



A photograph of a Paralympic athlete in a wheelchair, wearing a red and black shirt with the IPC logo, participating in a boccia game. He is looking upwards, possibly at a target or scoreboard.

IPC CLASSIFICATION CODE AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

NOVEMBER 2007



A photograph showing two Paralympic athletes in wheelchairs playing boccia. One player is in the foreground, leaning forward to release a red ball, while another player is seated behind him, watching. A third player is partially visible in the background.



This version of the IPC Classification Code has been approved by the 2007 General Assembly (GA).





CLASSIFICATION CODE





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INTRODUCTION

In 2003, the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Governing Board approved a Classification Strategy, which recommended the development of a universal Classification Code. The overall objective of the Classification Strategy is to support and co-ordinate the development and implementation of accurate, reliable and consistent sport focused classification systems. The Classification Strategy focuses on the development of three primary elements:

- The Classification Code (the Code)
- International Standards to supplement the Classification Code
- Models of Best Practice.

The IPC has accepted the Classification Strategy on the basis that it will contribute to sporting excellence for all Athletes and sports in the Paralympic Movement, providing equitable competition, through Classification processes that are robust, transparent and fair.

The Code recognizes the pivotal role that Athletes play in classification. The Code also acknowledges that it is the responsibility of all Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and Classifiers to familiarize themselves with their rights and obligations related to Classification, while ensuring to adhere to the IPC Code of Ethics (as referred to in the IPC Handbook).

1 IPC GOVERNANCE

1.1 IPC and the Paralympic Movement

- 1.1.1 The IPC is the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement, and, in particular, of the Paralympic Games. Its members are National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), Regional Councils, International Federations (IFs) and International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs). IFs and IOSDs are collectively referred to as International Federations in the Code (details are given in Appendix 1 of the Code).
- 1.1.2 The IPC supervises and co-ordinates the Paralympic Summer and Winter Games. IPC is the International Federation for a number of sports (details are given in Appendix 1 of the Code).

1.2 IPC Classification Committee

- 1.2.1 The IPC Classification Committee is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect



to the Code. IPC's Medical & Scientific Director is responsible for the administration of the provisions of the Code.

2 CLASSIFICATION

2.1 International Classification in the Paralympic Movement

2.1.1 International Classification (referred to in the Code as "Classification") provides a structure for Competition. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an Athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the Athlete competes equitably with other Athletes.

2.1.2 Classification has two important roles:

- To determine Eligibility to Compete
- To group Athletes for Competition.

2.2 The Classification Code

2.2.1 The Code details policies and procedures that should be common to all sports and sets principles to be applied by all sports within the Paralympic Movement.

2.2.2 Each IF shall have its own Classification Rules that must comply with the Code. The Code is intended to be specific enough to achieve harmonisation on classification issues where standardisation is required, yet general enough in other areas to permit flexibility on how agreed principles are implemented.

2.2.3 The Code shall apply to all sports within the Paralympic Movement and to the Paralympic Games. All Competitions should be conducted in a manner that complies with the Code.

2.2.4 The Code establishes a consistent policy on Classification, specifically as it relates to:

- Ensuring accountability and principles of fair play
- The protection of the rights of all Athletes and Classifiers
- The Evaluation of Athletes
- The allocation of Sport Classes and Sport Class Status
- Protests and Appeals.

2.2.5 The IPC requires that, as a condition of their membership, IFs develop and implement Classification Rules in accordance with



the Code, and that NPCs within the Paralympic Movement are also in compliance with the Code.

2.3 International Standards

2.3.1 The Code is supplemented by International Standards that provide the technical and operational requirements for classification. The International Standards relate to:

- Athlete Evaluation
- Protests and Appeals
- Classifier Training and Certification

2.3.2 Adherence to the International Standards is mandatory for compliance with the Code.

2.4 Models of Best Practice

2.4.1 Models of Best Practice are examples of excellence related to Classification. Compliance with the Models of Best Practice is not mandatory, although all parties that accept the Code are strongly encouraged to adopt all or parts of the Models of Best Practice.

2.5 Classification Rules

2.5.1 Classification Rules shall include provisions relating to:

- Athlete Evaluation
- Eligibility to Compete
- Sport Class and Sport Class Status Allocation
- Protest and Appeal.

2.5.2 Classification Rules are incorporated in the rules of the sport within which Classification takes place. All participants in sport accept these rules as a condition of participation.

2.6 Classification Master List

2.6.1 To assist in the process of Classification, IFs shall maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which should include, at the very minimum the Athlete's name, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List should identify Athletes that enter international competitions.



- 2.6.2 IFs shall make available their Classification Master List to their respective National Federations and relevant NPCs.

3 CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

3.1 Classifier

- 3.1.1 A Classifier is a person authorized as an official by an IF to evaluate Athletes, while serving as a member of a Classification Panel. The duties and responsibilities of a Classifier are detailed in the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification.
- 3.1.2 Classifiers shall be trained and certified by an IF in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification.

3.2 Classification Positions

An IF shall establish the following positions:

3.2.1 Head of Classification

The Head of Classification is a Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for the IF.

3.2.2 Chief Classifier

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

3.3 Classification Panel

- 3.3.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers, appointed for a particular competition by an IF, to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This is done in accordance with the Classification Rules of the respective IF.
- 3.3.2 International Classification Panels must include a minimum of two Classifiers, unless an IF requires that more than two Classifiers constitute a Classification Panel.



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

3.4 Code of Conduct

3.4.1 Each IF shall require all Classifiers to comply with the Code of Conduct included in the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification.

4 ATHLETE EVALUATION

- 4.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with an IF's Classification Rules.
- 4.2 Each IF shall ensure that a process is in place whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation. This shall be contained in the Classification Rules of each IF.

5 ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

- 5.1 The criteria detailing how an Athlete may be considered Eligible to Compete shall be defined for each sport by the respective IF. Each IF shall have eligibility criteria based on the specific tasks required to compete in each sport. As a consequence, an Athlete may meet eligibility criteria in one sport, but may not be Eligible to Compete in another sport. Eligibility to Compete should be assessed in accordance with the Code and the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.
- 5.2 To be Eligible to Compete, an Athlete must have an impairment that leads to a permanent and verifiable Activity Limitation.
- 5.3 The impairment should limit the Athlete's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with Athletes without impairment.
- 5.4 If an Athlete has an Activity Limitation resulting from an impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the Athlete's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with Athletes without impairment, the Athlete should be considered ineligible to compete.
- 5.5 If an Athlete fails to meet the eligibility criteria for a particular sport, the Athlete will be declared ineligible for competition in that particular sport.



- 5.6 If an Athlete is deemed ineligible for competition under the rules of an IF, this does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. This is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete under the Sport Rules of the IF.

6 SPORT CLASS & SPORT CLASS STATUS ALLOCATION

Following Athlete Evaluation, a Sport Class and Sport Class Status will be allocated to each Athlete in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

6.1 Sport Class

- 6.1.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by each IF in which Athletes are categorised in reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from Impairment.
- 6.1.2 Athletes are allocated a Sport Class based on the Classification Rules of each IF.
- 6.1.3 Ineligibility to Compete should be considered as a Sport Class.

6.2 Sport Class Status

- 6.2.1 A Sport Class Status is allocated to each Athlete to indicate evaluation requirements (see International Standard on Athlete Evaluation) and Protest opportunities (see International Standard on Protests and Appeals).

6.3 Notification to the Athlete

- 6.3.1 Notification of the Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status shall take place in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

6.4 Implications of a Sport Class Change

- 6.4.1 IFs shall state clearly the consequences and procedures relating to Sport Class changes on results, records, rankings and allocated medals.

7 COMPETING IN A DIFFERENT SPORT CLASS

IF competition rules shall establish, if required, the process and consequences whereby an Athlete may or may not compete in a different Sport Class than the Athlete's allocated Sport Class.

8 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

8.1 Protest

- 8.1.1 A Protest is the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved. Protests should be conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.
- 8.1.2 Each IF must include a Protest Procedure in their Classification Rules that accounts for the lodging of both In Competition and Out of Competition protests.

8.2 Appeal

- 8.2.1 Each IF shall include within its Classification Rules an Appeal process to resolve procedural disputes concerning Classification. Such Appeal procedures shall be in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

8.3 Communication and disclosure of Protests and Appeals

- 8.3.1 Parties identified in Protests and Appeals shall be informed of the status and findings resulting from the Protest or Appeal process, and shall be provided with a reasoned decision concerning the outcome of the Protest or Appeal. The recipient parties shall not disclose this information until the IF has resolved the Protest or Appeal.
- 8.3.2 The identity of Athletes whose Sport Class has been protested and/or appealed may not be disclosed by the IF before completion of the Protest or Appeal.

