



**SPORT FOR MOBILITY**  
**CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> call for applications**  
**APRIL 2026**

## CONTENTS

1	Introduction .....	3
1.1	Sport for Mobility .....	3
1.2	Classification .....	3
2	Classification Research Grant Scheme - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call for Applications.....	4
2.1	The Aim.....	4
2.2	Budget .....	5
2.3	Timeline .....	5
2.4	Application Criteria and Eligible Activities.....	7
2.4.1	Eligible Activities.....	8
2.4.2	Mandatory and Desirable Application Criteria.....	8
2.5	Application Process .....	9
2.5.1	Phase 1: Application Process Instructions .....	10
2.5.2	Phase 2: Application Process Instructions .....	12
2.6	Selection Process and Criteria.....	15
2.6.1	Evaluation Criteria for Phase 1.....	15
2.6.2	Evaluation Criteria for Phase 2.....	17
2.6.3	Eligible Costs.....	18
2.6.4	Ineligible Costs .....	19
3	Grant Implementation .....	20
3.1	Payment Conditions and Costs Overview.....	20
3.2	Agreements .....	21
3.3	Changes to Approved Applications .....	21
3.4	Monitoring and Evaluation .....	21
3.5	Reporting .....	21
3.6	Audit Right.....	22
4	Dissemination of Knowledge and Results.....	22
5	Contact Information.....	23
6	Supporting Documents.....	23

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 SPORT FOR MOBILITY

In the period between 2025-2028, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) will deliver a wide range of transformational sport development initiatives to its members as part of the Sport for Mobility (SfM) initiative. Benefitting all IPC members, the primary aim of the SfM is to advance the work and capabilities of IPC members in three priority areas:

**Athletes:** Supporting athletes is at the core of the IPC's programming. This area will develop the fundamental building blocks for long-term success, including talent identification, development pathways, competition opportunities, and access to mentors, coaches and classifiers.

**Leaders:** The success of athletes relies on the dedication and leadership of changemakers within the Paralympic Movement. Initiatives in this area support the development of disability inclusion champions equipped to drive positive social change worldwide through Para sport.

**Participation:** Initiatives in this area focus on working with IPC members to create opportunities for persons with disabilities to engage in Para sport, many of them for the first time.

As part of SfM, the IPC is offering International Federations (IFs), International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs), Recognised International Federations (RIFs), National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), Regional Organisations (RS) and the scientific community, the opportunity to apply for the IPC Classification Research Grant (the **Grant**). The Grant scheme is explained in further details in this document.

Where the term IF is used within the document, it also captures IOSDs and RIFs, unless explicitly addressed otherwise.

## 1.2 CLASSIFICATION

Since its earliest beginnings, classification has been the fundamental basis of Para sport, providing criteria for determining who is eligible to compete in order to establish a framework that allows for fair and meaningful competition by minimising the impact of athletes' impairments on the outcome of competition. Para sport classification systems are critical to the IPC's ability to achieve its mission to lead the Paralympic Movement, oversee the delivery of the Paralympic Games, and support IPC members to enable Para athletes to achieve sporting excellence. In particular, such classification systems allow the IPC's members to

enable Para athletes to achieve sporting excellence by providing a framework for competitive sport for persons with disabilities. This unique framework groups athletes into sport classes which aim to ensure that the impact of impairment is minimised, and competition outcomes are determined by sporting excellence.

The 2025 IPC Classification Code (the **Code**) requires IFs to carry out multidisciplinary classification research to: 1) ensure that their classification systems meet the requirements for best practice classification; and 2) monitor the quality of their assessment systems and improve their evidence base. Doing so will ensure integrity and credibility within classification and Para sport competition.

The grant will enable IPC members to enhance their classification systems through multidisciplinary research. The outcomes will benefit all IPC Members and athletes, enhancing the integrity, credibility, and fairness of Para sports competitions. Research outcomes will contribute to development of Para sports' classification systems and will have the potential to be translated into practice, which is seen through the changes in the IFs' classification rules and practices.

