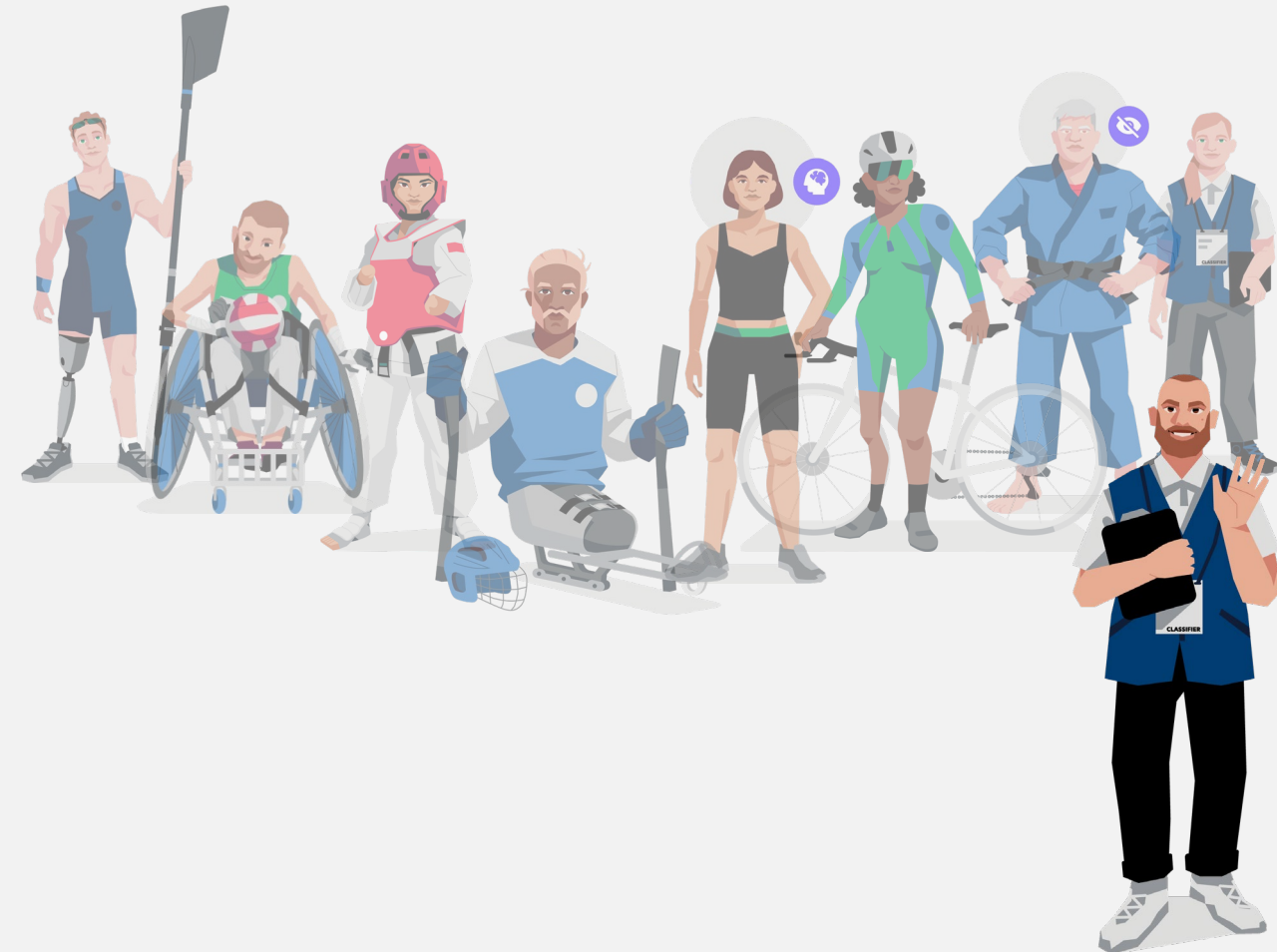




# IPC CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH GRANT WEBINAR

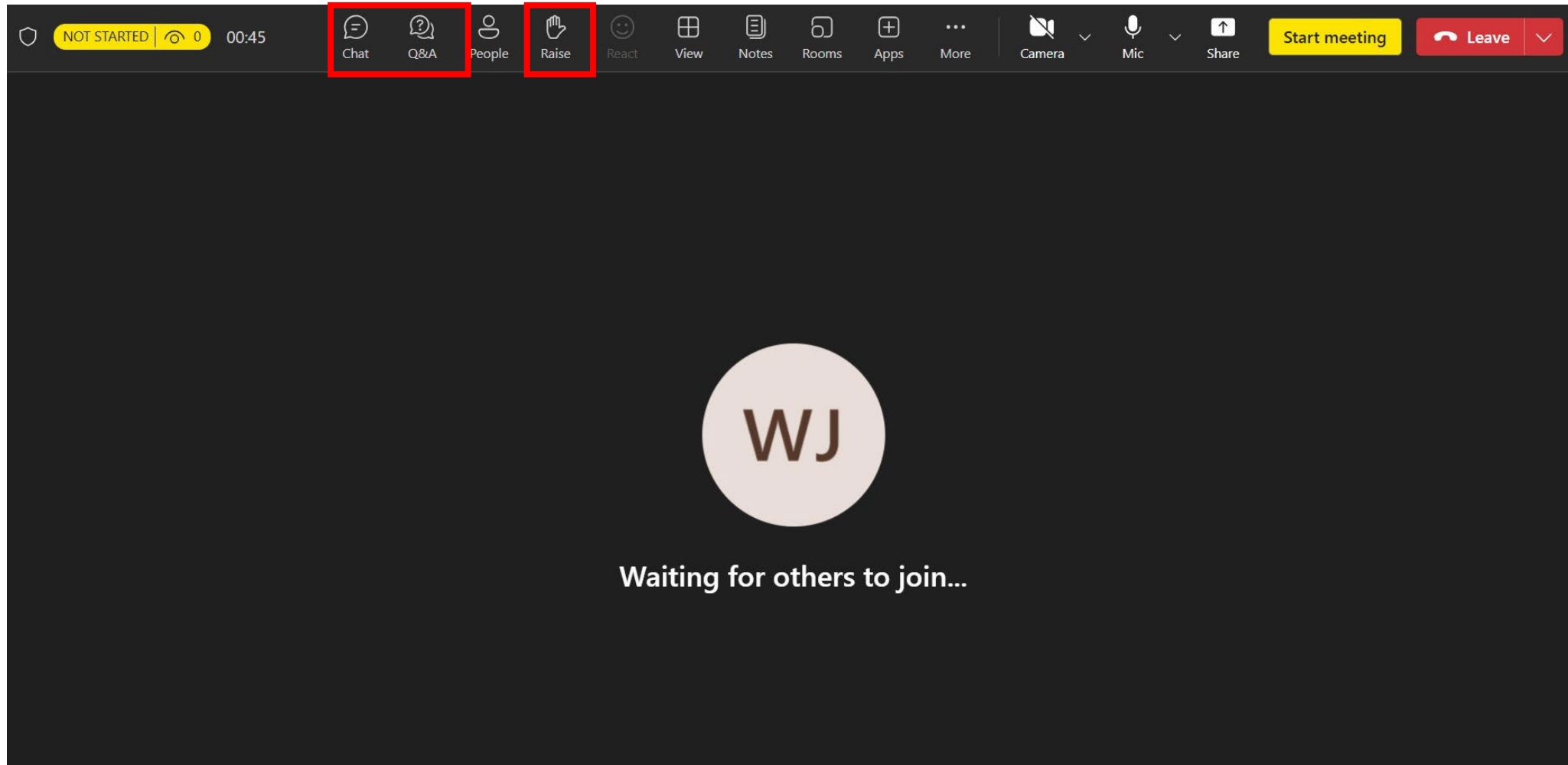
**22 JULY 2025**

**INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE**



# HOUSEKEEPING

2



# AGENDA

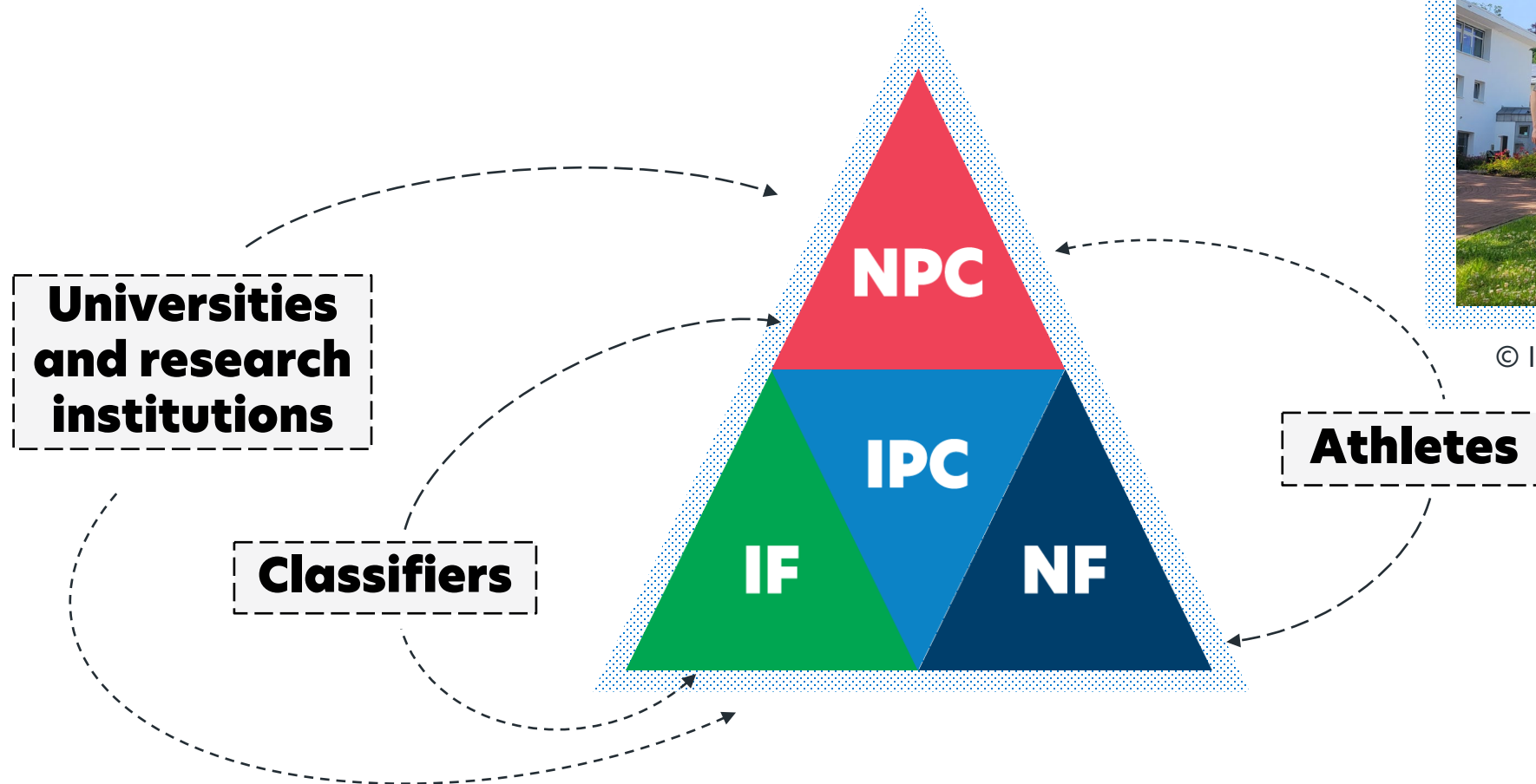
- Introduction
- Classification Research Grant Scheme including Q&A
- Application process including an example and Q&A



# INTRODUCTION

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