9 ATHLETE FAILURE TO ATTEND EVALUATION

- 9.1 If an Athlete fails to attend evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.
- 9.2 Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the evaluation an Athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend the evaluation.
- 9.3 Failure to attend evaluation includes:
 - Not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place
 - Not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation
 - Not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

10 NON-CO-OPERATION DURING EVALUATION

- 10.1 An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in Athlete Evaluation shall be considered Non-Co-operative during evaluation.
- 10.2 If the Athlete fails to co-operate during Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at the respective Competition in the respective Sport.
- 10.3 Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation, an Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.
- 10.4 The IF should not permit any Athlete found to have been Non Co-operative during an evaluation to undergo any further Evaluation for that Sport for a minimum of three months (or such greater period of time as deemed appropriate by the IF), starting from the date upon which the Athlete failed to co-operate.

11 INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION OF SKILLS AND/OR ABILITIES

- 11.1 An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities shall be considered in violation of the Classification Rules.
- 11.2 If the Athlete intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that Sport.
- 11.3 In addition, the IF should:
 - Not allow the Athlete to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of two years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities
 - Remove any Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete from its Classification Master List
 - Designate the Athlete as IM (intentional misrepresentation) in its Classification Master List
 - Not allow the Athlete to undergo any further evaluation for any sport within the IF for a period of two years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities.
- 11.4 An Athlete who, on a second separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from the Paralympic Games and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate by the IF.

12 CONSEQUENCES FOR ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL

- 12.1 IFs shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete Evaluation, to fail to co-operate, intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.
- 12.2 Those who are involved in advising Athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities should be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions enforced on the Athlete.
- 12.3 In this circumstance, reporting Athlete Support Personnel to appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by an Athlete.



13 PUBLICATION OF PENALTIES

IFs may disclose details of penalties imposed upon Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, outlined in Articles 9 to 12 of the Code.

14 CONSEQUENCES FOR TEAMS

IFs shall determine in their rules the consequences to teams which include an Athlete who cannot be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status for reasons of failing to attend evaluation, being non co-operative during evaluation, and intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities during evaluation.

15 EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

15.1 Education and Awareness

- 15.1.1 IFs shall implement Classification Education and Awareness Programmes that should include reference to:
 - The Code
 - International Standards
 - Current Sport Classification Rules
 - Athletes' rights and responsibilities.

- 15.1.2 Signatories to the Code shall co-ordinate their efforts in developing and circulating Classification information and education.

15.2 Classification Research

- 15.2.1 Classification research shall comply with internationally recognized ethical standards and research practices.
- 15.2.2 IFs should develop evidence-based Classification systems through research.
- 15.2.3 Classification research should be multi-disciplinary, for example, biomechanics, kinesiology, and physiology.



- 15.2.4 Co-ordination of Classification research through the IPC is encouraged. Copies of Classification research results should be provided to the IPC.
- 15.2.5 IFs should develop a policy or procedure concerning the approval of Classification research within their sport(s).

16 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

16.1 International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

The roles and responsibilities of the IPC include:

- 16.1.1 To develop, maintain and monitor implementation of the Code, International Standards and Models of Best Practice.
- 16.1.2 To develop, maintain and implement rules which conform to the Code.
- 16.1.3 To require, as a condition of membership, that all IPC Members, including IFs and NPCs, are in compliance with the Code.
- 16.1.4 To monitor compliance with the Code of IFs, NPCs and Major Competition Organizers.
- 16.1.5 To take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Code and International Standards by the Signatories, including:
 - To promote, conduct, commission, seek funding and coordinate Classification education and research
 - To adopt and implement Classification Rules for the Paralympic Games which conform to the Code
 - To withhold some or all funding of IFs and NPCs
 - To suspend membership and rights to participate in the Paralympic Games of organizations that are not in compliance with the Code.

16.2 International Federations (IFs)

The roles and responsibilities of IFs include:

- 16.2.1 To develop, implement and regularly review Classification Rules, including Eligibility Criteria, in compliance with the Code.



- 16.2.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.
- 16.2.3 To promote Classification education and research.
- 16.2.4 To recommend that Classification Rules in National Federations should be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Code.

16.3 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)

The roles and responsibilities of the NPCs include:

- 16.3.1 To ensure that their Classification Rules conform with the Code.
- 16.3.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.
- 16.3.3 To promote the development of a national Classification Strategy, including education.
- 16.3.4 To recommend to National Federations that individual National Federation Classification Rules should be in compliance with the Code.

16.4 Major Competition Organizers

The Roles and Responsibilities of Major Competition Organizers include:

- 16.4.1 To implement Classification procedures for Competitions which conform with the Code.
- 16.4.2 To take appropriate action to achieve compliance with the Code.

17 ACCEPTANCE, IMPLEMENTATION, COMPLIANCE AND MODIFICATIONS

17.1 Acceptance of the Code and International Standards

- 17.1.1 It is intended that the following entities, each of which shall be designated as “Signatory”, shall accept the Code by signing a



declaration of acceptance upon approval by each of their respective governing bodies: IPC, IFs and the NPCs.

17.1.2 Major Competition Organizers and other sport organizations that may not be under the control of a Signatory may, upon the IPC's invitation, also accept the Code.

17.1.3 A list of all acceptances shall be made public by the IPC.

17.2 Implementation of the Code

17.2.1 Each Signatory shall implement applicable Code provisions through policies, statutes, rules or regulations.

17.2.2 In implementing the Code, each Signatory is encouraged to use the Models of Best Practice recommended by the IPC.

17.3 Acceptance and Implementation Deadlines

17.3.1 Each Signatory shall accept the Code, by signing a declaration of acceptance, on or before the first day of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

17.3.2 Each Signatory shall implement the Code on or before the first day of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

17.4 Monitoring Compliance with the Code

17.4.1 To facilitate monitoring, each Signatory shall report on its compliance with the Code every two years and shall explain reasons for any non-compliance. These reports may be made available to the public.

17.5 Consequences of Non-compliance with the Code

17.5.1 Explanations for non-compliance with the Code may be considered, and, in extraordinary situations, a temporary extension may be granted.

17.5.2 The non-compliant Signatory must submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for compliance subject to approval by the IPC Governing Board. Non-compliance with the Code shall result in sanctions that may include:



- Exclusion from the Paralympic Games and any other IPC Sanctioned Events
- Suspension of IPC Membership.

17.5.3 The imposition of sanctions may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

17.6 Modifications to the Code

17.6.1 The IPC Governing Board shall be responsible for overseeing the evolution and development of the Code. Athletes and Signatories shall be invited to participate in this process.

17.6.2 The Code and International Standards may be reviewed on a regular basis including following the Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

17.6.3 The IPC Governing Board shall initiate proposed amendments to the Code and shall ensure a consultative process to both receive and respond to recommendations and to facilitate review and feedback from Athletes, Signatories and other parties invited on recommended amendments.

17.6.4 Amendments to the Code shall, after appropriate consultation, be approved by a two-thirds majority of the IPC General Assembly.

17.6.5 The IPC shall implement any applicable amendment to the Code within one year of approval by the IPC General Assembly.

17.7 Withdrawal of Acceptance of the Code

17.7.1 Any Signatory may withdraw acceptance of the Code after providing the IPC six months written notice of their intent to withdraw.

18 INTERPRETATION OF THE CODE

18.1 The official text of the Code shall be maintained by the IPC and shall be published in English.

18.2 The Code shall be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of the IPC.



- 18.3 The headings used for the various Parts and Articles of the Code are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of the Code or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 18.4 The Introduction, Glossary and International Standards shall be considered integral parts of the Code.
- 18.5 The Code shall not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the date the Code is accepted by an IPC Member and implemented in its rules.



APPENDIX 1: GOVERNANCE OF PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

As of 1 January 2008

SPORT	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
Alpine Skiing	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Archery	Fédération International de Tir à l'Arc (FITA)
Athletics	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Boccia	Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA)
Cycling	Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)
Equestrian	International Equestrian Federation (FEI)
Football 5-a-Side	International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)
Football 7-a-Side	Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA)
Goalball	International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)
Ice Sledge Hockey	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Judo	International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)
Nordic Skiing	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Powerlifting	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Rowing	International Rowing Federation (FISA)
Sailing	International Foundation for Disabled Sailing (IFDS)
Shooting	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Swimming	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Table Tennis	International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)
Volleyball (Sitting)	World Organization for Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD)
Wheelchair Basketball	International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)
Wheelchair Curling	World Curling Federation (WCF)
Wheelchair Dance Sport	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Wheelchair Fencing	International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)
Wheelchair Rugby	International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)
Wheelchair Tennis	International Tennis Federation (ITF)



APPENDIX 2: GLOSSARY

Ability	A quality or state of being able to perform.
Activity Limitation	Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities.
Appeal	The process to resolve procedural disputes concerning Classification.
Athlete	For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the International Level (as defined by each IF) 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 the IF.
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 internationally certified Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specified Competition.
Classification	A structure for Competition to ensure that an Athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the Athlete competes equitably with other Athletes.
Classification Master List	The list, made available by the IF, that identifies the Athletes that participated in international Classification.



