



U.S. Paralympics

National
Classification
Policies & Procedures

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Introduction

The most current version of the IPC Athlete [2015] Classification Code is effective January 1, 2017. The revisions to the 2015 Code are consistent with the first version [2007]. The Code aims to provide a clear statement of the purpose of athlete classification, as well as a framework of policies and procedures that will uphold confidence in classification systems across the Paralympic Movement.

It is incumbent upon each National Paralympic Committee (NPC) that is a signatory of the Code to ensure that national classification policies and procedures are in compliance with the Code and alignment with the respective Para-sport International Federations (IFs) where relevant and applicable.

The responsibilities of the NPC as per the Code section 12.4 include:

- Ensuring that classification rules conform with the Code and make recommendations for compliance with the Code;
- Developing and implementing a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code;
- Promoting the development of a national classification strategy

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) is the NPC within the United States and a signatory of the Code. All national classification policies and procedures will be implemented through the USOPC's Paralympic Division (U.S. Paralympics).

International and National Standards for Classification

Article 1.6 of the Code illustrates specific standards for executing classification. These standards are divided into six main sub documents as part of the Code:

- International Standard: Eligible Impairments
- International Standard: Athlete Evaluation
- International Standard: Protests and Appeals
- International Standard: Classifier Personnel and Training
- International Standard: Classification Data Protection

Each set of standards must be followed for international and national classification in the way that the Code specifies. There will be slight variations as to how these elements will be implemented on a national level and these variations are described in this document.

Upholding the Code

U.S. Paralympics has developed the National Classification Policies & Procedures and national standards to uphold the Code, while creating a fair and equitable process for resolving situations where non-compliance with the Code has been raised. All signatories who accept the Code are responsible for compliance and implementation of the Code.

The consequences for the NPC as a signatory of the Code include:

- Provide explanations of non-compliance
- If non-compliant, submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for compliance (subject to the approval of 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 event(s)
- Suspension of membership

Instances of national non-compliance with the U.S. Paralympics National Classification Policies and Procedures (by athletes, coaches, teams, LOCs, NGBs/PSOs, or any other relevant party) shall follow the U.S. Paralympics Complaint Procedures (Administrative Grievance). These procedures are included as Appendix I to this document.

Classification Overview

Classification is the structure for competition within Paralympic sport. 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.

Paralympic athletes have an impairment in body structures and functions that leads to a competitive disadvantage in sport. Consequently, criteria are put in place to ensure that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus, the same factors that account for success in sport for athletes who are able-bodied.

Athletes are grouped in sport classes within each sport, and these sport classes are assessed by reference to the impact of the impairment on the ability to compete in that sport. The sport classes are defined by each sport and form part of the sport rules. Athlete sport class(es) are determined by a variety of processes that may include a physical and technical assessment and observation in competition.

National Classification Governance & System

It is incumbent upon each National Paralympic Committee (NPC) that is a signatory of the Code to ensure that national classification policies and procedures are in compliance with the Code. As the NPC for the United States, and a signatory of the Code, U.S. Paralympics shall assume all governance for national classification.

Any classification conducted outside the scope of the National Classification Policies & Procedures will neither be recognized nor upheld in any official proceedings.

Organizations conducting classification in the USA outside of the scope of the National Classification Policies & Procedures may be sanctioned for non-compliance with these procedures.

U.S. Paralympics National Classification Strategy

The goal of U.S. Paralympics is to offer classification evaluation opportunities to all eligible athletes that wish to compete in Para-sport competition within the United States. U.S. Paralympics will accomplish this by collaborating with NGBs/PSOs to provide opportunities for athletes to undergo national classification evaluation, aligning with talent identification and athlete pipeline initiatives and strategies, and partnering with local Para-sport organizations in an effort to identify and educate athletes that should pursue a national classification evaluation. Additionally, in partnership with NGBs/PSOs, U.S. Paralympics will strategically support classifier education, training, and certification opportunities which will in turn create more evaluation opportunities for athletes.

U.S. Paralympics is committed to supporting NGBs/PSOs to ensure compliance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards, the classification rules of the respective sport IF, as well as these U.S. Paralympics National Classification Policies & Procedures. U.S. Paralympics is committed to the education of quality classifiers strategically located in several geographic regions across the United States. At the national level U.S. Paralympics will collaborate with NGBs/PSOs to educate and provide practical experience for classifiers across all Para sports to ensure that athletes are evaluated according to international standards and best practices, placed within the appropriate sport class(es) and educated on the process to ensure a seamless transition between classification at the national and international levels.

Standards for Eligible Impairments

Currently there are ten (10) eligible impairment groups in the Paralympic Movement: impaired muscle power, impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency, leg length difference, short stature, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, vision impairment and intellectual impairment. These impairments must be permanent and the result of verifiable eligible underlying health condition.

Any athlete who desires to compete in Para-sport competition must have at least one of these eligible impairments. The IF for each sport determines which impairments are eligible for their respective sports/disciplines. Certain sports may include some, but not all ten eligible impairment groups. See Appendix B for a list of eligible impairments by sport.

All athletes must provide documentation signed by a physician to verify their eligible impairment and underlying health condition. Appendix D and Appendix F contain the U.S. Paralympics National Medical Diagnostics form that must be completed and submitted prior to requesting a national classification evaluation for Para sport.

Non-Eligible Impairments

The International Standard (IS) for Eligible Impairments includes a list of non-eligible impairments. Specifically, the below are non-eligible impairments:

- Pain
- Hearing Impairment
- Low Muscle Tone
- Hypermobility of Joints
- Joint instability
- Impaired muscle endurance
- Impaired motor reflex functions
- Impaired cardiovascular functions
- Impaired respiratory functions
- Impaired metabolic functions
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor preservation

The IS for Eligible Impairments also includes a list of health conditions that will not lead to an eligible impairment. The complete International Standard for Eligible Impairments is included as Appendix C.

Standards for Athlete Evaluation

Athlete evaluation is the process by which an athlete is allocated sport class(es) and sport class status by a classification panel for their respective sport. Athlete evaluation encompasses the following: assessment of whether or not the athlete has an eligible impairment for the respective sport (see above for IS on Eligible Impairments), assessment of whether or not the athlete meets the established minimum impairment criteria for the respective sport, specific assessment and evaluation of the tasks and fundamentals for the respective sport, observation during competition (if required by the respective sport), and the allocation of sport class(es) and designation of sport class status.

Each IF will have specific evaluation criteria that will be used to assess athletes for eligibility and sport class(es). The process by which all national evaluations will be conducted will be implemented as per the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the classification evaluation criteria of the respective sport IF. Changes to sport evaluation criteria will be made by the sport IF. Communication of any IF sport evaluation criteria changes may be made to the respective National Federation (NF) and/or U.S. Paralympics and will be disseminated to relevant parties in the USA [i.e. classifiers, coaches, high performance directors] by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/PSO.

The specific process of athlete evaluation must follow the Code and the respective IF rules as specified by the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

National Classification for Athletes with Visual Impairments

Athletes with a visual impairment will be evaluated for national classification by submitting medical documentation (Appendix F) that must be completed and signed by the athlete's ophthalmologist. The athlete must submit this documentation to U.S. Paralympics at least four weeks prior to an event. The medical diagnostics form and testing documentation that

are submitted for national VI classification evaluation can also be utilized to request an international VI classification evaluation for all IPC sports if the forms were submitted and signed by the ophthalmologists within 12 months of the international evaluation request. Athletes with a visual impairment that is progressive may resubmit an updated medical diagnostic form if their condition has progressed enough to warrant a possible change in national classification.

