

World Boxing Para Boxing / Adaptive Boxing Commission

Terms of Reference (ToR)

1. Background

World Boxing is committed to expanding access to the sport and creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities to participate in safe, structured, and internationally recognised boxing activities. To support this objective, the Executive Board shall establish a Para Boxing / Adaptive Boxing Commission to guide the development of the discipline and create a pathway toward future recognition within the Paralympic Movement.

2. Name

World Boxing Para Boxing / Adaptive Boxing Commission

3. Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Executive Board on all matters relating to the development, governance, regulation, classification, competition structure, and international recognition of Para Boxing / Adaptive Boxing.

The Commission shall serve as the leading expert body within World Boxing for all matters relating to the inclusion and development of athletes with physical, sensory, intellectual, and neurological impairments where participation in boxing can be undertaken safely and fairly.

4. Authority

The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board.

The Commission may:

- Make recommendations to the Executive Board.
- Consult with external experts, International Federations, Member Federations, classifiers, medical experts, athlete representatives and disability sport organisations.
- Develop draft regulations, policies and strategic documents for Executive Board approval.

The Commission has no independent decision-making authority unless specifically delegated by the Executive Board.

5. Composition

The Commission shall consist of **five (5) members** appointed by the Executive Board.

Recommended Composition

1. **Chairperson**
 - Experience in boxing governance and international sport development.
2. **Classification Expert**
 - Recognised expertise in classification systems within Paralympic or disability sport.
 - Experience developing or implementing classification codes.
3. **Technical Boxing Expert**
 - Experience as a coach, referee, judge, technical delegate or competition administrator.
4. **Adaptive Boxing Practitioner**
 - Representative from a Member Federation or organisation currently delivering adaptive boxing programmes.
5. **Adaptive Boxing Practitioner / Athlete Representative**
 - Individual with practical experience in adaptive boxing and preferably experience as an athlete, coach or programme leader.

Desired Qualifications

The Commission should ideally include members from countries already operating adaptive boxing programmes to ensure practical experience informs policy development.

Consideration should be given to:

- Geographic diversity.
- Gender balance.
- Disability representation.
- Technical expertise.
- Medical and classification knowledge.

6. Appointment and Term

- Members shall be appointed by the Executive Board.
- The standard term shall be four (4) years.
- Members may be reappointed.
- Vacancies may be filled by the Executive Board at any time.

7. Key Responsibilities

7.1 Strategic Development

Develop a long-term strategy for Para Boxing / Adaptive Boxing within World Boxing including:

- Participation growth.
- Athlete development pathways.
- Competition structures.
- Member Federation engagement.
- Governance frameworks.

7.2 International Recognition

Develop and oversee a roadmap towards recognition within the Paralympic Movement.

The roadmap should include:

- Assessment of IPC requirements.
- Alignment with IPC governance principles.
- Athlete participation benchmarks.
- International representation targets.
- Compliance requirements.
- Long-term pathway towards IPC and Paralympic recognition.

7.3 Classification Development

Develop and maintain a preliminary World Boxing Classification Code including:

- Eligibility criteria.
- Impairment groups.
- Minimum impairment criteria.
- Athlete evaluation processes.
- Classification status definitions.
- Review procedures.
- Appeals processes.

The Commission shall consult recognised classification experts and relevant disability sport organisations in developing this framework.

7.4 Rules and Regulations

Develop specific technical rules for Para Boxing / Adaptive Boxing including:

Competition Rules

- Permitted techniques.
- Safety modifications.
- Equipment requirements.
- Protective equipment.
- Bout duration.
- Weight categories.
- Medical requirements.
- Ring and competition adaptations.

Athlete Eligibility Rules

- Classification requirements.
- Medical clearances.
- Age requirements.
- Qualification procedures.

Competition Safety Rules

- Medical protocols.
- Concussion protocols.
- Adaptive officiating procedures.
- Emergency management procedures.

7.5 Competition Formats

Develop proposals for national and international competition formats including:

Development Events

- Skills-based competitions.
- Non-contact formats (Virtual/E Boxing).
- Technical demonstration events.

Competitive Formats

- Classification-based tournaments.
- Festival-style competitions.
- Regional championships.
- Continental championships.
- World Championships.

Multi-Sport Event Opportunities

- Inclusion in disability sport games.
- Continental Para Games.
- Long-term Paralympic pathway.

8. Proposed Competition Structure

Phase 1 (2027-2028)

- National pilot events.
- Demonstration events.
- International invitational events.
- Adaptive Boxing Festival.

Phase 2 (2029-2030)

- Regional competitions.
- Continental Championships.

Phase 3 (2031 onwards)

- World Boxing Adaptive Boxing Championships.
- Qualification pathway system.
- Application for inclusion in major Para sport events.

9. Deliverables

Within the first 12 months, the Commission should deliver:

Priority Deliverable 1

World Boxing Adaptive Boxing Strategy 2027-2032.

Priority Deliverable 2

Draft World Boxing Adaptive Boxing Classification Code.

Priority Deliverable 3

Adaptive Boxing Competition Rules.

Priority Deliverable 4

Adaptive Boxing Medical and Safety Framework.

Priority Deliverable 5

International Competition Structure and Calendar Proposal.

Priority Deliverable 6

Roadmap Towards IPC Recognition.

10. Meetings

- The Commission shall meet at least four (4) times per year.
- Meetings shall be held virtually.
- Additional meetings may be convened by the Chairperson.
- A simple majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

11. Reporting

The Commission shall report directly to the Executive Board and submit:

- Annual activity report.
- Strategic recommendations.
- Progress reports on IPC recognition.
- Recommendations regarding rules, classification and competitions.

12. Review

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed by the Executive Board every two years, or earlier if required, to ensure they remain aligned with the strategic objectives of World Boxing and the development needs of Para Boxing / Adaptive Boxing.

Approved by: World Boxing Executive Board

Effective Date: [To be determined]

Review Date: [Two years from approval]