IPC CLASSIFICATION CODE
V1 for release to IPC Membership

July 2014
This IPC Classification Code is the revised version of the IPC Classification Code first published in 2007. This version incorporates revisions that were approved by the IPC General Assembly in 2015. The revised 2015 IPC Classification Code is effective as of 1 January 2017.
Introduction

Classification is a unique and integral part of Paralympic sport and fundamentally important to the Paralympic Movement. A unified purpose and application of principles across Paralympic systems of Classification is vital to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. 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 Classification systems that are based on the best possible evidence and which athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in. The outcome is the grouping of Athletes in Sport Classes, assigned to Athletes by Classifiers. The number of Sport Classes can vary from sport to sport.

[Comment: Athletes, coaches, sports administrators, the media, the public and all those that are involved and invested in the Paralympic Movement must be confident that the Athletes who succeed in Paralympic sport do so on the basis of sporting excellence, and are not simply those whose Impairments are less severe than their competitors.]

The Code recognises the pivotal role that Athletes play in Classification and their involvement and engagement in all facets of Classification is imperative for the success of Paralympic Classification. The Code also acknowledges that it is the responsibility of all Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, Classifiers, and all other personnel and organizations involved in Paralympic Classification to familiarise themselves with their rights and obligations related to Classification, while ensuring adherence to the IPC Code of Ethics (as referred to in the IPC Handbook).

The language and taxonomic structure of the Code derive from the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (ICF), published in 2001 by the World Health Organisation. Utilisation of the ICF language and taxonomic structure ensures that terms and concepts used in the Code are unambiguous, contemporary and internationally accepted features that will enhance the current understanding and future development of Paralympic Classification systems.

1 Scope and Application

IPC and the Paralympic Movement

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), including Recognized International Federations, 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).

1.2 The IPC supervises and co-ordinates the Paralympic Summer and Winter Games. The IPC is the International Federation for a number of sports (details are given in Appendix 1).

IPC Classification Committee

1.3 The IPC Classification Committee is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to the Code. The IPC Medical & Scientific Director is responsible for the administration of the provisions of the Code. The IPC Medical & Scientific Director may delegate specific responsibilities to such person or persons at his/her discretion.

The Classification Code

1.4 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. 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.

1.5 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.

1.6 The IPC requires that, as a condition of 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.

International Standards

1.7 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
• Data Protection
• National Classification

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

Models of Best Practice

1.9 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.

Classification Rules and Regulations

1.10 Each IF shall have its own Classification Rules and Regulations.
1.11 Classification Rules and Regulations should be written in terms that are Consistent with the language and structure of the ICF.
1.12 Classification Rules and Regulations shall include provisions relating to:
• Eligible Impairments
• Minimum Degree of Impairment
• Athlete Evaluation
• Sport Class Allocation
• Sport Class Status
• Protests and Appeals
1.13 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 Definition and Purpose of Paralympic Classification

2.1 Paralympic Classification (referred to in the Code as “Classification”) is a defining feature of Paralympic Sport. All Paralympic sports must have classification systems that are compliant with the Code.

[Comment to art. 2.1: Classification is defined as a procedure in which a single group of units are ordered into a number of smaller groups (or classes) on the basis of properties that they have in common. Paralympic classification refers to the application of the principles of classification to Paralympic sport.]

2.2 In Paralympic Sport, the unit of Classification is Impairment. The property common to all Impairments classified in Paralympic Sport is that they adversely affect sports performance. Paralympic Classification Systems classify Impairments, not Athletes.

[Comment to art. 2.2: For ease of communication, it is common to refer to “classifying Athletes”. However, it is important to understand that Classifiers are classifying Impairments that an Athlete has, not Athletes. This distinction is taxonomically Consistent with the ICF and is important because this...]

IPC Classification Code – v1

5
principle reinforces that each Athlete is a unique, sentient human whose diversity and individuality cannot be captured by being assigned a label or class.]

