



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## **IPC Athlete Classification Code**

**Rules, Policies and Procedures for Athlete Classification**

July 2015

**International Paralympic Committee**

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This IPC Athlete Classification Code is the revised version of the IPC Classification Code first published in 2007. This version incorporates revisions that were approved by the IPC General Assembly in 2015. The revised 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code is effective as of 1 January 2017 with compliance required by 1 January 2018.



## Introduction

The vision of the Paralympic Movement is “to enable Para-Athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world.” The unique systems of Classification used in Para-sports perform two critical functions to support the realisation of this vision: (1) define who is eligible to compete in Para-sport and consequently has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; and (2) group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious. It is important to note that the competitive structure provided by Classification systems is not only important for elite sport but also is essential for promoting grassroots participation in Para-sports by people with an Impairment.

Classification has matured enormously since the Movement first began. Initially Classification was based on medical evaluation, placing little emphasis on assessing the impact on sport. In the 1980s and 1990s many Athletes and Classifiers recognised this shortcoming and drove the development of functional Classification systems, focused more fully on sport performance. Over this period there were no unifying principles to guide the development of new Classification systems and the rate of development varied greatly across Para-sports. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Governing Board recognised that, in order to secure the future of the Paralympic Movement, Para-sports required a more harmonised approach to Classification. In 2003 the Governing Board approved the Classification strategy, which led to the publication of the 2007 IPC Classification Code and International Standards. This document is the foundation for the evolution to very sport-specific Classification systems.

This revised edition of the Code is consistent with the first; aiming to provide a clear statement of the purpose of Athlete Classification, as well as a framework of policies and procedures that will uphold confidence in Classification systems across the Paralympic Movement. This edition of the Code places particular emphasis on a clear and easy to use language so that Athletes fully understand why they participate in Classification and promotes their active participation in the Classification process. The Code upholds that Classification works best when Athletes and Classifiers work cooperatively to determine the most appropriate Sports Class. The Code also includes five International Standards which provide specific, operational guidance in key areas of Classification.

The rapid pace of development in technology, training methods and medical advances present significant opportunities for Classification. This second edition of the Code provides a framework, which aims to permit the Paralympic Movement – Athletes, Classifiers, administrators and scientists – to manage the challenges and seize the opportunities to allow the realisation of the vision of the Paralympic Movement for the future.



# 1 Scope and Application

## IPC and the Paralympic Movement

- 1.1 The IPC is the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement. Its members are National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), International Sport Federations (IFs), International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs), and Regional Organisations. The IPC acts as the IF for a number of sports. IOSDs may act as the IF for a number of sports.

*[Comment to 1.1: detailed information on the membership structure and the sports under IPC governance is available on the IPC website.]*

*The term National Body is used in the Code and International Standards to refer to the member nation of an International Sport Federation. The term National Paralympic Committee is used to identify the member nations of the IPC.]*

- 1.2 The IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) applies to all members of the Paralympic Movement and to all Athletes competing in Para-sport at International Competitions under the jurisdiction of the International Sport Federations.
- 1.3 The Code also applies to the International Recognised Federations.

## IPC Classification Committee

- 1.4 The IPC Classification Committee is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to the Code, and coordinates any Code review process as requested by the IPC Governing Board. The IPC Medical & Scientific Director is responsible for the administration of the provisions of the Code. The IPC Medical & Scientific Director may delegate specific responsibilities to such person or persons at his/her discretion.

## The Athlete Classification Code

- 1.5 The Code is the fundamental document upon which Classification in the Paralympic Movement must be based. The purpose is to uphold confidence in Classification and promote participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para-sports. The Code is intended to be specific enough to achieve harmonisation on Classification where standardisation is required and general enough in other areas to permit flexibility regarding the implementation of its principles.



## **International Standards**

- 1.6 The Code is supplemented by International Standards that provide the technical and operational requirements for Classification. The International Standards relate to:
- 1.6.1 Eligible Impairments
  - 1.6.2 Athlete Evaluation
  - 1.6.3 Protests and Appeals
  - 1.6.4 Classifier Personnel and Training
  - 1.6.5 Classification Data Protection

Compliance with the International Standards is mandatory.

## **Models of Best Practice**

- 1.7 Models of Best Practice are examples of excellence related to Classification. All members of the Paralympic Movement are strongly encouraged to adopt all or parts of the Models of Best Practice.

## **Classification Rules**

- 1.8 Each International Sport Federation must have and publish its own Classification Rules. Classification Rules are an integral part of the rules of the sport within which Classification takes place. All participants in the sport accept these rules as a condition of participation. The Rules must be complemented with regulations, policies and procedures that address their practical implementation in a particular sport.
- 1.9 Classification Rules shall include provisions related to:
- 1.9.1 Eligible Impairments and Minimum Impairment Criteria (in accordance with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments)
  - 1.9.2 Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation (in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation)
  - 1.9.3 Protests and Appeals (in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals)
  - 1.9.4 Classifier Personnel and Training (in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training)
  - 1.9.5 Data Protection (in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection)



## 2 Definition and Purpose of Classification in Para-sport

- 2.1 Athlete Classification in the Paralympic Movement (referred to in the Code as “Classification”) is a defining feature of Para-sport. It is defined as grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline.
- 2.2 The purpose of Classification is to define who competes in Para-sport and to ensure that the impact of Impairment in each event is minimised. To achieve this purpose, an IF must develop and implement a Classification system that complies with the Code and the International Standards. Specifically, a Classification system must:
  - 2.2.1 Clearly state that an Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment in order to compete in the sport. Such Impairments must come from the list of Eligible Impairments presented in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.
  - 2.2.2 Set processes and procedures for assessing whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment. These processes and procedures must conform with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.
  - 2.2.3 Set Minimum Impairment Criteria for each Eligible Impairment. Minimum Impairment Criteria must be written in a way that can be objectively assessed and comply with the International Standard for Eligible Impairment and for Athlete Evaluation.
  - 2.2.4 Require that Athletes be allocated a Sport Class based on the extent to which Athletes are able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the Para-sport or discipline. The means by which Sport Classes are allocated must comply with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

## 3 Classification Personnel

- 3.1 An International Sport Federation must appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for the International Sport Federation, in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.



- 3.2 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) a clear set of professional conduct standards which all Classification Personnel must comply with. These standards are referred to as a, 'Classifier Code of Conduct,' in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.
- 3.3 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) procedures for reporting and investigating complaints of non-compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct that must include procedures for taking disciplinary measures against Classification Personnel in respect of any violation of the Classifier Code of Conduct.

## **4 Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Allocation**

- 4.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with an International Sport Federation's Classification Rules. It must be done in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.2 Each International Sport Federation must ensure that a process is in place whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments and the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation. This process shall be contained in the Classification Rules of each International Sport Federation.
- 4.3 The International Sport Federation's Classification Rules must detail the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class.
- 4.4 A Sport Class is a category defined by each International Sports Federation in the Classification Rules of the sport, in which Athletes are categorised in reference to the ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport in a non-competitive environment.
- 4.5 A Sport Class and Sport Class Status must be allocated to each Athlete in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Eligible Impairments following Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.6 Following the allocation of a Sport Class, the Athlete must be designated a Sport Class Status. A Sport Class Status indicates evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities. A Sport Class Status must be designated in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.



## 5 Protests and Appeals

### Protests

- 5.1 A Protest is the procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved. Protests must be conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals. Each International Sport Federation must include a Protest process in its Classification Rules in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

### Appeals

- 5.2 An Appeal is the process to resolve Classification procedural disputes. Appeals should be conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals. Each International Sport Federation must include an Appeal process in its Classification Rules in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

## 6 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 6.1 Each International Sport Federation must provide procedures on how to identify and manage allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation in the International Sport Federation's Classification Rules.
- 6.2 An Athlete must not intentionally misrepresent his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment to a Classification Panel. If an Athlete attempts to deceive the Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation, he or she is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 6.3 An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment by any other act or omission is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

*[Comment to art. 6.3: This includes misrepresentation away from Athlete Evaluation, including misrepresentation after allocation of a Sport Class such as a failure to make a medical notification as to a change in circumstances that an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel knows does or may affect a Sport Class.]*

- 6.4 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, who knowingly assists, covers up or disrupts the evaluation process with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel, or is in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.





- 6.5 If an International Sport Federation commences disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect to Intentional Misrepresentation (and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation), the International Sport Federation may impose a provisional suspension from all Competitions.
- 6.5.1 An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is subject to a provisional suspension may not, during the period of provisional suspension, participate in any capacity in any Competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by the International Sport Federation;
- 6.5.2 An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who receives notice of a provisional suspension may apply to the International Sport Federation for any provisional suspension to be lifted on the basis that facts exist that make it clearly unfair, in all of the circumstances, for a provisional suspension to be imposed.
- 6.5.3 If an International Sport Federation imposes a provisional suspension it should ensure there can be an expedited hearing no later than 14 days after the date of imposition of the provisional suspension if the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel requests such a hearing.
- 6.6 The consequences that will be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation must be one or more of the following: (a) Disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred; and (b) Not Eligible for Athlete Evaluation or other participation in Competitions for a specified period of time ranging from 12 to 48 months.
- 6.7 The consequences that will be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion is up to a lifetime period of being Not Eligible from Athlete Evaluation or other participation in Competitions.
- 6.8 If an International Sport Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect to Intentional Misrepresentation which results in the imposition of a period of being Not Eligible, that period of being Not Eligible must be recognised, respected and enforced by all Signatories of the Code.
- 6.9 Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of the relevant International Sport Federation.



## **7 Intelligence Gathering and Investigations**

- 7.1 Each International Sport Federation must have policies and procedures in place to ensure that Classification intelligence captured or received is handled securely and confidentially, taking into account the nature of the source and the circumstances in which the intelligence has been received, and that the sources of intelligence are protected.
- 7.2 All data must be dealt with in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.

