



# **Athlete Classification Code And Standards**

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# 1 Scope and Application

## 1.1 Paralympics New Zealand Athlete Classification Code and Standards

1.1.1 The Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) Athlete Classification Code (The PNZ Code) is a fundamental document upon which classification in New Zealand is based; the purpose of which is to uphold confidence in classification and promote participation by a wide range of athletes with differing impairment types and abilities. The PNZ Code details procedures and policies common across all Para-Sports and sets the principals for all PNZ member Sports to comply with the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code), through their International Federation (IF) Classification Rules and Regulations. The PNZ Code intends to achieve standardization but be general enough to permit flexibility regarding the implementation of its principles.

1.1.2 The PNZ Classification Standards are the technical and operational requirements for classification within New Zealand and these must directly reflect, and be in compliance with, the sport specific IF Classification Rules, which in itself, is in direct compliance with the Code. The PNZ Standards relate to:

- Eligible Impairments
- Athlete Evaluation
- Protests and Appeals
- Classifier personnel and training
- Classification data protection

## 1.2 IPC and the Paralympic Movement

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

## 1.3 The IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards

1.3.1 [The IPC Code](#) applies to all recognized federations in the Paralympic Movement and to all Athletes competing in Para-sport at international competitions under the jurisdiction of the IFs.

[http://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/120201084329386\\_2008\\_2\\_Classification\\_Code6.pdf](http://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/120201084329386_2008_2_Classification_Code6.pdf)

## **1.4 Classification Rules**

1.4.1 Each IF must publish its own Classification Rules. These are an integral part of the rules of the sport within which Classification takes place. All NFs must accept these rules as a condition of affiliation. The Rules have regulations, policies and procedures to address their practical implementation in their sport.

1.4.2 National Classification Rules must include provisions related to:

- Eligible Impairments and Minimum Impairment Criteria (in accordance with the International Standard for Eligible Impairments)
- Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation (in accordance with the IF Standard for Athlete Evaluation)
- Protests and Appeals (in accordance with the IF Standard for Protests and Appeals)
- Classifier Personnel and Training (in accordance with the IF Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training)
- Data Protection (in accordance with the IF Standard for Classification Data Protection)

## **1.5 PNZ Classification Roles and Responsibilities**

1.5.1 All PNZ member Para-Sports' classification activities must comply with the specific IF Classification Rules which in turn, comply with the IPC Code.

1.5.2 PNZ, as the national affiliated member to IPC and a signatory to the IPC Code, is accountable to the IPC for the following national classification activities:

- Ensure that National Federation Classification Rules conform to the Code, through their IF Classification Rules and make recommendations for Compliance with the Code.
- Developing and implementing a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-Compliance.
- Promoting the development of a National Classification Strategy

## 1.6 PNZ Classification Strategy

- 1.6.1 The PNZ [Classification Strategy](#) will lead and support PNZ Member Sports to build the capacity to develop and implement classification activities to support Para-Athletes with physical, intellectual and visual impairment in their pathway to medal winning performances.

<http://www.paralympics.org.nz/Portals/17/Documents/Pathway/Classification/PARALYMPICS%20NEW%20ZEALAND%20CLASSIFICATION%20STRATEGY.pdf>

- 1.6.2 The PNZ Classification Strategy will lead and support Member Sports with strong collaborative working relationships with, but not limited to: the IPC; IFs; Oceania Paralympics Committee; National Paralympic Committees; PNZ Member Sports; classifiers; athletes and support personnel; officials; coaches and event organizers.

- 1.6.3 The PNZ National Classification Strategy will work collaboratively within a Supra- National Strategy, to provide classification support to underdeveloped Oceania Region Nations.

- 1.6.4 The PNZ Classification Strategy will ensure that Member Sports work towards having an IPC Athlete Classification Code compliant standard of operation and accountability with leadership and support from the [National Classification Programme](#).

## 1.7 The National Classification Program

- 1.7.1 The National Classification Programme will provide a National Athlete Classification Code, High Performance Programme support and resources to ensure there is Code compliance by Member Sports, through the implementation of their IF Classification Rules and Regulations.

