



Mind – Body – Spirit

International Paralympic Committee

IPC, Adenauerallee 212-214, D-53113 Bonn, Germany

To: National Paralympic Committees
International Organisations Sport for Disabled
IPC Standing Committees

Bonn, 1 February 2001
UE/IPC/358

INAS-FID Suspension

Dear Friends,

From the world-wide reactions to the IPC decision with respect to INAS-FID it has become evident that clarification is needed.

1. The IPC Management Committee's decision of January 27 in respect of the status of INAS-FID is preliminary until the IPC Investigation Commission has concluded its report. The report will be submitted to the IPC Executive Committee meeting on March 9-10, 2001.
2. The decision became necessary as it became evident that the issue of fraud does not seem to be just a "Spanish issue", but a global issue involving other national INAS-FID organisations – a fact that INAS-FID President Mr. Fernando Martin Vicente admitted to the Spanish Paralympic Committee.
3. The decision also became necessary as the Management Committee concluded that INAS-FID as an organisation is ultimately responsible for this situation as the INAS-FID Executive Committee made a vote of confidence for their President, Mr. Fernando Martin Vicente, in his actions for handling this matter.
4. In recognition to the performance of all athletes, the IPC cannot permit ID athletes' participation in events until it is certain that all requirements to guarantee elite standard are met and that a quality and failsafe system of evaluating ID athletes is in place and has the full confidence of the IPC.

The IPC fully understands the current disappointment and frustration of those athletes who are truly intellectually disabled and eligible to compete in IPC events. They have trained hard during the last months and are ready to perform at upcoming competitions. However, we feel that it is the IPC's responsibility to protect these athletes from unfair competition due to the



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lack of acceptable standardized evaluation procedures and inconsistencies. At this stage, the IPC has no evidence that INAS-FID can assure the eligibility of all athletes and thus had to impose this suspension, being fully aware of the fact that only a small number of athletes actually committed a fraud.

I shall endeavor to keep everyone informed once I receive more advice and direction from the IPC Investigation Commission. All IPC members will also receive a full report of the conclusion of our investigations. We would, therefore, ask for your understanding, trust and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert D. Steadward, O.C.
President
International Paralympic Committee