## **8 Data Storage and Data Protection**

- 8.1 Each International Sport Federation must ensure that processes and procedures are in place whereby Athlete data is stored and protected. These processes and procedures must be in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.

## **9 Classification Master List**

- 9.1 To assist in the process of Classification, International Sport Federations must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which should include at least the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 9.2 International Sport Federations must make available their Classification Master List to their respective National Federations (NFs) relevant National Paralympic Committees, and to the IPC.



## 10 Education and Research

### Education and Awareness

- 10.1 International Sport Federations must implement Classification education and awareness programmes for Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and any other stakeholder (media, spectators). Such programme must describe and explain Classification Rules and clarify compliance with the Code. International Sport Federations must involve Athletes in the development and delivery of such education and awareness programmes.

### Classification Research

- 10.2 International Sport Federations must develop sports-specific Classification Systems through multidisciplinary scientific research. Such research must be evidence-based and focus on the relationship between Impairment and key performance determinants. Athlete input must be solicited to assist in research and improvement in Classification systems.
- 10.3 Classification research must comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.

## 11 Changes to Classification Systems

- 11.1 International Sport Federations must provide appropriate notice to National Federations and National Paralympic Committees of anticipated changes to Classification systems and any other change(s) that might impact on Sport Class allocation. The aforementioned parties must be provided a rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation and any transition rules, as applicable. The same parties must be provided an opportunity to submit feedback and comments.
- 11.2 International Sport Federations must notify the IPC before Classification system changes and any other change(s) that might impact on Sport Class allocation with the rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation, transition rules, as applicable, and an overview of the process of consultation that is initiated as part of the system review process. The IPC must be provided an opportunity to submit feedback and comments.



## 12 Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

### International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

12.1 The roles and responsibilities of the IPC include:

- 12.1.1 To develop, maintain and monitor implementation of the Code, International Standards and Models of Best Practice.
- 12.1.2 To develop, maintain and implement example rules which conform to the Code.
- 12.1.3 To require, as a condition of membership, that all IPC members, including International Sport Federations, International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled, Regional Organisations, and National Paralympic Committees, are in compliance with the Code.
- 12.1.4 To monitor compliance with the Code of International Sport Federations and National Paralympic Committees.

12.2 The IPC will take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Code and International Standards by its Members, including by:

- 12.2.1 seeking to promote, conduct, commission, seek funding and coordinate Classification education and research;
- 12.2.2 adopting and implementing Classification Rules for the Paralympic Games which conform to the Code;
- 12.2.3 withholding some or all funding of IFs and NPCs in case of non-compliance;
- 12.2.4 suspending membership and rights to participate in the Paralympic Games of organisations that are not in compliance with the Code.

### International Sport Federations (IFs)

12.3 The roles and responsibilities of International Sport Federations include:

- 12.3.1 To develop, implement and regularly review and publish Classification Rules, including eligibility criteria, in compliance with the Code.
- 12.3.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.
- 12.3.3 To initiate Classification education and research.
- 12.3.4 To recommend as a condition of membership that Classification Rules in National Bodies should be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Code.



- 12.3.5 Developing, implementing and maintaining a clear Classifier recruitment, training and development pathway.

### **National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)**

12.4 The roles and responsibilities of the National Paralympic Committees include:

- 12.4.1 To ensure that national Classification Rules conform with the Code and make recommendations for compliance with the Code.
- 12.4.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.
- 12.4.3 To promote the development of a national Classification strategy.

### **Athlete and Support Personnel**

12.5 The Roles and Responsibilities of Athletes include:

- 12.5.1 To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code.
- 12.5.2 To participate in Athlete Evaluation when requested.
- 12.5.3 To ensure that adequate information related to the Eligible Impairment and diagnostic evidence is made available where appropriate.
- 12.5.4 To cooperate with any investigations concerning Classification Rule violations.
- 12.5.5 To actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

12.6 The Roles and Responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:

- 12.6.1 To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code.
- 12.6.2 To use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication.
- 12.6.3 To assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification systems.
- 12.6.4 To cooperate with any investigations concerning Classification violations.

## **13 Implementation, Compliance and Modifications**



## **Implementation of the Code and International Standards**

- 13.1 This Code takes effect 1 January 2017 onwards and each International Sports Federation and International Recognised Federation of the Paralympic Movement must have Code compliant rules no later than 1 January 2018.
- 13.2 A list of all Members with Classification Rules in compliance with the Code will be made public by the IPC on 1 January 2018.

*[Comment to art. 13.1-13.2: From the moment of adoption of the Code by the IPC General Assembly, each International Sport Federation and each International Recognised Federation of the Paralympic Movement can introduce revised Classification Rules that adopt this Code to take effect from 1 January 2017 onwards, after having presented these to the IPC for review.]*

*No later than 1 January 2018, each member must have Code compliant Classification Rules, which have been reviewed and approved by the IPC. The IPC will issue a statement of Code compliance to each International Sport Federation and International Recognised Federation upon receipt and review of the revised Classification Rules.]*

- 13.3 National Bodies must align their national Classification rules with those of the International Sports/Recognised Federation once these are considered in compliance with the Code.
- 13.4 In implementing the Code, International Sports/Recognised Federation are strongly recommended to consider the Models of Best Practice developed by the IPC.

## **Monitoring Compliance with the Code**

- 13.5 To facilitate monitoring, each IPC member must report on its compliance with the Code as requested by the IPC, and must explain reasons for any non-compliance.
- 13.6 Explanations for non-compliance with the Code may be considered, and, in extraordinary situations, a temporary extension may be granted.
- 13.7 The non-compliant member must submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for compliance subject to approval by the IPC Governing Board. Non-compliance with the Code results in sanctions that may include:
- 13.7.1 Disciplinary actions against the member.
  - 13.7.2 Exclusion from the Paralympic Games and any other IPC sanctioned events.
  - 13.7.3 Suspension of IPC membership.
- 13.8 The imposition of sanctions may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

## **Modifications to the Code**



- 13.9 The IPC Governing Board shall be responsible for overseeing the evolution and development of the Code. Athletes and Signatories shall be invited to participate in this process.
- 13.10 The Code and International Standards may be reviewed on a regular basis including following the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.
- 13.11 The IPC Classification Committee, upon request of the IPC Governing Board initiates proposed amendments to the Code. It must ensure a consultative process is in place to both receive and respond to recommendations and to facilitate review and feedback from Athletes, Signatories and other parties.
- 13.12 Amendments to the Code must, after appropriate consultation, be approved by the IPC General Assembly. Amendments to the International Standards, after appropriate consultation, must be approved by the IPC Governing Board.
- 13.13 The IPC must implement any amendment to the Code within one year of approval by the IPC General Assembly.

#### **Withdrawal of Acceptance of the Code**

- 13.14 Any Signatory may withdraw acceptance of the Code after providing the IPC six months written notice of their intent to withdraw.

## **14 Interpretation of the Code**

- 14.1 The official text of the Code must be maintained by the IPC and must be published in English.
- 14.2 The Code must be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of the IPC.
- 14.3 The headings used for the various parts and articles of the Code are for convenience only and must not be deemed part of the substance of the Code or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 14.4 The Introduction, Glossary and International Standards are integral parts of the Code.
- 14.5 The comments annotating various provisions of the Code and International Standards must be used to interpret the Code.
- 14.6 The Code does not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the date the Code is accepted by an IPC member and implemented in its rules.



## APPENDIX: GLOSSARY

**Appeals:** The means by which a complaint that an International Sport Federation has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

**Athlete:** For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by each International Sport Federation) or national level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the Classification rules of an International Sport Federation in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

**Athlete Support Personnel:** Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

**Chief Classifier:** The Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specified Competition.

**Classification:** Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

**Classification Master List:** A list made available by an International Sport Federation that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class that permits them to participate in an International Competition.

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by the International Sport Federation, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules of the International Sport Federation.

**Classification Personnel:** Persons other than Classifiers acting with the authority of a Classification organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

**Classification Rule:** Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by an International Sport Federation in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classifier:** A person authorised as an official by an IF to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.





**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by the International Sport Federation.

**Code:** The Classification Code.

**Competition:** A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

**Conflict of Interest:** A pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the ability to make an objective decision or assessment.

**Eligible Impairment:** An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para-sport, as detailed in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.

**Health Condition:** A general term for pathology, disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury or trauma.

**Impairment:** A physical, visual or intellectual Impairment, which is not an Eligible Impairment for competing in Para-sport.

**International Competitions:** A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**International Sport Federations:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para-sport by the IPC. The IPC and IOSD act as an IF for certain sports.

**International Standards:** A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

**Major Competition Organiser:** An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

**Models of Best Practice:** An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

**National Body:** Refers to the national member of an International Sport Federation.

**National Paralympic Committees (NPC):** The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC.

**Paralympic Games:** Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.



**Para-sports:** All sport for Athletes with an Impairment whether they feature on the Paralympic programme or not. These terms are used for all other sports events outside of the Paralympic Games.

**Protest Panel:** A Classification Panel appointed to resolve a Protest.

**Protests** The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

**Signatories:** Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

**Sport Class:** A category for Competition defined by an International Sport Federation by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

**Sport Class Status:** A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.



## **International Standard for Eligible Impairments**

July 2015

**International Paralympic Committee**

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## Introduction

The fundamental purpose of the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) is to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para-sports.

The Code is complemented by five International Standards that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all Signatories in a manner which Athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Eligible Impairments should be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

## Purpose

The purpose of the International Standard for Eligible Impairments is to identify what an Eligible Impairment is in Para-sports.

## Definitions

This International Standard uses the defined terms from the Code. A further defined term specific to this International Standard is:

**Permanent:** A Health Condition or Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved and, meaning the principal effects are lifelong.