Classification Panel	A group of Classifiers, appointed by the International Federation, to determine sport class and sport class status in accordance with the Classification rules.
Classification Rules	The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions that are in connection with Athlete Evaluation and the grouping of Athletes for Competition.
Classification Strategy	The development of a universal Classification Code with the overall objective to support and coordinate the development and implementation of accurate, reliable, consistent and credible sport focused classification rules.
Classifier	A person authorized as an Official by an IF to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.
Code	The Classification Code.
Code of Conduct	A set of rules to outline the responsibilities, to guide behaviour and decisions and to identify best practice for an individual Classifier.
Competency	A skill, knowledge, ability or behavioural characteristic that is associated with excellent performance.
Competition	A series of individual Events conducted together under one ruling body.
Conflict of Interest	A conflict of interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.
Consistent	Free from variation or inconsistency.



Cultural Diversity	The knowledge, skills, and attributes/beliefs that enable people to work well with, respond effectively to, and be supportive of people in cross-cultural settings.
Diagnosis	A process of identifying a medical condition or disease by its signs, symptoms, and from the results of various diagnostic procedures.
Eligibility	The type and minimum severity of impairment set as the minimal condition to enter competition in a specific Sport.
Evidence-based	Practices or procedures on the basis of accepted (scientific) methods that have been shown valid, effective and reliable.
Governance	The management or leadership responsible for the decision-making process.
Head of Classification	A Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for the IF.
Impairment	Problems in body function or structure such as a significant deviation or loss.
In Competition	The Athlete has the status of being selected for a specific Competition.
Ineligibility	Consequence of not meeting the eligibility criteria.
International Competition	A competition where an international sports organization (IPC, IF, Major Competition Organization, or another international sport organization) is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.
International Federation	A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic Athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC.



International Standard	A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.
IPC	International Paralympic Committee.
IPC Classification Committee	The IPC Standing Committee that is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to Classification within the Paralympic Movement.
IPC Code of Ethics	The ethical standard that will be applied consistently within the Paralympic Movement, and will be applicable to all IPC Sanctioned Events, Competitions and activities.
Major Competition Organization	The continental associations of National Paralympic Committees and other international multi-sport organizations that function as the ruling body for any continental, regional or other international Competition.
Measurable	Comparable to a standard.
Models of Best Practice	Examples of excellence related to Classification.
National Competition	A competition where the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee is the governing body for the competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.
National Federation	The organization recognized by an IF as the sole national governing body for its sport.
National Paralympic Committee (NPC)	A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of Athletes with a disability in that country or territory to the IPC. In addition, the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF.
Objective	Supported by (scientific) evidence or relevant facts and viewpoints.
Out of Competition	Not In-competition.



Paralympic Games	Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.
Permanent	A health condition or impairment that is unlikely to be resolved and, meaning the principal effects are life-long.
Proficient	Skilful in the practice of fundamentals deriving from knowledge, practice and experience.
Protest	The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's sport class and/or sport class status is submitted and subsequently resolved.
Protest Panel	A Panel consisting of at minimum an equal number of Classifiers as the Classification Panel, with equal or greater level of classification, expertise to assess an Athlete evaluation after a Protest has been submitted.
Public Disclosure	Dissemination or distribution of information to the general public or to persons beyond those persons entitled to earlier notification.
Signatories	The governing bodies of IPC, the International Federations and the NPCs that accept the Classification Code.
Sport Class	A category defined by each IF in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from impairment.
Sport Class Status	A category allocated to each Athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.



International Standard:

ATHLETE EVALUATION





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PREAMBLE

The IPC Classification Code (Code) details policies and procedures common to classification in all sports. It is intended to be specific enough to achieve harmonization on classification issues where standardization is required, yet general enough in other areas to permit flexibility on how agreed principles are implemented.

The Code establishes a consistent philosophy on classification specifically as it relates to:

- The principles of the Paralympic Movement
- Ensuring Accountability and Principles of Fair Play
- The protection of the rights of all Athletes and Classifiers
- The allocation of sports classes and sport class statuses
- Protests and appeals.

The fundamental purpose of the Code is to ensure that a best practice standard of operation is achieved by all International Federations and thereby protect the rights of all those involved in the classification process while ensuring accountability.

The Code is complemented by International Standards that provide the technical and operational requirements for classification. Adherence to the International Standards is mandatory for compliance with the Code.

It is acknowledged that IFs are able to adapt the specific aspects of their sport Classification Rules, while meeting the Code and International Standards.

Familiarity with the Code is necessary for understanding the International Standards.

PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR ATHLETE EVALUATION

The purpose of the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation is to detail the accepted procedures for the assessment of Athletes and the allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This International Standard details those policies and procedures that are common to all sports and how they are interpreted in the classification environment.

For the purpose of this International Standard, National Federation also refers to NPC when taken in the context of the Paralympic Games.



1 ATHLETE EVALUATION

1.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed in order to be allocated a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules of the International Federation.

2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 Classification is an on-going process whereby all Athletes are under regular observation by Classifiers to ensure consistency and fairness for all Athletes.

2.2 IFs shall have within their Classification Rules written procedures for Athlete Evaluation based on the needs of their Sport. These shall include, but are not limited to written procedures for:

- Athlete data collection and storage
- Athlete indemnity requirements
- Composition of a Classification Panel
- Evaluation protocols
- Evaluation timelines
- Observation in training protocols
- Allocation of Sports Class and Sports Class Status protocols
- Observation in competition protocols
- Athlete notification protocols
- Protest and Appeal pathways that adhere to the IPC Classification Code International Standards for Protests and Appeals.

2.3 IFs shall develop and maintain descriptions for their Sport Classes. These shall include objective methods of assessment to determine an Athlete's Sport Class.

2.4 IFs should undertake and/or support ongoing evidence-based research and review of their Classification Rules.

2.5 IFs shall provide appropriate notice to National Federations (includes National Paralympic Committees) and International Classifiers of anticipated changes to Classification Rules.

2.6 IFs shall publish and regularly update their Classification Rules in an easily accessible format.

2.7 Classifiers are persons authorised as an Official by an International Federation to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.



The duties and responsibilities of a Classifier are outlined in the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification. Signatories to the Code should also ensure that the status of Classifiers is upheld whenever Classification takes place or Classifiers are involved for review purposes.

- 2.8 It is the National Federations responsibility to ensure that Athletes are classified at a national level before competing at an international Competition.

3 SPORT CLASS AND SPORT CLASS STATUS

- 3.1 Every Athlete wishing to compete in a Competition must be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules of the IF of the respective Sport in which they want to compete.

- 3.2 Sport Class

3.2.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by each International Federation in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an activity limitation resulting from impairment.

3.2.2 Ineligibility for competition is a Sports Class. Each IF must stipulate eligibility criteria in their Classification Rules.

- 3.3 Sport Class Status

3.3.1 A Sport Class Status is allocated to an Athlete to indicate Athlete Evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.

3.3.2 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.

3.3.3 The following Sport Class Status types shall be used by all IFs:

NEW (N)

- Sport Class Status N is assigned to an Athlete that has not been previously evaluated by an international



Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport Class verified by the IF

- Sports Class Status N Athletes include Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their National Federation for entry purposes
- Sports Class Status N Athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at international Competitions.

REVIEW (R)

- Sport Class Status R is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel, but for reasons as determined by the IF requires a review of their Sport Class
- 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
- Sports Class Status R Athletes include but are not limited to:
 - Requiring further observation during Competition to confirm their Sport Class
 - Fluctuating impairments
 - Sports Class is still subject to protest in accord with the International Federations First Appearance requirements (see Article 9.1)
- Sports Class Status R Athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at International Competitions.

CONFIRMED (C)

- Sport Class Status C is assigned to an Athlete if he/she has been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel and the Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change
- The IF recognises that the Athlete's assigned Sport Class is valid and will not be altered before or during competition, except in the case of a Protest lodged under exceptional circumstances (see International Standard on Protests & Appeals)
- Sports Class Status C Athletes are not required to complete evaluation prior to competing at International Competitions, with the exception of re-evaluations due to Protests lodged under exceptional circumstances (see International Standard on Protests & Appeals).



4 ATHLETE EVALUATION PATHWAY

Appendix 1 to this International Standard details how typically Athlete Evaluation might proceed pursuant to the Classification Rules of an IF, which complies with this Standard.

5 PRE-COMPETITION TASKS

5.1 Inclusion of Classification Rules in the agreement with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

5.1.1 IF stipulates the need to provide facilities and support infrastructure in accordance with its Classification Rules as part of its agreement with the LOC.