National Classification for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments

Athletes with an intellectual impairment must pursue classification evaluation via the processes established by Athletes Without Limits (Appendix E). If approved by Athletes Without Limits and INAS (International Sport Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability) the athlete will be recognized as nationally classified for U.S. domestic sport competition.

Sport Class

A sport class is a category defined by each sport IF in which athletes are categorized in reference to activity limitation resulting from impairment for that particular sport. Athletes are allocated a sport class (or sport classes as relevant) based on the classification rules of the respective sport IF. Ineligibility, often referred to as Not Eligible (NE), to compete is considered a sport class.

The Code specifies sport class in accordance with the Classification Rules of the International Federation (IF) for the respective sport.

As stated in the Code (International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, sections 5.1 and 5.2):

“An athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a sports class. IFs must have within their classification rules clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding the methods by which a classification panel will assess the extent to which an athlete can perform specific tasks and activities required by a sport.”

National sport classes will strictly adhere to the guidelines set out by each respective IF. There will be no variation from the IPC/IF sport class system(s) and the respective sport class designations in the national classification processes.

Sport Class Status

The Code defines three (3) international sport class statuses for assignment following athlete evaluation. A sport class status is assigned to each athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and protest opportunities.

The Code specifies sport class status in accordance with the classification rules of the IF for the respective sport.

As stated in the Code (International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, Section 7.1):

“Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete’s Sport Class may be subject to Protest in accordance with the International Standard for Protest and Appeals.”

The following [International] Sport Class Status types will be used:

- CONFIRMED (C): an athlete with sport class status Confirmed is not required to undergo any further evaluation.
- REVIEW (R): an athlete with sport class status review must complete evaluation prior to competing at any international competition unless the relevant IF specifies otherwise.
- REVIEW WITH A FIXED REVIEW DATE (FRD): an athlete with sport class status review with a fixed review date is required to complete evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed date.

National Sport Class Status

The following sport class status designations will be used for national classification. All nationally classified athletes, regardless of their National Sport Class Status, may be considered new athletes for purposes of international classification after being evaluated by a national panel.

The following National Sport Class Status types shall be used by U.S. Paralympics:

****NOTE:** *Any athlete who has undergone international classification evaluation by the respective sport IF may not request national classification evaluation and/or national sport class(es) and/or national sport class status. The sport class(es) and sport class status of the respective IF will be recognized by U.S. Paralympics and the relevant NGB/PSO for all national-level competition.***

National Provisional (NP): The athlete has received a PROVISIONAL sport class(es) by alternative evaluation methods including video analysis, remote evaluation, and/or medical diagnostics information. The athlete must go through athlete evaluation at the national level at the earliest opportunity in order to receive recognized national sport class(es) and sport class status. Instructions for requesting and submitting the relevant information for an NP sport class(es) may be found in Appendix L. Athletes who receive NP status will be listed in the national classification database for the respective sport.

National Classified (NN): The athlete has been evaluated at ONE (1) appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective

sport National Federation (NF). All NN status athletes are adequately classified for national competition within the U.S. and will be included into the national sport classification database. Athletes with NN sport class status do not need to undergo athlete evaluation at the national level again unless their impairment has changed.

National Review (NR / NR*): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of ONE (1) appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF). An athlete may be designated for Review status due to any of the circumstances outlined below:

- Degenerative impairment / condition (may include a fixed review date at discretion of the classification panel)
- Fluctuating impairment / condition
- Request for Review due to change in medical condition – must be requested by athlete/coach/parent on the (national) Request for Classification Review form (Appendix N) and include relevant medical documentation outlining the change in impairment.
- Age – an NN or NC athlete may be designated for classification review at a particular age (i.e. following puberty once growth has ceased) as determined by the classification panel in accordance with sport-specific athlete evaluation standards. Once the evaluation is conducted by an appointed U.S. Paralympics and/or respective sport National Federation (NF) national classification panel the athlete's status will revert to its previous state (NN or NC).

Athletes with an NR designation may only be protested ONE (1) time *relative to the designated Sport Class they are assigned*. If an athlete is reviewed by a protest panel and reassigned an NR status, they will be designated by an asterisk (*) in the national sport classification database notating that they cannot be subject to additional protests.

National Confirmed (NC): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of TWO (2) appearances by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF). Athletes with NC status may not be classified again nationally. *The athlete may be classified internationally by the SPORT IF*. The NC athlete may request a National Review if there has been a medically documented change to their impairment.

National sport class status pertains to national classifications only. Athletes wishing to obtain an international classification must follow the respective sport IF rules and undergo classification evaluation by an international panel [there is no transfer of ***national*** sport class and sport class status to ***international*** sport class and sport class status]. Once an athlete has undergone international classification evaluation they may **NOT** undergo national classification evaluation for their respective sport.

Sport Class Status Allocation

All national classifications shall follow a consistent and uniform status allocation process. Please reference the chart below for an overview of sport class status allocation.

Classifier(s)	NATIONAL Status	INTERNATIONAL Status
USA National Classifier and/or NGB/PSO Designee #	NP	---
USA National Classification Panel – 1 st appearance	NN	n/a
USA National Classification Panel	NR *	n/a
USA National Classification Panel – 2 nd appearance	NC	n/a
USA Protest Panel (as defined by SPORT)	NC	n/a
International Panel – Level 1 / 2 Classifier(s)	--	R, FRD or C ^

Each NGB/PSO in collaboration with U.S. Paralympics may designate appropriately trained and educated personnel to conduct evaluation of submitted information/data for NP status.

* USA national panel may designate review status for degenerative / changing impairments and age considerations.

^ International R/ FRD/ C sport class will be allocated in conjunction with the rules of the respective sport IF.

Standards for Protests and Appeals

A review is the procedure by which a subsequent athlete evaluation is undertaken according to the classification rules for that sport.

A protest is the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's sport class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

An appeal is the procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Each sport IF will have specific criteria for the conduct of [international] reviews, protests and appeals. The U.S. Paralympics National Classification system protests and appeals will follow the U.S. Paralympics Classification Policies and Procedures. Any changes made by the sport IF to [international] protest and appeal processes will be communicated by U.S. Paralympics to relevant parties in the U.S. [i.e. classifiers, NGBs/PSOs] as learned.

National Review Requests

Requests for national classification review shall be submitted on the National Classification Request for Review form (Appendix N). An athlete may submit for a national review if their impairment has changed since the time of their prior NATIONAL classification evaluation. An athlete who has been nationally evaluated and does NOT have a NC status may also request a national classification review. The request for review must be submitted a minimum of 45 days prior to the competition at which the athlete is requesting to be reviewed. All requests for review must include copies of pertinent medical documentation outlining the change in condition or impairment.

National Protests

National classification protests shall be submitted on the U.S. Classification Protest form (Appendix M). The protest must be submitted a minimum of 45 days prior to the competition where the individual submitting the protest is requesting that the protest classification panel be conducted. If the requested competition does not have an appropriate national classification panel available / assigned that meets the protest panel requirements for the respective sport, accepted protests will be carried over to the next available competition with a classification panel that meets protest requirements.

