

Sechenov University
Department of Sports Medicine and Medical Rehabilitation

A 10-year Analysis of Fight Outcomes Between Athletes of Different Classes in the Paralympic Judo

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Classification and technical rules of IBSA Judo

- B1, B2, B3 classes
- Athletes with hearing impairments can also participate
- Weight categories

B1



B2



B3



Classification and technical rules of IBSA Judo

Athletes of different classes
fight against each other



A totally blind individual
can compete against one
with remaining vision!



Background

Why are you stealing from blind persons?

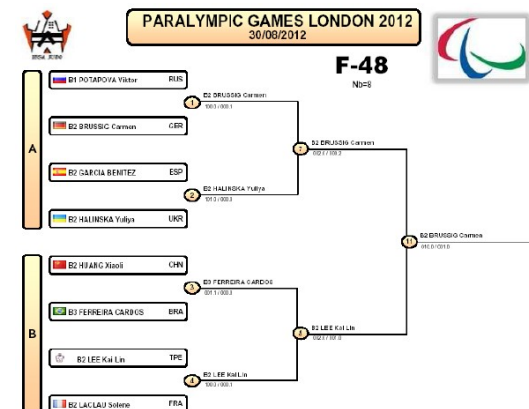
Many athletes, coaches and officials argued:

- B1 athletes have fewer chances of winning against B2 or B3 athletes
- B1 athletes have fewer chances of being selected for the National Teams
- B1 athletes will no longer stay in the sport

How to validate these assumptions?

- outcomes of 1,936 official fights
- 10 major international IBSA Judo competitions
- 10-year period (2007-2016)
- estimation of number of athletes across all groups

FEMALE						MALE						M F					
	1	2	3	5	Total		1	2	3	5	Total		1	2	3	5	Total
RUSSIA	4	4	2	1	10	RUSSIA	4	1	1	2	6	1 RUSSIA	6	7	7	2	20
GERMANY	1	1			2	GERMANY	2	3	5	1	10	2 AZERBAIJAN	4	1	1	2	6
SWEDEN	1				1	FINLAND	1				1	3 GERMANY	1	1	1		3
HUNGARY	1				1	GREAT BRITAIN		2	2		4	4 HUNGARY	1		1	2	2
FRANCE		1	2	1	3	FRANCE		1	2	2	3	5 FINLAND	1				1
ITALY		1			1	UKRAINIA			1	1	1	6 SWEDEN	1				1
SPAIN			4	1	4	HUNGARY			1	1	1	7 FRANCE		2	4	3	6
TURKEY			3	1	3	TURKEY			1	1	1	8 GREAT BRITAIN		2	2		4
GRECE			1	1	1	GERMANY			1		1	9 ITALY		1		1	1
BULGARIA JUDO F			1		1	SPAIN				3	0	10 TURKEY			4	2	4
UKRAINIA				1	0	GRECE				1	0	11 SPAIN			4	4	4
HUNGARY				1	0	ITALY				1	0	12 UKRAINIA			1	2	1
				0		LITHUANIA				1	0	13 GRECE			1	2	1
				0							0	14 BULGARIA JUDO F			1		1
				0							0	15 LITHUANIA			1		0
				0							0						0
				0							0						0
				0							0						0
TOTAL	7	7	13	7	27	TOTAL	7	7	14	14	28	TOTAL	14	14	27	21	55