2.3 The purpose of Classification in Paralympic sport is to promote participation in sport by individuals with an Impairment by providing a competitive structure which minimises the impact of Eligible Impairment types on the outcome of Competition. To achieve this purpose, Classification systems shall:

- Describe procedures for determining that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment;
- Describe methods for classifying Eligible Impairments according to the extent of Activity Limitation they cause.

[Comment to art. 2.3: If these principles are followed, the impact of Impairment on the outcome of Competition will be minimized. Each class will comprise Athletes who have Impairment that cause a similar amount of difficulty in that sport and Athletes will succeed because they have the most favourable combination of anthropometric, physiological, and psychological attributes and have enhanced these attributes to best effect. It will prevent circumstances in which Athletes succeed simply because they have an Impairment that causes less difficulty in athletic performance than the Impairments of their competitors.]

2.4 Procedures for determining whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment shall have three essential features, these being:

- Procedures for confirming that the Impairment is a direct result of a pathological Health Condition;
- Procedures for determining whether the type of Impairment is Eligible. The impairments that are eligible in the Paralympic Movement are defined in the IPC Policy on Eligible Impairments, available from the IPC Handbook. The IPC may wish to review the Eligible Impairments from time to time. IFs are not obliged to provide sporting opportunities to all athletes with an eligible Impairment, but have discretion to nominate which of the Impairment types defined in the IPC Policy are eligible for their sport. Impairment types that are eligible for a sport shall be specified in the IF Classification Rules.
- Procedures for determining whether the Impairment is severe enough. An Impairment should only be eligible for a sport if it will cause an Activity Limitation in that sport. For this purpose, each sports Classification system will identify “Minimum Degree of Impairment” and set Objective criteria for the minimum Impairments severity permissible in that sport.

2.5 To minimize the effect of Impairment on the outcome of Competition, Athletes should be placed into Sport Classes according to the extent of Activity Limitation caused by their Impairments.
[Comment to art. 2.4 – 2.5: The extent of Activity Limitation caused by a given Impairment will vary from sport to sport (i.e., it is sport-specific). For this reason:

- Criteria for Minimum Degree of Impairment will vary from sport to sport (i.e., an Impairment that can cause an Activity Limitation in one sport may not cause an Activity Limitation in another, and therefore an Athlete may be eligible for one sport and not another;)
- Sport Classes are sport-specific (i.e., an Impairment may cause large degree of Activity Limitation in one sport and minimal Activity Limitation in another, and therefore Sport Class profiles will differ from sport to sport.)

2.6 Classification shall be sport-specific and Evidence-Based. An evidence based Classification system is one in which scientific evidence indicates the methods used for assessing impairments and assigning class will result in classes comprising athletes that have impairments which cause approximately the same amount of difficulty in a given sport.

[Comment to art. 2.6: To classify Impairments according to the extent of Activity Limitation they cause requires research that develops Objective, reliable measures of both Impairment and Activity Limitation, and investigates the relative strength of association between these constructs. Measures for sport specific Activity Limitations must control for: training, personal and environmental factors, and consider the impact of equipment. When changing equipment or equipment rules in a sport, the IF should consider whether the change will alter the activity of the sport, and thus impact on the extent of Activity Limitation caused by Impairment.]

3 Classification Personnel

3.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of Classification Rules.

3.2 The IF should appoint the following Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the administration, organisation and implementation of Classification for the IF.

Classifiers

3.3 A Classifier is a person authorised as an Official and certified by an IF as competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation, while serving as a member of a Classification Panel.