5.2 Appointment of a Chief Classifier for the Competition

5.2.1 The IF must appoint a Chief Classifier for the Competition in accord with their Classification Rules. The IF must inform the LOC of the Chief Classifier contact details at least three months prior to the event.

5.2.2 The duties and responsibilities of the Chief Classifier are outlined in the International Standard on Classifier Training and Certification.

5.3 Identification of Athletes for Evaluation

5.3.1 The IF co-ordinates with the LOC which, in turn, is responsible for collecting all Athlete entries well in advance of the Competition dates.

5.3.2 A minimum of four weeks should be allowed in order to give the Chief Classifier for the Competition adequate time to:

- Cross-check Athlete registrations and event entry information with the IFs Classification Master List
- Allocate a Sports Class Status N to Athletes who have not previously been listed on the sports Master Classification List and add them to the list
- Identify Sports Class Status R Athletes for Athlete Evaluation during the Classification Evaluation Period
- Prepare the Classification Evaluation Period schedule
- Disseminate all relevant information to competing Nations/Federations.



5.4 Collection of Classification Documentation

- 5.4.1 The Chief Classifier liaises with the LOC, National Paralympic Committees/National Federations and International Federations to collect Classification documentation as required by the sport's Classification Rules and/or advise them of the supportive classification documentation that will require to be brought by the Athlete to his evaluation in accordance with the sport's Classification Rules.
- 5.4.2 The IF may require an Athlete to provide detailed medical documentation in English of their impairment. The Chief Classifier has the right to request such documentation and shall have the discretion to not allocate a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status without this documentation.
- 5.4.3 It is the responsibility of the National Federation to ensure that any Athlete whose impairment is as a result of an uncommon or rare condition provides supporting specialist documentation written in English, when presenting for Athlete Evaluation.
- 5.4.4 Athletes are requested to make available any relevant documentation as detailed in the sports Classification Rules that would assist the Classification Panel in their deliberations including, but not limited to:
 - Medical reports
 - Visual impairment assessments
 - X-rays.

5.5 Preparation and dissemination of the Classification Evaluation Period schedule

- 5.5.1 Once the Chief Classifier has identified the Athletes requiring evaluation, a Classification Evaluation Period schedule is prepared in consultation with the LOC.
- 5.5.2 Athletes with N and R Sport Class Status must be included on the Classification Evaluation Period schedule before Competition.
- 5.5.3 Assigned times and venues for Athlete Evaluation should be communicated by the Chief Classifier in advance of arrival to all relevant parties in writing including, but not limited to:



- National Federations and/or NPCs
- LOC
- Head of Classification of the IF.

5.5.4 Adequate time must be provided for Athlete Evaluation depending on the number of Athletes requiring Evaluation. Requirements may vary according to the Classification Rules of each IF and event specific technical rules. In major events, a minimum of two clear days is recommended for the Classification Evaluation Period.

5.6 Organization of Classification Evaluation Period Logistics

5.6.1 The Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier is responsible for liaising with the LOC to ensure that adequate preparation for classification is undertaken prior to an event. An execution plan for the following needs to be agreed with the LOC:

- Identification of Classifiers that will attend the Competition
- Facilities and venue for Athlete Evaluation
- Facilities and venue for administration of Classification
- Equipment needs
- Technology support
- Resources including support personnel
- Accommodation and meals
- Per diems
- Requests for travel to and from the Competition
- Event transportation.

6 ATHLETE PRESENTATION FOR EVALUATION

6.1 Athlete Presentation

6.1.1 Athletes must dress appropriately and bring all equipment and devices as required by the sports Classification Rules including but not limited to:

- Documentation (see article 6.2.1)
- 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.



- 6.1.2 Athletes with a visual impairment must bring any spectacles/eye glasses and/or contact lenses used to correct vision to evaluation.
 - 6.1.3 The Athlete may be accompanied by an interpreter, and not more than one representative of the Athlete's NPC/National Federation.
 - 6.1.4 Incorrect presentation for evaluation is subject to Articles 9, 10 and/or 11 of the Code.
- 6.2 Verify accreditation, collate documentation and health check
- 6.2.1 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 (if not done by a representative of the LOC)
 - 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 outlined in article 5.4.
 - 6.2.2 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 (IPC Classification Code, article 10).
 - 6.2.3 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. However, ultimately if the Athlete does not have a Sports Class and a Sports Class Status then they will not be Eligible to Compete at the Competition.
- 6.3 Classification Process Briefing
- 6.3.1 Prior to the Athlete Assessment a Classification Panel member will brief the Athlete and their accompanying support staff



regarding the procedures involved in the Classification Process.

6.4 Completion of Consent Forms

- 6.4.1 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.
- 6.4.2 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 Article 10 “Non-co-operation during evaluation” or Article 11 “Intentionally Misrepresenting Skills and Abilities” of the Code.
- 6.4.3 The consent for Classification shall be part of the Classification Rules of the IF. 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 ATHLETE ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Athlete Assessment may include, but is not limited to:
 - Physical Assessment
 - Technical Assessment
 - Observation Assessment.
- 7.2 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 (see section ‘First Appearance’).

7.3 Physical Assessment

- 7.3.1 The Classification Panel should conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete in accord with Methods of Assessment stipulated in the Classification Rules of the IF.
- 7.3.2 The Physical Assessment may include, but is not limited to the examination of physical, muscle tone, coordination, range of movement, endurance, sensorial, or intellectual abilities (for example: vision, strength or balance).

7.4 Technical Assessment

- 7.4.1 The Classification Panel should conduct a Technical Assessment of the Athlete in accord with Methods of Assessment stipulated in the Classification Rules of the IF.
- 7.4.2 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.
- 7.4.3 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).
- 7.4.4 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.

7.5 Observation Assessment

- 7.5.1 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 (see article 10) in accordance with the sports Classification Rules.
- 7.5.2 Video footage and/or photography may be utilized by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition.

7.6 Ineligibility Re-evaluation



- 7.6.1 IFs must have Eligibility Criteria clearly stated within their Classification Rules that defines eligibility to compete in accordance with Article 5 “Eligibility to Compete” of the Code.
- 7.6.2 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. 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.

8 ASSIGNMENT OF INITIAL SPORTS CLASS AND UPDATE SPORT CLASS STATUS

- 8.1 The Athlete is assigned an initial Sport Class and Sport Class Status after the Physical and/or Technical Assessment has taken place.
- 8.2 Once the Classification Panel has made a decision on the Athlete’s Sport Class, a member of the Classification Panel shall inform the Athlete of the Panel’s decision. It is expected that this will occur as soon as possible after the decision being taken. The Athlete’s Sports Class Status will also need to be updated accordingly.
- 8.3 In case the Classification Panel requires Observation Assessment to confirm the Athlete’s Sport Class, the Classification Panel, the Athlete is informed about this decision at this stage.
- 8.4 If the most functional Class is the Sport Class “Ineligibility to Compete”, the Athlete is immediately assessed by a second Classification Panel.
- 8.5 Written notification must be provided to the Athlete, preferably in the format of a standardized form developed by the IF, including:
 - The Athlete’s assigned Sport Class
 - The Athlete’s updated Sport Class Status
 - Associated Protest procedures/options.
- 8.6 Notification to third parties
 - 8.6.1 The LOC has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of outcomes of Athlete Evaluation after being so advised by the Chief Classifier. This should include clear information to teams



that they will require for viewing any Athletes that entered the event with N or R Sports Class Status. Teams require this information so that they can determine to protest any newly assigned Sports Classes in accord with the First Appearance requirement of their sport (see article 9).

- 8.6.2 At the end of each session during the Classification Evaluation Period, the Chief Classifier must convey the outcomes of the assigned Sports Class and updated Sports Class Status to the LOC so that they can prepare start lists and make associated event management arrangements.

9 FIRST APPEARANCE

- 9.1 First Appearance for N and R Sports Class Status Athletes is generally defined as the first time the Athlete competes during the Competition. IFs are required to define whether First Appearance is applicable for a particular Sport.
- 9.1.1 In individual Sports, if applicable, First Appearance usually is considered for each Event that requires technically different skills.
- 9.1.2 In Team Sports, if applicable, First Appearance usually is defined the first time an Athlete has meaningful playing time (as determined by the Chief Classifier) during preliminary rounds or pools. IFs are required to clearly define the word 'meaningful' in objective terms.
- 9.2 Athletes cannot be allocated a C Sports Class Status until they have completed the First Appearance requirements of the Sport in order to allow other competitors/Nations to:
- Observe the Athlete in competition
 - Potentially protest the allocated Sports Class.