## **2 CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH GRANT SCHEME - 2<sup>ND</sup> CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **2.1 THE AIM**

The purpose of this Second Call of the Grant is to continue supporting the development and improvement of best practice and evidence-based classification systems in Para sports. The 2025 IPC Classification Code sets out the requirements in respect to best practice classification systems and classification research (articles 62 and 63), and this Grant is envisaged to support IFs in meeting the requirements under the Code by providing opportunities to enhance their classification systems and processes through multi- and inter-disciplinary classification research. Projects may include individual IF initiatives or multi-sport and multi-organisation collaborative projects. While projects are ordinarily submitted through an IPC member organisation, the IPC may also consider direct funding agreements for proposals led by universities, research institutions, or independent researchers, especially if the project aligns with IPC priorities and has significant potential impact.

Through this Grant, organisations have the opportunity to apply for funding for any project directly linked to enhancing classification systems and processes. Examples of projects and activities eligible for funding under this Grant include, but are not limited, to:

- Reviewing existing and/or developing valid, reliable and practical methods for measuring coordination impairments with potential transferable outcomes across multiple Para sports.
- Reviewing existing and/or developing valid and reliable minimum impairment criteria and sport classes, with a focus on physical impairments.

The IPC strongly encourages research projects which focus on building the evidence to strengthen and develop Para sports' classification systems, especially in respect to reviewing and developing minimum impairment criteria and sport class boundaries, and the corresponding methods to do so.

The resulting research will benefit all IPC members and athletes by strengthening the overall classification framework, enhancing transparency and fairness, and promoting trust in Para sport competitions.

## **2.2 BUDGET**

The Grant is envisaged to cater for research projects and activities of different complexity and for 24-month maximum duration, divided into four budget bands:

- a) Band A: up to EUR 150.000
- b) Band B: up to EUR 100.000
- c) Band C: up to EUR 50.000
- d) Band D: up to EUR 30.000

## **2.3 TIMELINE**

Table 1 provides an overview of the important deadlines for the second round of applications.

Table 1: Schedule for the second round of applications

<b>Activity</b>		<b>Second Call for Applications - 2026</b>
Call for applications		22 April 2026
Application period		Conducted in 2 phases: Phase 1 - Project summary: from 22 April 2026 to 31 May 2026 Phase 2 (by invitation only) - Full project submission: from 1 July 2026 to 31 August 2026
Webinar to facilitate the application process		29 April 2026 (TBD) at 11:00 CEST
Selection period		Phase 1: June 2026 Phase 2: September 2026
Communication of outcomes		Ordinarily up to four weeks after the application deadline for Phase 1 and Phase 2
Contract review and signing		As soon as possible after the communication of approval
<b>Grant implementation period</b>		October 2026 - 31 October 2028
		Projects may vary in duration and whilst they may start later than October 2026, they must be completed by the end of October 2028
Funding		
1 <sup>st</sup> instalment (80%)		Following contract signing
2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment (20%)		Following project completion and final report submission
Grant report		At the end of the project and mid-term reports, for multi-year projects an additional report is required in January of every following year (2027 and 2028)  Final deadline to submit reports for projects running until the end of the grant implementation period is 31 January 2029

## 2.4 APPLICATION CRITERIA AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Only complete applications will be reviewed by the IPC. Applicants with complete applications will ordinarily be informed of the results of their application within four weeks following the application period, i.e., by October 2026 for this second call.

We invite for the applications to be submitted by\*:

- International Federations (IFs);
- International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSDs);
- National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) or Regional Organisations (ROs)
- Recognised International Federations (RIFs); and
- Universities or other research institutions (ideally through the IFs) \*\*.

\* To facilitate the reading of this document, the term **“Organisations”** refers to all of the eligible organisations listed above.

\*\*Independent applications from universities or other research institutions may be considered in exceptional cases; the IPC prefers for the applications to be submitted by the IPC member organisations. Applications from universities or other research institutions are encouraged to be accompanied by an endorsement in a written format from the relevant IF(s). Ideally, the endorsement letter should provide an overview followed by specific details on how the expected findings of the project will be implemented or considered for the classification in such particular Para sport/s and such letter will only be request for project applications that move to Phase 2.

Although not mandatory, endorsement letters can also be obtained from NPCs in respect to all project applications (i.e., irrespective of whether they are submitted by IPC members or other stakeholders).

Each organisation is allowed to submit multiple applications, if they wish. For example, this could be in relation to different aspects of the IF's classification system (for example, one project related to defining the minimum impairment criteria and a different project related to the impact of equipment on athletes within one or multiple sport classes). In such cases where the organisation applies for multiple grants, the organisation must assign a priority number to each application, 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.