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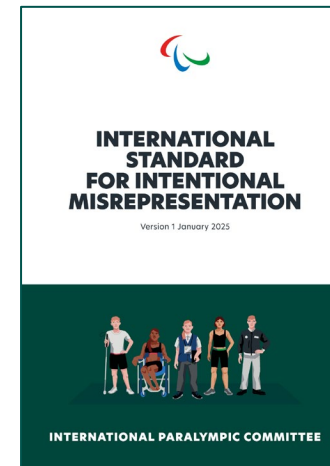
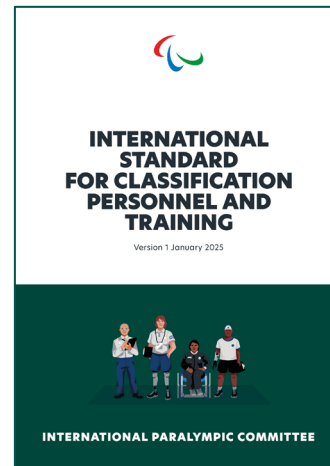
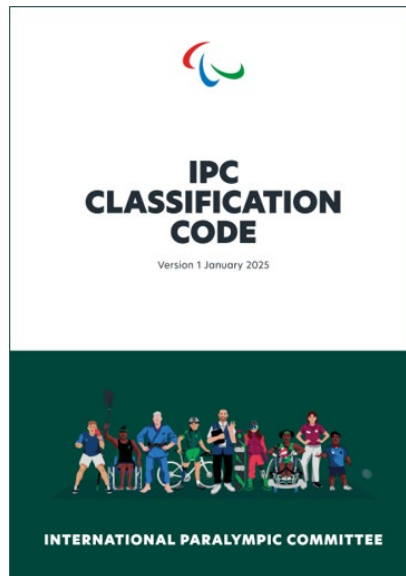


# INTRODUCTION

## IPC CLASSIFICATION CODE

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- The IPC Classification Code is the fundamental document upon which Classification in the Paralympic Movement must be based.
- Under the Code, each IF must develop and maintain a fit for purpose classification system and publish classification rules in compliance with the Code.