3.4 In order to be certified by an IF as a Classifier, a person must have competencies as specified by the IF, including but not limited to:

- Relevant sport technical expertise and required anatomical and biomechanical knowledge, acquired through athletic and coaching experience, or through academic qualification; and/or
- Professional qualifications in an area relevant to assess eligible physical, visual and/or intellectual Impairments, as included in the sport.
3.5 Each IF shall describe the competencies required for certification as Classifier, which at minimum must include:

- Thorough understanding of the definition and purpose of Classification
- Comprehensive knowledge of the IPC Classification Code, the International Standards and the respective IF Classification Rules, and the Ability to apply these rules and procedures
- Ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the IF Classification Rules

3.6 Each IF shall offer training and certification, and pathways to obtain and maintain the Classifier competencies including:

- Entry level education
- Advanced training
- Maintaining certification
- Re-certification, if certification was withdrawn previously

[Comment to art. 3.6: Scenarios where a certification would be withdrawn include resignation of a Classifier or revoked certification due to inactivity and inability to maintain Competency.]

Trainee Classifiers

3.7 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by the IF.

3.8 The IF may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate under the supervision of a Classification Panel to develop the necessary competencies and proficiencies for certification as a Classifier

Head of Classification

3.9 The Head of Classification is a person or a group identified by the IF to be responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for the IF, including but not limited to:

- Have or acquire comprehensive understanding of the IPC Classification Code and the IF Classification Rules.
- Keeps current and stay updated about development and clarification of Classification Rules, research in Classification, and Classifier Training and Certification curriculum.
- Regularly review the IF Classification Rules for compliance with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards.
- Exchange Classification information and knowledge with Classifiers, the IF and the IPC.
• Appoint Classifiers for Competitions.

3.10 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities to such person or persons at his/her discretion.

[Comment to art. 3.9-3.10: Examples include the transfer of tasks to certain (senior) Classifiers or to members of the IF Management Team. In case the position as Head of Classification is vacant, the IF must ensure that the roles and responsibilities that go with the function are properly taken care of.]

3.11 The Head of Classification must be able to perform the tasks described in 3.9; however, the Head of Classification is not necessarily certified as a Classifier. If certified as a Classifier, the Head of Classification may be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

Chief Classifier

3.12 The Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by an IF to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to the IF Classification Rules. The Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities to such person or persons at his/her discretion.

[Comment to art. 3.12: Examples include the transfer of tasks to certain (senior) Classifiers, members of the IF Management Team, or to appointed persons in the Local Organizing Committee of the Competition.]

Classification Panel

3.13 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers, appointed for a particular Competition by an IF, to conduct Athlete Evaluation and/or Protests in accordance with the IF Classification Rules.

3.14 Classification Panels must include a minimum of two Classifiers; unless an IF requires more than two Classifiers constitute a Classification Panel.

[Comment to art. 3.14: The IF is responsible to ensure that the activities of the individuals certified to perform (parts of) Athlete Evaluation for the relevant Impairment Categories are covered by appropriate third person liabilities policies. In this regard, some activities performed might require specific expertise or professional qualifications as identified under art. 3.4, and should exclusively be performed by those individuals having obtained the necessary qualifications.]

Classifier Code of Conduct

3.15 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 of each individual Classifier.

[Comment to art. 3.15: Classifiers must perform their duties courteously, competently, Consistently, and Objectively for all Athletes regardless of team or national origin. Classifiers must declare any potential conflicts of interest, and should not have any other official sport-technical roles and responsibilities that within the sport.]
3.16 All Classifier Personnel must adhere to the IF’s Code of Ethics.

3.17 Each IF shall have a procedure for reporting and investigating complaints and for taking disciplinary measures against Classifiers if a violation of the IF Classifier Code of Conduct occurs.

[Comment to art. 3.17: If Classification Personnel are found to have breached the terms of the IF Code of Ethics or the IF Classifier Code of Conduct, the IF may propose a variety of penalties ranging from written reprimand to withdrawal of any applicable authorisation or certification.]

4 Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Allocation

4.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with an IF’s Classification Rules. It must be done in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

4.2 The criteria detailing how an Athlete may be considered Eligible to Compete shall be defined for each sport by the respective IF.

4.3 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 process shall be contained in the Classification Rules of each IF.