10 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN SPORT CLASS RESULTING FROM OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 If any changes to an Athletes assigned Sports Class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of the Observation Assessment during the Classification Competition Period, then:



- A member of the Classification Panel shall inform the Athlete, the Nation and the LOC of the Panel's decision as soon as is logically possible
 - Results may need to be adjusted by the LOC in accordance with the Sports and/or Classification Rules of the International Federation
 - The LOC will have to make adjustments to start lists and schedule in accordance with the Sports and/or Classification Rules of the International Federation
 - The LOC must advise other teams/Nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as possible in accordance with the Sports and/or Classification Rules of the IF.
- 10.2 Written notification of any changes resulting from Observation Assessment during the Classification Competition Period must be provided to the Athlete, preferably in the format of a standardized form developed by the IF, including:
- The Athlete's assigned Sport Class
 - The Athlete's updated Sport Class Status
 - Associated Protest procedures/options.

11 HANDLING ATHLETE PROTESTS

- 11.1 Athlete Protests must be conducted by a second Classification Panel in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.
- 11.2 The Chief Classifier should attempt to schedule any Athlete Protests against an assigned initial Sports Class during the Classification Evaluation Period.
- 11.3 The Chief Classifier should attempt to schedule a Protest against a newly assigned Sports Class as soon as is logically possible. If the logistics do not allow for this Protest to take place before the Athlete's next appearance, then the Athlete should compete in their most recently assigned Sports Class.



12 POST COMPETITION TASKS

12.1 Post-Competition Report

12.1.1 The Chief Classifier must complete and forward a Post Competition Report to the Head of Classification and/or the IF in accordance with the sports Classifications Rules.

12.2 Update Master List

12.2.1 The Chief Classifier must correspond and liaise with the Head of Classification and/or the IF to ensure that the sports Classification Master List is updated in accord with the sports Classifications Rules.

13 AD HOC RULES FOR THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

- 13.1 Athlete Evaluation during the Paralympic Games will be subject to the provisions of this International Standard as amended by the Classification Guide for the relevant Paralympic Games. The IPC will detail procedures specific to timelines and venues at the relevant Paralympic Games.
- 13.2 Athletes with an N status prior to an event will not be allowed to participate at the Paralympic Games. Exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the IPC Governing Board.



APPENDIX 1: ATHLETE EVALUATION PATHWAY

Step 1. Pre-Competition Tasks

Inclusion of classification rules in the agreement with the OC

Appointment of a chief classifier

Identification of Athletes for Evaluation

Collection of supportive classification documentation

Preparation and dissemination of the Classification Evaluation Period Schedule

Organization of the Classification Evaluation Period Logistics

Step 2. Athlete Presentation for Evaluation

Athlete presentation

Verification of accreditation, collation of documentation and health check

Classification process briefing

Completion of consent forms

Step 3. Athlete Assessment (detail in Appendix 2)

Physical assessment

Technical assessment

Observation assessment (Training Sessions)

If applicable, Ineligibility re-evaluation

Assignment of initial sport class and sport class status

Step 4. Notification of Third Parties

Step 5. Handling Protests

Step 6. Notification of Protest outcome of relevant Parties



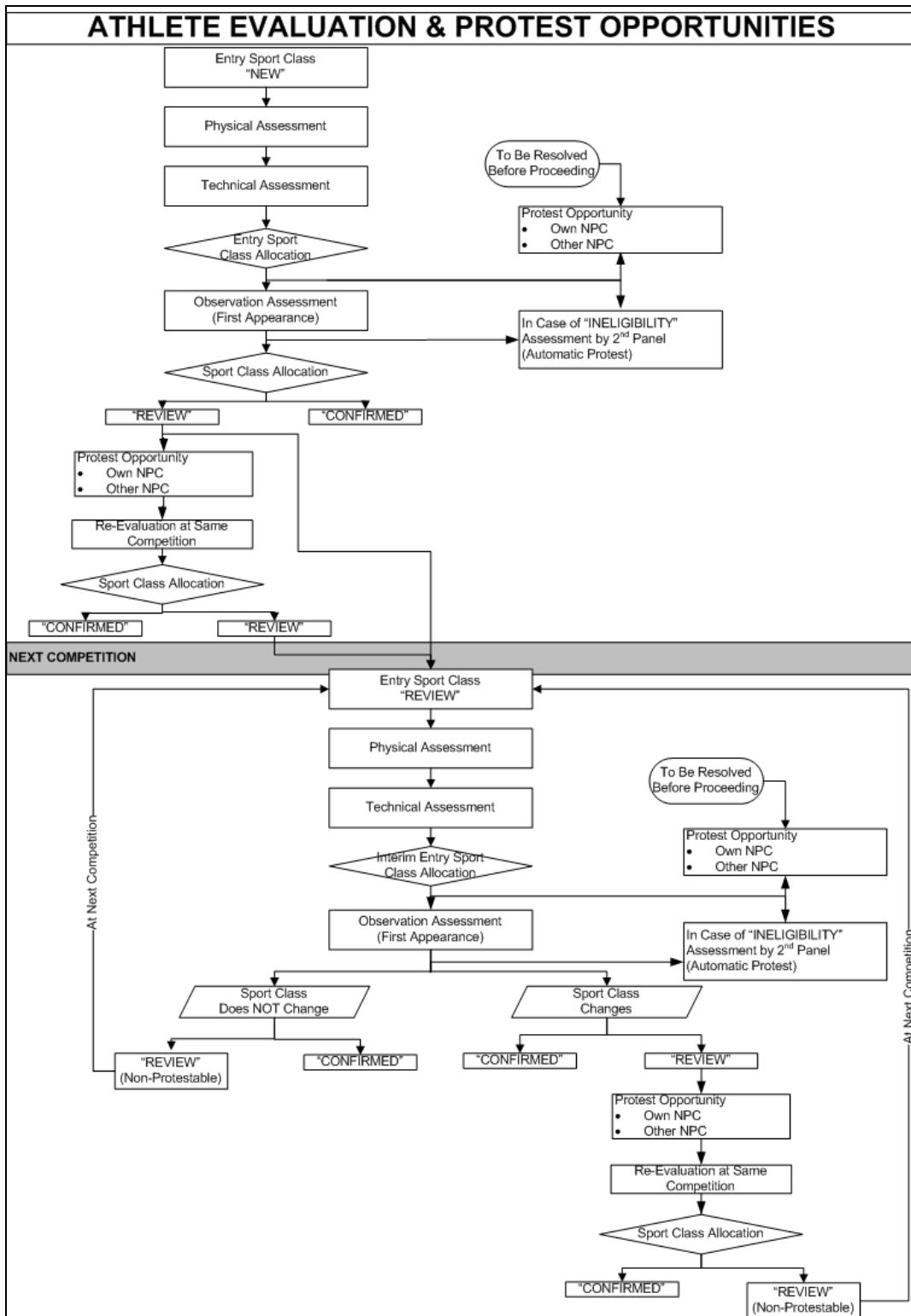
Step 7. Observation Assessment during First Appearance

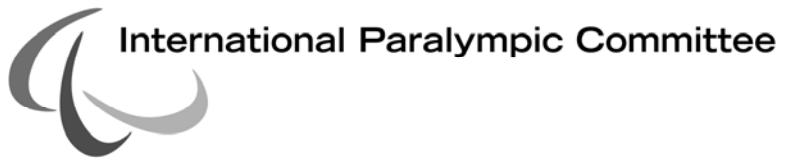
Step 8. Notification of Changes resulting from Observation assessment during
First Appearance

Step 9. Post-Event tasks

Acknowledgements
Post-Event Report
Update master list

APPENDIX 2: ATHLETE ASSESSMENT AND PROTEST OPPORTUNITIES





International Standard:

PROTESTS AND APPEALS





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INTRODUCTION

The IPC Classification Code (Code) details policies and procedures common to classification in all sports. It is intended to be specific enough to achieve harmonization on classification issues where standardisation is required, yet general enough in other areas to permit flexibility on how agreed principles are implemented.

The Code establishes a consistent philosophy on classification specifically as it relates to:

- The principles of the Paralympic Movement
- Ensuring Accountability and Principles of Fair Play
- The protection of the rights of all Athletes and Classifiers
- The allocation of Sports Classes and Sport Class Status
- Protests and Appeals.

The fundamental purpose of the Code is to ensure that a best practice standard of operation is achieved by all IFs and thereby protect the rights of all those involved in the Classification process while ensuring accountability.

The Code is complemented by International Standards that provide the technical and operational requirements for Classification. Adherence to the International Standards is mandatory for compliance with the Code.

It is acknowledged that IFs are able to adapt the specific aspects of their sport Classification Rules, while meeting the Code and International Standards.

Familiarity with the Code is necessary for understanding the International Standards.

PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR PROTESTS AND APPEALS

The purpose of the International Standard for Protests and Appeals is to detail the accepted procedures for the management of classification related Protests and Appeals. This International Standard details those policies and procedures that are common to all sports and how they are interpreted in the Classification environment.