<http://www.paralympics.org.nz/Portals/17/Documents/Pathway/Classification/NATIONAL%20CLASSIFICATION%20PROGRAMME.pdf>

## 2 Classification

### 2.1 Definition and Purpose in Para-Sport

2.1.1 Athlete Classification in the Paralympic Movement (referred to in the Code as “Classification”) is integral to all 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.

2.1.2 The purpose of Classification is to define who competes in Para-sport and to ensure that the impact of Eligible Impairment in each event is minimized. To achieve this purpose, an IF must develop and implement a Classification System that Complies with the Code. All NFs must implement the Classification System of their IF and comply with its Classification Rules. Specifically, a Classification System implemented by a PNZ member Sport must:

- 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 IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments and meet one or more of the eligible impairment types accepted by the IF.
- Have processes and procedures for assessing whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment. These processes and procedures must conform to the IF Standard for Eligible Impairments.
- Have Minimum Impairment Criteria for each Eligible Impairment. Minimum Impairment Criteria must be objectively assessed and comply with the IF Standard for Eligible Impairment and for Athlete Evaluation.
- 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 process by which Sport Classes are allocated must comply with the IF Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

2.1.3 Classification ensures Paralympic sport competition is fair and equitable. All Paralympic sport classification systems ensures that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus, the same factors that account for success in sport for able bodied athletes.

2.1.4 Classification is sport-specific because impairment affects the ability to perform in different sports to a different extent. As a consequence, an athlete may meet the criteria in one sport, but may not meet the criteria in another sport.

## **3 History of Classification**

### **3.1 Sport Drives Classification**

- 3.1.1 In the 1940's Dr Ludwig Guttmann founded Paralympic sport as an extension of the rehabilitation process. Sport classes reflected the structure of a rehabilitation hospital with separate classes for people with spinal cord injuries, amputation and those with other neurological or orthopedic conditions.
- 3.1.2 As the Paralympic movement matured, the focus switched away from rehabilitation and was driven by sport. In the 1980's, supported by the demands of Games' organizing committees to reduce the number of classes in different sports, classification transitioned from medical to functional classification, (an exception being the classification system used for athletes with visual impairment which still remains medically based). Functional classification is sport specific because any given impairment may have a significant impact in one sport and a relatively minor impact in another sport. For example the impact of a below elbow arm amputee in swimming is greater than in running.

### **3.2 Paralympic Classification Today**

- 3.2.1 Since the widespread adoption of functional systems of classification, Paralympic sport has continued to mature rapidly. An athlete's classification had a significant impact on the degree of success they are likely to achieve, and the concept of functional classification, based on performance, was questioned.
- 3.2.2 The Movement recognized the need to revisit classification and in 2003 the IPC Governing Board approved a classification strategy which recommended the development of a universal classification code, giving direction for the future of Paralympic classification.
- 3.2.3 The Paralympic movement approved the IPC Classification Code in November 2007, which defines Paralympic classification as "accurate, reliable and consistent sport focused classification systems".
- 3.2.4 The Paralympic movement approved the reviewed and updated IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards in November 2015 for implementation by January 2018. All Paralympics Sports classification rules must be in Compliance to the Code.

### **3.3 Future Outlook**

- 3.3.1 The Paralympic movement is committed to the development of evidence based classification systems to ensure that an athlete's impairment accurately reflects their actual abilities performing the activities of the sport.

## 4 Eligible Impairments

### 4.1 1 General Provisions

- 4.1.1 The IPC Code and the International Standards designate certain Impairments as 'Eligible Impairments'.
- 4.1.2 IFs must, by way of their Classification Rules, provide that Impairment is an Eligible Impairment only if it is Permanent.
- 4.1.3 Any Athlete wishing to compete in Para-sport must have an Eligible Impairment. IFs must comply with this International Standard by ensuring that their Classification Rules clearly indicate which of the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in the sport.
- 4.1.4 The IPC Code requires that an Athlete with an Eligible Impairment must also comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria set by the IF 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.

### 4.2 Eligible Impairments and Commonly Associated Health Conditions

The following are Eligible Impairments in the Paralympic Movement, together with examples of Health Conditions that may lead to those Eligible Impairments:

- 4.2.1 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.
- 4.2.2 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: arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilization or trauma affecting a joint.
- 4.2.3 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).