4.4 The following are minimum provisions of Athlete Evaluation

- Assessment of Eligible Impairment, comprising the assessment of whether an Athlete has a Health Condition that will lead to an Eligible Impairment and whether the Impairment meets minimum criteria;
- For those Athletes with an Eligible Impairment that meet the above provisions, Athlete Evaluation also includes the assessment of the extent of Activity Limitation resulting from the Impairment, Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation; and
- Provisions to address failure to attend or to complete Athlete Evaluation

4.5 It is at the discretion of the IF to ensure Athlete Evaluation at the occasion of different Competitions, or to make arrangements for Remote Athlete Evaluation to take place and at a time away from Competition. Regardless of whether Athlete Evaluation takes place at a Competition or remotely, Athlete Evaluation must be conducted in accordance with the International Standard on Athlete Evaluation.

4.6 The IF Classification Rules shall detail the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class.

[Comment to art. 4.6: Classification and Athlete Evaluation are transparent processes in line with art. 2 of this Code.]

Assessment of Eligible Impairment
4.7 It is the responsibility of the Athlete to provide diagnostic evidence to establish that they have a Health Condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment as defined in article 2.4 of the Code.

[Comment to art. 4.7: An IF may decide to postpone Athlete Evaluation to request additional diagnostic evidence.

The IF will need to expand on sport-specific rules how they will handle cases of Athletes with more than one Eligible Impairment, or with a combination of 2 or more Eligible Impairment types (e.g. combined physical and visual Impairment, if applicable for the Sport/IF.)

4.8 A Head of Classification or Chief Classifier may decide to rule an Athlete Ineligible to Compete in absence of sufficient diagnostic evidence provided by the Athlete; if the Impairment cannot be attributed to an underlying Health Condition; or if the Impairment is not Permanent or cannot be Objectively and reliably assessed.

[Comment to art. 4.8: It is the responsibility of the IF to provide evidence on the decision-making process leading to rule an Athlete Ineligible to Compete.]

Assessment of minimum Impairment

4.9 Not all Eligible Impairment types will impact on a sport. In order to be eligible an Impairment must be severe enough to adversely affect performance Permanently. Classification Rules must Objectively describe such criteria.

4.10 If an Athlete fails to meet these criteria for a particular sport, the Athlete will be declared ineligible for Competition in that particular sport.

4.11 As a consequence of art. 4.10, an Athlete may meet minimum criteria in one sport, but may not meet minimum criteria to compete in another sport.

4.12 If an Athlete is deemed ineligible for Competition under the rules of an IF, this decision does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. This decision is only a ruling on the Eligibility of the Athlete to compete under the Sport Rules of the IF.

Sport Class and Sport Class Allocation

4.13 Except for the provisions in art. 4.16 of this Code, a Sport Class and Sport Class Status will be allocated to each Athlete in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation following Athlete Evaluation.

4.14 A Sport Class is a category defined by each IF in the Classification Rules of the sport, in which Athletes are categorised in reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from Impairment.

4.15 Following the allocation of a Sport Class, the Athlete also is allocated a Sport Class Status. A Sport Class Status indicates evaluation requirements (see International Standard on Athlete Evaluation) and Protest opportunities (see International Standard on Protests and Appeals).
Ineligibility to Compete

4.16 Ineligibility to Compete is a Sport Class. Ineligibility to compete may be allocated by the IF Head of Classification, in accordance with art. 4.7., given art. 4.8 has been complied with.

Failure to attend Athlete Evaluation

4.17 If an Athlete fails to attend evaluation in respect of a Sport prior to a Competition, 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.

[Comment to art. 4.17: Examples of failure to attend evaluation include, not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place; or not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.]

4.18 If the Chief Classifier for the Competition is satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for failure to attend, an Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend Athlete Evaluation.

4.19 IFs shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete Evaluation. Such sanctions shall at least as severe as the sanctions enforced on the Athlete.