For the purpose of this International Standard, National Federation also refers to NPC when taken in the context of the Paralympic Games.



SECTION 1: PROTESTS

1 PROTEST

The term “Protest” as used in this International Standard refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete’s Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.

2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR HANDLING PROTESTS

- 2.1 Each IF shall have Protest procedures in its Classification Rules. These shall include clear timelines for the submission and resolution of Protests.
- 2.2 Protests should be submitted in accordance with the specific rules of the IF, which must in turn comply with this International Standard.
- 2.3 Protests should ideally only be submitted by a designated representative of a:
 - NPC
 - National Federation
 - IF.
- 2.4 An Athlete’s Sport Class should generally only be protested once, with the exception of Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances (as set out in this International Standard).
- 2.5 A Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by an International Federation may only be resolved by that IF.
- 2.6 Protests should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on Competition participation, and Competition schedules and results.
- 2.7 A Protest should not be resolved by the Classification Panel that was involved in the allocation of the Sport Class that is being protested, except if a Protest is submitted on a date 18 months or more after the most recent allocation of the Sport Class. In that case, the Classifiers involved with the original allocation may be part of the Protest Panel.



3 SUBMISSION OF PROTESTS

Protests will generally be submitted during Competitions, but may also be submitted at any other time if permitted under the rules of the relevant IF.

4 PROTEST OPPORTUNITIES

- 4.1 A NPC or National Federation may Protest the Sport Class of an Athlete from their own or another nation, in accordance with the provisions of this International Standard.
- 4.2 The Sport Class Status that is allocated to an Athlete indicates the Protest opportunities that are available in respect of that Athlete's Sport Class. The Sport Class Status also indicates which parties may submit such a Protest.
- 4.3 The process by which Athlete Sport Class Status is allocated is detailed and explained in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation. Athlete Sport Class Status is indicated by the following designations (these may be amended from time to time according to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation):
 - 4.3.1 **NEW (N):** This designation indicates an Athlete who has not undergone Evaluation in order to obtain a Sport Class for International Competition.
 - 4.3.2 **REVIEW (R):** This designation indicates an Athlete who has undergone Evaluation and has obtained a Sport Class for International Competition, but may require further Evaluation according to the Classification Rules of the IF for that Sport.
 - 4.3.3 **CONFIRMED (C):** This designation indicates an Athlete who has undergone Evaluation and has obtained a Sport Class for International Competition, and does not require further Evaluation according to the Classification Rules of the IF for that Sport.
- 4.4 The Chief Classifier of an IF may Protest any Athlete's Sport Class, in accordance with the provisions of this International Standard.
- 4.5 Table 1 indicates the Protests that are possible during Competitions.
 - 4.5.1 Athletes with Sport Class Status N may be protested (by any National Paralympic Committee and/or National Federation, or



the Chief Classifier of the IF for the relevant Sport) following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall be designated:

- (R) Review
- (C) Confirmed Status
- Ineligible to Compete.

4.5.2 Athletes with Sport Class Status R may be protested (by any NPC and/or National Federation or the Chief Classifier of the IF for the relevant Sport) following Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall retain R status or be designated:

- (C) Confirmed Status
- Ineligible to Compete.

4.5.3 Athletes with Sport Class Status C may only be protested by the Chief Classifier of the IF for the relevant Sport under Exceptional Circumstances (see article 5).

4.5.4 The regulations with regard to Athletes with Sport Class Status 'Ineligibility' are outlined in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, article 7.4.1.

Table 1. Protests during Competitions

Athlete Sport Class Status	Can be Protested by Athlete's NPC/NF and/or other NPC/NF	Can be Protested by Chief Classifier
New (N)	YES	YES
Review (R)	YES	YES
Confirmed (C)	NO	NO*

*Protest lodged under exceptional circumstances (see article 5)



5 EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 5.1 Exceptional circumstances, for the purpose of this International Standard, will arise if a Chief Classifier believes that an Athlete's Confirmed Sport Class no longer reflects that Athlete's Ability to compete equitably within that Sport Class.
- 5.2 Exceptional circumstances may result from:
- 5.2.1 A change in the degree of impairment of an Athlete.
 - 5.2.2 An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater Ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class.
 - 5.2.3 An error made by a Classification Panel, which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability.
 - 5.2.4 Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent Evaluation.
- 5.3 A Protest made in exceptional circumstances shall follow the same process detailed in Article 6.

6 PROTEST PROCEDURES

6.1 Protest Procedures during Competitions

- 6.1.1 International Federations shall detail in their Classification Rules how Protests may be submitted in conjunction with a Competition. These Rules must include provisions relating to the following:
- Who is able to submit a Protest
 - The timelines for the submission and resolution of a Protest
 - Documents and other Evidence to be submitted with a Protest
 - Fees payable
 - Notification of Decision.

6.2 Protest Submission during Competitions

6.2.1 Protests may be submitted by:

- A National Paralympic Committee or National Federation representative authorised to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager); and/or
- An International Federation Chief Classifier.

6.2.2 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorised to receive Protests on behalf of an International Federation at an event.

6.2.3 Protests must be submitted to the Chief Classifier within a clearly defined time period after the Athlete has been evaluated. This time period must be specified in the Classification Rules of the respective International Federation.

6.2.4 Protests must be submitted in English on a designated Protest Form, which should be made available by the International Federation. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest Form should include the following:

- The name, nation and sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested
- Details of the decision being protested
- The reason for the Protest
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest
- The signature of the National Paralympic Committee representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable
- A fee, as determined by the International Federation.

6.2.5 Upon receipt of the Protest Form, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine whether all necessary information is included. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest Form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier shall dismiss the Protest and notify all relevant parties.

6.2.6 If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall notify all relevant parties of the time and date for any subsequent protest evaluation.

6.3 Protest Panel during Competition

- 6.3.1 The Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct an Evaluation of the Athlete, referred to in this International Standard as the “Protest Evaluation”. The Protest Panel shall consist of at minimum the same number of Classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification, as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete’s Sport Class.
- 6.3.2 Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the Evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete’s Sport Class, unless the most recent Evaluation took place more than 18 (eighteen) months prior to the Protest being submitted (See “General Principles” for handling protests).
- 6.3.3 All documentation submitted with the Protest Form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. Protest Panels should conduct the protest evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel, which allocated the Athlete’s most recent Sport Class.
- 6.3.4 The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete’s Sport Class.
- 6.3.5 All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

6.4 Procedures for Protests Submitted out of Competition

- 6.4.1 Each International Federation shall detail in its Classification Rules how Protests are to be submitted out of Competition. Such procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this International Standard, with the following additions:
 - Protests shall be submitted in accordance with the rules and timelines of the applicable International Federation
 - Upon receipt of the official Protest form, the Head of Classification of the International Federation or his/her designee shall conduct a review to determine whether all relevant rules concerning the submission of a Protest have been complied with
 - If the relevant rules have not been complied with, the Classification Officer of the International Federation shall dismiss the Protest and return the Protest Form



- If the relevant rules have been complied with, the Head of Classification shall notify all parties within 28 (twenty eight) calendar days of the time and date for the Protest Evaluation, which, following consultation with all relevant parties, may take place at an agreed Event.

7 THE PROTEST “PATHWAY”

Appendix 1 to this International Standard details how a typical Protest might proceed pursuant to the Classification Rules of an International Federation, which comply with this Standard.

8 PROTEST PROCEDURE DURING THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

The submission of Protests shall be in accordance with the provisions of this International Standard as amended by the Classification Guide for the relevant Paralympic Games. The IPC will detail procedures specific to timelines and venues at the relevant Paralympic Games.

SECTION 2: APPEALS

9 APPEALS

The term “Appeal” as used in this International Standard refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

10 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR HANDLING APPEALS

- 10.1 Each International Federation shall have Appeal procedures in its Classification Rules. These shall include clear timelines for the submission and resolution of Appeals. Each International Federation should identify an Appeal Body in its Classification Rules.



10.2 If an International Federation incorporates provisions regarding Appeals in its Classification Rules, such Appeal procedures shall be consistent with the IPC BAC Bylaws (IPC Handbook, Section 1, Chapter 2.8). In addition, or as an alternative, International Federations may agree with IPC that the BAC may act as the Appeal Body for that International Federation.

11 APPEAL JURISDICTION

11.1 The Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review Classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed
- Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.

11.2 No Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of Sport Class or Sport Class Status. Under no circumstances shall the Appeal Body modify a Classification decision by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

11.3 The Appeal body shall hear Appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have been exhausted.

12 APPEAL SUBMISSION

12.1 Appeals may be commenced at any time, by submitting a Notice of Appeal to the applicable International Federation. The International Federation shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the opposing party.

