

U.S. Paralympics
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES
May 15, 2018

Section 1. Jurisdiction.

These Complaint Procedures are applicable to those Paralympic sports in which U.S. Paralympics has not recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. Only matters concerning those Paralympic sports fall within the jurisdiction of these Complaint Procedures. Any member or participant of any of those Paralympic sports, by reason of membership or participation in an event (including but not limited to, competitions, camps and trainings) sanctioned, organized or held by U.S. Paralympics, agrees to be subject to these complaint procedures and agrees to be bound by any decision rendered pursuant to these complaint procedures.

Section 2. Designation of Complaints.

The following kinds of complaints may be filed with U.S. Paralympics:

- a. Administrative Grievance. U.S. Paralympics or any aggrieved individual may file a complaint pertaining to any matter relating to the cognizance of U.S. Paralympics, including but not limited to any alleged violation of or grievance concerning any U.S. Paralympics rule, regulation or code of conduct.
- b. Disciplinary Proceeding. U.S. Paralympics, or any member of the respective Paralympic sport may file a complaint against another member of the Paralympic sport, or former member of the Paralympic sport if the action occurred while the individual was a member, regarding any alleged violation of the Paralympic sport Code of Conduct, Paralympic sport SafeSport Policy, or any other rule or regulation relating to conduct.
- c. Right to Compete. Any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official may file a complaint pertaining to any alleged denial, or alleged threat to deny, of that individuals opportunity to compete in a U.S. Paralympics sanctioned/sponsored competition or protected competition.

Section 3. Manner of Filing.

The complainant shall file the complaint with the USOC Chief Executive Officer. The complaint shall set forth in clear and concise language, preferably in numbered paragraphs: (i) the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny and (ii) the remedy requested. The complainant shall sign the complainant, except that for matters involving any Paralympic sport SafeSport Policy, complaints may be filed anonymously.

Section 4. Statute of Limitations.

A complaint filed under these Complaint Procedures shall be filed within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the occurrence of the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny.

Section 5. Field of Play Decisions.

The final decision of a referee during a competition regarding a field of play decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be reviewable through the procedures for, or the subject of, Administrative Grievances or Right to Compete Complaints unless the decision is: (i) outside the authority of the referee to make or (ii) the product of fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the referee. For purposes of this Section, the term “referee” shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions.

Section 6. Doping Decisions.

A decision concerning a doping violation adjudicated by the independent anti-doping organization designated by U.S. Paralympics to serve as the U.S. National Anti-Doping Organization (currently the United States Anti-Doping Agency) shall not be reviewable through, or the subject of, these complaint procedures.

Section 7. Safe Sport Decisions.

A decision concerning a safe sport violation adjudicated by the independent safe-sport organization designated by U.S. Paralympics (currently the United States Center for Safe Sport) shall not be reviewable through, or the subject of, these complaint procedures.

Section 8. Hearing Panel.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the USOC Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a hearing panel consisting of three (3) disinterested individuals to hear the complaint. The USOC Chief Executive Officer shall also appoint a chair of the hearing panel from among the three individuals appointed. At least one member of the hearing panel shall be an athlete.

The Hearing Panel shall be responsible to ensure that all complaints are heard in a timely, fair and impartial manner.

Section 9. Administration.

The United States Olympic Committee General Counsel’s Office shall generally administer and oversee all administrative grievances, disciplinary proceedings, and right to compete matters filed with U.S. Paralympics.

Section 10. Conduct of the Proceeding.

The hearing panel shall rule on all motions and other matters raised in the proceeding. If the complaint is not dismissed, the hearing panel shall hold a hearing on the complaint. The hearing panel shall set such timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary. The hearing shall be informal, except that testimony shall be taken under oath.

The hearing may be conducted by teleconference, if necessary or convenient to the parties. Each party shall have the right to appear personally or through a legal representative. All parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present and examine evidence, cross-examine witnesses and to present argument. Members of the hearing panel shall have the right to question witnesses or the parties to the proceeding at any time.

Any party may have a record made of the hearing. A court reporter may be present at the hearing at the request of a party. The court reporter shall be paid for by the party requesting the court reporter, or if mutually agreed, the cost may be equally divided. Any transcript shall be paid for by the party requesting the transcript.

Section 11. Expedited Procedures.

Upon the request of a party, and provided that it is necessary to expedite the proceeding in order to resolve a matter relating to a competition that is so scheduled that compliance with regular procedures would not be likely to produce a sufficiently early decision to do justice to the affected parties, the USOC Chief Executive Officer is authorized to order that the complaint be heard and decided within forty-eight (48) hours of the filing of the complaint. In such a case, the hearing panel is authorized to hear and decide the complaint pursuant to such procedures as are necessary, but fair to the parties involved.

Section 12. Complaints Involving Selection to Participate in a Competition.

Where a complaint is filed involving selection of an individual to participate in a competition, the complainant shall include with the complaint a list of all other individuals, together with their contact information, that may be adversely affected by a decision rendered on the complaint. The hearing panel shall determine which additional individuals must receive notice of the complaint. The complainant shall then be responsible for providing appropriate notice to these individuals. Any individual so notified then shall have the option to participate in the proceeding as a party. If an individual is notified of the complaint, then that individual shall be bound by the decision of the hearing panel even though the individual chose not to participate as a party.

Section 13. Decision.

A decision shall be determined by a majority of the hearing panel. The hearing panel's decision shall be in writing, shall state the reasons for the decision and shall be distributed to the parties.

Section 14. Arbitration.

Any party may appeal a decision of the hearing panel to the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association shall have the authority to hear the matter anew or if requested by a party to render a decision on a more limited review. Either party may submit the decision of the hearing panel to the arbitrator for the arbitrator's consideration. The arbitrator may give whatever weight or authority to the hearing panel's decision as the arbitrator deems appropriate.