Failure to comply with Athlete Evaluation

4.20 If an Athlete fails to comply with the reasonable instructions or requirements of a Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, and as a result the Classification Panel is unable to conduct a fair Athlete Evaluation the Classification Panel will (a) suspend Athlete Evaluation and (b) notify the Athlete as to the remedial action required so as to enable Athlete Evaluation to be resumed or reconvened.

[Comment to art. 4.20: Athletes are expected to comply with all reasonable instructions and requirements stipulated by a Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation. If the Classification Panel concludes that the failure to comply means it is unable conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner to arrive at a Sport Class, the Evaluation will be suspended. The Athlete will be advised as to the remedial action to be taken, but unless this is taken, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class and will not be able to compete.

Failing to comply with reasonable instructions will include the Athlete’s presentation being inconsistent (e.g. no matching of symptoms and limitations with the Impairment documentation provided), not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation, or failure to disclose the use of medication that might have an impact on Athlete Evaluation.]

4.21 If the Athlete fails to take the remedial action required at any reconvened or resumed Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete in that Sport at that Competition. The Athlete
and/or Athlete Support Personnel may be subject to further investigation regarding Intentional Misrepresentation pursuant to Art. 6.

4.22 IFs shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to comply with Athlete Evaluation. Such sanctions shall at least as severe as the sanctions enforced on the Athlete.

Notification of the Athlete

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

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

4.25 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. IFs should consider the impact of the Impairment on the sport specific activity when deciding on combining classes.

[Comment to art. 4.25: Whereas combining classes at lower level Competitions is a regular practice to ensure sufficiently large Athlete participation, combining classes in high level Competitions should only be considered when (a) methods of Impairment assessment are the same (i.e., such as assessment of muscle power, range of motion, or assessment of co-ordination including hypertonia, ataxia and/or athetosis; and (b) body regions assessed are the same. The IF should identify for which events art. 4.25 applies.]

5 Protests and Appeals

Protests

5.1 A Protest is the procedure by which a reasoned 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.

5.2 Each IF must include in their Classification Rules provisions for Competition Protests and provisions for remote Athlete Evaluation when no Protest panel is available in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

Appeals

5.3 An Appeal is the process to resolve Classification procedural disputes. Appeals should be conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals. Each IF shall include an Appeal Process in its Classification Rules in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

Communication and disclosure of Protests and Appeals
5.4 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.

5.5 The identity of Athletes whose Sport Class has been Protested and/or whose Classification procedures are Appealed may not be disclosed by the IF before completion of the Protest or Appeal.

6 Intentional Misrepresentation

6.1 An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents their skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Physical, Visual or Intellectual Impairment to a Classification Panel in the course of Athlete Evaluation with the intention of deceiving or misleading that Classification Panel shall be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

6.2 An Athlete who intentionally misrepresents their skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Physical, Visual or Intellectual Impairment by any other act or omission shall be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

[Comment to art. 6.2: This includes misrepresentation away from Athlete Evaluation, including misrepresentation after allocation of a Sport Class such as a failure to make a medical notification as to a change in circumstances that an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel knows does or may affect a Sport Class.]

6.3 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, who knowingly assists, covers up, disrupts the evaluation process with the intention to deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel, or is any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall themselves be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

6.4 The Consequences that will be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall be one or more of the following sanctions: (a) Disqualification from all Events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred; (b) Ineligibility from Athlete Evaluation or other participation in Competitions for a specified period of time ranging from 12 to 48 months; (c) Provisional Suspension from all Competitions.

6.5 The Consequences that will be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion shall be a lifetime period of Ineligibility from Athlete Evaluation or other participation in Competitions.
6.6 The IF shall provide policies and procedures on how to manage allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation in the IF Classification Rules.

6.7 Any Consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of the relevant IF.

7 Data Storage and Data Protection

7.1 Each IF shall ensure that a process is in place whereby Athlete data are stored and protected in accordance with the International Standard for Data Protection.