12.2 Only a National Paralympic Committee or National Federation has the right to submit an Appeal.

12.3 A Notice of Appeal must:

- Specify the party who is requesting the Appeal
- Provide the name, nation and sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status is the subject of the Appeal
- identify the decision beingAppealed, by attaching a copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it
- Specify the grounds for the Appeal

- Identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal.

- 12.4 Appeals must be accompanied by a fee, as determined by the IF. Proof of payment must be included in the Notice of Appeal.
- 12.5 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, the IF shall conduct a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the Appeal. If all other available remedies have not been exhausted, the IF shall issue a written decision dismissing the Appeal.

13 APPEAL PROCEDURES

- 13.1 If all other available remedies have been exhausted, the IF shall:
- Advise all relevant parties that an Appeal Body will be constituted for the purposes of hearing the Appeal
 - Send a copy of the Notice of Appeal, and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to the party named in the Notice of Appeal (the Opposing Party)
 - Advise the Opposing Party that it must, within 28 calendar days of receiving a Notice of Appeal (or within such other period required by the IF) submit to the Appeal Body a list of all documents, evidence and expert witnesses to be offered by the Opposing Party in relation to the Appeal
 - Set a Hearing location and date: the Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a Hearing live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

14 APPEAL HEARING

- 14.1 The Appeal Body, all of whose members shall comply with and have signed a conflict of interest agreement, will comprise of no less than three individuals who have at no stage been involved with or informed of the dispute brought before the Appeal Body.
- 14.2 In order to ensure a level of independence of decisions, a majority of the members of the Appeal Body should not have any other official responsibility in the IF.
- 14.3 The Appeal Body may designate counsel to assist it in the Hearing.



- 14.4 The International Federation and the applicable National Paralympic Committee or NF shall have the right to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to engage an interpreter approved by the Appeal Body.
- 14.5 Not more than two representatives of any party, excluding the Athlete and any interpreter, shall be entitled to participate in the Hearing.
- 14.6 Each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and (subject to the Appeal Body's discretion) to call witnesses.

15 APPEAL DECISION

- 15.1 The Appeal Body shall issue a written decision resolving any Appeal after the Hearing. The decision shall be provided to all parties, to the IPC, and to the Competition Organising Committee (in the case of Appeals conducted in connection with a Competition).
- 15.2 The Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision appealed from or overrule the decision. If the decision is overruled, the Appeal Body's written opinion shall specify the procedural error committed and shall direct the appropriate party to reconsider the decision in a manner consistent with Appeal Body's instructions.
- 15.3 The IF shall be responsible for ensuring that the Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner.
- 15.4 Appeal decisions are final and are not subject to any further appeal.

16 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 16.1 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal:
 - Employees or agents of a party
 - Witnesses whose testimony may be offered on Appeal
 - Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the Appeal.
- 16.2 The Appeal Body may, in its sole discretion, require all persons who attend a Hearing to sign a statement agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of facts or information disclosed during the Hearing. Any



individual refusing to sign such a statement may be excluded from the Hearing.

17 THE APPEAL “PATHWAY”

Appendix 2 to this International Standard details how a typical Appeal might proceed pursuant to the Classification Rules of an International Federation, which comply with this Standard.

18 APPEAL PROCEDURE DURING THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Appeal Body for all Appeals submitted during a Paralympic Games shall be the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC). The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws. The BAC will have jurisdiction over relevant Appeals for all Sports that take part in the Paralympic Games.

19 PROTESTS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

All Protests brought in Exceptional Circumstances should follow a similar process to the above, except for obvious communication and notification revisions. Such Protests shall follow the process stipulated by the IF its Classification Rules.



APPENDIX 1: THE PROTEST PATH

The following sections describe the various stages of a Protest conducted Pre-Competition and during Competition. They are intended to provide a recommended framework for the organization and handling of a Protest.

Step 1. Pre-Competition Tasks

Communicate details on the Protest Procedures to all relevant NFs and NPCs

Distribute the template of the Protest Form

Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Protests should be submitted

Step 2. Protest Submission in accordance with the Rules of the IF

Protest Form Completed by the Athlete's NF or NPC

Protest Form submitted by the appropriate person

Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Protest Form

Payment of the Protest Fee

All documents need to be submitted to the Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition

Step 3. Protest Submission Review by the Chief Classifier

Step 4. Decision over the Protest Submission by the Chief Classifier

If rejected: Chief Classifier should notify the submitting party, explaining the reason for rejection

If accepted: proceed with step 5

Step 5. Preparation of Protest Resolution by the Chief Classifier

Appointment of a Protest Panel

Advise all relevant parties about when, where and how the Protest will be handled



Step 6. Protest Resolution by the Classification Panel

Review of all documentation and information

Conduction of the Protest Evaluation

Allocation of the Athlete to a Sport Class

Advise to the Chief Classifier as to the resolution of the Protest

Step 7. Administrative follow-up

Chief Classifier will advise all parties involved as to the outcome of the protest,
providing, if so requested, a written explanation for its decision

Communicate the decision with the Sports Department, Organizing Committee, ...
and all other relevant parties to ensure the continuation of the competition

Update Classification Master List



APPENDIX 2: THE APPEAL PATH

The following sections describe the various stages of an Appeal conducted during or outside of Competition. They are intended to provide a recommended framework for the organization and handling of an Appeal.

Step 1. Pre-Competition Tasks

Communicate details on Appeal Procedures to all relevant NFs and NPCs

Distribute the template of the Appeal Form

Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Appeals should be submitted

Step 2. Submission of a Notice of Appeal

Appeal Form Completed by the Athlete's NF or NPC

Appeal Form submitted by the appropriate person

Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Appeal Form

Payment of the Appeal Fee

All documents need to be submitted to the IF

Step 3. Appeal Submission Review by the IF

Step 4. Decision over the Appeal Submission by the Chief Classifier

If rejected: IF should notify the submitting party, explaining the reason for rejection

If accepted: proceed with step 5

Step 5. Notification of all relevant parties



Step 6. Preparation of the Appeal Hearing

Set up of an Appeal Hearing Body
Notification of Appeal Hearing to all relevant parties

Step 7. Appeal Hearing

Step 8. Appeal Decision

Step 9. Administrative follow-up

IF to communicate the outcome of the Appeal
Update Classification Master List (if applicable)
Review Classification Rules (if applicable)





International Paralympic Committee

International Standard:

CLASSIFIER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION





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PREAMBLE

The IPC Classification Code (Code) details policies and procedures common to classification in all sports. It is intended to be specific enough to achieve harmonization on classification issues where standardization is required, yet general enough in other areas to permit flexibility on how agreed principles are implemented.

The Code establishes a consistent philosophy on classification specifically as it relates to:

- The principles of the Paralympic Movement
- Ensuring Accountability and Principles of Fair Play
- The protection of the rights of all Athletes and Classifiers
- The allocation of sports classes and sport class status
- Protests and Appeals.

The fundamental purpose of the Code is to ensure that a best practice standard of operation is achieved by all IFs and thereby protect the rights of all those involved in the classification process while ensuring accountability.

The Code is complemented by International Standards that provide the technical and operational requirements for classification. Adherence to the International Standards is mandatory for compliance with the Code.

It is acknowledged that International Federations are able to adapt the specific aspects of their sport Classification Rules, while meeting the Code and International Standards.

Familiarity with the Code is necessary for understanding the International Standards.

PURPOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR CLASSIFIER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The purpose of the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification is to detail the accepted procedures for the management of classifier training and certification. This International Standard details those policies and procedures that are common to all sports and how they are interpreted in the classification environment.

For the purpose of this International Standard, National Federation also refers to NPC when taken in the context of the Paralympic Games.



1 CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

- 1.1 Classifiers are Officials trained and certified by an IF to determine an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status as a member of a Classification Panel (see IPC Classification Code, section 3.3).
- 1.2 Classifiers do not allocate international Sport Class and Sport Class Status individually. Classifiers work as members of a Classification Panel.
- 1.3 The Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers who allocate an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the IF Classification Rules.
- 1.4 In accordance with the Classification Code, a Classification Panel must include a minimum of two Classifiers, unless more are deemed appropriate and specified in the rules of the IF.
- 1.5 Classifiers may have a wide range of expertise, including medical knowledge and sport specific expertise and technical qualifications.
- 1.6 IFs are recommended to create Classification Panels that include:
 - Classifiers with medical and/or health-related professional training (for example doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists) and/or
 - Classifiers with sport specific expertise and technical qualifications and/or expertise (for example sport scientists, coaches, former Athletes, physical educators).
- 1.7 Each IF shall detail the specific qualification criteria for Classifiers including, but not limited to:
 - Documentation required by the IF confirming the professional qualifications
 - Experience required in the relevant sport.