### **2.4.1 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

This Grant provides an opportunity to enhance classification systems and processes, with the focus on the following eligible topics and activities:

- Reviewing existing and/or developing valid, reliable and practical methods for measuring eligible impairments with potential transferable outcomes across multiple Para sports;
- Reviewing existing and/or developing valid, reliable and practical methods for measuring key performance determinants;
- Determining the impairment-performance relationship, minimum impairment criteria and sport classes;
- Exploring the use of innovative methods (e.g., marker less motion analysis), computer science (e.g., Inertial Measurement Units) and other technological advancements (which could include the use of artificial intelligence) in classification, especially those with clear transferability to classification practice;
- Assessing the impact of adaptive equipment (i.e., interface athlete-equipment) on classification outcomes;
- Improving consistent and fair athlete assessment practices across Para sports, including existing assessment methods in classification and utilising best practice methods.

### **2.4.2 MANDATORY AND DESIRABLE APPLICATION CRITERIA**

To be eligible for the funding, the applicant needs to meet all of the following mandatory criteria:

- Organisation is in good standing with the IPC (if applicable).
- Organisation has no outstanding IPC grant reports or unresolved issues from previous IPC grants (if applicable).
- The Grant application must include a research project, and activities directed towards development and improvement of best practice and/or evidence-based classification systems in Para sports.
- The proposed project employs an appropriate research design to answer the research questions posed. 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.
- The principal investigator (PI) of the Grant application and research proposal must be associated with a university, research centre, an IF and/or an NPC, and have proven experience in research in the relevant field (for example, sports and health sciences).

- 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.
- The Grant application and research proposal must be carried out in accordance with the applicable data protection laws.
- 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 (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.

The following criteria are not mandatory, but strengthen the Grant application:

- The Grant application is tied with a research centre or university.
- Endorsement and support from relevant organisations (IF/IOSD/RIF/NPC/NF) in disseminating the information about the research project and facilitating data collection (e.g., access to international pool of athletes, subject to obtaining relevant consent).
- Collaborative research project design including multiple organisations and potential impact on multiple Para sports.
- The study has a focused and testable research question or hypothesis.
- Study design reflects real-world condition and sport-specific relevance.
- Demonstration of how research outcomes can be translated into classification practice, such as changes to IF's classification rules or procedures.
- Commitment by the applicant to bear additional costs of the project which would not fall within the scope of the Grant application (i.e., co-funding).

Project durations may range from 12 to 24 months (i.e., projects must be finalised by 31 October 2028), depending on the starting date, the scope and the corresponding budget plan. Both one-year and multi-year proposals will be considered, as well as projects focused on individual or multiple sports.

## **2.5 APPLICATION PROCESS**

The second Call for applications is conducted in two phases - a Project Summary (Phase 1) and a Full Project submission (Phase 2).

To apply for the Grant, an online application form must be completed and supplemented with additional documents within the identified timeframe.

For the successful completion of the form, it is strongly recommended to first gather all the necessary information to complete the application and use the provided templates for submission.

Only shortlisted applications will be invited to complete Phase 2.

Table 2: Phase 1 and 2 application components

Phase 1	Phase 2
Project summary	Full project submission, including all methodological components
Budget band	Budget breakdown
IF support letter (optional)	IF support letter (mandatory)
	Other supporting documents (optional)

## **2.5.1 PHASE 1: APPLICATION PROCESS INSTRUCTIONS**

### **PHASE 1 - SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

(Maximum 3 Pages - Scientific content only, according to the template linked below)

#### **1. Purpose of Phase 1**

- Phase 1 is designed to identify research projects which align most closely with the identified priorities of this Grant, with outstanding scientific quality, originality, and transformative potential for classification in the Paralympic movement.
- At this phase, applicants are expected to submit a project summary presenting the core research proposal and why it is valuable for advancing knowledge and practices in Paralympic classification. The evaluation will focus exclusively on the scientific vision, ambition, and plausibility of the proposed research with close alignment with the Grant priorities, especially considering the support by the IF and/or a potential implementation plan.
- A detailed research plan and full budget justification will only be requested from applicants invited to submit a Phase 2 Full Proposal.

#### **2. Document Length and Format (according to the template)**

- Maximum length: 3 pages.
- References may be included within the 3-page limit.
- No annexes permitted.

- No budget details are expected to be presented, only the budget band.
- Concept Notes exceeding the page limit or including budget details will not be considered.