## 1 General Provisions

- 1.1 The Code and the International Standards (including this International Standard) designate certain Impairments as ‘Eligible Impairments’.
- 1.2 International Sport Federations must, by way of their Classification Rules (or any other relevant rules), provide that an Impairment is an Eligible Impairment only if it is Permanent.
- 1.3 Any Athlete wishing to compete in Para-sport must have an Eligible Impairment. International Sport Federations must comply with this International Standard by ensuring that their sport governance rules (including but not limited to their Classification Rules) clearly indicate which of the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in the sport.
- 1.4 The Code requires that an Athlete with an Eligible Impairment must also comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria set by the International Sport Federation for the particular sport (or an individual discipline within a sport). These Minimum Impairment Criteria must be described in a manner that the relevant Eligible Impairment has an impact upon sport performance as defined in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

*[Comment to Article 1: Each Para-sport has to clearly define for which Impairments they provide sports opportunities. This must be described in the Classification Rules of each sport. While some sports include Athletes of all Eligible Impairments (for example athletics, swimming), other sports are limited to one Impairment (for example goalball, boccia) or a selection of Impairments (for example equestrian, cycling).]*

## 2 Establishing Eligible Impairment

- 2.1 International Sport Federations are required (by way of their Classification Rules and in any other relevant rules) for each sport they govern to have a process in place by which the existence of an Eligible Impairment can be established.
- 2.2 This process must encompass the following features:
  - 2.2.1 the Athlete’s National Body must initiate the process on behalf of an Athlete;
  - 2.2.2 the International Sport Federation Head of Classification for the relevant sport will assess the existence of the Eligible Impairment based upon the provision of medical documentation and any other records;



- 2.2.3 the Athlete's National Body must provide medical documentation and any other records so that the International Sport Federation Head of Classification is satisfied that the Athlete has one or more Eligible Impairments;
  - 2.2.4 if the International Sport Federation Head of Classification for the relevant sport is satisfied that an Athlete has one or more Eligible Impairments this will be recorded.
- 2.3 An International Sport Federation may delegate any of the responsibilities described in Article 5.2 to a Classification Panel.

*[Comment to Article 2: this Article requires IFs to establish a process by which an Athlete can verify that he or she has an Eligible Impairment. This must be done before a Classification Panel commences the components of Athlete Evaluation that it is required to undertake (by the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation).]*

### **3 Eligible Impairments and Commonly Associated Health Conditions**

- 3.1 The following are Eligible Impairments in the Paralympic Movement, together with examples of Health Conditions that may lead to those Eligible Impairments:
- 3.1.1 Impaired muscle power

Athletes with impaired muscle power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force. Examples include: spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.
  - 3.1.2 Impaired passive range of movement

Athletes with impaired range of movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints. Examples include: arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.
  - 3.1.3 Limb deficiency

Athletes with limb deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).



#### 3.1.4 Leg length difference

Athletes that have a difference in the length of their legs as a result of a disturbance of limb growth, or as a result of trauma.

#### 3.1.5 Short stature

Athletes with short stature have a reduced length in the bones of the lower limbs and/or trunk. Examples include: achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.

#### 3.1.6 Hypertonia

Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.

#### 3.1.7 Ataxia

Athletes with ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.

#### 3.1.8 Athetosis

Athletes with athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements. Examples include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.

#### 3.1.9 Vision Impairment

Athletes with impaired vision have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain. Examples include: retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

#### 3.1.10 Intellectual Impairment

Athletes with an intellectual Impairment have a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour in which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This Impairment must be present before the age of 18.

*[Comment to Article 3: Many other Impairments exist (see also article 4), but the Paralympic Movement originates from the creation of an umbrella organisation by the 'International Organisations of Sport for Disabled' (IOSDs) and by their respective national members. Today, and as a result of the activities of the IOSDs that founded the IPC and are currently in membership of the IPC, the Paralympic Movement identifies ten (10) Eligible Impairments.]*



*Consequently, any other new 'Eligible Impairment' may only be introduced in a Para-sport subject to an approval of the IPC General Assembly.]*

*[Comment to Article 3.1: the list of Eligible Impairments includes examples of Health Conditions which may lead to an Eligible Impairment. The examples are not exhaustive.]*

## **4 Non-Eligible Impairments**

4.1 Any Impairment not listed in Article 3 is referred to as a non-eligible Impairment. Examples include:

- 4.1.1 Pain;
- 4.1.2 Hearing impairment;
- 4.1.3 Low muscle tone;
- 4.1.4 Hypermobility of joints;
- 4.1.5 Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- 4.1.6 Impaired muscle endurance;
- 4.1.7 Impaired motor reflex functions;
- 4.1.8 Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- 4.1.9 Impaired respiratory functions;
- 4.1.10 Impairment metabolic functions;
- 4.1.11 Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

*[Comment to Article 4: the non-eligible Impairments listed in Article 4 are examples only, this is not a complete list of every non-eligible Impairment. The aim of the list is to assist IFs to enhance the clarity of rules governing eligibility.]*

## **5 Health Conditions that will not lead to an Eligible Impairment**

5.1 International Sport Federations may specify in their Classification Rules that certain Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Any Athlete who is only affected by such Health Condition will not be considered for Classification in relation to one or more sports governed by that International Sport Federation.





- 5.2 The IPC has specified certain Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Examples are:
- 5.2.1 Health conditions that primarily cause pain, such as myofascial *pain*-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.
  - 5.2.2 Health Conditions that primarily cause fatigue, such as chronic fatigue syndrome.
  - 5.2.3 Health Conditions that primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia, such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome
  - 5.2.4 Health Conditions which are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature, such as conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.

*[Comment to Article 5: the Health Conditions listed in this article are examples only - there are many other Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. The aim of the list is to assist IFs to enhance the clarity of rules governing eligibility.]*

*It is possible that an Athlete is affected by more than one Health Condition. In cases where the Athlete has a Health Condition which will not lead to an Eligible Impairment (such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome), as well as a Health Condition which may lead to an Eligible Impairment (such as spinal cord injury), the Athlete may still be eligible for Para-sports. However, the following should be noted:*

*- if an Athlete has at the same time a non-eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete can be evaluated on the basis of the Eligible Impairment. The non-eligible Impairment must not influence the outcome of the evaluation.*

*- if the non-eligible Impairment interferes with the assessment of an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete Evaluation cannot be completed in accordance with the International Standard on Athlete Evaluation. An example is a case of an Athlete with severe rheumatoid arthritis where the assessment of restricted passive range of movement is impacted by pain.]*



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## **International Standard for Athlete Evaluation**

**July 2015**

**International Paralympic Committee**

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## Introduction

The fundamental purpose of the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) is to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para-sports.

The Code is complemented by five International Standards that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all Signatories in a manner which Athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Athlete Evaluation should be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

## Purpose

The purpose of the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation is to detail the accepted procedures for the assessment of Athletes and the allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

## Definitions

This International Standard uses the defined terms from the Code. Further defined terms specific to this International Standard are:

**Adaptive Equipment:** implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Para-Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

**Non-Competition Venue:** a Non-Competition Venue is any place or location designated by an International Federation as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status.

**Permanent:** A Health Condition or Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved and, meaning the principal effects are lifelong.

**Third Party:** Any natural person or legal entity other than the person to whom relevant Personal Information or Sensitive Personal Information relates.



# 1 General Provisions

- 1.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 1.2 International Sport Federations are required (by way of their Classification Rules and in any other relevant rules) to implement and publish provisions relating to Athlete Evaluation that are consistent with this International Standard.
- 1.3 A reference to 'sport' in this International Standard also includes an individual discipline within a sport.

*[Comment to Article 1.3: Sport Classes must be allocated in relation to a sport itself (for example, a Sport Class is allocated to players who compete in wheelchair basketball), for different disciplines within a sport (for example, swimmers are allocated Sport Classes for different strokes; Athletes in the sport of athletics may be allocated different Sport Classes depending on track or field events). The references to 'sport' in this International Standard encompass all of these situations.]*

- 1.4 Athlete Evaluation encompasses the following:
  - 1.4.1 an assessment of whether or not the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the relevant sport;
  - 1.4.2 an assessment of whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the relevant sport;
  - 1.4.3 an assessment and evaluation of the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;
  - 1.4.4 if required, the conduct of Observation in Competition Assessment;
  - 1.4.5 the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status.
- 1.5 International Sport Federations must specify within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) the process for assessment of whether or not the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment. The tasks referred to in Articles 1.4.2, 1.4.3, 1.4.4 and 1.4.5 above must be undertaken by a Classification Panel.

*[Comment to Article 1.5: prior to being evaluated by a Classification Panel, an Athlete may be required to satisfy the International Sport Federation that he or she has an Eligible Impairment. This may require an International Sport Federation to assess whether an Athlete has a Health Condition that can lead to an Eligible Impairment. This is addressed in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments. Nothing in this International Standard or the International Standard for Eligible Impairments prevents a Classification Panel from being tasked with this function].*



## 2 Athlete Evaluation Procedures

- 2.1 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern concerning the components of Athlete Evaluation that must be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 2.2 At a minimum these provisions must specify that:
- 2.2.1 Athletes have the right to choose one person to accompany them when presenting for Athlete Evaluation. If the Athlete is a minor, that Athlete must be accompanied by a member of the respective National Body.
  - 2.2.2 Athlete Evaluation must be conducted in English unless otherwise stipulated by the International Sport Federation. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, the National Body is responsible for arranging for an interpreter.
  - 2.2.3 A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order that it can allocate a Sport Class.
  - 2.2.4 An Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel;
  - 2.2.5 An Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

*[Comment to Article 2.2.1: in certain circumstances International Sport Federations may, if they wish, permit Athletes to attend Athlete Evaluation without a member of a National Body being present. For example, in relation to certain sports, Competitions may not involve National Bodies but rather individual Athletes.]*

- 2.3 A Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Body and International Sport Federation when allocating a Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 2.3: it is important that a Classification Panel has access to all the evidence that it considers necessary for the allocation of a Sport Class, subject to that evidence being provided to it fairly. This includes the making of and/or reference to audio-visual evidence. Caution must be exercised when using audio-visual evidence and care taken to ensure that such use does not infringe any third party rights. It is recommended that International Sport Federations develop and publish policies regarding the use of third party material so as to avoid any potential misuse.]*



- 2.4 Athlete Evaluation must take place in a manner that respects the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Data Protection and consistent with the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training.

