

International Classification Fact Sheet

What is International Classification?

- All Para athletes wishing to compete at an International Para sport competition must have an International classification.
- All International New, Review and Review (with a fixed date) Para athletes need to attend classification within the set days preceding the competition.
- An International classification is the highest level of classification and will supersede a national classification.
- Athlete evaluation is conducted in full compliance with the classification rules and regulations of the International Federation (IF).
- An IF will appoint international classifiers certified by them to conduct athlete evaluation at an IF endorsed event.
- Reasonable notice of such international classification opportunities is given to National Federations (NF) and National Paralympics Committees (NPC)
- International classification will determine eligibility to compete by type of impairment, severity of impairment and resulting activity limitation and allocate the most appropriate class for competition.
- An athlete will only be permitted to undergo international classification if he or she is registered, according to the IF Competition Rules, and is entered into an IF event or competition recognized by the IF where international classification is taking place.

Preparation for International Classification

All athletes requesting International Classification will be required to submit to Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) specific medical diagnostic information within a timeframe set by the IF.

- Para athletes with a Physical Impairment will be required to submit a completed Medical Diagnostics Form for Physical Impairment and relevant and recent medical information to PNZ no later than six weeks prior to the classification opportunity. This form can be obtained off the PNZ website www.paralympics.org or by emailing classification@paralympics.org.nz
- Para athletes with Visual impairment will be required to submit a completed Medical Diagnostics Form for Visual Impairment and relevant and recent medical information to PNZ no later than six weeks prior to the classification opportunity. This form can be obtained off the PNZ website www.paralympics.org or by emailing classification@paralympics.org.nz
- Para athletes with Intellectual Impairment will be required to submit a completed Inas Primary Eligibility Form with the results of an internationally recognized assessment of Intellectual Function and Adaptive Behavior and a recent TSAL (Training History and Sports Limitation Questionnaire) no later than 12 weeks prior to the classification opportunity. These forms can be obtained by emailing classification@paralympics.org.nz

How is International Classification Conducted?

Athlete Evaluation for Physical Impairment encompasses the following:

- an assessment of whether or not the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the relevant sport;

- an assessment of whether or not an Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the relevant sport (Medical Assessment);
- an assessment and evaluation of the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport (Technical Assessment);
- If required, Observation in Competition Assessment to ensure that the outcome of the medical and technical assessments reflects the athlete's abilities in competition;
- the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status.

Athlete Evaluation for Visual Impairment encompasses the following:

- an assessment of whether or not the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the relevant sport;
- an assessment of whether or not an Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the relevant sport (Medical Assessment);
- the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status.

Athlete Evaluation for Intellectual Impairment encompasses the following:

- an assessment of sport cognition;
- an assessment of sport specific skills.

Intentional Misrepresentation

All athletes preparing for classification, and their support personnel, **MUST** read the PNZ document on Intentional Misrepresentation, and fully understand what Intentional Misrepresentation is and the behaviour required to mitigate any possible form of Intentional Misrepresentation.

Athlete and Support Personnel Responsibilities

The Roles and Responsibilities of Athletes include:

- to be dressed in appropriate sports apparel;
- to take to classification all adapted, carry on sports equipment, aids and supportive devices;
- to be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable IF Classification policies and rules; including the posting of classification outcomes, the process and timelines for protests and appeals and the consequences of intentional misrepresentation;
- to participate in Athlete Evaluation when requested;
- to take copies of their MDF and recent and relevant information related to the Eligible Impairment and diagnostic evidence;
- to cooperate with any investigations concerning Classification Rule violations;
- to actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise;

The Roles and Responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:

- to accompany and support the athlete in classification;
- to be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable IF Classification policies and rules, including the posting of classification outcomes, the process and timelines for protests and appeals and the consequences of intentional misrepresentation;
- to use their influence on Athlete values and behavior to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- to assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification systems;
- to cooperate with any investigations concerning Classification violations.



Code of Conduct

Athlete

All athletes will sign a consent form prior to classification to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full cooperation throughout the classification process.

Support Personnel

Athletes are entitled to have a support person attend classification and on occasion, where appropriate, may be asked for information by a classifier. They shall not disrupt the classification process in any way.

Classifier

All classifiers will comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct outlined in the International Sport Federation Rules and Regulations.

Contact:

If you require further information contact the Classification Manager:

classification@paralympics.org.nz

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