# INTRODUCTION

## CLASSIFICATION

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**Classification** means (i) the determination of which athletes are eligible to compete in Para sport; and (ii) the grouping of eligible athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the relevant sport.

The purpose of **Classification** is to enable athletes with Eligible Impairments to participate in competitive Para sport with a pathway to sporting excellence, the pinnacle of which is the Paralympic Games.

**Classification** is essential to the Paralympic Movement as Para sport cannot exist without Classification.

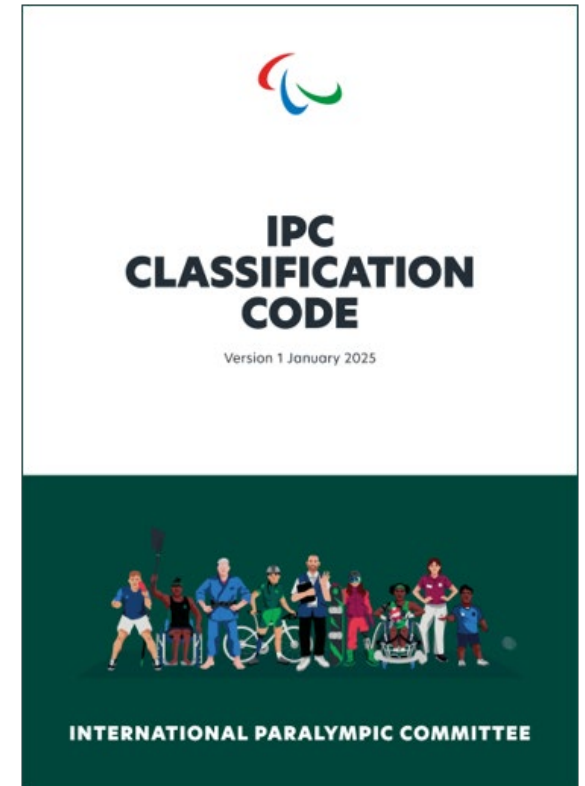


# CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH

## THE IMPORTANCE

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- Classification systems evolved from **medical** and expert based systems, to **functional** sport-specific and nowadays strive towards **evidence-based sport-specific** classification systems.
- Multidisciplinary classification research leads to **valid** and **robust** classification systems where the **evidence** informs how athletes are grouped into **sport classes** to provide **fair** and **meaningful competition**.
- Such systems will ensure **integrity** and **credibility** on Para sport competitions and the Paralympic Movement.



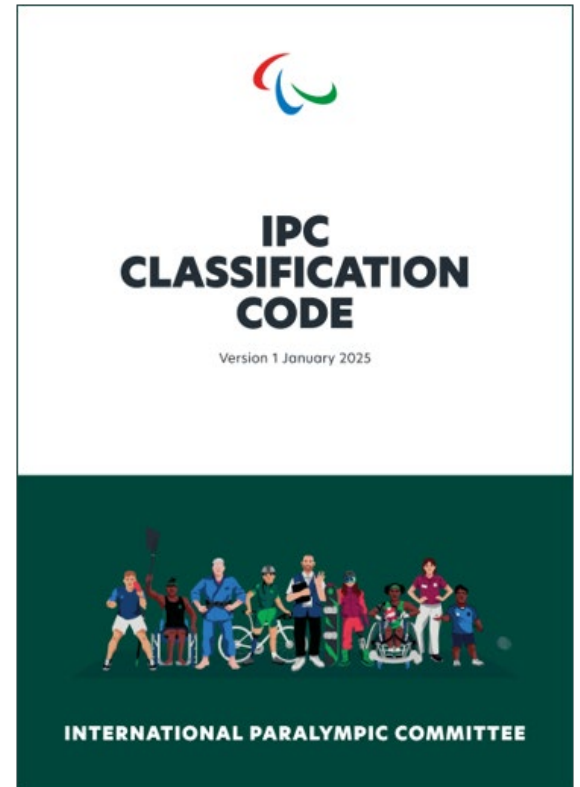
2025 IPC Classification Code front cover



# CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH UNDER THE CODE

8

- **Classification Research** means any systematic scientific evaluation, analysis, or investigation, which aims to enhance or understand a Para sport classification system or systems.
- Art. 62: IFs must have sport-specific Classification systems that reflect **Best Practice Classification**.
- Definition of **Best Practice Classification** is reflected in the Code.



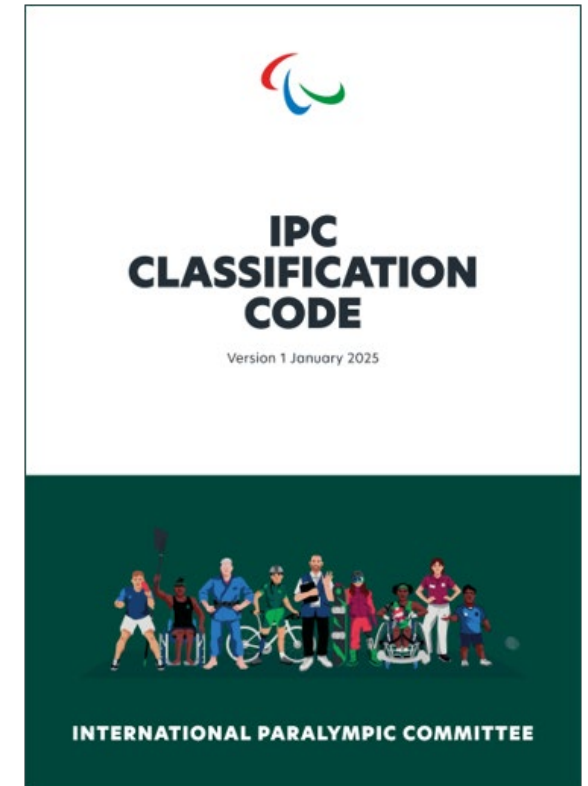
2025 IPC Classification Code front cover





# CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH UNDER THE CODE

- Art. 63: IFs must conduct multidisciplinary Classification Research to:
  - ensure that their Classification systems meet (and continue to meet) the requirements for Best Practice Classification; and
  - monitor the quality of their assessment systems and improve their evidence base.
- IFs should also invest in Classification Research that is designed to assist in developing **evidence-based Classification systems**.
- All Classification Research must comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.