### **3 Assessment of Eligible Impairment**

- 3.1 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding the process by which an Athlete is required to demonstrate the existence of a relevant Eligible Impairment.
- 3.2 At a minimum these provisions must require that all Athletes provide by way of their National Body evidence that establishes the existence of a Health Condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment.

*Comment to Article 3.2 if a National Body does not provide such evidence, a Classification Panel may still proceed with an Athlete Evaluation if they determine that the necessary information can be acquired by other means. Athlete Evaluation should not proceed if there are any grounds for doubt on the evidence provided. The decision to proceed is at the sole discretion of the Classification Panel in consultation with the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification.*

- 3.3 The assessment of whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken as provided for in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.
- 3.4 The Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) as provided for in Article 8 of this International Standard is allocated if the Athlete has an Impairment which is not an Eligible Impairment, or if the Athlete has a Health Condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment.

### **4 Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 4.1 The Classification system used by an International Sport Federation must define the minimum level of impairment required to participate in a Para-sport. This is referred to as 'Minimum Impairment Criteria'.
- 4.1.1 An Impairment that meets the criteria must be a Permanent Impairment and have a significant and adverse effect on the performance of the Athlete.



- 4.1.2 Every Athlete in a particular Para-sport must have an Eligible Impairment that meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria in order to be eligible to compete in that sport.

*[Comment to Article. 4.1: When defining the Minimum Impairment Criteria, the International Sport Federation must clearly state which sport will be adversely affected by Eligible Impairments. This may be the Para-sport or an equivalent sport for Athletes without an Impairment. For example, an International Sport Federation can set Minimum Impairment Criteria so that Athletes will be eligible if they have a Permanent Impairment; and are unable to participate in an equivalent sport for Athletes without an Impairment, without experiencing a significant adverse effect on their performance in this equivalent sport.]*

- 4.2 The International Sport Federation must define Minimum Impairment Criteria based on the impact of the Impairment alone, without considering whether the impact of the Impairment could be reduced with the use of technical aids or equipment. However, Minimum Impairment Criteria for Athletes with a vision Impairment must be set based on the Athlete's corrected vision.

*Comment to Article 4.2: The role of Adaptive Equipment in defining Minimum Impairment Criteria is different to the role of Adaptive Equipment in the allocation of a Sport Class (see article 5.2). The difference in approach for Athletes with vision Impairment must be seen within the historical context of Classification for these Athletes, which is an assessment with 'best correction' as used in the context of medical diagnostics for visual acuity.*

- 4.3 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding the process by which a Classification Panel will assess whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment which meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria. At a minimum these provisions must include:

- 4.3.1 A clear description of the Minimum Impairment Criteria applied to each relevant Eligible Impairment for each sport;
- 4.3.2 A stipulation that compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria must be assessed by a Classification Panel;
- 4.3.3 The means by which compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel;
- 4.3.4 A stipulation that compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria be assessed on the basis of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment;
- 4.3.5 A stipulation that the assessment of Minimum Impairment Criteria must be consistent with Articles 4.1 and 4.2.



- 4.4 A determination that an Athlete who does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport will result in the Athlete being allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport as provided for in Article 8 of this International Standard.

## 5 Sport Class Allocation

- 5.1 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Sport Class, subject to the provisions of Article 10 and Article 11 of this International Standard.
- 5.2 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding the methods by which a Classification Panel will assess the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

*[Comment to Article 5.2: the use of Adaptive Equipment permitted by the rules of an International Sport Federation is an integral component of the tasks and activities required by a sport. Therefore, Athletes must attend Athlete Evaluation with the equipment they will use in competition. Consequently, Sport Class allocation must take into consideration the (optimal) use of such technical aids and equipment (such as strapping, gloves) during competition. For example, if the rules of the sport permit wheelchair athletes to use abdominal strapping, and an Athlete with poor sitting balance does not use such strapping and performs poorly as a result, this Athlete should not be allocated a Sport Class for Athletes with either (a) more severe impairments; or (b) impairments causing more difficulty with sport specific tasks and activities.]*

- 5.3 The allocation of a Sport Class must be based on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 5.4 A Sport Class must be allocated based solely on the impact that Eligible Impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.

*[Comment to Article 5.4: In order to determine how much these factors affect an Athlete's performance in the sport, a Classification Panel should consider an Athlete's training history, technical skills and age. Consideration of these factors will assist the Classification Panel to determine the influence of these factors on the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.]*





## 6 Observation in Competition Assessment

- 6.1 International Federations may provide that a Classification Panel can require that an Athlete undertakes Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete. If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in that particular competition with the Sport Class allocated after the conclusion of the other components of Athlete Evaluation: assessment of an Eligible Impairment, assessment of Minimum Impairment, and the assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the Athlete's sport in a non-competitive environment.
- 6.2 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class. Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during this First Appearance.

*[Comment to Article 6.2: Wherever possible, Observation in Competition Assessment must not take place at a final of an event.]*

- 6.3 First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to all participation in other events within the same Sport Class.
- 6.4 For team sports First Appearance must take place during the preliminary rounds of a Competition. Teams must not be permitted to select Athletes for participation in elimination rounds if those Athletes could have made a First Appearance in earlier non-elimination rounds.
- 6.5 If an Athlete is required to undertake Observation in Competition Assessment, the International Federation must specify what is observed and why, how this is to take place and by whom.
- 6.6 If changes to an Athlete Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition Assessment, the changes are effective immediately. International Sport Federations must make clear provision as regards to the impact of any such changes on results and prizes.
- 6.7 If the Athlete becomes Not Eligible following Observation in Competition Assessment, the provisions in Article 8 of this International Standard apply.



## 7 Sport Class Status

- 7.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest in accordance with the International Standard for Protest and Appeals.
- 7.2 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel will be one of the following:
- 7.2.1 Confirmed (C)
  - 7.2.2 Review (R)
  - 7.2.3 Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)
- 7.3 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment will remain stable. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation.
- [Comment to Article 7.3: the only circumstances in which an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation will be as provided in the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.]*
- 7.4 A Classification Panel which consists of one Classifier may only designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 7.5 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required before an Athlete can be allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed (C). This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:
- 7.5.1 has only recently entered Competition in Para-sports;
  - 7.5.2 has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable;
  - 7.5.3 is a minor.
- 7.6 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any International Competition unless the International Sport Federation specifies otherwise.



- 7.7 A Classification Panel may designate an Athlete's Sport Class with Sport Class Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD). An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (FRD) is required to complete Athlete Evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed date.
- 7.8 An Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class by an International Sport Federation prior to undertaking Athlete Evaluation. Any such Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status New (N). An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any International Competition, unless the International Sport Federation specifies otherwise.
- 7.9 If an International Sport Federation changes the criteria or methodology used to allocate Sport Classes, it may re-designate Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) and Athletes with Sport Class Status with Fixed Review Date (FRD) as being Sport Class Status Review (R).

## 8 Athletes who are Not Eligible

- 8.1 If an International Sport Federation determines that an Athlete has:
- 8.1.1 a Health Condition that will not lead to an Eligible Impairment, or
  - 8.1.2 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment,
- the International Sport Federation must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 8.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 8.3 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria that Athlete may be eligible to compete within another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 8.4 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class NE, it must not be inferred from this that the Athlete does not have any Impairment.



- 8.5 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be reviewed by a second Classification Panel. This must take place as soon as is practicable. Pending any such second assessment, the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 8.6 If a second Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, or if the Athlete declines the opportunity for a second Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition or in any future Competitions.

*[Comment to Article 8.5-8.6: As provided for in the International Standard for Protests and Appeals, there is no right to Protest for an Athlete in such situations].*

*[Comment to Article 8: If it is determined that an Athlete does not have a Health Condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment, or an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE). The Athlete has no right to have this determination reviewed. This does not affect the Athlete's right to make an Appeal as provided for in the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.]*

## **9 Eligibility for Multiple Sport Classes**

- 9.1 An Athlete can only hold one Sport Class per event at a time within a Para-sport.
- 9.2 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions for each of the Para-sports that they govern regarding Athletes who are eligible for two or more Sport Classes within the same sport.

*[Comment to Article 9: The Impairments and related ability to execute the activities and tasks required by a sport may mean that certain Athletes are in a position to be allocated more than one Sport Class within a sport. This might, for example, be the case if an Athlete has a combination of physical Impairment, visual Impairment and/or intellectual Impairment. Further, an Athlete might have a physical Impairment which would make him or her eligible for a Sport Classes in two different disciplines (for example sitting and standing in sports like archery/alpine skiing/Nordic skiing)].*



## 10 Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation

- 10.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending the parts of Athlete Evaluation that a Classification Panel is required by this International Standard to undertake.

*[Comment to Article 10.1: where appropriate, an Athlete's National Body must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.]*

- 10.2 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding failure to attend Athlete Evaluation. In this regard the failure to attend relates solely to any failure to participate in an appointment set for the Athlete to meet with a Classification Panel for the purposes of Athlete Evaluation.

*[Comment to Article 10.2: Article 10 does not apply to the assessment of whether an Athlete has a Health Condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment.]*

- 10.3 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Evaluation Session, specify a revised date and time for a further Evaluation Session at the relevant Competition.