#### 4.2.4 Leg length difference

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

#### 4.2.5 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.

#### 4.2.6 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.

#### 4.2.7 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.

#### 4.2.8 Athetosis

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

#### 4.2.9 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.

#### 4.2.10 Intellectual Impairment

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

### **4.3 Non-Eligible Impairments**

Examples include:

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions;
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

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

4.4.1 Health conditions that primarily cause pain, such as myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.

4.4.2 Health Conditions that primarily cause fatigue, such as chronic fatigue syndrome.

4.4.3 Health Conditions that primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia, such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome

4.4.4 Health Conditions which are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature, such as conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.

## 5 Sport Specific Classification Systems

- 5.1 Classification systems differ by sport and are developed and regularly reviewed by the IF governing the sport. IFs decide which eligible impairment types their sport will cater to and the severity of the impairment required to have an impact on sports performance and thus determine the Minimal Impairment Criteria.
- 5.2 Some Paralympic sports are only designed for athletes with one eligible impairment type. Goalball, for example, is only open to athletes with visual impairment. Other sports, such as athletics and swimming, are open to athletes with any of the 10 eligible impairments recognized by IPC.
- 5.3 The only exception to the sport-specific character of Paralympic classification is the classification for athletes with visual impairment. This system is still a medical system and the sport class allocated therefore applies across all sports (but the naming of the class may differ).
- 5.4 The IPC Classification Code requires all classification systems:
- To identify eligible impairments for that particular sport.
  - To describe methods for assessment of athletes so that the impact of the impairment on the activity is proven. Such methods must be based on 'scientific evidence.

### 5.5 Sport Classes

- 5.5.1 A sport class is a category which groups athletes together for competition depending on how much their impairment impacts performance in their sport. A sport class can be comprised of athletes with different impairments but they will affect sport performance to a similar extent.
- 5.5.2 In individual sports, athletes compete against athletes in their own sport class to ensure the impact of impairment is minimized. In national events and smaller international competitions athletes in different sport classes may compete together for one medal, because there are not enough athletes for each sport class to create a competitive event. In these cases, athletes in different sport classes may be given a 'coefficient' or correction score to account for the different levels of activity limitation.
- 5.6 In team sports, the players are allocated points, which indicate their activity limitation. A lower score indicates a more severe activity limitation than a higher score. A team is not allowed to have more than a certain maximum sum of points on the field of play at the same time in order to ensure equal competition with the opposing team.

## **6 Types of Classification**

### **6.1 Provisional Classification**

6.1.1 Provisional classifications are temporary classifications and valid for a limited period of time, as dictated by the IF or NF and may be subject to change upon classification assessment by a sports specific classification panel.

6.1.2 Provisional classifications may be allocated to an athlete for a specific sport in one of, but not limited to, the following situations;

- At an international event where a classification panel is not available
- At a national event where a classification panel is not available
- As a national entry level for athletes new to the sport

6.1.3 Provisional classifications may be allocated by;

- A classifier in a face to face consultation in conjunction with a medical certificate of diagnosis
- A classifier on receipt of a medical diagnosis form and provisional classification form

### **6.2 National Classification**

6.2.1 A national classification is a sport specific classification carried out by a classification panel trained by the IF, or under the training recommendations set by the IF.

6.2.2 The classification process is the same process administered by the IF and in compliance with the IF Classification Rules.

6.2.3 A national classification is generally offered at national or endorsed sport events.

### **6.3 International Classification**

6.3.1 To compete at international level, an athlete must be classified by an international classification panel and their decision overrules any previous classification decision taken by a national classification panel.

6.3.2 The classification process is in compliance with the IF Classification rules.

## 7 Athlete Evaluation Process

### 7.1 Reporting

- 7.1.1 Athletes must report to classification at their allocated time. Failure to do so, and without reasonable explanation, may result in them not receiving a classification thus being ineligible to compete.
- 7.1.2 Athletes must dress appropriately in sports clothing and bring all equipment and devices as required by the sports classification rules including but not limited to: medical certificate of diagnosis and relevant medical documentation, assistive devices, competition and/or daily use wheelchair, competition and/or daily use prostheses and/or orthoses, any other device that they intend to use during the competition.
- 7.1.3 Athletes with a visual impairment must bring any spectacles/eye glasses and/or contact lenses used to correct vision to evaluation by the ophthalmologist.
- 7.1.4 The athlete may be accompanied by not more than one representative.
- 7.1.5 Incorrect presentation for evaluation is subject to not being seen for classification.