### 3. Required Structure of the Project idea

Applicants must structure their document using the following headings according to given template:

#### a) Executive Summary (approx. 200-250 words)

Provide a clear and concise summary addressing:

- The central research question or hypothesis;
- The scientific problem being addressed; and
- The significance of the problem and its potential implementation in Paralympic classification.

The Executive Summary should outline the expected advancement upon project completion and be written in a way that is understandable to scientifically informed non-specialists.

#### b) Research Vision and Originality

Describe:

- The core research idea;
- How it advances current knowledge in the field;
- What makes the approach original or unconventional;
- The transformative potential of the proposed work; and
- The main scientific risks and why they are justified.

#### c) Conceptual Approach and Feasibility

Provide a high-level description of:

- The overall research strategy;
- Key methods or tools to be used;
- Critical technical or conceptual challenges/limitations; and
- Why the approach is scientifically plausible.

A detailed work plan, timeline, or work package breakdown is not required at this stage.

#### d) Team Expertise and Capability

Briefly describe:

- The project relevant expertise of the principal investigator(s);
- Key contributions demonstrating capability; and
- Access to essential infrastructure or collaborations (if applicable).

This section should be concise and focused on suitability to execute the proposed research.

#### 4. Important notes and outcome of Phase 1

- The Project summary must focus on the core scientific idea.
- Detailed methodology, work packages, impact plans, and budget justifications should not be included. Compliance with formatting requirements is mandatory.
- Only applicants whose project summary idea are assessed as meeting the highest standards of scientific excellence and transformative potential will be invited to submit a Phase 2 Full Proposal.
- Invitation to advance to Phase 2 does not guarantee that the application will be approved and funding granted.

### **PHASE 1 - APPLICATION FORM AND INSTRUCTIONS**

The form ([link](#)) is envisaged to consist of the following sections:

- Identification of the applicant.
- Research project title and summary (including details on the targeted Para sport(s), impairment group(s) and, if applicable, the stage within the conceptual framework for classification research);
- Collaborators or partners;
- Budget band
- Endorsement letter(s) from IPC's member organisation(s); and
- Confirmation of secured funding in addition to the funding requested for this project (not mandatory, but desirable).

## **2.5.2 PHASE 2: APPLICATION PROCESS INSTRUCTIONS**

### **PHASE 2 -SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

(Full project 6000 words maximum, according to the template)

#### 1. Purpose of Phase 2

- Phase 2 is designed to identify and select quality research projects that most closely align with the set Grant priorities, demonstrate scientific excellence, feasibility, and clear potential for implementation within the Paralympic classification context.
- Applicants invited to advance to Phase 2 are expected to submit a full proposal, including a detailed research plan, methodology, and budget. The proposal should build on the concept presented in Phase 1 and provide a comprehensive description of how the project will be carried out.

- The proposal should address (if applicable) any recommendations from the Selection Committee.

## 2. Document Length and Format (according to the template)

- The proposal must not exceed 6000 words (excluding tables, figures, and references).
- Annexes may be included as an extra document (for example, the curriculum vitae of the research team and their experience/capacity to deliver the project).
- Budget details must be uploaded separately (according to the template).
- Projects and budgets that do not follow the template will not be considered.

## 3. Required Structure of the Full Project

Applicants must structure their document using the following headings according to given template.

### a) Project Title (max. 20 words)

Provide a clear, specific, and descriptive title.

### b) Abstract (300-400 words)

Summarize the research problem, targeted Para sport(s), impairment group(s), classification context (development, validation, refinement), brief methods, and expected outcomes and impact on classification.

### c) Objective/s and Research Questions (max. 250 words)

State one overall aim. Provide specific objectives (max 3-5). List clearly defined research questions or hypotheses aligned with the objectives.

### d) Scientific and Practical Rationale (800 to 1200 words)

Explain the current limitations in classification systems, the importance of addressing those, and how the project will contribute to improving classification systems and processes.