- 10.4 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated and the Athlete therefore will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

*[Comment to Article 10.4: International Sport Federations are under no obligation to provide unlimited opportunities for an Athlete to undertake Athlete Evaluation. Article 10.4 does not preclude an International Sport Federation from offering an Athlete any further opportunities to attend Athlete Evaluation, but the International Standard makes it clear that two failures to attend at a Competition is enough to preclude participation at that Competition.]*

## 11 Suspension of Athlete Evaluation

- 11.1 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions regarding suspension of Athlete Evaluation.
- 11.2 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend Athlete Evaluation if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to in one or more of the following circumstances:



- 11.2.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;
  - 11.2.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 11.2.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
  - 11.2.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
  - 11.2.5 if an Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 11.2.6 if in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
  - 11.2.7 the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
  - 11.2.8 the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner.
- 11.3 If Athlete Evaluation is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 11.3.1 An explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant National Body;
  - 11.3.2 if an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, Athlete Evaluation will be resumed;
  - 11.3.3 if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within any timeframe specified, Athlete Evaluation will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed.

*[Comment to Article 11.3.3: One way to record this is to assign the Athlete "Classification Not Completed" on the Classification Master List.]*



11.4 A Suspension of Athlete Evaluation may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

*[Comment to Article 11: an International Sports Federation may implement disciplinary measures in respect of any Athlete Support Personnel who are complicit in any Athlete behaviour resulting in Suspension of Athlete Evaluation, or fail to take reasonable steps to avoid a Suspension taking place.*

*Article 11 must be read in conjunction with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.]*

## 12 Medical Review

12.1 A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment may mean that a review is needed to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct. This review is referred to as 'Medical Review'. A Medical Review is commenced by way of a 'Medical Review Request'.

*[Comment to Article 12.1: Examples of situations where a Medical Review Request would be appropriate include where the effect of surgery or some other medical procedure has resulted in an Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities relevant to a sport, either positively or negatively. They also include situations where an Athlete appears to have a new Health Condition or Eligible Impairment.]*

12.2 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions regarding Medical Review.

12.3 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

*[Comment to Article 12.3: the Medical Review process may only be used in situations where the change in ability to perform is significant and clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes in ability to perform but fails to draw these to the attention of their National Body may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.]*

12.4 A National Body must make a Medical Review Request on behalf of an Athlete. A Medical Review Request must not be made by an Athlete.

*[Comment to Article 12.4: an International Sport Federation may permit an Athlete to make a Medical Review Request if it is impractical for this to be made by a National Body.]*



- 12.5 A Medical Review Request must be completed by a National Body and must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed, and why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate. This must include all relevant supporting documentation.

*[Comment to Article 12.5: it will generally be the case that any Medical Review Request will of necessity need to be accompanied by reasonably detailed medical records.]*

- 12.6 The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request must be upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 12.7 If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R).

## 13 Notification of Outcomes of Athlete Evaluation

- 13.1 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) clear and transparent provisions for the publication of Sport Classes.
- 13.2 International Sport Federations must ensure that the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is notified to the Athlete and/or National Body and published as soon as practically possible after Athlete Evaluation. International Sport Federations must identify the means by which such notification will be made.

*[Comment to Article 13.2: The International Sport Federation must publish an interim outcome of Athlete Evaluation prior to the start of Competition detailing the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete after the conclusion of the initial components of Athlete Evaluation: assessment of an Eligible Impairment, assessment of Minimum Impairment, and the assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the Athlete's sport in a non-competitive environment (see Article 6.1).*

*In the context of a Competition, a Chief Classifier must advise any International Sport Federation technical delegate and/or any event organising committee representative as to the Sport Classes and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete. If Observation in Competition Assessment has been required this notification should take place immediately after the event in which First Appearance took place.]*

- 13.3 Following a Competition, a Chief Classifier must liaise with the International Sport Federation Head of Classification, so that Classification Master Lists can be updated.





## 14 Athlete Evaluation Location

- 14.1 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) provisions for the components of Athlete Evaluation that this International Standard requires to be undertaken by a Classification Panel at a Competition.
- 14.2 International Sport Federations may have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) provisions for the components of Athlete Evaluation that this International Standard requires to be undertaken by a Classification Panel at a place and time other than at a Competition. This is referred to as a ‘Non-Competition Venue’ in this International Standard.

*[Comment to Article 14: Athlete Evaluation comprises two distinct elements: the establishment of Eligible Impairment, and the remaining matters which are required to be completed by a Classification Panel. This International Standard permits International Sport Federations to authorise Classification Panels to conduct Athlete Evaluation either at or away from a Competition, on the condition that the Classification Panel can only fulfil its functions if the Athlete is physically present.]*

### Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue

- 14.3 Athlete Evaluation may take place at a location, referred to as a Non-Competition Venue, and/or time other than at a Competition in order to provide Athletes with the greatest possible opportunity to undergo Athlete Evaluation by a Classification Panel and be allocated a Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 14.3: an International Sport Federation may decide to have all or parts of Athlete Evaluation done at a Competition venue for another sport or at any other location properly fitted to conduct all necessary parts of the process (such as a sports science institute or a low vision expertise centre) without compromising the standard of Athlete Evaluation. The International Sport Federation must specify the certification procedure for such ‘other location’.]*

- 14.4 If an International Sport Federation wishes to make Athlete Evaluation available at a Non-Competition Venue it must (on reasonable notice) advise the National Bodies:
- 14.4.1 as to the location of the Non-Competition Venue and the date upon which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available;
  - 14.4.2 the sports in respect of which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available; and



- 14.4.3 the scope and extent of Athlete Evaluation at the Non-Competition Venue and how it may differ from Athlete Evaluation undertaken by a Classification Panel at a Competition, if at all.

*[Comment to Article 14.4: for example, an International Sport Federation may stipulate that an Athlete may only be allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).]*

- 14.5 Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue must be undertaken in a manner that complies with this International Standard and the Code.
- 14.6 An International Sport Federation must ensure that a National Body has an opportunity to make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by a Classification Panel at a Non-Competition Venue. A Protest Panel at the Non-Competition Venue must handle this Protest, failing this the relevant Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class and designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) and the Protest resolved at the earliest available opportunity (which may be at another Non-Competition Venue).
- 14.7 If an International Sport Federation provides that the allocation of a Sport Class in respect of a certain sport is potentially subject to Observation in Competition Assessment this does not preclude the International Sport Federation from making Athlete Evaluation in respect of that sport available at a Non-Competition Venue.
- 14.7.1 In such circumstances the International Sport Federation must advise National Bodies prior to any Athlete Evaluation taking place at a Non-Competition Venue that a Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue may conclude that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 14.7.2 An International Sport Federation must specify the consequences if a Classification Panel undertakes Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue and concludes that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation in Competition Assessment.

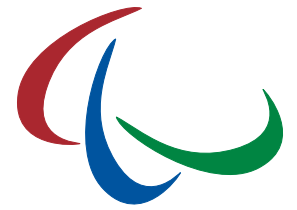
*[Comment to Article 14.7.2: An International Sport Federation must make clear what happens in these circumstances. For example, it may specify that in such instances the Evaluation Session will be void and have no effect. Any Sport Class held by the Athlete would then be retained and the Athlete will undergo Athlete Evaluation at the first available opportunity at a Competition.]*



### **Remote Assessment of Eligible Impairment**

- 14.8 International Sport Federations may have within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) provisions for certain matters associated with Athlete Evaluation to be undertaken in special circumstances.
- 14.9 International Sport Federations may assess whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment in circumstances where the Athlete is not physically present. This is referred to in this International Standard as 'Remote Assessment'. Remote Assessment must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.

*[Comment to Article 14.9: given that the establishing of an Eligible Impairment is often a diagnostic exercise that can be determined on the basis of verified records, it is helpful for both International Sport Federations and Athletes for this to be done without the need for a face to face consultation.]*



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## **International Standard for Protests and Appeals**

**July 2015**

**International Paralympic Committee**

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## **Introduction**

The fundamental purpose of the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) is to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para-sports.

The Code is complemented by five International Standards that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all Signatories in a manner which Athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Protests and Appeals should be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

## **Purpose**

The Code requires International Sport Federations to make provision for a process by which the outcome of Athlete Evaluation may be challenged (a 'Protest') or the manner in which Athlete Evaluation has been conducted (an 'Appeal'). This International Standard provides mandatory rules and standards relating to both Protests and Appeals.

The purpose of the International Standard for Protests and Appeals is to ensure that International Sport Federations make provision for and conduct the process of both a 'Protest' and an 'Appeal' in a harmonised and uniform manner.

## **Definitions**

This International Standard uses the defined terms in the Code.



# 1 General Provisions

- 1.1 International Sport Federations are required (by way of their Classification Rules and in any other relevant rules) to implement provisions relating to the making and subsequent resolution of a Protest and an Appeal that are consistent with this International Standard.

## Part 1. Protests

### 2 Protest Definitions

- 2.1 A Protest may be made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class to an Athlete. No Protest may be made in respect of the designation of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 2.2 A Protest cannot be made in respect of the allocation to an Athlete of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

*[Comment to Article 2.2: if an IF allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete either has a Health Condition that cannot lead to an Eligible Impairment, or does not have an Eligible Impairment, this is not subject to Protest. If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, the provisions of the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, Article 8 apply].*

- 2.3 The International Sport Federation responsible for allocating a Sport Class must resolve any Protest made in respect of that Sport Class.
- 2.4 Protests must be resolved in a manner that minimises the impact on Competition participation, Competition schedules and results.
- 2.5 International Sport Federations are required (by way of their Classification Rules and in any other relevant rules) to specify the consequences to results and prizes of an Athlete changing Sport Class after a Protest.

### 3 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

- 3.1 Protests may only be made by the following parties:
  - 3.1.1 A National Body; and
  - 3.1.2 An International Sport Federation.