### 7.2 Verification

- 7.2.1 The chief classifier or designated representative will meet the athlete and their accompanying support staff in a reception area to:
- Verify the accreditation of the athlete and any accompanying support staff.
  - Check that the athlete has met all of the attire and equipment requirements for athlete evaluation in accordance with the sport's classification rules
  - Collect any of the required documentation that was requested to be brought by the athlete.
- 7.2.2 A classification panel member may additionally request information on the health of an athlete prior to evaluation. Failure to provide this information may be deemed to constitute non-co-operation during evaluation.
- 7.2.3 If an athlete has a health condition that causes pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation, they may not be appropriate for evaluation at that time. The chief classifier may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation.

7.2.4 Prior to the athlete assessment a classification panel member will brief the athlete and their accompanying support regarding the procedures involved in the classification process.

### **7.3 Consent**

7.3.1 Athletes must consent to evaluation by signing a classification consent form to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full effort and co-operation throughout the classification process.

7.3.2 The classification consent form shall remind athletes that failing to cooperate with classifiers or failure to complete the classification process may be subject to sanctions in accordance with “Non-co-operation during evaluation” or “Intentionally Misrepresenting Skills and Abilities” and the athlete may be subject to not receiving a classification.

7.3.3 The consent for classification is part of the classification rules of the IF and PNZ. Signing this agreement includes but is not limited to:

- Willingness to undergo a complete classification process, including all components as required by the specific sport and to take part co-operating fully with classifiers
- Acknowledgment that classifiers are not held liable for any pain or suffering experienced in the course of the evaluation
- Agreement to allow photographs and/or videotaping for educational purposes.

### **7.4 Athlete Assessment (Physical Impairment)**

7.4.1 The Athlete Assessment may include, but is not limited to;

- Physical Assessment
- Technical Assessment
- Observation Assessment

7.4.2 The physical assessment and the technical assessment take place during the classification evaluation period. The observation assessment takes place during the classification evaluation period (in case of official training sessions) and/or the classification competition period.

## **7.5 Physical Assessment**

- 7.5.1 A classification panel should conduct a physical assessment of the athlete in accord with methods of assessment stipulated in the classification rules of the IF. The physical assessment may include, but is not limited to the examination of physical muscle strength, coordination, range of movement, sensorial, or intellectual abilities.

## **7.6 Technical Assessment**

- 7.6.1 A classification panel should conduct a technical assessment of the athlete in accord with methods of assessment stipulated in the IF classification rules.
- 7.6.2 The technical assessment may include, but is not limited to the evaluation in a non-competitive environment of the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the athlete participates. Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the athlete in order to observe how the athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions (for example specific wheelchair skills/swimming strokes).
- 7.6.3 Classifiers must be confident that the athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the technical assessment and may request greater effort to ensure optimal observation opportunity.

## **7.7 Observation Assessment**

- 7.7.1 The classification panel may observe the athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the sport during training practices and/or in an event, or during first appearance (if applicable to the sport) in accordance with the sports classification rules.
- 7.7.2 Video footage and/or photography may be utilized by the classification panel for all classification purposes connected to the competition.

## **7.8 Athlete Assessment (Visual Impairment)**

- 7.8.1 The process of Classification Assessment for athletes with a Visual Impairment must be in accordance with the International Federation which is in compliance with the procedures of the International Blind Sports Association.

## **7.9 Athlete Assessment (Intellectual Impairment)**

7.9.1 The process of assessment for athletes with an Intellectual Impairment must be in accordance with the IF Classification Rules and meet the eligibility criteria set by the International Association of Athletes with an Intellectual Disability (Inas).

## **7.10 Ineligibility and Re-evaluation**

7.10.1 IFs will have eligibility criteria clearly stated within their classification rules that defines eligibility to compete.