### e) Methodology (1500 to 2500 words)

- Study design: Specify study type, structure, variables, and justify the design.
- Sample: Define population, inclusion/exclusion criteria, recruitment strategy, and representation. Include sample size

- justification with a *priori* power analysis (e.g., effect size, alpha, power). If not feasible, justify.
- Data collection: Describe measures, tools, procedures, and standardization. If possible, specify the locations where data collection will take place.
  - Data analysis: Describe statistical methods, link to hypotheses, handling of missing data, assumptions, and software.
  - Feasibility: Access (participants/data pathways), Facilities (labs/equipment), Expertise (team experience).
  - Work packages: each Work Package (WP) must be detailed in a comprehensive paragraph or dedicated section. This should begin with a descriptive Title and a clear statement of the Objective to define the specific goal. Following this, the response should outline the core Activities and the technical Methods employed to achieve them. To demonstrate accountability and progress, the description must specify the tangible Deliverables, a clear Timeline for completion, and identify the Lead or Responsible partner tasked with overseeing the work. If possible, the roles of the research team members should be specified for each WP.
- f) Expected outcomes and impact (max. 500 words)**  
Describe scientific outputs, contribution to classification systems, and potential implementation in practice.
- g) Timeline (max. 100 words)**  
Provide phases, activities, and milestones in table format.
- h) Project team and collaborations (max. 200 words)**  
Describe team roles, expertise, and partner organisations. Highlight access to participants and added value of collaborations.
- i) Ethics (max. 100 words)**  
State ethical approval status and considerations. If pending, include timeline and process.
- j) References**  
List the main scientific or other references relevant to the project.

## **PHASE 2 - APPLICATION FORM AND INSTRUCTIONS**

The form ([link](#)) is envisaged to consist of the following sections:

- Identification of the applicant;
- Research project title and summary (including details on the targeted Para sport(s), impairment group(s) and, if applicable, the stage within the conceptual framework for classification research);
- Project details including:
  - objectives of the project;
  - detailed rationale on how the project supports a Para sport's classification system/s;
  - detailed research methodology including hypothesis, research design, data collection strategies, study participants (recruitments and sample representation), approach to data analysis;
  - timeline of activities;
- Collaborators or partners;
- Budget details (with proposed costs being quoted in Euros; the [Oanda Currency Converter](#) can be used for an accurate exchange rate);
- Endorsement letter(s) from IPC member organisation(s);
- Ethical approval or the application to obtain such if approval is still pending at the time of submission to Phase 2 (in the latter case, proof of approval must be provided to the IPC once obtained or the application may be denied and/or considered incomplete);
- Confirmation of secured funding in addition to the funding requested for this project (not mandatory, but desirable); and
- Priorisation of the project, if applicable (i.e., in case of multiple applications) by the same Organisation.

## **2.6 SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

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

### **2.6.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PHASE 1**

The Selection Committee will assess the criteria listed in Table 3 (below) to evaluate the project summaries. Each criterion will be assessed considering a set of guiding sub-criteria that help reviewers evaluate the scientific quality, ambition, and feasibility of the proposed research idea.

Table 3: Selection criteria Phase 1

Criteria	Sub criteria
Transformative Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential to significantly advance knowledge in the field.</li> <li>• Capacity to open new research directions or approaches.</li> <li>• Expected impact if the project succeeds.</li> </ul>
Originality & Motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Novelty of the research idea.</li> <li>• Level of creativity in the research idea.</li> <li>• How different the idea is from the existing approaches.</li> </ul>
Scientific Plausibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coherence and clarity of the conceptual approach.</li> <li>• Logical link between research question and proposed strategy.</li> <li>• Identification of key scientific challenges.</li> </ul>
Team Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant expertise of the applicant(s).</li> <li>• Track record or experience relevant to the proposed topic.</li> <li>• Access to relevant infrastructure, data, or collaborations.</li> </ul>
Clarity of Research Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear formulation of the research question.</li> <li>• Well-defined objectives and conceptual framing.</li> <li>• Overall clarity and coherence of the proposal.</li> </ul>

## 2.6.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PHASE 2

The Selection Committee will assess the criteria listed in Table 4 (below).

Table 4: Selection criteria Phase 2

Criteria	Sub-criteria
<b>Scientific Rigor &amp; Methodology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear research question or hypothesis related to classification.</li> <li>• Well-justified methodology.</li> <li>• Evidence-based approach, including data collection, statistical analysis, and ethical considerations.</li> <li>• Sample representation.</li> </ul>
<b>Impact on Athlete Classification &amp; Fairness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to fair competition within the Para sport.</li> <li>• Potential to improve classification accuracy and consistency.</li> <li>• Addresses gaps or challenges in the current classification system.</li> <li>• Transferability to different Para sports of impairment type/level.</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Novelty of the approach, concept, or technological integration or advancements.</li> <li>• Potential to introduce new insights or methodologies to classification, including feasibility in practice.</li> <li>• Differentiation from existing classification systems or methods.</li> </ul>
<b>Feasibility &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear timeline and milestones for development and implementation.</li> <li>• Logistical considerations.</li> <li>• Resource constraints.</li> <li>• Appropriate budget planning and allocation.</li> </ul>
<b>Team experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience and qualifications of the project team.</li> <li>• Collaboration with relevant experts, institutions, or governing bodies.</li> <li>• Track record in similar research or classification-related work.</li> </ul>

