead be focusing only on [contracted events in 2025](#).

Since receiving this news, the European Paralympic Committee has been reviewing all possible scenarios and attempting to change the decision of World Para Athletics and contact senior leadership on behalf of Members, sadly without success so far.

As a result, we are very disappointed to share that there will be no international classification in athletics at this year's European Para Youth Games.

The Board considered removing athletics from the programme entirely as a strong response to both the late timing and impact of the World Para Athletics decision. However having consulted further with the Sports' Advisory Group, formed of Members, and the Local Organising Committee, we have decided it can remain.

### **What can I do if my NPC is impacted by this?**

We understand from colleagues in other regions as well as Members and partners organising similar multi-sport Games that World Para Athletics have taken the same decision for international classification for their events in 2025. We believe this is a concerning trend.

To ensure there are enough classification opportunities to meet the development demands of Members in the world's biggest Para sport, we will continue to advocate very strongly for international classification in athletics at EPYG, this summer and at future editions.



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We remain open and responsive to any feedback or questions you may have on this issue, and would also encourage you to contact World Para Athletics directly if you share our concerns.

**Will the athletics programme remain the same?**

In the Technical Manual you will currently find a full programme for athletics.

Depending on final entries, and to preserve the standard of competition, the programme may be smaller to create the best quality final list of events whilst also offering young Para athletes the chance to experience a Games.

If the programme will be different from that published in the Technical Manual released today, a final version will be made available as soon as possible after the entry deadline on 14 May.

**Classification in other sports and the Discovery Programme**

Through the Technical Manual, we are delighted to confirm the availability of international classification in all other sports – Para archery, boccia, goalball, Para judo, Para swimming, wheelchair basketball, Para taekwondo and Para table tennis.

We are also very pleased to present a first look at the Discovery Programme which offers a wide range of activities delivered by the International Federations of seven sports and many other partners in areas such as ethics and fair play, mental health and wellbeing, classification education, and athlete and coach experience and knowledge-sharing.

We are confident that Istanbul 2025 will be a big step forward both in terms of quality and for the development of Para sport in Europe.

Please continue to liaise with the LOC if you have any questions about the entry process, and [Laura Kittela](#) if you have any general feedback or queries about EPYG.

A Chef de Mission seminar will take place on 30 April followed by another edition in June. Invitations will be distributed shortly. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,

Raymon Blondel

On behalf of the European Paralympic Committee Executive Board



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