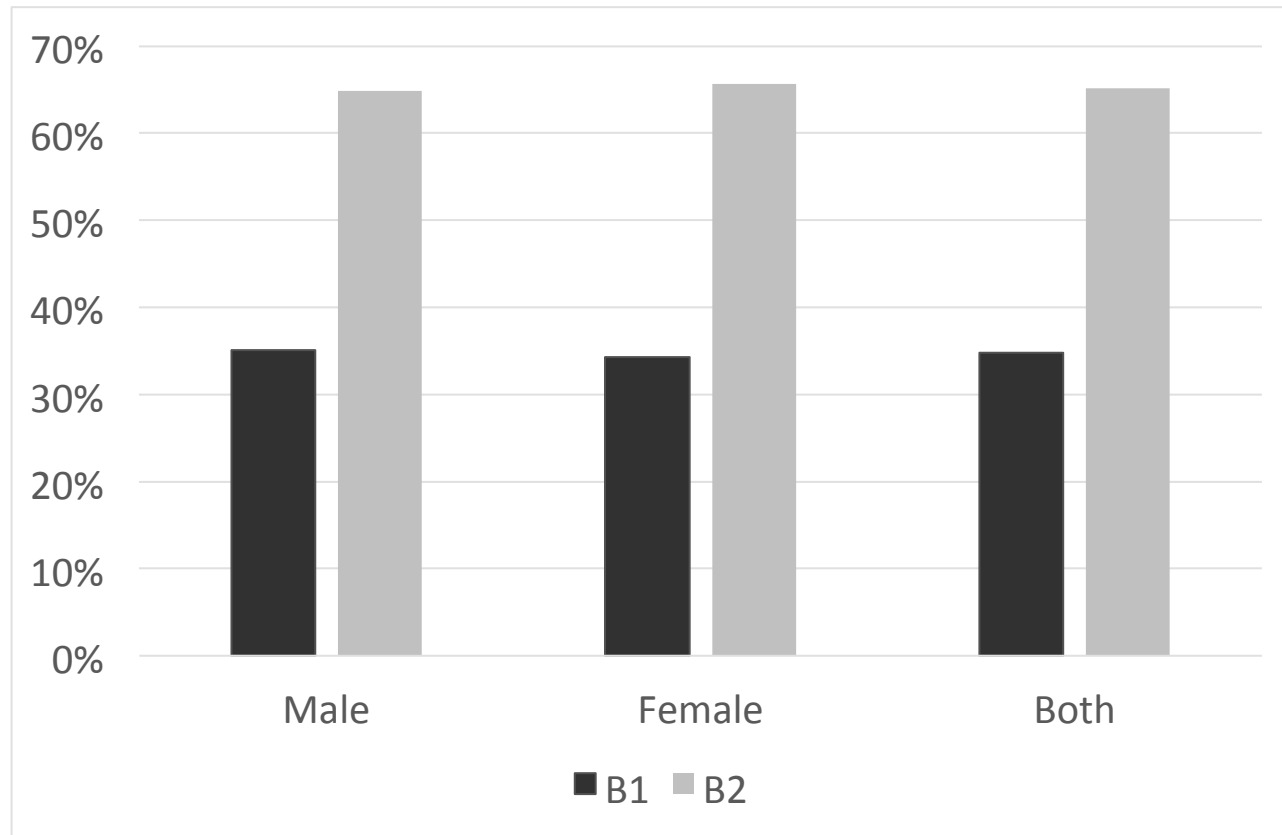
B1 against B2 fight outcomes

Success of B1

35.1%

34.3%

34.8%



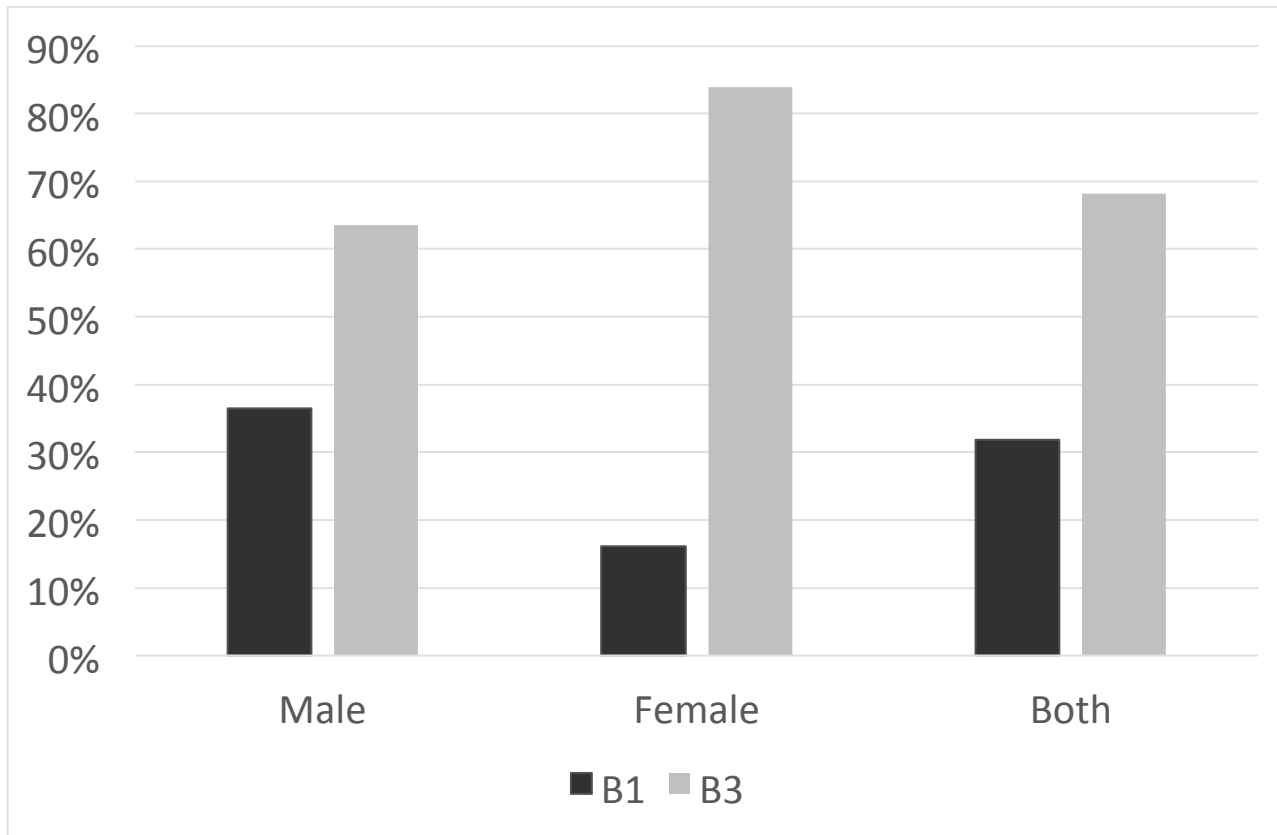
B1 against B3 fight outcomes

Success of B1