Classification Master List

7.2 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, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List should identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.

7.3 IFs shall make available their Classification Master List to their respective National Federations (NFs) and relevant NPCs, and to the IPC.

8 Education and Research

Education and Awareness

8.1 IFs shall implement Classification Education and Awareness Programmes that should include reference to:

- The Code
- International Standards
- Current Sport Classification Rules
- Athlete rights and responsibilities

[Comment: to art. 8.1: Education programmes should also ensure the Athlete’s Ability to understand the Impairment and related Activity Limitation in sport.]

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

Classification Research

8.3 Classification research shall comply with Internationally recognized ethical standards and research practices.
8.4 IFs should develop Evidence-Based Classification systems through research.

8.5 Classification research should be multi-disciplinary, for example, biomechanics, kinesiology, and physiology.

[Comment to art. 8.5: Athlete contribution and confidence in Classification systems is essential. In addition to disciplinary experts, Athlete input should be solicited to assist in research and Classification system improvement.]

8.6 IFs shall provide appropriate notice to National Federations, National Paralympic Committees and to the IPC of anticipated changes to Classification Rules, providing these parties with the rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation and any transition rules, as applicable, and providing these parties an opportunity to submit feedback and comments.

8.7 IFs must have the approval of the IPC before Classification system changes can be implemented. The IF must provide the IPC with the rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation, transition rules as applicable, and an overview of the process of consultation that took place as part of the system review process.

9 Governance, roles and responsibilities

International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

9.1 The roles and responsibilities of the IPC include:

9.1.1 To develop, maintain and monitor implementation of the Code, International Standards and Models of Best Practice.

9.1.2 To develop, maintain and implement example rules which conform to the Code.

9.1.3 To require, as a condition of membership, that all IPC Members, including IFs and NPCs, are in compliance with the Code.

9.1.4 To monitor compliance with the Code of IFs, NPCs and Major Competition Organizers.

9.1.5 To approve IF Classification system changes upon receipt and review of the documentation required under art. 8.7

9.1.6 To take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Code and International Standards by the Signatories, including:

- To promote, conduct, commission, seek funding and co-ordinate 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 in case of non-compliance.
• To suspend membership and rights to participate in the Paralympic Games of organizations that are not in compliance with the Code.

**International Federations (IFs)**

9.2 The roles and responsibilities of IFs include:

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

9.2.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.

9.2.3 To promote Classification education and research.

9.2.4 To recommend as a condition of membership that Classification Rules in National Federations should be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Code.

**National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)**

9.3 The roles and responsibilities of the NPCs include:

9.3.1 To ensure that national Classification Rules conform with the Code and make recommendations for compliance with the Code.

9.3.2 To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.

9.3.3 To promote the development of a national Classification Strategy, including education, in accordance with the International Standard for National Classification.

**Major Competition Organizers**

9.4 The Roles and Responsibilities of Major Competition Organizers include:

9.4.1 To implement Classification procedures for Competitions which conform with the Code.

9.4.2 To take appropriate action to achieve compliance with the Code.

**Athlete and Support Personnel**

9.5 The Roles and Responsibilities of Athletes include:

9.5.1 To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code.
9.5.2 To be available for and to take responsibility for Athlete Evaluation when requested.

9.5.3 To ensure that adequate information related to the Eligible Impairment and associated Health Condition is made available to the appropriate personnel of their NPC, NF or delegation.

9.5.4 To disclose to their NF and IF any inconsistent application of the IF Classification rules adopted pursuant to the Code, and to co-operate with NFs and IFs in investigating Classification violations.

9.5.5 To actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

9.6 The Roles and Responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:

9.6.1 To be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies and rules adopted pursuant to the Code.

9.6.2 To use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive Classification attitude.

9.6.3 To disclose to their NF and IF any inconsistent application of the IF Classification rules adopted pursuant to the Code, and to co-operate with NFs and IFs investigating Classification violations.