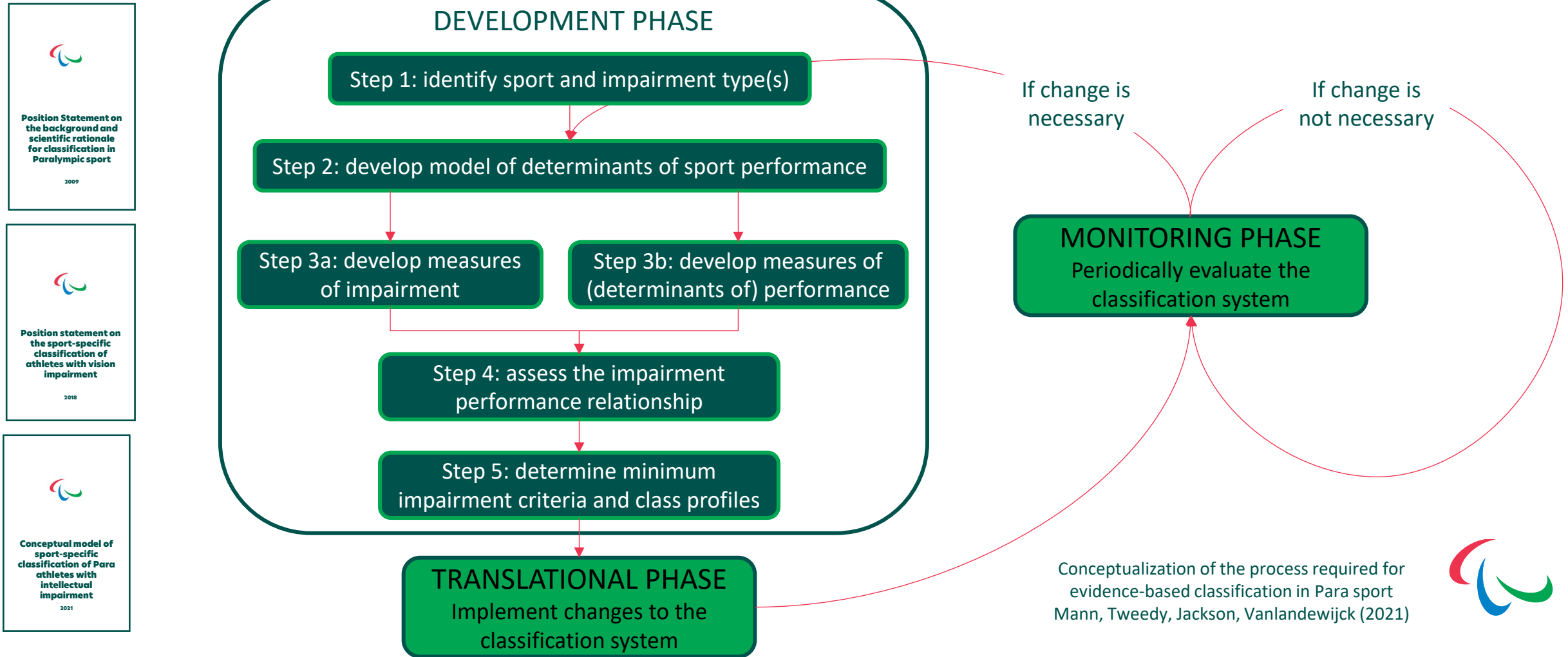
2025 IPC Classification Code front cover



# CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH

## CONCEPTUAL MODEL - DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

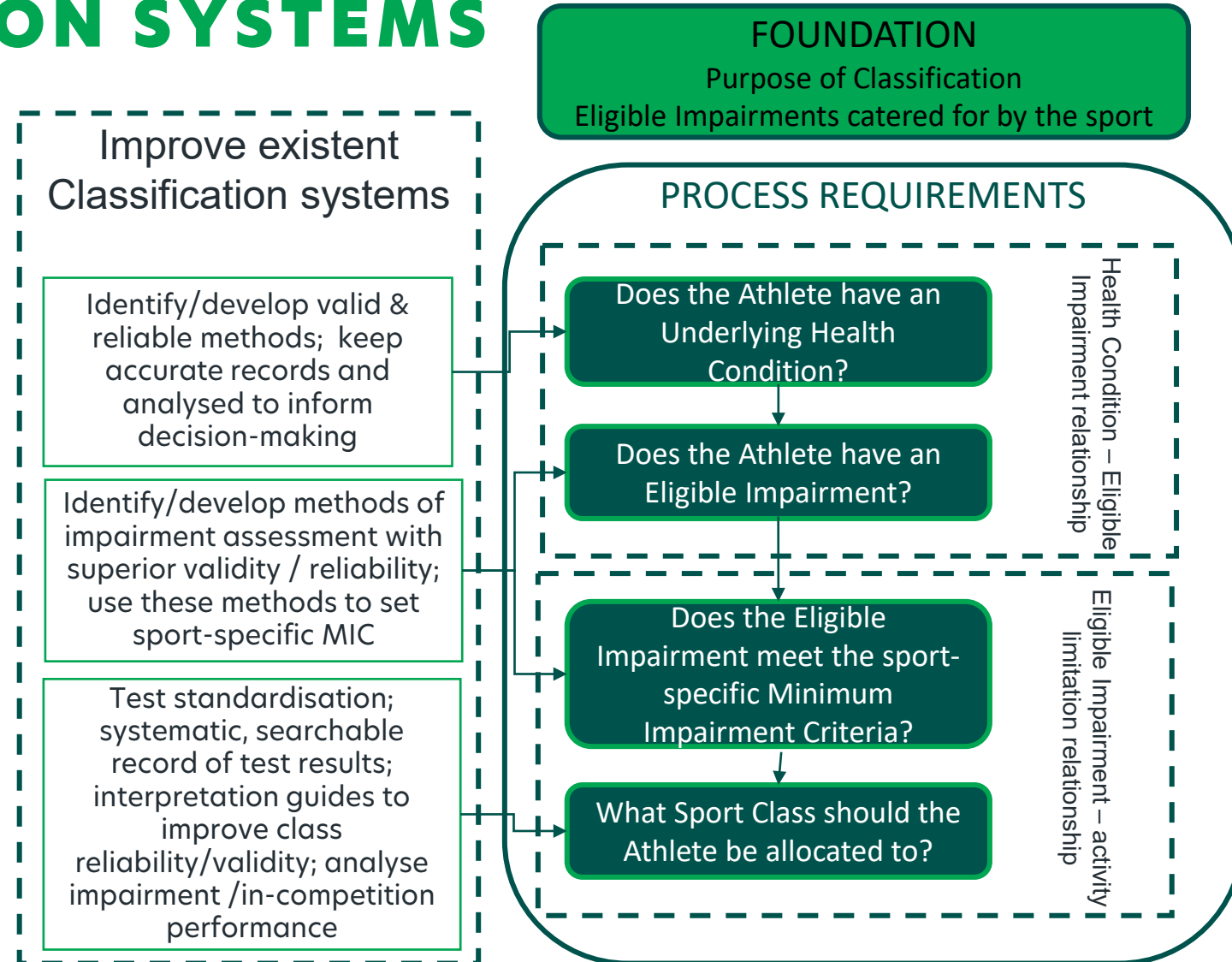
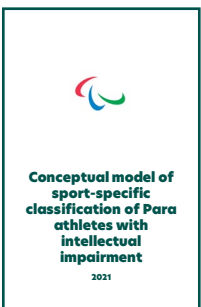
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# CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH