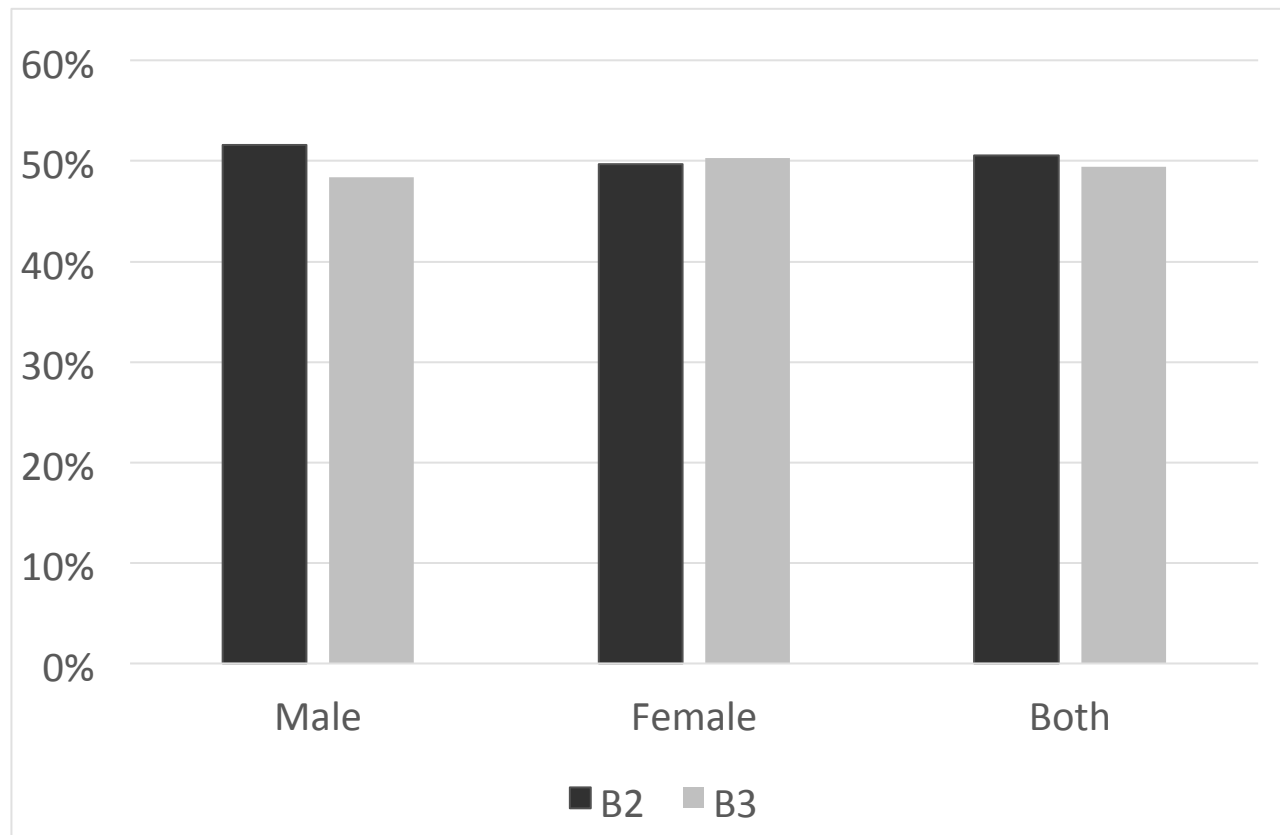
36.5%

16.1%

31.8%

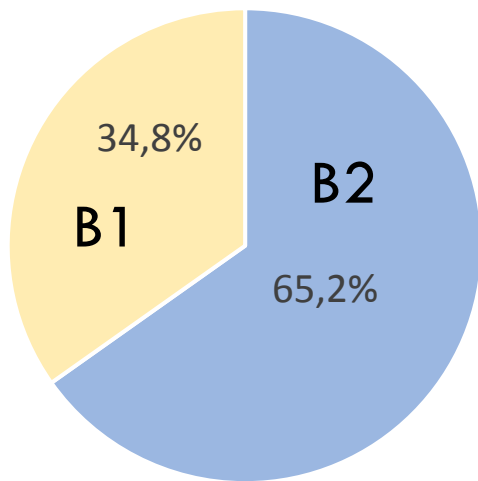


B2 against B3 fight outcomes

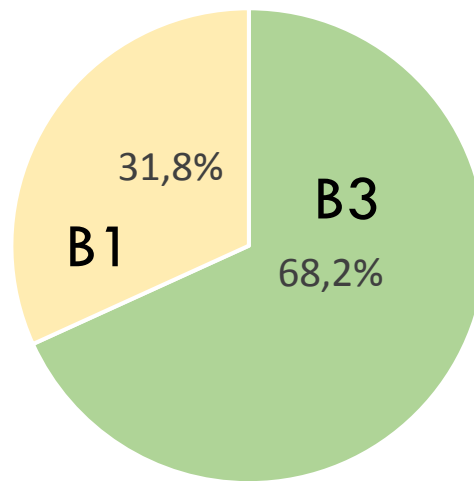