There is no provision or opportunity for in-competition protests within the U.S. Paralympics National Classification system.

The national protest fee shall be \$100. This fee is non-refundable and must be submitted along with the protest form to U.S. Paralympics. Reasons for the protest must be clearly outlined on the protest form.

There is no national protest opportunity for athletes with visual or intellectual impairments. Athletes with a visual or intellectual impairment that are deemed not eligible at the national level will have the option to pursue international classification for their respective sport.

The following grid explains the eligibility process for the submission of protests and who is eligible to file a protest:

Athlete Sport Class Status	May be Protested by the Athlete/Coach/Club	May be Protested by Head Domestic Classifier
NP (National Provisional)	NO	NO
NC (National Confirmed)	NO#	YES**
NR (National Review)	YES	YES
NN (National Classified)	YES	YES
Any Int'l Status – R, FRD, C	n/a	n/a

Athlete may submit a request for National Review if a change in medical condition / impairment

** Protest may be lodged under exceptional circumstances by Head Domestic Classifier and/or respective sport NGB/PSO

National Appeals

National classification appeals shall follow the U.S. Paralympics National Appeals Committee (NAC) for Classification Procedures. This document is included as Appendix I to these procedures.

Intelligence Gathering

U.S. Paralympics may request medical information from athletes at times to gather data based on eligible impairments. This information may be used for classifier and NGB/PSO educational purposes. This information may also be used in collaboration with the IPC and/or IFs to develop and improve the international classification system(s) over time. This information will be handled following the standards for data protection.

Standard for Data Protection

All athletes are required to submit medical documentation for the purposes of classification. The IPC has implemented a data protection policy to protect medical and sensitive information that is sent to the NFs, NPCs and IFs. The policies in place will give athletes the confidence that their information is being protected and shared in the appropriate manner.

U.S. Paralympics has policies in place to protect the sensitive information that is submitted by each athlete in regard to classification evaluation. All athletes that submit information will have information seen by classifiers and/or NGB/PSO and U.S. Paralympics as deemed appropriate ONLY for purposes of classification and determining Para-sport eligibility. For any further use of medical records or information outside of this scope, the athlete and/or parent/guardian will be notified for consent.

Data Protection for Medical Diagnostics Forms

All medical documents that are submitted to the NGB/PSO and/or U.S. Paralympics are handled with great sensitivity. As necessary the information may be shared with classifiers and/or NGB/HPMO, U.S. Paralympics and submitted through the appropriate channels for international classification as relevant to the IF and/or IPC.

Once an athlete is approved to undergo classification evaluation at the national level their information will be saved in their athlete file. All files are protected with restricted access, whether hard copy or digital.

Data Retention

All medical diagnostics forms submitted to U.S. Paralympics are kept in a secure electronic file along with other licensing documents for the IPC. All classification cards and documentation submitted by national classifiers or international classifiers are logged into a secure online database and/or filed under lock and key within the U.S. Paralympics offices as relevant. These files are kept indefinitely for all U.S. athletes.

Access to Classification Data

Athletes that wish to request a copy of their own classification card and/or sport-specific evaluation documentation may do so via written request to U.S. Paralympics (Appendix K) and/or the respective NGB/PSO. If a coach or program manager wishes to obtain a copy of

an athlete's classification data they must have the respective athlete and/or the athlete's parent/guardian contact U.S. Paralympics with the request. Only an athlete and/or an athlete's parent/guardian may request and receive a copy of the classification card and or sport-specific evaluation documentation.

Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training

The responsibilities of the NPC, which in the United States is the Paralympic Division (U.S. Paralympics) of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), as per the Code include promoting the development of a national classification strategy that includes education.

Role of the Classifier

The individuals that implement classification [i.e. sport classifiers] hold a critically important role in helping to ensure that the core integrity of a fair playing field in Para-sport competition is maintained. As a classifier, the role is to uphold these tenets to the highest level, thereby representing U.S. Paralympics, the USOPC and the International Paralympic movement. The role of a classifier must always be to best serve the athletes of the entire Paralympic movement. Well-executed and professionally administered classification will best ensure a level playing field for competition.

Classifiers and Classification Panel

A classifier is a person authorized as an official by the IPC/IF (international) and/or approved by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF) at the national level to evaluate athletes while serving as a member of a classification panel. The duties and responsibilities of a classifier are defined in Section 2 of the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.

U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/PSO shall establish the following positions (national):

Head Domestic Classifier (HDC): A classifier who has international authorization (Level 2) and/or equivalent education and experience for the respective sport and who will work at the direction of U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/PSO to facilitate Code compliance for the sport within the U.S. The HDC may be filled by a staff member (who may or may not be a classifier) at the respective NGB/PSO.

Chief Classifier (CC): The Classifier responsible for the administration, direction, coordination and implementation of classification matters for a specific competition.

Role and Responsibility of the HDC

When nominated in a particular sport, the HDC's role may include the following:

- Working with U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/PSO to facilitate Code compliance for the sport by providing direction, coordination and implementation of IF classification evaluation criteria and process
- Oversight of national classifier education
- Assist with appointment of classification panels for competition
- Oversight and mentoring of sport classifiers to ensure compliance with the Code and upkeep of the national sport classification database
- Oversight of classifier competency requirements and tracking of classifier competencies
- Assist U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/PSO staff in updating the national sport classification database
- Provide information to U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/PSO on any pertinent changes to IF sport classification rules, policies and procedures and assist in disseminating information and updates to all national classifiers

Role and Responsibility of the CC

When assigned to a particular competition, the CC's role and responsibilities include the following:

- Management and securing of all classification documents during the classification period and competition
- Spokesperson for the classification panel(s) at the competition
- Communicate with U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/PSO staff in regard to pre-competition needs, issues/concerns, post-competition follow-up
- Allocate appropriate national classification status for each athlete evaluated by the panel(s) at the competition
- Return all ORIGINAL classification documents from the competition to U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/PSO within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the competition

Classifier Training Process

The national classifier education and training process will be customized to each respective sport. All classifiers, including trainees, should read and be familiar with the Code as well as all national policies and procedures.

Classifier education and training may include online coursework, in-person education sessions, practical experience and mentoring under existing classifiers.

Classifier pre-requisites will vary by sport and will align with the respective international (IF) standards for the respective sport.

Any individual wishing to pursue international classification education/authorization must be a national classifier recognized and endorsed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/PSO.

National classifiers, approved by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF) to conduct national classification within the United States, shall be designated with the following levels of education/certification:

USA Trainee

- An individual who is in the process of classification training and education nationally by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NF, but who is not yet certified as a Classifier and may not be an appointed member of a classification panel at a national competition. This individual is unable to allocate a national sport class.

USA National Classifier

- An individual who has successfully completed the relevant training and education nationally by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NF and is approved to be a member of a Classification Panel at a national competition. This individual may allocate national sport class(es) and sport class status.

National Classification Database

Each NGB/PSO will house a national classification database on its website AND provide a link to the respective sport International Federation masterlist. The national database will include the athlete name, national sport class(es) and national sport class status. The database will also contain any other pertinent sport-specific information that is publicly available for competition management [i.e. MASH measurements (Track and Field), codes for exception (Swimming)].

