



# **RECOMMENDED ETIQUETTE FOR PARALYMPIC VICTORY CEREMONIES**

**MILANO CORTINA 2026  
PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES**

**JUNE 2025**

# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Victory ceremonies during the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games (MiCo 2026) will take place at the venues after the end of competition.

We encourage you to see the sport competition you are allocated to as a presenter, so you could connect better with the medallists. If this is not possible, please do arrive at the competition venue at least one hour prior to the start time of your allocated victory ceremony. Please be mindful of distances and travel times between official hotels and sport venues, consider extra time for security and accreditation checks at the entrance of the venues and prepare your journey in advance. When you arrive at the competition venue, please identify yourself as a presenter to one of the MiCo 2026 protocol staff or volunteers in the Paralympic Family Stand or Paralympic Family Lounge.

The pre-ceremony briefings are in place to guarantee smooth victory ceremonies, so if you have questions regarding the procedure, please speak with the victory ceremonies staff. They will introduce you to the medallists during the pre-ceremony briefing in the green room, provide information on the process and where relevant and needed, will facilitate communication with the medallists. To emphasise the unique personality of every athlete, the presenter should take into consideration the preferences discussed with the medallists in the pre-ceremony briefing.

Please note that for certain sports and events, athlete competition partners (eg, guides) may also be awarded medals and gifts together with the respective athlete/team with whom they have competed. The athlete should be presented with the medal first and then the athlete competition partner. The same sequence applies to the gifts. You will be informed about this during the briefing.

# DRESS CODE AND CONDUCT DURING VICTORY CEREMONIES

For outdoor victory ceremonies, presenters can wear outdoor clothes (eg, jackets). If temperature conditions in indoor venues allow the recommended dress code for presenters is business attire. To comply with brand protection requirements, it is mandatory to wear items that do not have a prominent branding or marking, whether of the clothing brand or any third-party branding (ideally as neutral as possible).

Personal accessories normally worn on a daily basis (such as watches and jewellery) may be worn during ceremonies, but not if they are worn for advertising, product placement or endorsement purposes.

Presenters who have a vision impairment can be accompanied by a guide during victory ceremonies. If the presenter does not have a guide, a volunteer will be assigned to assist during the duration of the ceremony. Both presenters and their guides should wear business attire or appropriate outdoor clothing.

The following rules should be observed by all presenters (and guides, where applicable) during victory ceremonies:

- No Olympic marks are allowed (eg, Olympic rings).
- No flags, cell phones, headphones, cameras, electronic devices, bottles, toys, sunglasses are allowed at the victory ceremony staging area. Exception: sunglasses will be allowed for presenters with a vision impairment.
- Presenters should not wear their accreditation to the victory ceremony staging area.
- Clothing items or other accessories that represent a demonstration, protest or political statement, propaganda or publicity (commercial or otherwise) are not allowed.
- Any kind of demonstration, protest or political statements are not allowed on the podium and in the victory ceremony staging area.

Some presenters may want to wear specific pins to show their institutional or corporate affiliation. Please be advised that only the following pins will be allowed during victory ceremonies:

- Institutional pins that represent the emblem of the Paralympic Games, the IPC (i.e., the Agitos), WeThe15, or logos of IPC institutional partners (eg, UN).
- Pins or institutional logos of International Federations (IF)<sup>1</sup>. Max logo size on clothes item is 30 cm<sup>2</sup>.
- Corporate pins or commercial logos of Worldwide Paralympic Partners or MiCo 2026 Games Partners. Max logo size on clothes item is 30 cm<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> IF technical officials (e.g., Technical Delegate) are allowed to wear their official MiCo 2026 uniform.

Please note that corporate logos of a company that is not an official Games or IPC World Paralympic Partner will not be allowed. This includes the logos of a sponsor of an IF or IOSD and Para Sport Partners. Manufacture identification can be allowed but should not exceed 30cm<sup>2</sup>.

Please be advised that victory ceremony staff will ask presenters to remove all items that are non-compliant with the above rules.

## **CONGRATULATORY GREETING**

During the victory ceremony, you are welcome to demonstrate your appreciation to the medallists in the way that has been agreed upon during the briefing, i.e., by shaking hands, pausing with your right hand at your heart for a moment, nodding your head or making a small bow, etc.

In the interest of maintaining a respectful environment, presenters are encouraged to refrain from engaging in any form of physically close congratulatory gestures, such as kissing, when presenting medals or gifts to the medallists.

In accordance with the IPC Code of Ethics, all medallists should be treated equally, regardless their nationality, religion or any other affiliation. Please communicate with the medallists in a formal and courteous style, always showing respect and dignity. In the event the presenter and the medallist know each other, we kindly request you to limit private conversations during the victory ceremony. Congratulatory statements should not take too long.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEDALLISTS USING A WHEELCHAIR OR OTHER ASSISTIVE DEVICES**

Please be advised that assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, crutches or walkers are considered extensions of the body and therefore should not be touched without permission of the athlete.

While interacting with wheelchair users, please be sensitive to their comfort level and consider situating yourself at eye level in a longer conversation. When standing, it is recommended to stand far enough so that the seated person does not need to bend his/her head backwards.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEDALLISTS WITH A VISION IMPAIRMENT**

When approaching an athlete who is blind or has a vision impairment, please begin by introducing yourself by stating your name, followed by the congratulatory greeting. This procedure ensures the person receives a clear orientation.

During the victory ceremony process, when approaching the medallist on the podium, please give them an acoustic sign like for example "I am now presenting

you with the Bronze medal". If you want to shake hands with medallists, please also provide a verbal cue. One example is "Now we shall shake hands".

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEDALLISTS WITH UPPER BODY IMPAIRMENTS**

Athletes with upper body impairment (eg, with an amputated upper limb, paraplegia, limited hand reach and dexterity) may require extra time or assistance when receiving their commemorative gifts. This should be discussed during the pre-ceremony briefing.

Please be patient and hold the gift close enough for the athlete to 'grasp' it between their upper limbs and body. Alternative options for presenting commemorative gifts to athletes without arms or with limited functional ability include receiving it under the chin/neck, between the toes, or placing it on the athlete's lap. It will be the medallist's choice to ask for their guide's or team official's support during this process.

If you would like to shake medallists' hands during the ceremony, please consider that people with upper body impairment always offer the part of their body they feel most comfortable to shake with. As an example, athletes with an amputated upper limb may prefer the presenter to shake their remaining or residual limb or prosthesis. If an athlete has no limbs alternative actions include a slight gesture, like a nod of the head, arm to heart or a small bow.

Wishing you an enjoyable presenter experience!

Please note that this recommended etiquette for Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games victory ceremonies is subject to change to accommodate for any changing circumstances during the Games.