Overall fight outcomes

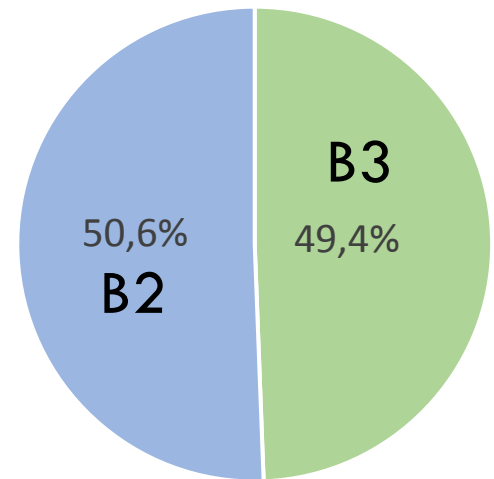
B1 VS B2



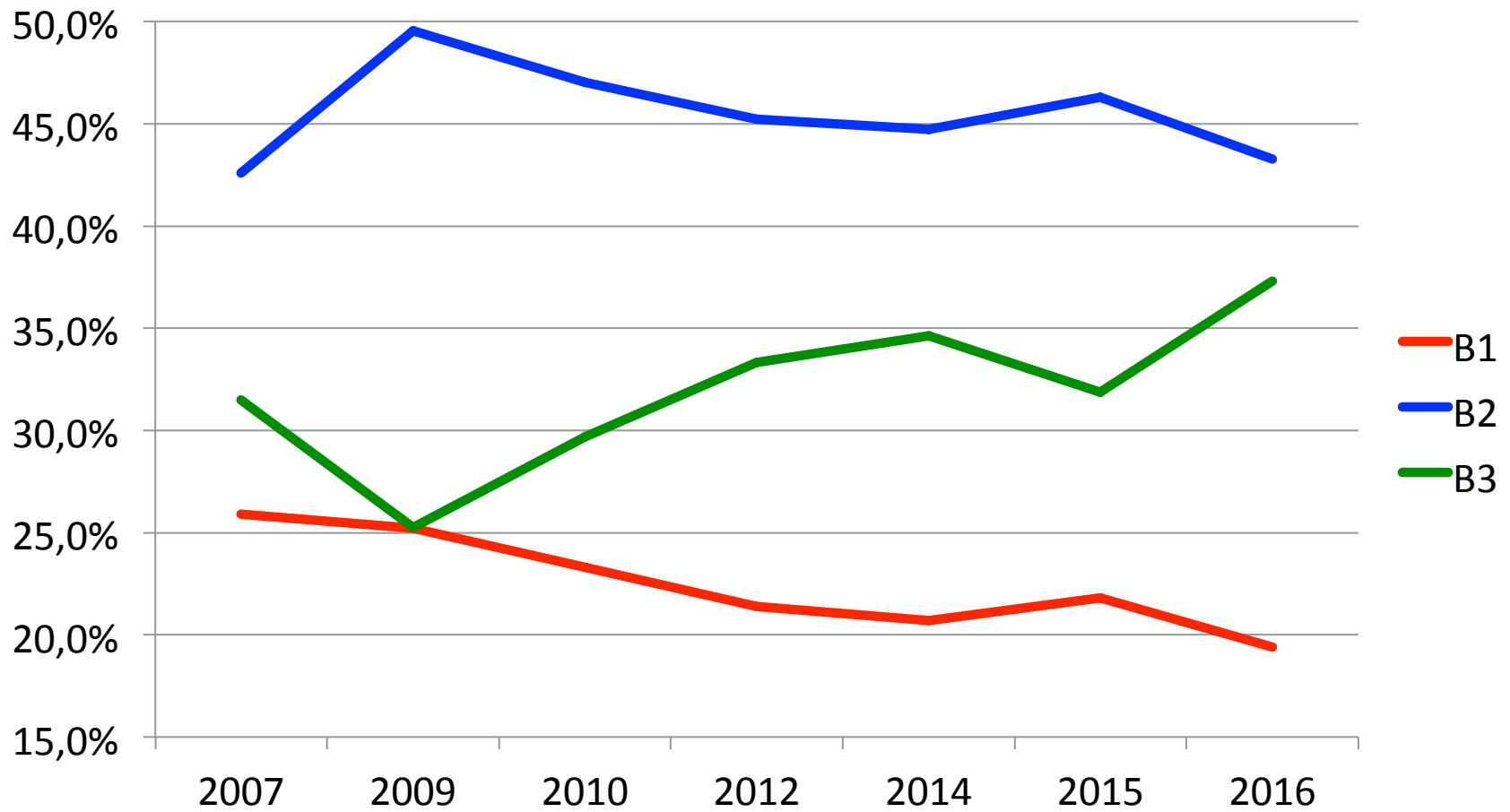
B1 VS B3



B2 VS B3



Results – number of athletes



The number of B1 athletes decreased by 7%