2 CLASSIFIER CERTIFICATION

- 2.1 Classifier Certification establishes that an individual has met the competencies and is proficient to practice as a Classifier in a sport.
- 2.2 IFs are solely responsible for the certification of Classifiers in their Sport.



- 2.3 IFs may use any accepted training and certification techniques. This can include theoretical and practical education through online education and training courses, classroom training, practical training, mentorship and assessment of required competencies.
- 2.4 Each IF shall detail the levels of certification for Classifiers. The minimum number of levels shall include:
- 2.4.1 Trainee
- An individual who is in the process of formal training by the IF, but who is not yet certified as a Classifier and may not be an appointed member of a Classification Panel at an international competition. This individual is unable to allocate an International sport class.
- 2.4.2 Level 1
- An individual who has successfully completed the formal training of the IF and has been certified to be a member of a Classification Panel at an international competition. This individual may participate in the assignment of sport class with minimum supervision of more experienced classifiers.
- 2.4.3 Level 2
- An individual, who has successfully completed the formal training of the IF and has demonstrated the appropriate level of experience as a Classifier in the relevant sport, as determined by the IF. This individual may participate in the assignment of sport class with no supervision from more experienced classifiers.

3 ASSESSING COMPETENCIES

- 3.1 Methods of obtaining certification include theoretical education, practical education and training and mentorship.
- 3.2 Each IF shall detail the prerequisites for a Classifier and the education, training and certification for each Classifier in their Classification Rules including, but not limited to:
- Prerequisites required to become a Classifier in a specific sport
 - Certification criteria for each level of certification and minimal criteria for advancement



- Essential components of Classifier training curriculum, including sport history and rules, classification theory, practical training, advanced training in administration and management, professional conduct, and cultural differences and diversity.

3.3 Each IF shall determine the specific procedures used for the assessment of required competencies for certification of each Classifier level in their Classification Rules. These procedures include, but are not limited to:

- Methods of assessment used in measuring proficiency in the specific competencies assessed at each level (for example online courses, written and/or oral theory and practical examinations, practical training and workshops)
- How each competency is evaluated using objective and measurable methods (for example completion of online courses, passing theory or practical examinations, completion of required hours of practical training and/or workshops)
- Methods of approval of certification levels, pathway for advancement, maintenance of certification, and recertification.

3.4 Each IF shall describe the specific competencies and proficiencies required for maintenance of the certification of Classifiers.

3.5 Methods of maintaining certification may include, but are not limited to:

- Participation in a minimum number of competitions as a member of a Classification Panel
- Minimum number of hours spent in classification activities
- Participation in a minimum number of Athlete evaluations
- Participation in a minimum number of Protest Panels
- Evaluation of changes in Athlete Sport Class that results in Protests and Appeals
- Participation in a minimum number of Athlete evaluations that result in decision of ineligibility to compete
- Attendance at and/or teaching of a minimum number of theoretical and/or practical education courses and/or workshops.

3.6 Each IF shall specify options available for Classifiers who have not maintained their certification and would like to retrain and/or recertify.

4 NOTIFICATION OF CERTIFICATION

- 4.1 The Head of Classification may appoint an individual authorised to certify Classifiers on their behalf.
- 4.2 Once a Classifier has met the requirements of the IF, the Head of Classification shall issue a Certificate to acknowledge classification credentials. The certification information provided shall be copied to the National Federation and/or NPC.
- 4.3 The Classifier shall be notified of the pathway to further develop competencies and the requirements for maintaining certification.
- 4.4 Each IF shall describe the methods of notification for classifiers who maintain their certification and for those who do not.
- 4.5 Each IF shall maintain a list of its Classifiers.

5 RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

- 5.1 The Head of Classification is appointed by the IF as responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination, and implementation of Classification matters for a specific sport for a certain period of time.
- 5.2 The duties of the Head of Classification may include, but are not limited to:
 - Examine the current status of Classification in the sport on a regular basis
 - Lead the design, planning and recommendation of programs and policies to the IF to ensure that Classification Rules comply with the Code and International Standards
 - Administer and co-ordinate the classification matters related to a specific sport(s), including serving as a member of the Executive Committee, Sport Standing Committee or Management Team of the respective IF
 - Appoint Classifiers for appropriate composition of Classification Panels for competitions, including appointment of Chief Classifiers
 - Organise and conduct Classifier training and certification
 - Maintain and regularly update a secure classification database to ensure classification records are accurate, or appoint an individual to maintain and update the database



- Maintain and regularly update a Classifier database to track classifier activity and certification
- Maintain and regularly update the Classification Master List for the respective Sport(s)
- Inform Classifiers of any changes in the Classification rules and consult for feedback on issues which affect the specific sport and classification rules
- Liaise with all relevant external parties, such as the IPC Classification Committee and IPC Medical and Scientific Department, and Organizing Committees.

5.3 The Chief Classifier is appointed for a specific Competition. This position may be filled by the Head of Classification.

5.4 The duties of the Chief Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Administer and co-ordinate Classification matters related to a specific sport for a specific Competition according with the International Standards for Athlete Evaluation and International Standards for Protests and Appeals
- Liaise with Organizing Committees and teams before a Competition to identify and notify Athletes who require evaluation for Sport Class and Sport Class Status
- Liaise with Organizing Committees before a Competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for Classifiers
- Supervise Classifiers to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately during a specific Competition
- Supervise Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels, and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies.

5.5 Classifiers are appointed as members of a Classification Panel at specific Competitions.

5.6 The duties of the Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Work as a member of a Classification Panel to allocate Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status according to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation
- Work as a member of a Protest Panel as required according to the International Standard for Protest and Appeals
- Attend classification meetings at Competitions
- Assist in Classifier Training and Certification (for example being involved in organizing and teaching at classification seminars) as



requested by the Head of Classification or the Classifier appointed to be in charge of training at the Competition.

5.7 The duties of the Trainee include:

- Active participation and observation to learn Classification Rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies for Certification
- Attend classification meetings at events.

5.8 It should be ensured that Trainee Classifiers have no responsibilities as a member of a National Delegation at the event where Classification Training takes place. Having no such official duties allows Trainee Classifiers to participate fully in their classification training.

6 CLASSIFIER CODE OF CONDUCT

6.1 General principles

6.1.1 The role of Classifiers is to act as impartial evaluators in determining an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The integrity of Classification in the Paralympic Movement rests on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual Classifier.

6.1.2 All Classifier Personnel must adhere to the IPC Code of Ethics (IPC Handbook).

6.1.3 The Classifier Code of Conduct includes:

- Recognition of the need to preserve and encourage confidence in the professionalism of Classification Rules and the Classification Personnel. This confidence must be inherent within all those involved in the Paralympic Movement and within the general public
- Description of transparent and agreed-upon standards of practice and provide a meaningful set of guidelines for professional conduct of classification personnel
- Provision to others (including, but not limited to Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, administrators, Organizing Committees, media and the public) of criteria by which to assess the professional conduct of classification personnel.

6.2 Classifier compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct



6.2.1 Classifiers should value and respect the Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel and:

- Treat Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel with understanding, patience, and dignity
- Be courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing their classification duties for all Athletes, regardless of team affiliation or national origin
- Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Protest and Appeals, and the IF and/or competition rules
- Perform classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances
- Maintain confidentiality of Athlete information whenever possible, according of the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Protest and Appeals.

6.2.2 Classifiers should respect the Classification Rules and:

- Accurately and honestly represent their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting classification appointments to competitions
- Understand the theory and practical aspects of the Classification Rules and make them widely known and understood by Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel
- Continuously seek self-improvement through study of the Sport, Classification Rules, mentoring lesser-experienced classifiers and developing trainee classifiers
- Perform duties without yielding to any economic, political, sporting or human pressure
- Recognize that anything that may lead to a Conflict of Interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided
- Disclose any relationship with a team, Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest.

6.2.3 Classifiers should respect their colleagues, and:

- Treat all discussions with colleagues as confidential information



- Explain and justify decisions without showing anger or resentment
- Treat other Classifiers with professional dignity and courtesy, recognizing that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to criticize other Classifiers, Games Officials or Technical Advisers in public
- Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision making process of fellow Classifiers, Games Officials and Technical Advisors whether you agree or not
- Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills with less experienced Classifiers and assist with the training and development of Classifiers in their respective sports in accordance with the International Standards for Classifier Training and Certification.

6.3 Consequences of Non-compliance with Classifier Code of Conduct

- 6.3.1 Each IF shall develop and implement procedures for reporting and handling complaints including a procedure for investigating complaints (for example, the appropriate authority in an IF may be a Legal Committee).
- 6.3.2 Each IF may take disciplinary action against Classifiers if a violation of the Classification Code of Conduct occurs.
- 6.3.3 Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action against them may include a variety of sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revoking their certification as a Classifier in the IF.



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