Roles and Responsibilities

U.S. Paralympics

- To ensure that national classification rules, policies and procedures conform with the Code
- To implement and enforce the national classification rules, policies and procedures and communicate all relevant classification rules, policies and procedures to NGBs, PSOs and other key constituents
- To monitor compliance with national classification rules, policies and procedures with NGB/PSOs, LOCs, and classifiers
 - To support NGBs/PSOs to ensure that individual (national) sport rules are in compliance with the Code and/or the respective sport IF rules
- To promote and support national classifier education, including a sport-by-sport strategy for classifier identification and development

NGBs / PSOs

- To understand and implement the respective sport IF classification rules and eligibility criteria
- To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and the national classification rules, policies and procedures

Local Organizing Committees

- To conform to national classification rules, policies and procedures and the Code for all competitions at which international or national classification is being conducted

Classifiers

- To work as a member of a national classification panel to allocate athlete sport class(es) and sport class status according to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the sport IF rules and processes
- To work as a member of a national review and/or protest panel as requested in accordance with the standards outlined in this document
- To attend classification meetings at competitions or as requested by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport NGB/PSO.
- To assist in national classifier training and mentoring
- To abide by the U.S. Paralympics Code of Conduct (Appendix J)
- To maintain confidentiality in regard to all classification information and proceedings

Athletes

- To attend classification evaluation [as scheduled] at a specific time or place
- To attend classification evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation
- To co-operate during the classification evaluation
- To represent skills and/or abilities during the classification evaluation to the best of their abilities

Competitions

Competition Approval/Sanctioning

For all international competitions hosted by U.S. Paralympics and/or an NGB/PSO in the United States, the relevant IPC/IF approvals and sanctions shall be requested by and managed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the relevant NGB/PSO.

For all national, regional and local competitions in the United States at which national classification is requested; the competition must be sanctioned/approved/recognized by the relevant sport NGB/PSO.

International Classification and International Classifier Training at U.S. Competitions

All international classification panels or international classifier training seminars at competitions hosted in the U.S. shall be requested by and managed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the relevant sport NGB/PSO in alignment with IPC/IF rules, policies, procedures and timelines.

National Classification and National Classifier Training at US Competitions

All national classification panels or national classifier training seminars at national, regional and local competitions in the United States shall be requested by the Local Organizing

Committee (and endorsed by the respective NGB/PSO) or requested by the relevant sport NGB/PSO.

International and national classifier training seminars shall not be conducted [for the same sport] at the same competition. If a competition is multi-sport, international training may be conducted in a sport(s) while national training is conducted for different sport(s).

Paralympic Games

All co-ordination and administration of classification related matters [for Team USA] prior to or during the Paralympic Games shall be managed by U.S Paralympics. This includes sport masterlists, protests, appeals and all communication with the relevant parties involved in the matter (i.e. IPC, sport IF, OCOG, NGB/PSO).

Local Organizing Committee Information

Request for National Classifiers / National Classification

To assist with the provision of national classifiers at domestic competitions, local organizers must submit a written request to U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/PSO by August 31 [winter sports] or November 15 [summer sports] of the preceding year. The request must be submitted using the Request for National Classifiers Form (Appendix O) which will include:

- Competition Name and Location
- Address of the venue(s) to be used for classification and competition
- Date(s) and time(s) for classification
- Date(s) and time(s) for competition
- Primary Local Organizing Committee (LOC) contact(s)
- Number of classification panels that the LOC is requesting (# of classifiers that comprise a panel is defined on a sport-by-sport basis as per the sport rules)
- Sport(s) for which classification panel(s) are being requested [if event is multi-sport]

U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/PSO will make an effort to assign classifiers wherever possible, contingent upon classifier availability. Priority in scheduling will be given to those competitions that submit their information by the requested deadlines.

National classification will only be conducted and national (athlete) classification status recognized if the following criteria are fulfilled by the LOC:

1. The competition is sanctioned/approved by the recognized national and/or international sport governing body
2. The competition is open to all impairment groups / competitors for the relevant sport
3. All classifiers / classification panel(s) are appointed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/PSO

Appointment of National Classification Panel(s)

U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/PSO will appoint the classification panel(s) based on the availability of classifier(s). U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO will officially notify the LOC of panel assignments and pertinent contact details.

The LOC shall be expected to cover all travel (flight / ground transportation) and accommodation (lodging / meals) costs for classifier(s) appointed to the classification panel(s) for the competition, as well as any other costs associated with conducting classification at the competition.

The Chief Classifier (appointed for the competition) and U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO (relevant professional staff) shall be copied (cc) on all event correspondence originated by the LOC regarding classification matters.

National Classifier Trainees

At the discretion of U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO, national classifier trainees may be assigned to a national classification panel. In the event of a trainee assignment to your panel the LOC is not responsible for expenses related to the trainee. When possible the LOC will be asked to provide details regarding housing discounts, event transportation shuttles, and meal options (at the trainee's expense) provided for the classification panel. U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO is responsible for notifying the LOC once a trainee has been assigned to their event.

Determination of Athletes to undergo Classification Evaluation

The classification evaluation timetable is contingent upon the athletes who have submitted entries to participate in the competition. Provision of the final entrant list is necessary to identify the athletes that will require classification at the competition.

The LOC will be required to provide a list of athletes entered into the competition (by sport for multi-sport events) to U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO a minimum of three (3) weeks prior to the start of the competition. If the final entry deadline is earlier than three (3) weeks prior to the competition start date, it is preferable that this list is submitted earlier than the minimum deadline. An entry cutoff date must be stipulated in the published competition information.

U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO in consultation with the LOC shall determine if classification evaluation scheduling is feasible or to be offered to athletes who submit late entries.

The LOC in consultation with U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO will develop the classification timetable for the competition by comparing the entrant list for the sport to the National Sport Classification Database/International Masterlist and any requests for classification received by the LOC in conjunction with competition entries.

U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO and the chief classifier for the event will approve the final classification timetable (by sport for multi-sport events) and it will be the responsibility of the LOC to communicate any pertinent classification information and the timetable schedule to athletes, parents, coaches and teams as relevant.

Classification Period

The LOC must clearly indicate the classification date(s) and times in the published competition information. This information must be submitted to U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO along with the written request from the LOC for appointment of national classification panel(s) to the competition.

If the LOC changes the dates of the classification evaluation and/or competition after a panel has been assigned, U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO does not guarantee the viability of the assigned panel. An LOC that changes schedule should be prepared to have national classification evaluation withdrawn from the event if classifier / classification panel availability no longer coincides with the new competition schedule.

The classification period should conclude a minimum of six (6) hours before the start of the competition to ensure that adequate time is available to make any necessary changes (due to classification evaluation outcomes) with regard to competition programming, seeding, and/or start lists.

Classification Facility

The LOC is responsible for providing necessary space and equipment to conduct classification evaluation at the competition.