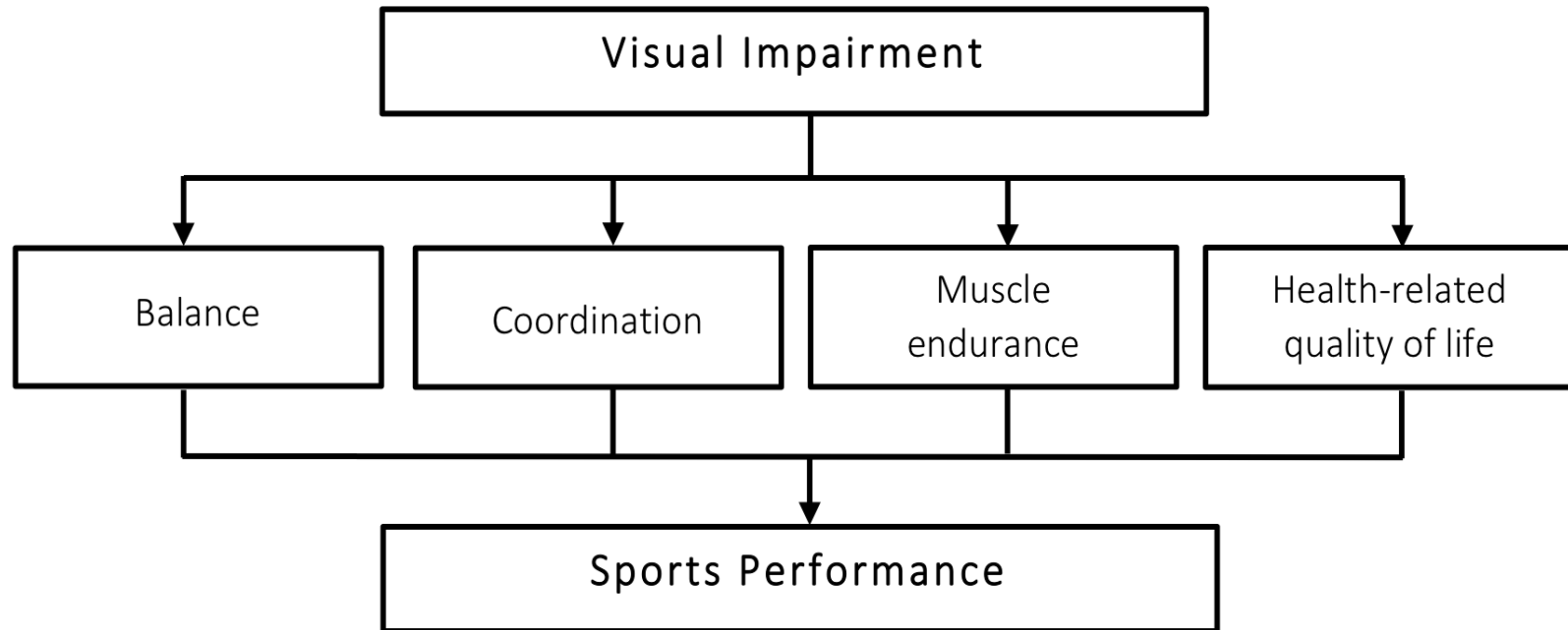
True or False ?

Many athletes, coaches and officials argued:

- B1 athletes have fewer chances of winning against B2 or B3 athletes **TRUE**
- B1 athletes have fewer chances of being selected for the National Teams **???**
- B1 athletes will no longer stay in the sport **TRUE**

Why are WE stealing from blind persons?