- In addition to the criteria in Table 4, the Selection Committee will have the right to exercise discretion in approving the applications and distributing the funding in respect to the following identified priorities:
  - Split across eligible impairments groups (PI, VI, II), with a priority given to physical impairments in this 2<sup>nd</sup> call for applications;

- Sports on the Paralympic Games programme and outside of the Games programme;
  - Individual and team sports, summer and winter;
  - Identified risk areas, particularly in connection with Code compliance; and
  - Any other criteria and/or priorities that the Selection Committee and the IPC identify.
- Based on the assessment of the selection criteria, the budget bands and the available funding for the second call for applications, as well as the discretion to prioritise, a list of approved applications will be announced.
  - The selection process is ordinarily envisaged to be completed within one month of the deadline for the application period. Exceptions to this may apply, for example, in cases where the applicant is requested to revise the application.
  - During the selection process, the IPC will reserve an opportunity to contact the applicants with a request for further information, clarification, or with identification of potential collaboration opportunities. This may lead to revised project applications being considered.
  - Following the selection process, feedback will be shared with all applicants, with the following outcomes as an option:
    - **Approved:** IPC approves to grant funding to the submitted project application;
    - **Revision / Pending:** IPC requests changes or clarification in order to further assess the project application; or
    - **Rejected:** IPC rejects the application due to not meeting the criteria, submitting sub-standard application, or for other reasons at the discretion of the IPC.
  - The IPC reserves the right to share only the final decision with the applicant, and/or a more detailed assessment against the selection criteria at the IPC's discretion.

### **2.6.3 ELIGIBLE COSTS**

The below costs are eligible for the Classification Research Grant (but subject to the various conditions set out in this section 2.6.3):

- **Personnel Costs:** Salaries, social security contributions, and other employment-related costs are eligible for researchers, technicians, and other staff directly working on the project.
- **Travel and Accommodation:** Expenses for travel, accommodation, and subsistence related to project meetings, conferences, fieldwork, and visits to collaborating institutions.
- **Equipment:** Costs for purchasing, leasing, or renting necessary scientific equipment and infrastructure.

- **Consumables and Supplies:** Costs for materials, reagents, chemicals, software licenses, and other necessary consumables required for the research.
- **Data Collection and Analysis Costs:** Costs related to recruitment of participants, implementing the testing protocol, and software for data analysis.
- **Publication Costs:** Expenses related to publishing research findings, including open access fees.
- **Dissemination and Communication:** Costs for organizing workshops, conferences, and other activities to disseminate the research results.
- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** Costs associated with protecting research outcomes, such as patent applications.
- **Ethics Requirements:** Costs related to fulfilling ethical requirements, such as obtaining ethical approvals.
- **Data Management and Open Access:** Costs for preparing and sharing research data according to open access principles.
- **Recruitment Costs (in some cases):** Justified costs for recruiting research staff, especially for international researchers.
- **Visa and Work Permit Costs (for international researchers):** Expenses related to obtaining necessary permits for researchers moving to the host country.

Items not listed above may be considered by the IPC on a case-by-case basis, unless they are specifically listed under ineligible costs.

Grant Recipients are solely responsible for identifying, budgeting for, and remitting any taxes, duties, or similar charges arising under applicable tax laws in connection with the implementation of the project. The IPC is not liable for such tax-related costs and cannot reclaim them itself. Grant Recipients are therefore required to budget on a gross basis, inclusive of all applicable taxes.

## **2.6.4 INELIGIBLE COSTS**

Generally, excessive, unnecessary, or careless expenditures are not eligible for funding. Also, costs that contradict the purpose of this Grant as outlined under section 2 are not eligible. Additionally, please note that for reporting purposes, informal and illegible receipts and invoices related to costs incurred during implementation will not be eligible for funding.