7.10.2 In circumstances where the determination of eligibility involves evaluation by a classification panel at a competition, and a sport class status of “Ineligible to Compete” is allocated, the athlete will be required to be examined by a second classification panel in accordance with the IPC Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

7.10.3 If there is only one panel then the athlete will be reclassified at the next available opportunity. If the second classification protest panel confirms that the athlete’s sports class is Ineligible, the athlete will not be permitted to compete, and will have no further protest option.

## **7.11 Sport Class Allocation**

7.11.1 Sport class is a category defined by each IF in which athletes are categorized by reference to the ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport in a non competitive environment.

7.11.2 A Sports class and Sports class Status must be allocated to each athlete in accordance with the IF classification rules.

7.11.3 Ineligibility for competition is a sports class

## **7.12 Sport Class Status**

7.12.1 The designation of a sport class status assists in identifying athletes who:

- Have not previously been classified
- Require a review of their sport class
- Do not require athlete evaluation for a specific competition.

7.12.2 The following sport class status types are used by all IFs and PNZ:

### **7.13 NEW (N)**

7.13.1 Sport class status N is assigned to an athlete that has not been previously evaluated by a classification panel and has not had an entry sport class verified by the IF or PNZ

7.13.2 Sports class status N athletes include athletes who have been allocated a national sport class by PNZ for entry purposes into an international competition or those athletes entering into a NZ competition who have a provisional classification only.

7.13.3 Sports class status N athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at international or national competitions if classification is available.

### **7.14 REVIEW (R)**

7.14.1 Sport class status R is assigned to an athlete who has been previously evaluated by an international or national classification panel, but for reasons as determined by the IF or PNZ requires a review of their sport class.

7.14.2 The athlete's current sport class is valid, but the athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the sport class may be changed before or during competition

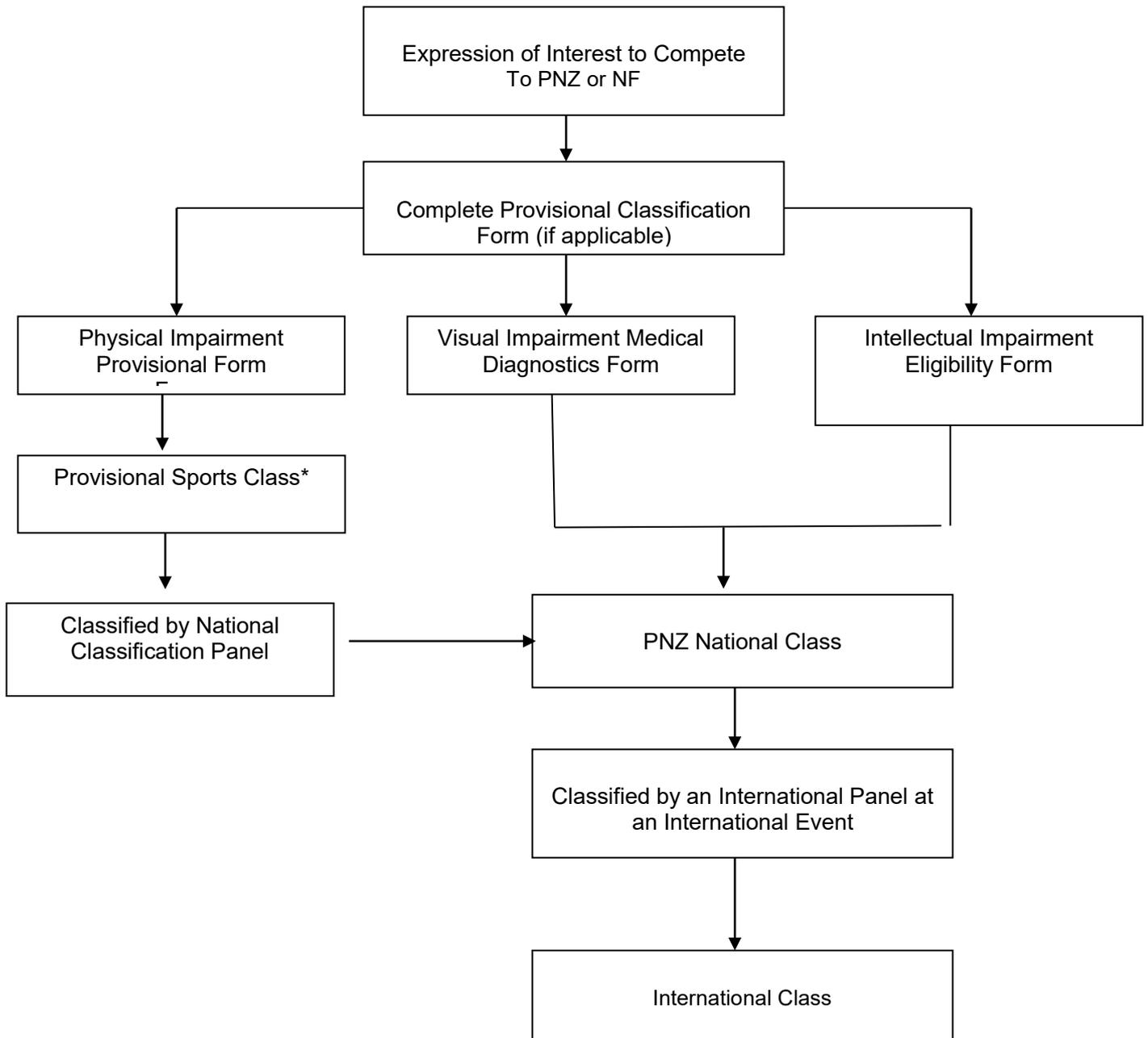
7.14.3 Sports class status R athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at international or PNZ competitions and may include, but are not limited to, those:

- Requiring further observation during competition to confirm their sport class
- Fluctuating impairments
- Sports class is still subject to protest in accord with the first appearance requirements.

### **7.15 Confirmed (C)**

7.15.1 Sport class status C is assigned to an athlete if he/she has been previously evaluated by an international or PNZ classification panel and the panel has determined that the athlete's sport class will not change, except in the case of a protest lodged under exceptional circumstances.

## 8 NZ Athlete Classification Pathway



**Athletes with a PNZ Provisional class are not eligible for national or international records.**

## **9 . Classification Protests and Appeals**

### **9.1 Protests**

9.1.1 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 IF Standard for Protests and Appeals.

### **9.2 Appeals**

9.2.1 An Appeal is an objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted and resolved. Appeals should be conducted in accordance with the IF Standard for Appeals.

## 10 Intentional Misrepresentation (IM)

- 10.1 An Athlete must not intentionally misrepresent (IM) 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 IM.
- 10.2 An Athlete who IM 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 IM
- 10.3 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 IM is guilty of IM.
- 10.4 The consequences that will be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of IM and/or complicity involving IM must be in accordance with the IF IM Standard and 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.
- 10.5 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.

## **11 Data Storage**

11.1 Each NF 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 IF Standard for Classification Data Protection.

## **12 Classification Masterlist**

12.1 To assist in the process of Classification, NFs 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 National and International Competitions.

## 13 Classification Personnel

### 13.1 Classifier

13.1.1 A Classifier is a person trained in accordance with the IF Classifier Training Standard and authorized as an official by an IF or NF to evaluate athletes, while serving as a member of a Classification Panel. The duties and responsibilities of a Classifier are detailed in the IPC International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification and the IF Classification Rules and Regulations.

13.1.2 Classifiers are trained and certified by an IF in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification.

### 13.2 Classification Positions

13.2.1 An IF or NF shall establish the following positions:

- **Head of Classification:** The Head of Classification is a Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters,
- **Chief Classifier:** The Chief Classifier is a Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specific competition.

### 13.3 Classification Panel

13.3.1 Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers, appointed for a particular competition by an IF or NF, to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of athletes reporting to classification. This is done in accordance with the Classification Rules of the respective IF.

13.3.2 International Classification Panels, and those recommended for NF Panels, must include a minimum of two Classifiers, unless an IF requires that more than two Classifiers constitute a Classification Panel.

13.3.3 During a competition members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities that are not in connection with Classification.