The following are the minimum requirements for the LOC:

- A room (with appropriate privacy) at the venue (double occupancy)
- Check-in area adjacent to classification room (including table, chairs and signage for classification) to be managed by event staff or a volunteer
- One bench / massage table per classification panel
- 2-3 chairs in each bench area
- Dividers / screens between benches for privacy
- Cleaning / disinfecting agent (i.e. wipes) for each bench
- Hand sanitizer
- Tables (1 per panel) + chairs (4 per panel) in the classification room for paperwork / classifier work area
- Any additional sport-specific facility requirements will be defined on a sport-by-sport basis
- A suitable area for observation during competition (confirmation of the suitability of the area to be used for competition observation shall be made with the Chief Classifier upon arrival at the event)
- Wireless internet available in facility / competition venue

Ineligible Athletes

If an athlete is declared ineligible / not eligible as defined by the respective sport (i.e. does not meet minimal impairment requirements for the respective sport) following the classification panel evaluation conducted prior to the commencement of the competition, the LOC has the discretion to allow the athlete to compete in preliminary heats / events or multi-disability competition provided that the inclusion of ineligible athlete(s) does not impact the

right to compete or ability to advance through rounds / to finals for those athletes who are Paralympic eligible for the respective sport. *This discretionary allowance by the LOC must comply with the respective NGB/PSO and/or International Federation (IF) rules for the respective sport(s).*

Summary of Roles & Responsibilities – National Classification

U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO

- Appointment of classification panel(s) and national classifier trainees
- Verification of athletes to undergo classification evaluation
- Approval of classification evaluation timetable
- Provision of relevant classification documents, national classification database/international masterlist or other relevant information to Chief Classifier appointed for the competition and/or the LOC
- Collection and distribution of medical diagnostics forms to classifiers
- Provide LOC with names and contact information for classifiers at least two months prior to competition
- Provide classification documents to LOC for printing at least seven days in advance of competition

Chief Classifier (for event)

- Management and securing of all classification documents during the classification period and competition
- Spokesperson for the classification panel(s) at the competition
- Communicate with U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO staff in regard to pre-competition needs, issues/concerns, post-competition follow-up
- Allocate appropriate national classification status for each athlete evaluated by the panel(s) at the competition
- Return all ORIGINAL classification documents from the competition to U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the competition

LOC

- Receive requests for classification evaluation (if applicable) along with the competition entries
- Provide final entry list to U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO at least three (3) week prior to the competition
- Development of classification evaluation timetable
- Notify athletes, coaches, parents and teams in regard to the classification evaluation timetable and any other pertinent classification information for the competition
- Distribute National Medical Diagnostics form to athletes and ensure all athletes scheduled for classification send completed forms to U.S. Paralympics/NGB/PSO for review
- Cover travel and accommodation costs for all appointed classifier(s) for the competition
- Contact assigned classifiers at least sixty (60) days prior to event start

U.S. Paralympics National Classification Policies & Procedures

- Accredit classifiers for the competition and provide access to all appropriate areas of the venue to conduct the full classification process (including observation during competition)
- Identify appropriate classification facility / observation for competition area(s) at the competition venue
- Print and provide copies of all classification paperwork to chief classifier upon arrival



Appendix

- A. Glossary
- B. Eligible Impairment Chart
- C. International Standard for Eligible Impairments
- D. National Medical Diagnostics Form (PI)
- E. National Classification for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments (II)
- F. National Medical Diagnostics Form (VI)
- G. Paralympic Sport-- International Governance
- H. Paralympic Sport-- National Governance/Management
- I. U.S. Paralympics National Appeals Committee (NAC) for Classification Procedures
- J. USOPC Code of Conduct
- K. Request for Classification Information Form
- L. National Provisional Classification Information
- M. U.S. Classification Protest Form
- N. U.S. Request for Classification Review Form
- O. Request for National Classification Panel



Glossary

Activity Limitation: Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities.

Appeal: The process to resolve procedural disputes concerning classification.

Athlete Evaluation: The process by which an athlete is assessed in accordance with the classification rules of the IF.

Chief Classifier (CC): The designated classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for a specific 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 Masterlist: The list, maintained and made available by the respective sport IF, that identifies athletes that have undergone international classification.

Classification Panel: A group of classifiers, appointed by the sport IF to determine sport class and sport class status in accordance with the classification rules.

Classifier: A person authorized as an official by a sport IF to evaluate athletes as a member of a classification panel.

Code: The [International] Classification Code.

Code of Conduct: A set of rules to outline responsibilities, to guide behavior, and to identify best practice [in regard to classification].

Competition: A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

Head Domestic Classifier (HDC): A classifier who has international authorization (Level 2) education and experience or equivalent for the respective sport and who will work at the direction of U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/HPMO to facilitate Code compliance for the sport within the United States. The HDC may be filled by a staff member (who may or may not be a classifier) at the respective NGB/HPMO.

Head of Classification (HOC): A classifier responsible for all direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for the sport IF.

HPMO: High Performance Management Organization (for a Paralympic sport in the U.S.).

Ineligibility (i.e. Not Eligible): Consequence of not meeting the [sport] eligibility criteria.

International Competition: A competition where an international sport organization (IPC, IF, etc.) is the sanctioning and/or governing body for the competition.

International Federation (IF): A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a sport for Paralympic athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic sport by the IPC.

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

Local Organizing Committee (LOC): A group, team, or entity that is the organizing body for a [specific] competition and responsible for the management, administration, co-ordination and implementation of that competition.

National Classification Database/Masterlist: The list, maintained and made available by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NGB/HPMO, that identifies all USA athletes that have undergone national and/or international classification evaluation.

National Competition: A competition where a national sport organization (NPC, NF, etc.) is the sanctioning and/or governing body for the competition.

National Federation (NF): The organization recognized by the IF as the sole national governing body (NGB) for its sport.

National Paralympic Committee (NPC): A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative for athletes with impairment in that country or territory to the IPC; additionally, the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF.

NGB: National Governing Body.

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.

PSO: Paralympic Sport Organization

Sport Class: A category defined by each sport 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.



The following sports are open to athletes with **limb deficiency and/or leg length difference** -

- Summer Sports: Archery, Badminton, Boccia, Cycling, Equestrian, Paracanoe, Paratriathlon, Powerlifting, Rowing, Shooting, Sitting Volleyball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Track and Field, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Fencing, Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Tennis
- Winter Sports: Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (biathlon and cross country), Sled Hockey, Snowboarding, Wheelchair Curling

The following sports are open to **short stature** athletes –

- Summer Sports: Badminton, Equestrian, Powerlifting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Track and Field
- Winter Sports: Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (biathlon and cross country)

The following sports are open to athletes with a **visual impairment** –

- Summer Sports: Cycling, Equestrian, Goalball, Judo, Paratriathlon, Rowing, Soccer, Swimming, Track and Field
- Winter Sports: Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (biathlon and cross country)

The following sports are open to athletes with impaired muscle power and/or impaired passive range of movement –

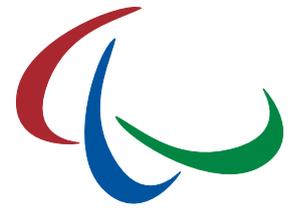
- Summer Sports: Archery, Badminton, Boccia, Cycling, Equestrian, Paracanoe, Paratriathlon, Powerlifting, Rowing, Shooting, Sitting Volleyball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Track and Field, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Fencing, Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Tennis
- Winter Sports: Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (biathlon and cross country), Sled Hockey, Snowboarding, Wheelchair Curling

The following sports are open to athletes with **hypertonia, ataxia and/or athetosis** –

- Summer Sports: Archery, Badminton, Boccia, Cycling, Equestrian, Paratriathlon, Powerlifting, Rowing, Shooting, Sitting Volleyball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Track and Field, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Fencing, Wheelchair Rugby, Wheelchair Tennis
- Winter Sports: Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (biathlon and cross country), Sled Hockey, Snowboarding, Wheelchair Curling

The following sports are open to athletes with an **intellectual impairment** –

- Summer Sports: Swimming, Table Tennis, Track and Field



International
Paralympic
Committee

International Standard for Eligible Impairments

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International Paralympic Committee

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Introduction

The fundamental purpose of the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) is to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para sports.