*[Comment to Article 3: A National Body had the right under the 2007 Classification Code to make a Protest in respect of Athletes under its jurisdiction. This right is preserved in this International Standard. It was also permissible for National Bodies to make Protests in respect of the Sport Classes allocated to Athletes from other nations. This has been removed from the 2017 Code and International Standards and replaced with a new process whereby IFs may make a Protest. This includes Protests which are made on the basis of a National Body believing that the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete from another nation should be reviewed.]*

## 4 National Body Protests

- 4.1 A National Body may make a Protest on behalf of an Athlete. An Athlete must not make a Protest without the authorisation of the International Sport Federation.

*[Comment to Article 4.1: if an Athlete wishes to make a Protest this must be undertaken with the knowledge and support of the relevant National Body. This is why this Standard specifies that a National Body, and not an Athlete, must make a Protest. There may be circumstances, however, when this is not feasible: for example, an International Competition in which Athletes enter and participate independently from National Bodies. IFs may provide Athlete Evaluation opportunities at such Competitions and if so may make provision for Athletes to make 'direct' Protests. This International Standard should be read as encompassing both National Body and 'direct' Protests.]*

- 4.2 A National Body may make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete under its jurisdiction who at the time of being enrolled at the Competition holds a Sport Class that has been designated either Sport Class Status New (N) or Sport Class Status Review (R).

*[Comment to Article 4.2: An IF or Competition organiser will specify when an Athlete 'is enrolled' for a Competition. A National Body may make a Protest at a Competition in respect of an Athlete who is enrolled to take part in a Competition with Sport Class Status New or Review, but is subsequently designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed. This does not apply to Athletes who have been designated with a Fixed Review Date.]*

- 4.3 A National Body Protest must be made at a Competition, or at a Non-Competition Venue as provided for in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.4 The National Body making the Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are complied with.



4.5 A National Body may not make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete who is under the jurisdiction of another National Body. If a National Body believes there are grounds for a Protest in respect of the Sport Class allocated to such an Athlete it may request its International Sport Federation to make a Protest as provided for in this International Standard.

*[Comment to Article 4.5: It is not possible for a National Body to make a direct Protest in respect of the Sport Class allocated to a competitor Athlete. If a National Body has concerns over the allocation of such a Sport Class, it can request that the IF make such a Protest pursuant to the provisions in this International Standard regarding IF Protests. IFs may prepare guidelines in respect of such requests.]*

4.6 An International Sport Federation must designate the timeframes within which a National Body may make a Protest at a Competition.

*[Comment to Article 4.6: these timeframes must be reasonable and within the relevant Competition period.]*

4.7 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment by way of First Appearance, a National Body may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

*[Comment to Article 4.7: an Athlete who undergoes Athlete Evaluation may, pursuant to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, be required to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment. This will take place by way of First Appearance. A National Body may make a Protest before or after First Appearance but if the Protest is made before First Appearance, the Athlete will not be able to compete at all until the Protest is resolved. If a Protest is made, and a Sport Class allocated subsequently following First Appearance, that decision is final.]*

## 5 National Body Protest Procedure

5.1 A National Body Protest must be made by way of a Protest Form, the format of which shall be set by the International Sport Federation, which must include:

- 5.1.1 The name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
- 5.1.2 The details of the Protested decision and/or a copy of the Protested decision;
- 5.1.3 A reasoned explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Body believes that the Protested decision is flawed;





- 5.1.4 Any fee (a 'Protest Fee') the International Sport Federation may require a National Body to pay in respect of the Protest.

*[Comment to Article 5.1: it is essential that a National Body provides a reasoned explanation as to why it considers that a Classification Panel's determination must be reviewed by way of a Protest: a simple statement that the National Body does not agree with the Classification Panel's determination, or that the National Body does not feel that the Classification Panel has allocated the relevant Sport Class profiles properly, will not be adequate. A National Body may be required to pay a Protest Fee to the relevant IF or Competition organiser in connection with the making of a Protest. The amount of the fee and the requirement to pay it are at the discretion of the IF, but if a fee is charged it must be reasonable and not act as an artificial barrier to the making of legitimate Protests.]*

- 5.2 All documents and other evidence referred to in the Protest Form must be submitted with the Protest Form, or as soon as is reasonably practicable following the submission of the Protest Form.

*[Comment to Article 5.2: for example, copies of medical documentation, sport records or other relevant materials.]*

- 5.3 The Protest Form, supporting explanation and documentation, and any prescribed fee, must be submitted to the Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified by the International Sport Federation. Upon receipt of the Protest Form and the information and/or documentation specified in this International Standard, the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest.

- 5.3.1 If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not supported by evidence and/or otherwise does not comply with the relevant Protest procedures, the Chief Classifier shall decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases, the Chief Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the National Body as soon as is practicable. Any Protest Fee will be forfeited.

- 5.3.2 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the National Body may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier. The time frames for re-submitting a Protest shall be specified by the International Sport Federation and be consistent with this International Standard.

- 5.3.3 If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is supported by evidence and complies with the relevant Protest procedures the Protest must be accepted. If the Protest is accepted:

- 5.3.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;



- 5.3.3.2 the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, which must be if practicable at the Competition the Protest was made.
- 5.3.4 The Head of Classification and/or the Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.

## 6 International Sport Federation Protests

- 6.1 An International Sport Federation may make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete under its jurisdiction at any time.
- 6.2 An International Sport Federation may make a Protest if it has good reason to believe that the Protested Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are not consistent with the Sport Class that has been allocated to the Protested Athlete.

*[Comment to Article 6: Article 6 provides an IF with limited authority to ensure the integrity of Sport Classes, which in turn underpins the essential fairness and unpredictability of Competition. It must be engaged only where significant unfairness to Athletes would otherwise result. In particular, an IF must pay close regard to the number of Protests that have been made in respect of a particular Athlete and the motivations of any party that encourages the IF to make such a Protest. Typically the grounds for such a Protest will arise if there is or appears to be an obvious and permanent change in the degree of Impairment and/or the Protested Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; or there has been or appears to have been a manifest and obvious error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Protested Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is significantly inconsistent with those tasks and activities.]*

## 7 International Sport Federation Protest Procedure

- 7.1 The Head of Classification of the International Sport Federation will advise the relevant National Body at the earliest possible opportunity that a Protest is to be made.
- 7.2 The Head of Classification will provide the National Body with a reasoned explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification believes that the Protest is justified.
- 7.3 If an International Sport Federation makes a Protest:



- 7.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;
- 7.3.2 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.
- 7.4 A Chief Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of an International Sport Federation at a Competition if it is in the interests of fairness to Athletes to do so.

*[Comment to Article 7.4: there may be circumstances when time constraints require a Chief Classifier to make a Protest on behalf of the IF, for example where a manifest and obvious error made by a Classification Panel has the potential, if uncorrected, to result in unfairness to Athletes and harm to the integrity of the Competition. This must be regarded very much as an emergency measure to be used in situations where an IF Protest is desirable but not practicable.]*

## **8 Resolving a Protest: the Protest Panel**

- 8.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in relation to this Article if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 8.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions in the Code and International Standards relating to the appointment of a Classification Panel.
- 8.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who:
  - 8.3.1 was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or
  - 8.3.2 any person who has been a member of a Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, save that a National Body may agree to a Protest Panel comprising such a person.

*[Comment to Article 8.3: these restrictions are to ensure that the risk of a Conflict of Interest is managed properly: however, if a National Body is comfortable with such a person being part of Classification Panel, it may agree to this. This might be helpful in situations where the Protest might not otherwise be capable of resolution at that Competition.]*

- 8.4 The Head of Classification will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Head of Classification will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.



8.5 The Protest Panel will conduct the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel may make enquires of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.

*[Comment to Article 8.5: these enquiries are intended to make sure that the Protest Panel is fully aware of all the circumstances of the first Athlete Evaluation, so that it understands the issues raised by the Protest.]*

8.6 The Protest Panel will (if able to do so) allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.

8.7 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further National Body Protest.

*[Comment to Article 8.7: whilst the decision of the Protest Panel is final and binding upon the Athlete, it will be subject to an IF Protest.]*

## **9 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available**

9.1 If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:

9.1.1 The Protested Athlete will be permitted to compete within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest, pending the resolution of the Protest;

9.1.2 All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

*[Comment to Article 9: this Article reflects the reality that on occasion the resolution of a Protest will not be possible, for example if the Classifiers available to participate in a Protest Panel are precluded from participation in a Protest Panel. In such instances the Protest will be deferred until the next available opportunity.]*

## **10 Special Provisions**

10.1 An International Sport Federation may make arrangements for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to take place at a place and at a time away from a Competition in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.



- 10.2 If an International Sport Federation makes provision for Sport Classes to be allocated in this way it must specify how, when and if a Protest may be made in respect of such Sport Classes.

*[Comment to Article 10: Conducting Athlete Evaluation solely at Competitions is inefficient and costly. Athletes, IFs and Event Organisers will benefit significantly if Athlete Evaluation can take place both at Competitions and at carefully selected venues away from Competition. If so, it will be necessary for IFs to establish special provisions to permit a Protest to take place. This will ensure fairness for all Athletes and maintain the integrity of Competition.]*

## Part 2. Appeals

### 11 General Provisions and Definitions

- 11.1 If a National Body believes that an International Sport Federation in the course of applying its Classification Rules has made an unfair decision, it may apply by way of an Appeal to have that decision set aside.
- 11.2 A decision will be considered unfair if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in the Classification Rules and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the decision such that it must be set aside.
- 11.3 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with this International Standard.
- 11.4 An International Sport Federation must designate an Appeal Body for the hearing and resolution of Appeals. In respect of sports for which the IPC acts as the International Sport Federation or at IPC multisport events, including the Paralympic Games, the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification ('the BAC') is the Appeal Body.
- 11.5 Any International Sport Federation may designate the BAC as being the Appeal Body for resolving Appeals made by Athletes under its jurisdiction or establish its own body to exercise that function.
- 11.6 The Appeal Body shall have the power to either rule that the relevant decision must be upheld, or to set the decision aside. The Appeal Body shall have no power to amend any decision and in particular has no power to amend a Sport Class or Sport Class Status.
- 11.7 The Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.



