





Bermuda Triangle – worked example of seated throwing for athletes with hypertonia, ataxia and athetosis (Class F31-34)

## **Overview**

- Evolution of seated throw for F31-34 in terms of:
  - Equipment;
  - Technical Rules; and
  - Classification Rules
- Consequences of this evolution
  - Who has won? Who has lost? Impact on athletes / classification validity;
- How to proceed? Balancing freedom to
  maximise potential with need for regulation

## The beginning - 1980-1990









## Transition period – 1990-2000







## **Evolution Summary table**

Period	Equipment	Technical Rules	Classification Rules
1980 – 1990	No change	No change	No change/minimal change
1990s – 2000	Rapid change – athlete driven	Rapid change – administrators responding	No Change / minimal change
2000- today	Moderate change – athlete refinements	Moderate change – administrators responding	No Change / minimal change

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- Athlete impairments should be classified according the extent of activity limitation they cause (IPC Position Stand, 2011);
- Extent of activity limitation caused by an impairment depends not only on impairment type, severity and location, <u>but</u> what the activity is.
- Changes in equipment and Technical rules (1990s / 2000s) changed the activity of seated throwing

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- Extent of activity limitation caused by an impairment depends not only on impairment type, severity and location, but what the activity is.
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- Individual vs Team Sports (e.g., Basketball)

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### Freedom

- Crowd appeal bigger is better?
- Athlete rights / athlete centred-ness / freestyle developments in sports

## Regulation

- Number of Classes largest competitive fields, but not disadvantaging most impaired cf least
- Class validity and the Paralympic Vision
- Historical comparability
- Research to develop evidence based systems of classification

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Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

RESEARCH ARTICLE

### What throwing frame configuration should be used to investigate the impact of different impairment types on Paralympic seated throwing?

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# Conclusion

This presentation has demonstrated:

- There is a clear interaction between equipment, Technical Rules and Classification rules;
- To date, freedom to self-optimise equipment and adjust rules ad hoc has lead to changes that:
  - Have disenfranchised some athletes in the movement;
  - if unchecked, can threaten the Paralympic vision and limit ability to improve systems of classification;
- Our new, emerging understanding of this interaction demands
  - Strong, considered action to address current situation in some instances
  - Development of a thoughtful, coherent philosophy

Paralympic Vision (Ch 1.1, Paralympic handbook)

 To Enable Paralympic Athletes to Achieve Sporting Excellence and Inspire and Excite the World

### **IPC Classification**

- <u>Purpose</u>: To minimise the impact of impairment on the outcome of competition (athletes don't win because less impaired than others)
- <u>Conceptual basis</u>: classify impairments (not athletes) according to how much they affect the core activities of the sport (activity limitation).



Lees, 2002

In able-bodied (AB) long jump, relationship between approach speed and distance jumped is robust (Hay et al., 1993; Lees et al., 1993; Lees et al., 1994).















Arm powered



Arm-trunk powered













Arm powered



Arm-trunk powered







Lijst met mogelijkheden Begrijpen van impact van impairment on performance Blessure preventie Optimalisatie krachtgeneratie

### Inverse-dynamic model

