The Code is complemented by International Standards that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all Signatories in a manner that Athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Eligible Impairments should be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

Purpose

The purpose of the International Standard for Eligible Impairments is to define what an Eligible Impairment is in Para sports, thereby ensuring that Para sports are reserved for those that have an Eligible Impairment.

Definitions

This International Standard uses the defined terms from the Code. Further defined terms specific to this International Standard are:

Diagnostic Information: medical records and/or any other documentation that enables the International Sport Federation to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition.

Eligibility Assessment Committee: an ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

Health Condition: a pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

Underlying Health Condition: a Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.



1 General Provisions

- 1.1 The Code and the International Standards (including this International Standard) designate certain Impairments as ‘Eligible Impairments’.
- 1.2 International Sport Federations must, by way of their Classification Rules, specify that any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport *must* have an Eligible Impairment. A reference to ‘sport’ in this International Standard includes an individual discipline within a sport.
- 1.3 International Sport Federations must, by way of their Classification Rules, specify the Eligible Impairment an Athlete must have in order to compete in a sport, and that the Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.

[Comment to Article 1.3: While some sports include Athletes of all Eligible Impairments (for example athletics, swimming), other sports are limited to one Impairment (for example goalball) or a selection of Impairments (for example equestrian, cycling). Each International Sport Federation must define for which Eligible Impairments they provide sports opportunities.]

- 1.4 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the International Sport Federation, in its discretion, *may* require an Athlete to provide evidence of any one or more of the following:
 - 1.4.1 the Eligible Impairment;
 - 1.4.2 that the Eligible Impairment is Permanent; and/or
 - 1.4.3 an Underlying Health Condition.

2 Eligible Impairments

The Eligible Impairments in the Paralympic Movement are:

2.1 Impaired Muscle Power

Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.

2.2 Impaired Passive Range of Movement



Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include throgryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.

2.3 Limb Deficiency

Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).

2.4 Leg Length Difference

Athletes with Leg Length Difference have a difference in the length of their legs as a result of a disturbance of limb growth, or as a result of trauma.

2.5 Short Stature

Athletes with Short Stature will have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.

2.6 Hypertonia

Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.

2.7 Ataxia

Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.

2.8 Athetosis

Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.



2.9 Vision Impairment

Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.

Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

2.10 Intellectual Impairment

Athletes with an intellectual Impairment have a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour in which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This Impairment must be present before the age of 18.

[Comment to Article 2: Many other Impairments exist, but the Paralympic Movement originates from the creation of an umbrella organisation by the 'International Organisations of Sport for Disabled' (IOSDs) and by their respective national members. Today, and as a result of the activities of the IOSDs that founded the IPC and are currently in membership of the IPC, the Paralympic Movement identifies ten (10) Eligible Impairments.

Consequently, any other new 'Eligible Impairment' may only be introduced in a Para sport subject to an approval of the IPC General Assembly.

The list of Eligible Impairments is an exhaustive list – an Athlete must have one of these Eligible Impairments in order to participate in Para sport. The list of Eligible Impairments also includes examples of Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to an Eligible Impairment. These examples are not exhaustive.]

3 Non-Eligible Impairments

3.1 Any Impairment that is not listed in this International Standard as an Eligible Impairment is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment.

3.2 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel in accordance with the International Standard on Athlete Evaluation on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Sport Class.

[Comment to Article 3.2: For example, an Athlete with severe osteoarthritis may have Impaired Passive Range of Movement (an Eligible Impairment) and have Pain (a Non-Eligible Impairment). If the presence of pain restricts a Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session the Athlete might not be allocated a Sport Class (see Article 11, International Standard for Athlete Evaluation), notwithstanding that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment]



3.3 To assist International Sport Federations, examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:

- 3.3.1 Pain;
- 3.3.2 Hearing impairment;
- 3.3.3 Low muscle tone;
- 3.3.4 Hypermobility of joints;
- 3.3.5 Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- 3.3.6 Impaired muscle endurance;
- 3.3.7 Impaired motor reflex functions;
- 3.3.8 Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- 3.3.9 Impaired respiratory functions;
- 3.3.10 Impairment metabolic functions; and
- 3.3.11 Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

[Comment to Article 3.3: the list of Non-Eligible Impairments in Article 3.3 is not a complete list. The aim of the list is to assist International Sport Federations in developing clear rules and guidelines regarding eligibility.]

3.4 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment (including but not limited to one of the Non-Eligible Impairments listed above) but who does not have an Eligible Impairment will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.

4 Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions

4.1 A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions. If an Athlete has both a Health Condition that will not lead to an Eligible Impairment and an Underlying Health Condition the Athlete may be eligible to compete in Para sports.

4.2 An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed below) but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.

4.3 Health Conditions that:

- 4.3.1 primarily cause pain;



- 4.3.2 primarily cause fatigue;
 - 4.3.3 primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or
 - 4.3.4 are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature;
do *not* lead to an Eligible Impairment.
- 4.4 Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial *pain-dysfunction* syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.
- 4.5 An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.
- 4.6 An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.
- 4.7 Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.

[Comment to Article 4: the Health Conditions listed in this Article are examples only - there are many other Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. The aim of the list is to assist International Sport Federations in developing clear rules and guidelines regarding eligibility.]

5 Establishing Eligible Impairment and Underlying Health Condition

- 5.1 Any Athlete who wishes to compete in an International Competition must satisfy the relevant International Sport Federation that he or she has an Eligible Impairment before he or she can participate in an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel (as described in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation).
- 5.2 The International Sport Federation may require an Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition in order to establish that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.

[Comment to Article 5.2: International Sport Federations are strongly recommended to require Athletes to demonstrate an Underlying Health Condition if they intend to participate in a sport on the basis that they have one or more of the following Eligible Impairments: Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis, Vision Impairment and Intellectual Impairment.]



- 5.3 The International Sport Federation must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment or an Underlying Health Condition (if such a determination is required). The International Sport Federation may require an Athlete to provide it with Diagnostic Information in order to make this determination. In such instances the International Sport Federation may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee if it considers this necessary in order to assess the Diagnostic Information.

[Comment to Article 5.3: the primary requirement is to determine whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment. For some Athletes, this will be a straightforward matter and not require the production of any Diagnostic Information (for example, if an Athlete has a Limb Deficiency). For other Athletes, Diagnostic Information may be required to enable the International Sport Federation to be sure that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, or that the Athlete has an Underlying Health Condition (for example, so that the International Sport Federation can be sure that the Eligible Impairment is Permanent).

An International Sport Federation should exercise careful discretion and form an Eligibility Assessment Committee only in situations where it needs specialist assistance in determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment or an Underlying Health Condition. For example, an Athlete has Impaired Muscle Power, but it is not clear to an International Sport Federation what the origin of the Impaired Muscle Power is, and/or whether the Impaired Muscle Power is Permanent. In that case, the International Sport Federation might feel that determining these issues would be helped by the forming of an Eligibility Assessment Committee.]

- 5.4 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information must comply with the following provisions:
- 5.4.1 The Head of Classification will notify the relevant National Body that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
 - 5.4.2 The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.
 - 5.4.3 The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings.