*[Comment to Article 11: The limited scope of review available to the Appeal Body is a fundamental aspect of an Appeal. Sport Class allocation is a sport decision and must be made by those authorised and certified by an IF to do so. Those decisions cannot be changed save by other persons who are similarly authorised and certified. The Appeal Body may only review the process by which these decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been fair and in accordance with Classification Rules.]*

*The BAC has been established by the IPC as being a specialist dispute resolution body to adjudicate on Appeals. The IPC will make the BAC available to any IF that wishes to utilise it as its resolution body for Appeals, subject to an agreement between that IF and the IPC on the costs and charges that are payable by the IF in respect of the BAC. The IPC has implemented detailed Rules of Procedure that govern the conduct of proceedings brought before the BAC. The IPC will publish details of the costs and charges that are payable by an IF in respect of the BAC.]*

## 12 Appeal Process

12.1 A National Body may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to the applicable International Sport Federation.

12.2 A Notice of Appeal must:

- 12.2.1 be made within fifteen (15) days of the decision being complained of;
- 12.2.2 identify the decision being Appealed, by attaching a copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;
- 12.2.3 specify the grounds for the Appeal;
- 12.2.4 identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal;
- 12.2.5 be submitted with any fee specified by the International Sport Federation.

*[Comment to Article 12.2: Appeals must be made within fifteen days of the relevant decision, unless the IF agrees otherwise.]*

12.3 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, the International Sport Federation must refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.

*[Comment to Article 12.3: If a National Body could have made a Protest in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class, but fails to do so, it cannot make any Appeal if it was aware of the grounds upon which it wishes to make an Appeal at the time that it could have made a Protest. An Appeal may be made if a National Body becomes aware of such grounds after the time frames for making a Protest have expired.]*



- 12.4 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person save to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal.

## **13 Appeal Decision**

- 13.1 As soon as is practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Body must issue a written decision regarding the Appeal. The Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision appealed from or set aside the decision. The Appeal Body shall have no further power in respect of its decision.
- 13.2 If the Appeal Body sets aside a decision it may if appropriate make recommendations as to the steps to be taken by the International Sport Federation in light of that decision.
- 13.3 The Appeal Body decision shall be provided to all parties. In the case of Appeals made during a Competition, the outcome of the Appeal shall be communicated to the Competition organising committee.
- 13.4 The decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal.

## **Part 3. Application During Major Events**

### **14 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests and Appeals**

- 14.1 The IPC may issue special ad hoc provisions to supplement this International Standard to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions. An International Sport Federation may also issue special ad hoc provisions to supplement this International Standard to operate during specified Competitions under their own jurisdiction.



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## **International Standard for Classification Data Protection**

**July 2015**

**International Paralympic Committee**

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## Introduction

The fundamental purpose of the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) is to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para-sports.

The Code is complemented by five International Standards that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all Signatories in a manner which Athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Classification Data Protection should be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

## Purpose

The Code requires Athletes to supply Classification Data to Classification Organisations. Athletes also supply certain further data voluntarily to help Classification Organisations develop Classification. Athletes must be confident that data will be used appropriately. The purpose of the International Standard for Classification Data Protection is to ensure that Classification Organisations use Classification Data properly.

## Definitions

This International Standard uses the defined terms from the Code. Further defined terms specific to this International Standard are:

**Classification Data:** Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Body and/or a Third Party to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

**Classification Organisation:** Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

**National Laws:** All data protection, privacy laws and related regulations applicable to a Classification Organisation at any time.

**Personal Information:** Any information that refers to or relates directly to an Athlete or an Athlete Support Personnel.



**Process/Processing:** The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information. The terms ‘process’ and ‘processed’ should be read in a manner that is consistent with this Definition.

**Research Purposes:** Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

**Sensitive Personal Information:** Any data concerning Health Conditions, Impairment and/or the impact on the fundamental activities in each specific sport.

**Third Party:** Any natural person or legal entity other than the person to whom relevant Personal Information or Sensitive Personal Information relates.



## 1 General Provisions

- 1.1 All Classification Organisations must comply with this International Standard.
- 1.2 If a Classification Organisation is subject to National Laws that impose obligations that are less than those imposed by this International Standard, the Classification Organisation must still comply with this International Standard.
- 1.3 If a Classification Organisation is subject to National Laws that impose obligations greater than those imposed by this International Standard, the Classification Organisation must comply with this International Standard and all such National Laws.

*[Comment to Article 1: the International Standard imposes a minimum standard of data protection that all Athletes can expect when being classified regardless of where the Athlete concerned is classified. If a Classification Organisation operates in a country that has data protection laws that include requirements that exceed those set out in this Standard the Classification Organisation must comply with both this Standard and those higher domestic obligations.]*

## 2 Which Classification Data can be Processed

- 2.1 Classification Organisations may Process Classification Data in order to conduct Classification if such Processing is fair and necessary.
- 2.2 All Classification Data Processed by Classification Organisations must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.
- 2.3 Classification Organisations must Process Classification Data only if it is relevant or necessary in relation to Classification.

*[Comment to Article 2: Classification Organisations must be cautious when using data provided by Athletes. Much of this data will be of a sensitive and personal nature and Athletes will place a great deal of trust in Classification Organisations when it comes to the care of their data. If a Classification Organisation is not sure that the data is required in order to conduct Classification, it should not Process the data.]*

*Classification Organisations must Process only Classification Data that is appropriate and relevant for Classification purposes. In most instances Classification Data will be processed in connection with Athlete Evaluation. In some circumstances though, Processing will need to take place in connection with investigations into allegations of misconduct and associated disciplinary hearings.]*



### 3 Consent and Processing

- 3.1 Classification Organisations must wherever possible Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom the Classification Data relates.
- 3.2 If an Athlete cannot provide informed consent (for example, because of age or mental capacity) the Athlete's legal representative, guardian or other competent representative may give consent on the Athlete's behalf.
- 3.3 If for any reason an Athlete is unable to provide consent the Classification Organisation may Process Classification Data if that Processing complies with any National Laws to which the Classification Organisation is subject.
- 3.4 A Classification Organisation may wish to Process Classification Data without an Athlete's consent in certain circumstances. If so it must ensure that any such Processing complies with any National Laws to which the Classification Organisation is subject.

*[Comment to Article 3: an Athlete will usually give specific consent that allows a Classification Organisation to use information that is either data provided and/or created in connection with Athlete Evaluation, so that a Sport Class can be allocated. This consent is usually provided either by or on behalf of an Athlete by the signing of an Athlete Evaluation consent form. An Athlete who does not consent in this way cannot be evaluated or allocated a Sport Class. It will be helpful for Classification Organisations to make this clear to Athletes and National Bodies.]*

*There may be instances where the Processing of Classification Data without consent is necessary: one example will be in the context of an investigation into potential misconduct by an Athlete. In such situations, Classification Organisations should take care to make sure that the Processing of Classification Data without consent is consistent with the National Laws that apply to that Classification Organisation. For example, if a Classification Organisation is resident in Country 1, and processes data in relation to an Athlete from Country 2, that Classification Organisation will usually process that data in accordance with this Standard and the National Laws in Country 1.]*

### 4 Provisions that Apply to Classification Research

- 4.1 Classification Organisations may request that Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel provide them with Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information from time to time for Research Purposes.



- 4.2 The use by Classification Organisations of Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with this International Standard and all applicable ethical use requirements, including but not limited to those that apply to the Classification Organisation.
- 4.3 Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete and/or Athlete Support Personnel to a Classification Organisation solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used by that Classification Organisation for any other purpose.
- 4.4 Classification Organisations may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete and/or Athlete Support Personnel. An Athlete and/or Athlete Support Personnel must consent to any publication (for example, as part of an academic or scientific publication) of any Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information they have provided for Research Purposes. This restriction does not apply to any information which as a result of anonymisation or aggregation ceases to be Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information.

*[Comment to Article 4: Classification Organisations will need to undertake varying degrees of research from time to time in order to improve Classification. This research is vital for the development of Paraspport and both Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel will be asked to provide data to Classification Organisations. Any such use must comply with this International Standard and in particular, any Personal and/or Sensitive Personal Information provided in connection with Research Purposes should not be used in relation to Athlete Evaluation and the allocation of a Sport Class.]*

## 5 Notification to Athletes

- 5.1 Classification Organisations must notify Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel who provide Classification Data as to:
- 5.1.1 the identity of the Classification Organisation collecting the Classification Data;
  - 5.1.2 the Classification Data to be Processed;
  - 5.1.3 how Classification Data will be used and how long it may be retained.
- 5.2 The notification to Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel of the information referred to in Article 5.1 may be withheld if providing the information might compromise an ongoing or imminent investigation into an act of misconduct associated with Classification.



5.3 Classification Organisations must provide the above information in an easily comprehensible and accessible manner.

*[Comment to Article 5.3: Classification Organisations can decide on what is the most effective way of providing the information referred to in Article 5.1, which can include notices communicated to Athletes via websites or social media, and via standard forms and templates used in Classification. Individual or personalised notification is not required.]*

## 6 Classification Data Security

6.1 Classification Organisations must:

- 6.1.1 protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and
- 6.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any Third Party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with this International Standard.

## 7 Disclosures of Classification Data

7.1 Classification Organisations must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosures are related to Classification conducted by other such Classification Organisations and the disclosure is consistent with all applicable National Laws.