## CONCEPTUAL MODEL - IMPROVING EXISTING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

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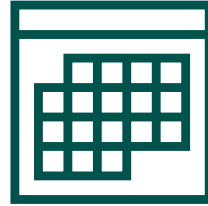
Applying Scientific Principles to Enhance Paralympic Classification Now and in the Future, Tweedy, Connick, Beckman (2018)



# 2025 IPC CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH GRANT <sup>14</sup>



***Grant funding***



**Four-year delivery  
period (2025-2028)**



**Available to all  
members**



# 2025 IPC CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH GRANT <sup>15</sup>

## THE AIM

- This grant aims to support the development and improvement of best practice and evidence-based classification systems in Para sports through the delivery of multidisciplinary research projects.
- The resulting research will benefit all IPC members and athletes by strengthening the overall classification framework, enhancing transparency, and promoting trust in Para sport competitions.
- More information is available at: [IPC - Classification research](#)





# **CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME**

**DETAILS AND EXAMPLES**



# EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

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Reviewing existing and/or developing valid, reliable and practical methods for measuring eligible impairments;

Determining the impairment-performance relationship, minimum impairment criteria and sport classes

Reviewing existing and/or developing valid, reliable and practical methods for classifying athletes into sport classes;

Reviewing and/or developing processes surrounding classification;

Exploring the use of innovative methods, computer science and other technological advancements (which could include artificial intelligence (AI)) in classification;

Improving the scientific evidence supporting classification;

Improving consistent and fair athlete assessment practices across Para sports.



# BUDGET

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APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE IN 4 DIFFERENT BANDS:

**up to 250.000 EUR**

- **A**

**up to 125.000 EUR**

- **B**

**up to 90.000 EUR**

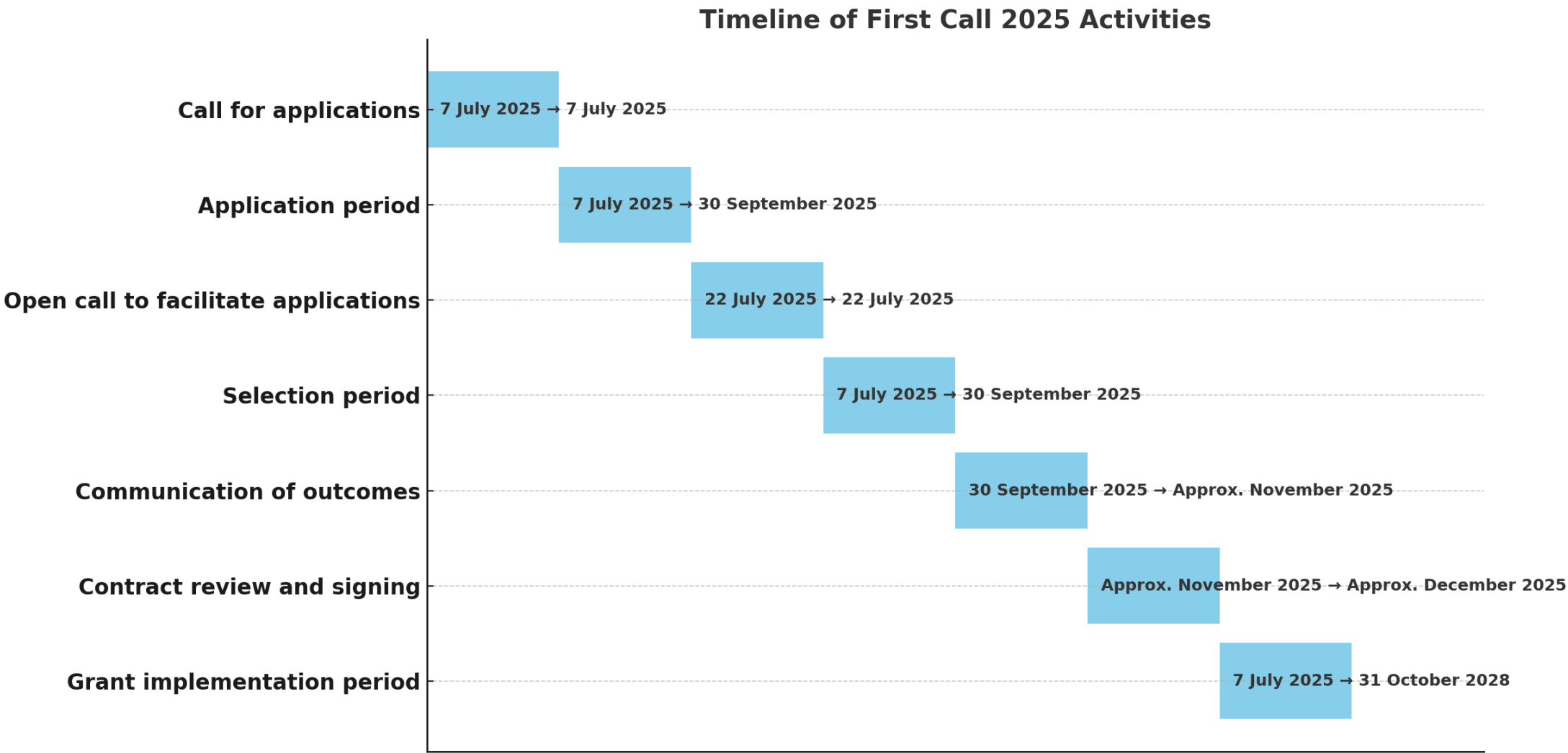
- **C**

**up to 65.000 EUR**

- **D**

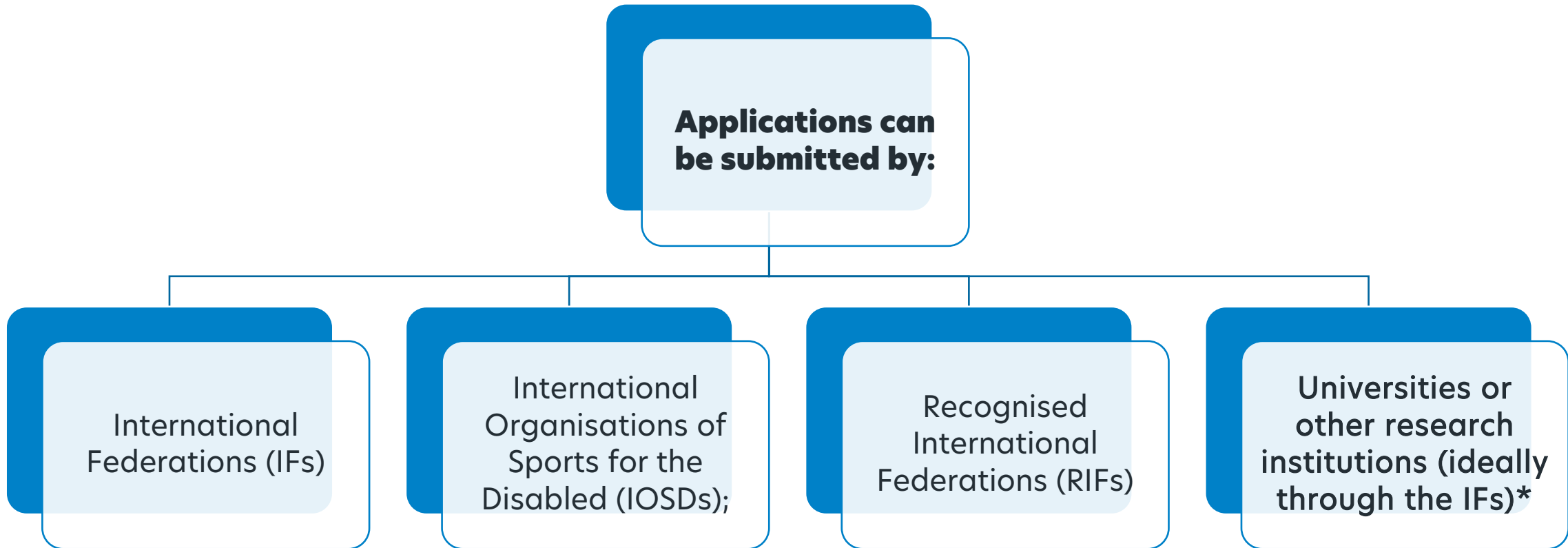






# APPLICATION CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY

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# APPLICATION CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY

23

Each IF is allowed to submit multiple applications if they wish.

- In such cases where the IF applies for multiple grants, the IF must assign a priority number to each proposal, ranging from 1 (highest priority) to N (lowest priority), where N is the total number of proposals submitted. This prioritization must be clearly indicated in the submission.



# MANDATORY AND DESIRABLE APPLICATION CRITERIA

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**The Grant application must include a research project, and activities directed towards development and improvement of best practice and evidence-based classification systems in Para sports.**



**The proposed project employs an appropriate research design:**

<b>Experimental,</b>	<b>quasi-experimental,</b>	<b>longitudinal,</b>	<b>or cross-sectional.</b>
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**The research design is supported by a data collection strategy that includes an optimal sample size of international-level athletes, to ensure the validity, reliability, and generalisability of the findings.**

# MANDATORY AND DESIRABLE APPLICATION CRITERIA 25

- The principal investigator (PI) of the Grant application and research proposal must be associated with:
  - a university,
  - research centre,
  - an IF and/or a NPC,
- and have proven experience in research in the relevant field (for example, sport science and health science).



# MANDATORY AND DESIRABLE APPLICATION CRITERIA 26

The Grant application and research proposal must include ethical approval of the project design by the relevant academic partner or at minimum, documentation proving that such request has been made.

In the event that approval is obtained subsequent to the submission of the Grant application, proof of the approval must be subsequently provided to the IPC.



# MANDATORY AND DESIRABLE APPLICATION CRITERIA 27

- The Grant application must align with the requirements under the 2025 IPC Classification Code and the conceptual framework for evidence-based classification in Para sport\*
- Desirable:
  - The Grant application is tied with a research centre or university;
  - Endorsement and support from relevant organisations;
  - Collaborative research project design including multiple organisations and potential impact on multiple Para sports;

\*(David L. Mann, Sean M. Tweedy, Robin C. Jackson & Yves C. Vanlandewijck (2021) Classifying the evidence for evidence-based classification in Paralympic sport, Journal of Sports Sciences, 39:sup1, 1-6).



# PAYMENT CONDITIONS AND COSTS OVERVIEW

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- The Grant will be paid by the IPC to the Grant recipient by means of bank transfer in 2 parts:
  - First instalment: 80% of the Grant will be paid within 30 days of both parties signing an agreement documenting the terms of the Grant.
  - Second instalment: 20% of the Grant will be paid upon the IPC's approval of the final reports which must be submitted in accordance with the Grant Agreement.





# COSTS

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## • ELIGIBLE COSTS

Personnel Costs

Travel and Accommodation

Equipment

Consumables and Supplies

Data collection and Analysis Cost

Publication Cost

Dissemination and Communication

Intellectual Property Rights

Ethics Requirements

Data management and open access

Recruitment Costs

Visa and work permits costs

Translation cost

## • INELIGIBLE COSTS

Per diem allowances

Excessive overhead costs arising from service agreements with universities or other institutions, including indirect personnel costs;

Costs around building infrastructure which are not directly linked to the project;

Costs around customised pieces of equipment that would benefit individual participants in the study (for example, prosthetic devices, wheelchair and other adaptive equipment)





**QUESTIONS?**

# QUESTIONS

33

What type of projects will be considered for the grant? And what are the requirements to apply?

I want to have an idea if low-middle income countries with low resources have change to succeed submission

Can qualitative methodologies like grounded theory or narrative inquiry be used as a primary research approach if the goal is to generate insights on the social and psychological impact of classification systems on athletes in low-resource settings?

Is the grant available to all Para Sports or just sports on the Paralympic programme

Is the application for one project by IF only or can we apply for several ones ?

Can EU universities (not for profit) apply for overheads? If yes, what would be rate?

What are the roles of the project leader? What are the roles of PI and Research partner?

How many research partners are allowed within 1 project?

What is considered matched funding?

Is it possible to start the implementation of the project at any moment in time?





# **APPLICATION PROCESS**

VIA MICROSOFT FORMS



# SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

35

- The selection process will be carried out by the Selection Committee, which is appointed by the IPC.

Scientific Rigor & Methodology

Impact on Athlete Classification & Fairness

Innovation

Feasibility & Implementation Plan

Team experience

Approved

Revision pending

Rejected



# GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

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- Following the communication of the application outcome, the Grant recipient will have a period of four weeks to present the required documents (e.g. bank number, Institution agreement, contract, signatures), to receive the first instalment.
- The duration of each project will depend on the proposed timelines and approval of the IPC, with a potential project span between July 2025 and October 2028.
- Minimum recommended project duration is 12 months.



# HOW IS THIS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS PLANNED TO RUN?

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- First call in 2025:
  - Rolling basis review of applications between July and September 2025;
  - Potential to extend the application period until the end of 2025;
  - All members can apply, as well as the scientific community.