Examples of ineligible costs:

- Per diem allowances;
- Excessive overhead costs above 10% rising from service agreements with universities or other institutions, including indirect personnel costs;
- Costs around building infrastructure which are not directly linked to the project; and

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

The IPC reserves the right to determine which costs (and amounts) are considered ineligible during application review and during review of annual reporting/audits.

## **3 GRANT IMPLEMENTATION**

Following the communication of the application outcome, the Grant recipient will ordinarily have a period of four weeks to present the required documents (e.g. bank number, Institution agreement, contract, signatures), to receive the first instalment equalling to 80 per cent of the approved budget and to start the project implementation.

The duration of each project will depend on the proposed timelines and approval of the IPC, with a potential project span between October 2026 and October 2028. Minimum recommended project duration is 12 months.

### **3.1 PAYMENT CONDITIONS AND COSTS OVERVIEW**

The Grant will be paid by the IPC to the Grant recipient by means of bank transfer to the bank account provided by the Grant Recipient in its application, in instalments as outlined below:

- First instalment: 80 per cent of the Grant will be paid within 30 days of both parties signing an agreement documenting the terms of the Grant (the **Grant Agreement**).
- Second instalment: 20 per cent 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.

The IPC is not responsible for reimbursing currency exchange gains/losses incurred by Grant recipients. Any currency exchange gains/losses must not be included in budgets and actual reports. The IPC will however bear any bank transfer costs associated with the payment of the Grant.

Notwithstanding the below criteria in sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, the IPC reserves the right to determine the eligibility of costs on a case-by-case basis and/or during application review and during review of annual reporting/audits.

## **3.2 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.

## **3.3 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.

## **3.4 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.

The final report (a standardised template will be provided) will have a 3-month period timeline for delivery after the end of the project execution. It will cover the achievements of the proposal, outcomes and financial expenses. This report will be assessed and approved by the responsible department at the IPC, ordinarily within a period of 60 days.

For projects that run until the end of the grant implementation period (i.e. 31 October 2028), the deadline to submit reports is 31 January 2029.

## **3.5 REPORTING**

Grant recipients must submit a narrative and financial report to the IPC according to the timelines listed in section 2.3 above. A link to the online reporting form will be made available to the Grant recipient upon signature of the Grant Agreement. The online report form requests research outcomes as well as the financial expenses report.

For the financial reporting, for any expenses in currencies other than Euro, please note that the Euro exchange rate to be used in the financial report must correspond to the rate that was used by the bank at the time of the Grant transfer (i.e. the rate used by the bank to convert the Grant transfer into local currency).

Complete and accurate books and records as well as all original supporting documents must be kept by the Grant recipients. The Grant recipients must keep all original receipts, or legible copies, of all purchases made in relation to the Classification research grant in an electronic format that prevents changes to the file (for example protected PDF files). The IPC reserves the right to request receipts and/or any other supporting documents for any Grant expenses.

Should Grant recipients not fulfil the reporting requirements, it will receive an invoice to pay the determined amount back to the IPC. In case of IPC members, should the invoice remain unpaid, the relevant member sanction process will be initiated.

### **3.6 AUDIT RIGHT**

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.

## **4 DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND RESULTS**

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. The goal of this forum is to bring together IPC members and researchers to discuss the future of classification, guided by data-driven results from the Grant projects and other independent research within the field. A bi-annual VISTA Conference is another platform that can be utilised to share and present the progress and outcomes of the Grant projects. Other conferences and seminars within the field are available.

A key expectation for Grant recipients is the public dissemination of their research outcomes through publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals (preferably in Open Access format) and presentations at both international and national conferences, while ensuring appropriate protection and acknowledgment of intellectual property rights associated with the research.

The IPC will have the right to refer and/or use any of the research projects and/or findings of Grant recipients in its own publications and material, without infringing any proprietary rights.

## **5 CONTACT INFORMATION**

In case of difficulties completing the Grant application form, or if you have questions, please contact the IPC at [classificationresearch@paralympic.org](mailto:classificationresearch@paralympic.org) before the submission deadline.

## **6 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

The following documents may be useful in preparing the Grant applications:

1. [2025 IPC Classification Code and International Standards](#)
2. [Classifying the evidence for evidence-based classification in Paralympic sport](#)
3. [Position Statement on background and scientific rationale for classification in Paralympic sport](#)
4. [IPC Classification website](#)