Visual Impairment VS Sports Performance



Food for thought

Is it fair for a totally blind athlete to compete against one with remaining vision?

Logic and common sense **NO** (opinion)

Physiology **NO** (science)

Fight outcomes **NO** (statistics)

Solutions ?

1. Change the classification rules

Functional classification in VI sports

Vrije University Amsterdam

IBSA Judo Grant – Kai Krabben

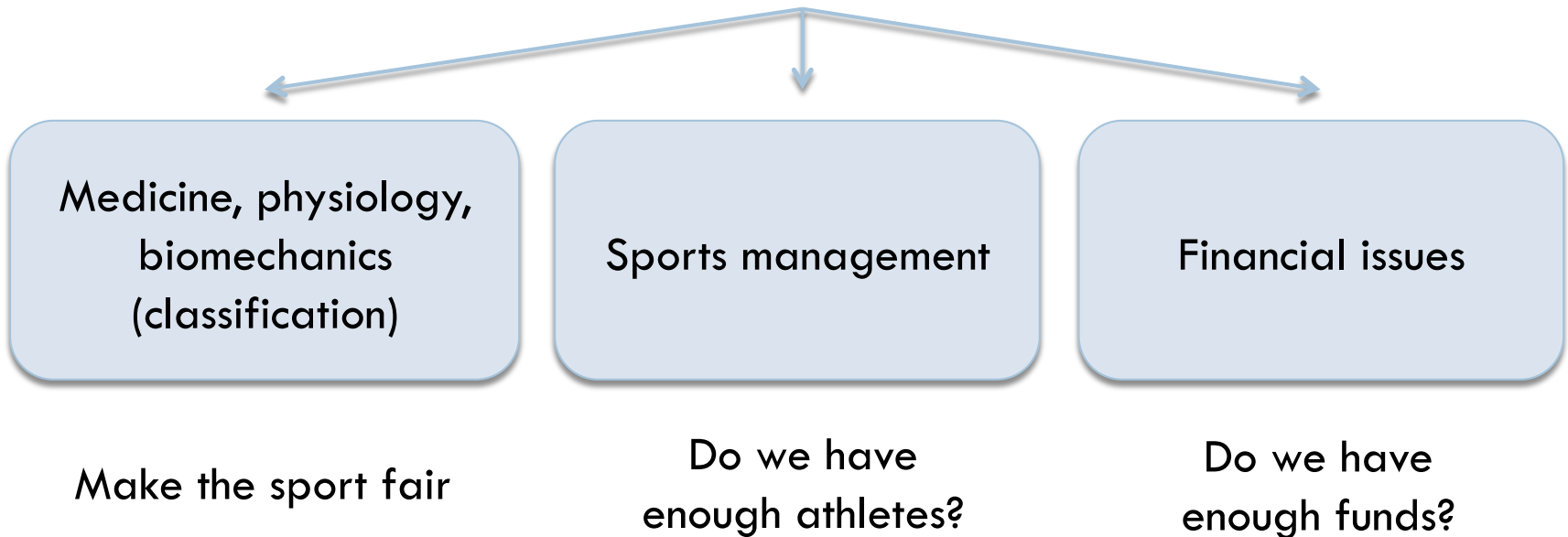
How long will it take? 2020-2022...

2. Change the technical rules

B1 compete in separate class

Should we have more classes in Para sports?

Development of new classes in Paralympic sports



If we don't change it

- How many athletes will compete in unfair competitions in the next 5 years?
- How many medals will B1 athletes lose BECAUSE of the impact of their impairment?
- How many athletes will be take out from the teams?

How will we feel watching unfair competitions?

Mikhail Lermontov

The Beggar

By gates of an abode, blessed,
A blind man stood, asking for donation,
A beggar, cruelly oppressed
By hunger, thirst and deprivation.

He asked just for a piece of bread,
And all his looks were full of anguish,
And was a cold stone laid
Into his arm, thin, gnarled and languished.



Thank you!

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