*[Comment to Article 7.1: Classification Organisations may wish to exchange Classification related information with each other, especially in connection with Competitions. This may only take place if the Classification Organisation receiving the information complies with this Standard. Most International Sport Federations consent forms include the possibility of such an exchange when signing the International Sport Federation Athlete consent form. If not, it is recommended that the consent form is revised to include the consent for exchange of Classification information.]*

7.2 Classification Organisations may disclose Classification Data to Third Parties other than Classification Organisations only if the disclosure is in accordance with this International Standard and permitted by National Laws.



*[Comment to Article 7.2: If a Classification Organisation shares Personal Information with a Third Party such as a Major Event Organiser it may only do so if either the Athlete has consented in advance (for example by agreeing to this as part of Competition entry conditions) or if the Processing is permitted by applicable National Laws.]*

## **8 Retaining Classification Data**

- 8.1 Classification Organisations must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed in relation to Classification. If the retention of Classification Data is no longer necessary, it must be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.
- 8.2 Classification Organisations must develop and publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.

*[Comment to Article 8.2: Classification Organisations may retain Classification Data as long as there is a Classification need for that data. For example, if an Athlete has an Impairment that will not change over time – such as an amputation – there may be no need for a Classification Organisation to retain all medical records supplied to it by the Athlete. Conversely, if an Athlete has a fluctuating Impairment, then a Classification Organisation may retain Classification Data for as long as the Athlete wishes to compete. Classification Organisations should develop guidelines and practices in respect of data retention that are clear and comprehensible. These should include clear policies as regards the retention of Classification Data in respect of Athletes who retire from a Para-sport.]*

- 8.3 Classification Organisations must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to any individual Athlete.

*[Comment to Article 8.3: Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel provide a significant amount of Classification Data in order that Athletes can be allocated a Sport Class. This Classification Data will be provided to Classifiers appointed by the Classification Organisation responsible for Athlete Evaluation. That Classification Organisation must make sure that individual Classifiers only use this Classification Data in connection with their role as Classifiers, and in particular, do not themselves retain any of the Classification Data after Athlete Evaluation is completed. This includes any notes, comments or records written, compiled or generated by Classifiers during Athlete Evaluation. Any such data can be retained by the Classification Organisation if that retention is consistent with this Article 8.1.]*



## 9 Access Rights to Classification Data

9.1 Athletes may request from a Classification Organisation:

- 9.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that Classification Organisation Processes Classification Data relating to them and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- 9.1.2 a copy of the relevant Classification Data held by the Classification Organisation (if such a copy is requested it should be provided within a reasonable timeframe).

9.2 A request made pursuant to Article 9.1 may be made by an Athlete or a National Body on an Athlete's behalf.

*[Comment to Article 9.1: Classification Organisations should be able to provide Athletes with details of the Classification Data they have used as part of Classification. There are no prescribed means for such provision, the information can be provided in any reasonable format. Generally a Classification Organisation should respond to such an 'access request' as soon as is practicable depending on the circumstances, although in all instances this should be within 8 weeks.]*





International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## **International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training**

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## Introduction

The fundamental purpose of the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) is to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para-sports.

The Code is complemented by five International Standards that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all Signatories in a manner which Athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training should be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

## Purpose

The purpose of the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training is to detail the accepted procedures for the management of Classifier recruitment, training and certification.

## Definitions

This International Standard uses the defined terms from the Code. Further defined terms specific to this International Standard are:

**Classifier Competencies:** The qualifications and abilities that the International Sport Federation deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for a sport or sports governed by that International Sport Federation.

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which an International Sport Federation will assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies.

**Entry Criteria:** Standards set by an International Sport Federation relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be act as Classifiers. This might, for example, include former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct all or specific parts of Athlete Evaluation.

**Entry-level Education:** The delivery of basic knowledge and practical skills specified by an International Sport Federation to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under their governance.



**Maintaining certification:** The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

**National Classification Programme:** The rules, regulations, policies and procedures to coordinate national Classification activities across sports, including Classifier training, in close cooperation with the respective National and International Sport Federations.

**Re-certification:** The process by which an International Sport Federation will assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.



## 1 General Provisions

- 1.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of Classification Rules. Classifiers are International Sport Federation officials responsible for Athlete Evaluation according to the specific requirements of each sport.
- 1.2 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) a clear and transparent process for the recruitment, education, training and certification of Classifiers.
- 1.3 This process must specify at a minimum:
  - 1.3.1 Entry Criteria;
  - 1.3.2 required mode of education and training necessary to obtain and maintain Classifier Certification;
  - 1.3.3 Classifier Competencies;
  - 1.3.4 Classifier Certification; and
  - 1.3.5 that compliance with a Classifier Code of Conduct is required of all Classifiers.

## 2 Classification Personnel

- 2.1 An International Sport Federation must appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for the International Sport Federation.

These are specified below:

### Classifiers

- 2.2 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by an International Sport Federation to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

*[Comment to Article 2.2: The assessment of Eligible Impairment might be conducted by an individual rather than by a Classification Panel, as defined in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments and the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.]*

- 2.3 An International Sport Federation must set Entry Criteria in respect of the persons that it will certify as Classifiers.



- 2.4 Classifiers may be former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the competencies and qualifications relevant to conduct all or specific parts of Athlete Evaluation, according to the rules of the International Sport Federation in which they are certified.

*[Comment to Article 2.4: Each IF determines what qualifications and competencies it requires Classifiers to have, but in any event, must make these requirements clear and transparent. Some sports will require specialist medical expertise, others will require specific sport experience, and others may require a combination of expertise.]*

### **Classification Panels**

- 2.5 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed to conduct some components of Athlete Evaluation and/or handle Protests in accordance with the International Sport Federation Classification Rules.

- 2.6 Classification Panels must include a minimum of two Classifiers; unless an International Sport Federation requires more than two Classifiers constitute a Classification Panel.

*[Comment to Article 2.6: In unforeseen circumstances the minimum number of Classifiers available to make a Panel cannot be guaranteed (for example travel delays or cancellations due to extreme weather, inability to travel due to sudden illness). Athlete Evaluation may proceed but must adhere to the applicable provisions in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.]*

### **Head of Classification**

- 2.7 The Head of Classification is a person appointed by the International Sport Federation to be responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for the International Sport Federation.

- 2.8 If the position as Head of Classification cannot be filled, an International Sport Federation may appoint a person or group of persons to be responsible for these Classification matters for the International Sport Federation.

- 2.9 If not a certified Classifier, the Head of Classification must work closely together with experienced Classifiers in the sport.

- 2.10 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or the transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other International Sport Federation officers or representatives.

- 2.11 If certified as a Classifier, the Head of Classification may be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.



## **Chief Classifier**

- 2.12 The Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by an International Sport Federation to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to the International Sport Federation Classification Rules.
- 2.13 The Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other Classifiers, or other International Sport Federation officers or representatives, and/or appointed persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

## **Trainee Classifiers**

- 2.14 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by the International Sport Federation.
- 2.15 The International Sport Federation may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel to develop the necessary competencies and proficiencies for certification as a Classifier.

## **3 Classifier Training**

- 3.1 International Sport Federations must provide training and education in order that Classifiers may obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 3.2 International Sport Federations must specify how they will provide Entry-level Education and continuing education for advanced training and maintaining certification.
- 3.3 International Sport Federations are recommended to make Classifier training and education resources available to National Bodies for the purpose of national Classifier training.

## **4 Classifier Competencies**

- 4.1 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) a clear description of Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 Classifier Competencies must include at a minimum:
- 4.2.1 a thorough understanding of the Classification Rules for the sport for which they seek certification;



- 4.2.2 an understanding of the sport and the rules of those sports for the sport in which they seek certification;
- 4.2.3 an understanding of the Code and the International Standards;
- 4.2.4 the professional qualifications, level of experience or any other skills or competencies the International Sport Federation determines that a Classifier must possess to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

## 5 Classifier Certification Process

- 5.1 Classifier Certification is the process through which an individual obtains the competencies and proficiencies as a Classifier in a particular sport.
- 5.2 International Sport Federations must make provision in their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) for Classifier Certification.

*[Comment to Article 5.2: An IF may decide to introduce levels of certification for Classifiers and the required competencies for each.]*

- 5.3 An International Sport Federation may provide that Classifier Certification is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
  - 5.3.1 a limitation on the level of Competition or event at which the Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
  - 5.3.2 that the Classifier Certification is valid for a specific time frame only;
  - 5.3.3 that the Classifier Certification must be made subject to review within a specific timeframe by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
  - 5.3.4 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if the International Sport Federation is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies;
  - 5.3.5 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if the International Sport Federation is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.



## 6 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 6.1 The integrity of Classification in Para-sport depends on the professional conduct of Classification Personnel. International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant Rules) a clear set of professional conduct standards that all Classification Personnel must comply with when acting as a Classifier or Trainee Classifier. These standards are referred to as a 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 6.2 International Sport Federations must provide within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) that all Classifiers must comply with the relevant Classifier Code of Conduct. Mandatory compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct is required by all Classifiers.
- 6.3 Each International Sport Federation's Classifier Code of Conduct must provide at a minimum that Classifiers:
  - 6.3.1 comply with the International Sport Federation Code of Ethics;
  - 6.3.2 act as neutral evaluators in determining Sport Class and Sport Class Status for all Athletes;
  - 6.3.3 perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes;
  - 6.3.4 maintain confidentiality of Athlete Evaluation information in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.
  - 6.3.5 declare any actual, perceived or potential Conflicts of Interest; and
  - 6.3.6 must not assume any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a Competition.

*[Comment to Article 6.3.6: Classifiers must avoid taking on any other roles and responsibilities at Competitions where they are acting as Classifiers. For example, a Classifier must not act as a technical official at a Competition, such as a judge or other sport official.]*

- 6.4 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules (and/or other relevant rules) procedures for reporting and investigating complaints of non-compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct that must include procedures for taking disciplinary measures against Classifiers found to be in violation of the Classifier Code of Conduct.