10 Acceptance, Implementation, Compliance and Modifications

Acceptance of the Code and International Standards

10.1 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.

10.2 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.

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

Implementation of the Code

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

10.5 In implementing the Code, each Signatory is encouraged to use the Models of Best Practice recommended by the IPC.
Acceptance and Implementation Deadlines

10.6 Each Signatory shall accept the revised Code, by signing a declaration of acceptance, on or before 1 January 2017.

10.7 Each Signatory shall implement the Code on or before 1 January 2017.

Monitoring Compliance with the Code

10.8 To facilitate monitoring, each Signatory shall report on its compliance with the Code as requested by the IPC, and shall explain reasons for any non-compliance.

Consequences of Non-compliance with the Code

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

10.10 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:

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

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

Modifications to the Code

10.12 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.

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

10.14 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.

10.15 Amendments to the Code shall, after appropriate consultation, be approved by a two-thirds majority of the IPC General Assembly. Amendments to the International Standards shall, after appropriate consultation, be approved by the IPC Governing Board.

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

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

11 Interpretation of the Code

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

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

11.3 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.

11.4 The Introduction, Glossary and International Standards shall be considered integral parts of the Code.

11.5 The Comments annotating various provisions of the Code shall be used to interpret the Code.

11.6 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 SPORTS IN THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