- 5.4.4 If the Head of Classification does not believe that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
- 5.4.5 Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review Diagnostic Information and decide whether it establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 5.4.6 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 5.4.7 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee. The National Body or National Paralympic Committee will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.
- 5.4.8 If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.
- 5.4.9 The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, he/she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment).
- 5.5 An International Sport Federation may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

6 Sport Class Not Eligible

- 6.1 If an International Sport Federation determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment it must allocate Sport Class Not Eligible to that Athlete, and designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed.



- 6.2 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment has no right to any further evaluation or assessment by the International Sport Federation and the provisions in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation relating to Sport Class Not Eligible do not apply.
- 6.3 If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment the International Sport Federation may do likewise without the need for the process detailed in Article 5 of this International Standard.

[Comment to Article 6: an Athlete who does not does not have an Eligible Impairment will not be eligible to compete in Para sport, and so must be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible. International Sport Federations are encouraged, subject to the International Standard for Classification Data Protection and applicable privacy laws, to share data regarding Athletes who have been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible for this reason.]

The allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible by a Classification Panel is subject to an automatic re-assessment by a separate Classification Panel, as provided for in the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation. The determination as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is not subject to any such automatic review, even if the determination is made by a Classification Panel empowered by the International Sport Federation to make that determination.]



National Medical Diagnostics Form

Dear Athlete:

This form is a guide to collect information needed for national classification evaluation. In order to be eligible to be scheduled for a national classification appointment the athlete MUST have an eligible impairment as per the International Standard for Eligible Impairments. For additional information and to view the full IS for Eligible Impairments visit the [IPC Website](#). For a list of eligible impairments by sport please visit the [U.S. Paralympics website](#).

There are ten eligible impairments for Para Sport:

1. Impaired muscle power
2. Impaired passive range of movement
3. Limb deficiency
4. Leg length difference
5. Short stature
6. Hypertonia
7. Ataxia
8. Athetosis
9. Vision impairment
10. Intellectual impairment

Classification evaluation is usually done in conjunction with a competition and is conducted by a panel of medical and/or technical classifiers [panels are defined by each sport within their respective classification rules].

Classification evaluation will usually include a physical assessment (may be called a “bench test”) and a technical assessment using competition equipment on the field of play. Evaluation may also include observation in competition depending upon the sport and relevant sport rules.

If you are an athlete with a visual or intellectual impairment, you do not need to complete this form. Athletes with a vision impairment, must submit the [visual medical diagnostics](#) form to the USOPC at NPCUSAclassification@usopc.org. Forms must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of any Para sport competition where you expect to participate. Athletes with an intellectual impairment should complete the application at [Athletes Without Limits](#) to obtain a national classification.

National classification appointments are reserved for U.S. citizens only. If you are a citizen of another country and you have never undergone classification evaluation you must first obtain proof of citizenship in the U.S. before you will be scheduled for classification evaluation by a U.S. national classification panel. If you have undergone classification evaluation in another country nationally or internationally [when international data is NOT included on the respective IF Masterlist] you must provide proof of sport class(es) and sport class status before the competition in the United States where you intend to compete.

Please send all completed forms to the USOPC at NPCUSAclassification@usopc.org or by fax at 719-866-2029 at least 2 weeks prior to competition.

Athlete Name:**Gender:****Email Address: Athlete or Parent/Guardian****Date of Birth mm/dd/yy****List the Para sport(s) the athlete competes in:****Is the athlete a U.S. Citizen?****What is your current Classification Status**

- Never been Classified
- NR
- NN with fixed review date
- NP

There are 10 eligible impairments that the IPC recognizes for eligibility to compete in Paralympic Sport. The International Standard for Eligible Impairments provides examples of what disability may fit into each impairment type. If you do not know which impairment type you are in please review the standard for eligible impairments on the [IPC Website](#).

Type of Impairment (select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired Muscle Power | <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired Passive Range of Movement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limb Deficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> Leg Length Difference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertonia | <input type="checkbox"/> Ataxia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athetosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Vision Impairment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short Stature | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Impairment |

What is the Athlete's Medical Diagnosis (Underlying Health Condition or Origin) causing the selected Impairment(s)?

Brief description of Athlete's Impairment including body parts affected areas and limitations. Examples of information to include:

- Athletes with a spinal cord injury or spina bifida, please include at what level and if the SCI is complete or incomplete. (i.e. SCI complete L7 or spina bifida L3-L4)
- Athletes with Cerebral Palsy, please include what type (i.e. Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia).
- Short stature please include your height.
- Athletes with surgeries specifically related to your impairment (i.e. tendon transfers, rods inserted/removed, etc.) please list each surgery type including the date it was performed

Please answer the following questions:

Is your impairment congenital or acquired?

Congenital Acquired

If acquired, please include the date:

Is your Impairment:

Stable Progressive Fluctuating

Do you have a latex allergy?

Yes

No

Do You have a shunt?

Yes

No

Please attach relevant supporting medical documentation that confirms the athlete's medical diagnosis or details the degree of impairment

Please return completed forms to the USOPC at NPCUSAclassification@usopc.org If you have any questions about this form please contact us via email or at 719-866-4240.



National Classification for athletes with Intellectual Impairments

If you are interested in competing as an athlete with an intellectual impairment, please contact [Athletes Without Limits](#). Athletes Without Limits is the organization that is responsible for determining eligibility for athletes with intellectual impairments.

CRITERIA

In order to compete in events organized by INAS or U.S. Paralympics, athletes must complete an eligibility application to provide evidence of intellectual disability based on three main criteria:

1. IQ of 75 or below (Weschler/WISC/WAIS, Stanford-Binet or Raven)
2. Significant limitations in Adaptive Behavior (Vineland, ABAS or Other)
3. Onset before age 18

SPORTS OFFERED

INAS Sports: Athletics (Track & Field), Basketball, Cricket, Cycling, Judo, Rowing, Skiing (Nordic & Alpine), Soccer/Futsal, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tae kwondo, Tennis.

Paralympic Sports: Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming, Table Tennis

CONTACT INFORMATION:

www.athleteswithoutlimits.org

202-544-0510



Medical Diagnostics Form for athletes with visual impairment

The form is to be completed in English and by a registered ophthalmologist.
All medical documentation required on pages 2-3 needs to be attached.
The form and the attached medical documentation may not be older than 12 months at the time of the Athlete Evaluation.

Athlete Information

Last name: _____
 First name: _____
 Gender: Female Male Date of Birth: _____
 Sport: _____ IF registration ID
 NPC/NF: _____ (if applicable): _____

Medical Information

Diagnosis:

--

Medical history:

Age of onset: _____
 Anticipated future procedure(s): _____
 Athlete wears glasses: yes no Correction: Right: _____
 Left: _____
 Athlete wears contact lenses: yes no Correction: Right: _____
 Left: _____
 Athlete wears eye prosthesis: right left

Medication:

Eye medications used by the athlete:	
Ocular drug allergies:	

Athlete:

Assessment of visual acuity and visual field**Visual Acuity**

	Right eye	Left eye
With correction		
Without Correction		

Type of correction: _____

Measurement Method: _____

Visual Field:

In degrees (radius)	Right eye	Left eye

Attachments to the Medical Diagnostic Form**1. Visual field test**

For all athletes with a restricted visual field a visual field test must be attached to this form.