# GRANT IMPLEMENTATION

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## AGREEMENTS

Following the communication of the application outcome, the Grant recipient and the IPC will sign a Grant Agreement that contains the terms of the Grant. A template agreement will be developed and shared by the IPC

## CHANGES TO APPROVED APPLICATIONS

Should it become necessary to make any changes to the approved activities, budget, implementation timeframes, beneficiaries etc., the Grant recipient is required to seek pre-approval from the IPC. Should there be other delays, challenges with the implementation or any other circumstances that affect the delivery of the Grant, the Grant recipient is required to notify the IPC.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Regardless of the project duration, all projects must submit reports mid-way through the project and at the end of the project. Additionally, for multi-year long projects, further reports will be requested at the start of each year (i.e., in January 2027 and January 2028). Reporting is mandatory and is carried out through an online survey completed by the responsible person, who must be designated as such by the successful applicant

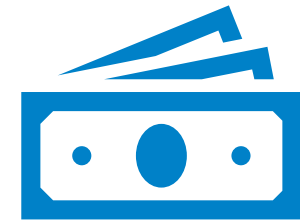




Grant recipients must submit a narrative and financial report to the IPC according to the timelines listed before



The IPC reserves the right to request additional documents (i.e., invoices, receipts) to support the narrative and financial reports.



The IPC, also, reserves the right to withhold payments if it suspects the improper or ineffective use of funds



# DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

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The IPC will provide an opportunity for the Grant recipients to present their research outcomes at dedicated forums, conferences and meetings.



A targeted classification research forum is scoped to be organised in 2027-2028 to serve as an opportunity to disseminate knowledge, network and explore further opportunities to collaborate on classification research.





**QUESTIONS?**

# THANK



# YOU



[classificationresearch@paralympic.org](mailto:classificationresearch@paralympic.org)





# **Q&A CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH GRANT WEBINAR**

**22 JULY 2025**

**Note to reader:** this Q&A document accompanies the presentation delivered during the Classification Research Grant Webinar, held on 22 July 2025. The document summarizes the questions received prior to and during the webinar. The questions are anonymous, and the answers are provided in a concise and direct way wherever possible. The answers are provided in the context of the conversation that took place during the webinar and in the context of the [Classification Research Grant Scheme](#). The IPC reserves the right to further edit the responses and/or change its position on any of the matters addressed.

**1. What type of projects will be considered for the grant?**

The examples of projects and activities eligible for the grant are provided in the [Grant Scheme](#), under section 2.1.

**2. Requirements to apply**

The application criteria and eligibility are detailed in section 2 of the [Grant Scheme](#).

**3. I want to have an idea if low-middle income countries with low resources have change to succeed submission.**

Section 2. of the [Grant Scheme](#) lists the selection criteria. Projects which align with the aims and eligible activities (listed in section 2.1), along with quality proposals reflecting the selection criteria, have the higher chances of success. The grant is not taking into account the income status of the applicants and the countries they reside in. The grant is also not dividing the applications in this respect.

**4. Access to classification opportunities is minimal in southern Africa will the grant provide the opportunities across those lines.**

The grant aims support the development and improvement of best practice and evidence-based classification systems in Para sports. The grant does not specifically address the notion of access to classification opportunities across Para sports and is unlikely to directly result in increased classification opportunities.

**5. Can qualitative methodologies like grounded theory or narrative inquiry be used as a primary research approach if the goal is to generate**

**insights on the social and psychological impact of classification systems on athletes in low-resource settings?**

While insights on social and psychological impact of classification on athletes might be valuable, a project relying primarily on qualitative methods would likely not meet the aims and the research design set as part of this grant.

6. **For a country like the Maldives, where athlete pools are small and travel for data collection is costly, would the IPC consider adjusted sample size thresholds or creative data collection methods as valid under the eligibility criteria?**

Challenges to restricted sample size is not unique to one country or sport, we welcome applications that will address this in innovative ways but still ensuring scientific rigor. We would require more information to provide a more concrete answer given it all depends on how the applicant justifies the use the chosen method.

7. **Is the grant available to all Para Sports or just sports on the Paralympic programme**

Section 2.4 of the [Grant Scheme](#) lists which organisations are eligible to apply. The list includes all Para sports, including those that are currently not on the Paralympic Games sport programme.

8. **Is the application for one project by IF only or can we apply for several ones?**

IF's can apply for several projects, although they are requested to prioritise the order of projects based on importance within the application form.

9. **what is the necessary curriculum to have any option and if I am interested on four section (until 250000€) what is the condition to request it and what are the concept in the bill?**

In general, the condition is to meet the expectations regarding the project aim, application criteria and eligibility and the selection criteria (described in section 2 of the [Grant Scheme](#)). The project aim and research design must justify the requested budget. In respect to the personnel, the principal investigator of the research proposal must be associated with a university, research centre, an International Federation (IF), and/or a National

Paralympic Committee (NPC). They must also have proven research experience in the relevant field, with examples provided. This information is requested as part of the online application form.

10. I would like to kindly inquire whether the grant can support a **\*local research project\*** focused on addressing the **\*near absence of a functional classification system\*** in our country. Specifically, we are aiming to conduct a **\*national diagnostic study\*** to assess the current state, identify gaps, and develop evidence-based solutions to help establish a sustainable classification system. Would such a locally driven initiative be considered eligible under the scope of the grant?

The project aims, along with the application criteria are listed in section 2 of the [Grant Scheme](#). The focus of the Grant is to advance Para sports' classification systems. A project designed to address national classification programme and system will likely not be prioritised over some of the Para sport projects, given the specific requirements within the [IPC Classification Code](#) towards the International Federations. However, these type of projects are not excluded and will be considered as part of the selection criteria.

11. **Can EU universities (not for profit) apply for overheads? If yes, what would be rate?**

Yes, however, the costs submitted should reflect genuine project needs; the grant is expected to include costs other than personnel costs and overhead. There is no defined amount in respect to the percentage, this will be assessed on a case by case basis.

12. **What are the roles of the project leader?**

Ordinarily, the project lead manages the team and the project overall. The project lead operationalises the project plan, manages people and process, all under the supervision and direction of the principal investigator.

13. **What are the roles of PI and Research partner?**

Ordinarily, the principal investigator is the lead scientist or researcher responsible to oversee the research project. A research partner can capture a range of individuals or organisations who are collaboratively



working on the same project but are not leading it. The principal investigator is ultimately responsible for all aspects of the project.

**14. What are the roles of the Federation? (These terminologies are found in the guidelines, and I wonder if they are different in their roles)**

International Federations and International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled form part of the IPC membership. Recognised International Federations represent a separate category within the IPC, these federations are not eligible to be members of the IPC but hold a recognised status. These stakeholders have the responsibility to develop and implement classification systems in the Para sport(s) they govern. This is further defined within the [IPC Classification Code](#). Considering this responsibility, these organisations are positioned as the main eligible organisations to apply for the grant.