As of 01 July 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Skiing</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>World Archery (WA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton*</td>
<td>Badminton World Federation (BWF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobsleigh and Skeleton*</td>
<td>International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (FIBT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boccia</td>
<td>Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe</td>
<td>International Canoe Federation (ICF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>International Cycling Union (UCI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>International Equestrian Federation (FEI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey*</td>
<td>International Hockey Federation (FIH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football 5-a-Side</td>
<td>International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football 7-a-Side</td>
<td>Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CP-ISRA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goalball</td>
<td>International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handball*</td>
<td>International Handball Federation (IHF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Sledge Hockey</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nordic Skiing</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerchair Football*</td>
<td>International Federation of Powerchair Football (FIPFA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerlifting</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowing</td>
<td>International Rowing Federation (FISA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailing</td>
<td>International Foundation for Disabled Sailing (IFDS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboard</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Governing Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taekwondo*</td>
<td>World Taekwondo Federation (WTF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triathlon</td>
<td>International Triathlon Union (ITU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball ( Sitting )</td>
<td>World Organization for Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Basketball</td>
<td>International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Curling</td>
<td>World Curling Federation (WCF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Dance Sport</td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Fencing</td>
<td>International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Rugby</td>
<td>International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchair Tennis</td>
<td>International Tennis Federation (ITF)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Recognised International Federation
## APPENDIX 2: GLOSSARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ability</strong></td>
<td>A quality or state of being able to perform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity Limitation</strong></td>
<td>Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities in a sport specific environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appeal</strong></td>
<td>The process to resolve procedural disputes concerning Classification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Athlete</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body Function</strong></td>
<td>Physiological functions of body systems (including psychological functions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Body Structure</strong></td>
<td>Anatomical parts of the body such as organs, limbs and their components.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Athlete Evaluation</strong></td>
<td>The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the Classification rules of the IF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Athlete Support Personnel</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chief Classifier</strong></td>
<td>The Internationally certified Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specified Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classification</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classification Master List</strong></td>
<td>The list, made available by the IF, that identifies the Athletes that participated in International Classification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classification Panel</strong></td>
<td>A group of Classifiers, appointed by the International Federation, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classification Rules and Regulations</strong></td>
<td>The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions that are in connection with Athlete Evaluation and the grouping of Athletes for Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classification Strategy</strong></td>
<td>The development of a universal Classification Code with the overall Objective to support and co-ordinate the development and implementation of accurate, reliable, Consistent and credible sport focused Classification rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classifier</strong></td>
<td>A person authorized as an Official by an IF to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Code</strong></td>
<td>The Classification Code.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Code of Conduct</strong></td>
<td>A set of rules to outline the responsibilities, to guide behaviour and decisions and to identify best practice for an individual Classifier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competency</strong></td>
<td>A skill, knowledge, ability or behavioural characteristic that is associated with excellent performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competition</strong></td>
<td>A series of individual Events conducted together under one ruling body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conflict of Interest</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consistent</strong></td>
<td>Free from variation or inconsistency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Diversity</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diagnosis</strong></td>
<td>A process of identifying a medical condition or disease by its signs, symptoms, and from the results of various diagnostic procedures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligible Impairment</strong></td>
<td>An Impairment belonging to one of the categories of Impairments for which the Paralympic Movement offers sport opportunities as defined in the IPC Policy on Eligible Impairments in the Paralympic Movement (IPC Handbook)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
<td>Minimal Eligibility criteria and Eligible Impairment requirements set as minimal condition to enter Competition in a specific Sport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence-Based</strong></td>
<td>Practices or procedures on the basis of accepted (scientific) methods that have been shown valid, effective and reliable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance</strong></td>
<td>The management or leadership responsible for the decision-making process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Head of Classification</strong></td>
<td>A Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, coordination and implementation of Classification matters for the IF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Condition</strong></td>
<td>A general term for pathology, disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury or trauma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impairment</strong></td>
<td>Deficits in Body Function or structure such as a significant deviation or loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In Competition</strong></td>
<td>The Athlete has the status of being selected for a specific Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ineligibility</strong></td>
<td>Consequence of not meeting the Eligibility criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)</strong></td>
<td>Provides a unified and standard language and framework for description of health and health related states. The language and taxonomic structure for the Code derive from ICF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Competition</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Federation</strong></td>
<td>A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with a disability that has been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Standard</strong></td>
<td>A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IPC</strong></td>
<td>International Paralympic Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IPC Classification Committee</strong></td>
<td>The IPC Standing Committee that is responsible for recommending policies, guidelines and procedures with respect to Classification within the Paralympic Movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IPC Code of Ethics</strong></td>
<td>The ethical standard that will be applied Consistently within the Paralympic Movement, and will be applicable to all IPC Sanctioned Events, Competitions and activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major Competition</strong></td>
<td>The continental associations of National Paralympic Committees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>and other International multi-sport organizations that function as the ruling body for any continental, regional or other International Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measurable</strong></td>
<td>Comparable to a standard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimum Degree of Impairment</strong></td>
<td>The determination that the Impairment is severe enough to consider the Impairment permissible in a particular Sport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Models of Best Practice</strong></td>
<td>Examples of excellence related to Classification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Competition</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Federation</strong></td>
<td>The organization recognized by an IF as the sole national governing body for its sport.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Paralympic Committee (NPC)</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td>Supported by (scientific) evidence or relevant facts and viewpoints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Out of Competition</strong></td>
<td>Not In-Competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paralympic Games</strong></td>
<td>Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent</strong></td>
<td>Will not resolve in the foreseeable future regardless of physical training, rehabilitation or other therapeutic interventions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protest</strong></td>
<td>The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete’s Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protest Panel</strong></td>
<td>A Panel consisting of at minimum an equal number of Classifiers as the Classification Panel, with equal or greater level of Classification, to re-evaluate the after a Protest has been submitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recognized International Federation</strong></td>
<td>International Federations that are not eligible to be IPC members, but contribute to the development of sport opportunities for athletes associated with the Paralympic Movement and have organizational goals that are compatible with the Vision and Mission of the IPC (see Appendix 1 for the list).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signatories</strong></td>
<td>The governing bodies of IPC, the International Federations and the NPCs that accept the Classification Code.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sport Class</strong></td>
<td>A category defined by each IF in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from Impairment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sport Class Status</strong></td>
<td>A category allocated to each Athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>