### 13.4 Classifier Criteria

13.4.1 International Sport Federations should require Classifiers to have expertise in one or both of the following areas (the extent to which is defined at the IFs discretion):

13.4.2 **Sport** An extensive coaching or athletic background in the sport, or a recognized and reputable academic qualification; encompassing, anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise, for example, former coaches or athletes, sport scientists, or physical educators with supporting evidence of expertise, such as an academic credential, professional certification or qualification of expertise.

13.4.3 **Medical:** A recognized professional qualification in medicine or in a health related profession; such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, or rehabilitation medicine, that has professional training in the measurement of the impairments that are eligible in Para-sport (for example, muscle testing, coordination assessment, low vision testing, and intellectual assessment). Professional qualification(s) or accreditation must be valid at the time of certification as a Classifier by an IF.

### 13.5 Code of Conduct

13.5.1 Each IF and NF shall require all classifiers to comply with the Code of Conduct included in the IF Standard for Classifier Training and Certification.

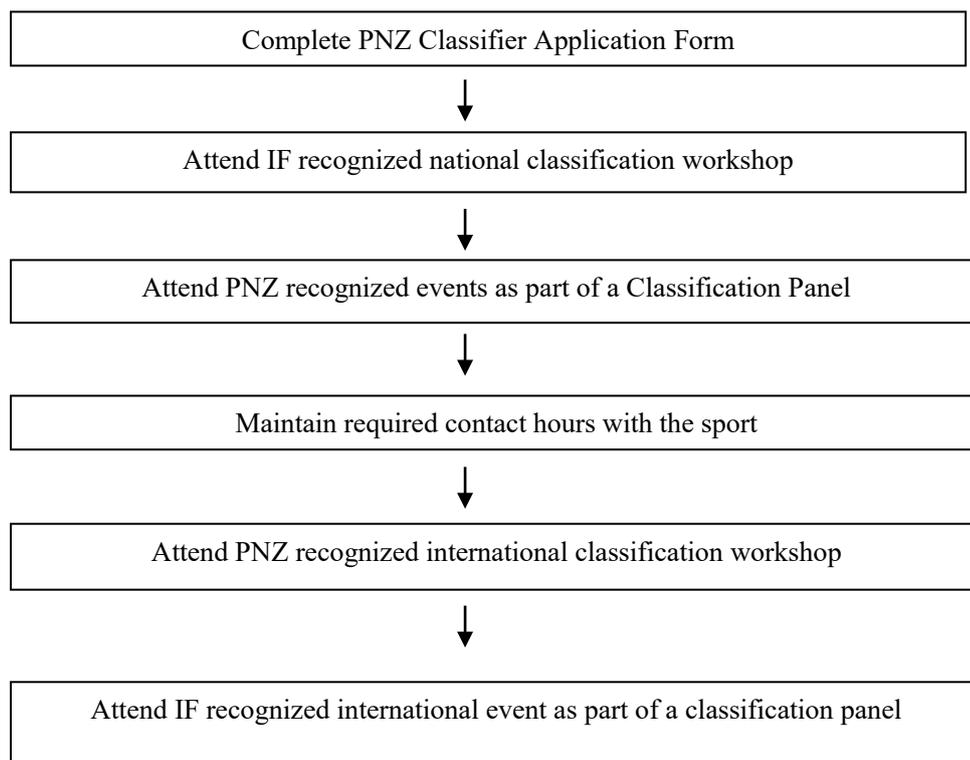
## 13.6 Classifier Training

13.6.1 IFs must provide training and education in order that Classifiers may obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.

13.6.2 IFs must specify how they will provide Entry-level Education and continuing education for advanced training and maintaining certification.

13.6.3 International Sport Federations are recommended to make Classifier training and education resources available to National Bodies for the purpose of national Classifier training.

### NZ Classifier Certification Pathway



## 14 Classification Forms

14.1 Refer to the Classification page PNZ website [www.paralympics.org.nz](http://www.paralympics.org.nz)

- PI Provisional Classification Form – Para-Athletes with a physical impairment
- VI Provisional Classification Form – Para-Athletes with a Visual Impairment
- II Provisional Classification Form – Para-Athletes with Intellectual Impairment
- Invictus Games Provisional Classification form

## 15 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.

## 16 Further Information

For further information on classification please contact the Paralympics New Zealand office;

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