**15. How many research partners are allowed within 1 project?**

There is no limit to the number of research partners that can be involved in one project. If helpful, we would be happy to provide further guidance on a case-by-case basis.

**16. What is considered matched funding?**

Matched funding refers to the organisation applying contributing a certain amount of money or resources to deliver the project, for example the organisation would cover a specific percentage of the total project budget. It demonstrates commitment and ability to secure additional funding streams on top of the IPC grant.

**17. Is it possible to relocate the funding money? For example, I have allocated part of the money to pay for my work as the PI and in the middle of the project am hired for a permanent position. It means that after a period I could work in-kind, so I could fund, for example another researcher to work in the project and increase the team dedicated to the project.**

Yes, this is possible. The details will depend on the project specifics and the terms within the Grant Agreement.

- 18. Is there a range that is considered excessive overhead costs? For example, Univie charges usually 25% of the total amount or maximum allowed by the funder. What would be allowed?**

The costs submitted should reflect genuine project needs; the grant is expected to include costs other than personnel costs and overhead. There is no defined amount in respect to the percentage, this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- 19. Is there a recommended guideline for budget distribution among partners?**

There is no recommended guideline for budget distribution amongst partners, it depends on the project, the proposed budget and deliverables. If helpful, we can offer support in determining this on a case-by-case basis.

- 20. It seems that 100% of the total budget asked in the project is funded, and 80% of it is paid at once in the beginning of the project implementation. Is this money transferred to the PI or to the Supporting Federation? How is this going to work?**

It depends on the terms agreed within the Grant Agreement. It is possible that the grant is transferred to an International Federation, who then further distributes the project costs, or the grant is managed through a university / research centre.

- 21. Is it possible to start the implementation of the project at any moment in time?**

The Grant implementation period is defined in section 2.3 of the [Grant Scheme](#) and includes a period between 7 July 2025 onwards – 31st October 2028. This means that the start of a specific project implementation can ordinarily commence in July 2025 or later, but all projects funded through this grant must be completed by the end of October 2028 and all projects are expected to run for a minimum period of one year. In other words, the implementation of any projects can commence between July 2025 to October 2027. Projects commencing in 2027 will be more appropriate to apply in the second call for applications, envisaged to be announced mid-2026.

- 22. Does a project which is focused on one specific sport would be less competitive than a project focused on more sports?**

A research project that includes multiple Para sports and has the potential to have wider application and impact across a number of Para sports is considered a higher priority compared to the projects focusing on one Para sport. That is not to say that projects focusing on one Para sport will not be considered.

**23. Please can the NPCs apply for the classification research project also the African Paralympic committee**

Yes, it is possible for NPCs and ROs to apply, but given that the grant focuses on advancing Para sports' classification systems, it is more relevant for the IFs (as they are the ones that need to develop sport-specific classification systems and meet the requirements under the [IPC Classification Code](#)). All applications will be assessed against the aims and other criteria listed in the [Grant Scheme](#).

**24. Regarding the selection/award criteria which you use: will sports which are already on the Paralympics or which are close to being included in the Paralympics have priority over sports which still have a longer way to go?**

The quality of the research design and project aims is important. Within the funding available, we will balance how the grant is divided across sports and impairment types. This is further detailed within the [Grant Scheme](#).

**25. Is there a specific list of Universities or Research centres the IPC has worked with before for Research and may share with IFs**

We do not have a closed list of universities or research centres, and we are also encouraging this network to grow. We would be happy to connect offline and provide more details.

**26. I already tried to find some research projects from last round but would you have some links where I can find some information about some successful projects for inspiration?**

This is the first round of applications, we have not had successful projects under this grant scheme before. There have been other initiatives in the past where IPC provided funding for classification research, we do not have a publicly available list, but a lot of publications would recognize the funding from the IPC. If helpful, we can connect with you offline and provide more information.

- 27. Is budget justification requested during the application? If not, where would be best to provide it.**

It is beneficial to accompany the application with the justification of the budget. This could be provided as a standalone attachment (document) or within the project description.

- 28. Should the funding experience of the PI be related to classification research, or is any research funding record acceptable?**

Both are acceptable.

- 29. Can the budget and eligible costs include translation activities, for example education of classifiers, rules revision and consultation?**

Whilst the translation phase is a very important aspect of advancing classification systems, the grant is not envisaged to cover these costs. Instead, it focuses on research design and project costs.

- 30. Would obtaining stakeholders' views be considered as eligible projects?**

If the project solely focuses on obtaining stakeholders views and perspectives, it will likely not be considered as eligible. If obtaining such perspectives is one step or one part of the wider project, it may be considered.

- 31. What if the project is delayed and not finished by the Grant implementation period?**

It will depend on each specific situation. We understand there are circumstances beyond our control that can lead to project delays. The requirement under the Grant Agreement will be to review and discuss these circumstances and agree on the best way forward.

- 32. Is a systematic review considered as an eligible project?**

If the project solely focuses on a systematic review, it will likely not be considered as eligible. However, if the systematic review is one step or one part of the wider project, it may be considered.

**33. If applications are rejected, will the rejection letter include feedback to improve?**

Where possible, we will include feedback with points to improve. There may also be situations where feedback is not provided, for example if the decision purely came down to prioritization and balance of different aspects within classification, as per the IPC discretion addressed under 2.7 in the [Grant Scheme](#).

**34. If we would like to involve other universities from abroad in this research, should we apply for the grant separately, or is it possible to submit a joint application?**

It is possible to submit a joint application. We are also available if it's helpful to facilitate connections with a potential partner/organisation, to the extent we can.

**35. A research team may comprise multiple research units. In the event of successful funding application, is it permissible to allocate the granted funds to these respective units, and are there any applicable rules governing such allocations?**

In principle, this is possible. It depends on the details of your project and how you allocated the budget split within the project plan.

**36. Is there a standard writing format for project proposals?**

Apart from the details in the application form, we have not provided a template for proposals. This is at your discretion.

**37. While we are developing our grant application, do we have access to any individuals for guidance?**

Team IPC is at your disposal. If you need specific guidance that we cannot provide, we will explore if there is anyone else, we can connect with you.

38. I wonder if there are 2 similar proposals. Would there be a chance that the Research Grant Committee links the 2 parties to make it a more impactful project?

Yes, we will keep an eye on that and put the 2 parties in contact to explore collaboration.

39. Would it be possible to have more than one PI for the project, given that the research idea and design are the result of a collaborative group effort?

Unfortunately, this grant call can only have one Principal Investigator (PI) and one Project leader according to our research [Grant Scheme](#) 2.4.1 Mandatory and desirable application criteria. We encourage you to agree with the collaborators which individual would be the PI.

If you have any other questions regarding IPC Classification Research Grant Scheme and processes, please contact us at: [classificationresearch@paralympic.org](mailto:classificationresearch@paralympic.org).