The athlete's visual field must be tested by full-field test (120 degrees) and a 30 degrees, 24 degrees or 10 degrees central field test, depending on the pathology.

One of the following perimeters should be used for the assessment: Goldmann Perimetry (Intensity III/4), Humphrey Field Analyzer or Octopus (Interzeag).

2. Additional medical documentation

Please specify which eye condition the athlete is affected by.

Eye condition	Additional medical documentation required (see below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Anterior disease	none
<input type="checkbox"/> Macular disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Macular OCT ▪ Multifocal and/or pattern ERG* ▪ VEP* ▪ Pattern appearance VEP*
<input type="checkbox"/> Peripheral retina disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Full field ERG* ▪ Pattern ERG*
<input type="checkbox"/> Optic Nerve disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCT ▪ Pattern ERG* ▪ Pattern VEP* ▪ Pattern appearance VEP*
<input type="checkbox"/> Cortical / Neurological disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pattern VEP* ▪ Pattern ERG* ▪ Pattern appearance VEP*

Athlete:

The ocular signs must correspond to the diagnosis and degree of vision loss. If eye condition is obvious and visible and explains the loss of vision, no additional medical documentation is required. Otherwise the additional medical documentation indicated in the above table must be attached to this form. If the medical documentation is incomplete, the classifiers will not be able to allocate a sport class.

***Notes on electrophysiological assessments (VEPs and ERGs):**

Where there is discrepancy or a possible discrepancy between the degree of visual loss, and the visible evidence of ocular disease the use of visual electrophysiology is often helpful in demonstrating the degree of impairment.

Submitted data should include the report from the laboratory performing the tests, copies of the original data, the normative data range for that laboratory, and a statement specifying of the equipment used, and its calibration status. The tests should be performed as a minimum to the standards laid down by the International Society for Electrophysiology of Vision (ISCEV) (<http://www.iscev.org/standards/>).

A Full Field Electroretinogram (**ERG**) tests the function of the whole retina in response to brief flashes of light, and can separate function from either the rod or cone mediated systems. It does not however give any indication of macular function.

- A Pattern ERG tests the central retinal function, driven by the macular cones but largely originating in the retinal ganglion cells.
- A Multifocal ERG tests the central area (approx. 50 degrees diameter) and produces a topographical representation of central retinal activity.

A Visual evoked cortical potential (**VEP**) records the signal from produced in the primary visual cortex, (V1), in response to either a pattern stimulus or pulse of light. An absent or abnormal VEP is not in itself evidence of specific optic nerve or visual cortex problems unless normal central retinal function has been demonstrated.

- A Pattern appearance VEP is specialised version of the VEP used to establish visual threshold which can be used to objectively demonstrate visual ability to the level of the primary visual cortex.

<input type="checkbox"/>	I confirm that the above information is accurate.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I certify that there is no contra-indication for this athlete to compete at competitive level in sport, with the exception of _____.	
Name: _____		
Medical Specialty: _____		
Registration Number: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	Country: _____	
Phone: _____	E-mail: _____	
Date: _____	Signature: _____	

As of February 2021

Paralympic Sport – International Governance



Sports on the Programme of the Paralympic Games – Summer 2020 Tokyo & 2024 Paris – **22 total**

SPORT	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	IF “type”
Archery	World Archery (WA)	Olympic IF
Athletics	World Para Athletics (WPA)	IPC – <i>until 2028</i>
Badminton	Badminton World Federation (BWF)	Olympic IF
Boccia	Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed)	independent Para IF
Canoe	International Canoe Federation (ICF)	Olympic IF
Cycling	Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)	Olympic IF
Equestrian	Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)	Olympic IF
Football 5-a-Side (Blind football)	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)	IOSD
Goalball	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)	IOSD
Judo	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)	IOSD
Powerlifting	World Para Powerlifting (WPP)	IPC – <i>until 2028</i>
Rowing	World Rowing Federation (FISA)	Olympic IF
Shooting	World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS)	IPC – <i>until 2028</i>
Swimming	World Para Swimming (WPS)	IPC – <i>until 2028</i>
Table Tennis	International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)	Olympic IF
Taekwondo	World Taekwondo (WT)	Olympic IF
Triathlon	World Triathlon	Olympic IF
Volleyball (Sitting)	World ParaVolley (WPV)	independent Para IF
Wheelchair Basketball	International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)	independent Para IF
Wheelchair Fencing	International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)	IOSD
Wheelchair Rugby	International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)	independent Para IF
Wheelchair Tennis	International Tennis Federation (ITF)	Olympic IF

(IOSD – International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled)

Sports on the Programme of the Paralympic Games – Winter 2022 Beijing – **5 ** total**

SPORT	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	IF “type”
Alpine Skiing	World Para Alpine Skiing (WPAS)	IPC – <i>until 2030</i>
Curling	World Curling Federation (WCF)	Olympic IF
Ice Hockey	World Para Ice Hockey (WPIH)	IPC – <i>until 2030</i>
Nordic Skiing	World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS)	IPC – <i>until 2030</i>
Snowboard	World Para Snowboard (WPSB)	IPC – <i>until 2030</i>

**** SKN is split into 2 disciplines (biathlon and XC) on the Games programme to total “6” sports ****

International Federations = 15 [14 summer / 1 winter]

- 11 Olympic
- 4 Para-specific

IOSDs = 4 [4 summer]

World Para sports = 8 [4 summer / 4 winter]

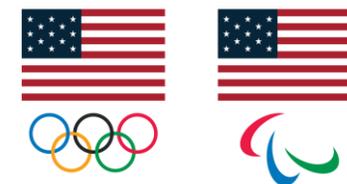
IPC Recognized International Federations [not on the Paralympic Games Programme]

SPORT – SUMMER (14)	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	IF “type”
Armrestling	World Armrestling Federation (WAF)	Olympic IF
Bowling	International Bowling Federation (IBF)	Olympic IF
Field Hockey	International Hockey Federation (FIH)	Olympic IF
Football 7-a-Side	International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF)	independent Para IF
Flying Disc	World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)	Olympic IF
Golf	International Golf Federation (IGF)	Olympic IF
Handball	International Handball Federation (IHF)	Olympic IF
Karate	World Karate Federation	Olympic IF
Modern Pentathlon	Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM)	Olympic IF
Powerchair Football	International Federation of Powerchair Football (FIPFA)	Independent Para IF
Sailing	World Sailing	Olympic IF
Sport Climbing	International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC)	Olympic IF
Surfing	International Surfing Association (ISA)	Olympic IF
Wheelchair Dance Sport	World Para Dance Sport (WPDS)	IPC

SPORT – WINTER (1)	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	IF “type”
Bobsleigh & Skeleton	International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF)	Olympic IF

As of February 2021

Paralympic Sport – International Governance + U.S. MEMBERSHIP



Sports on the Programme of the Paralympic Games – Summer

SPORT	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	US Member of IF
Archery	World Archery (WA)	USA Archery
Athletics	World Para Athletics (WPA)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics Track & Field
Badminton	Badminton World Federation (BWF)	USA Badminton
Boccia	Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed)	USA Boccia
Canoe	International Canoe Federation (ICF)	American Canoe Association (ACA)
Cycling	Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)	USA Cycling
Equestrian	Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI)	USEF
Football 5-a-Side	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)	USABA
Goalball	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)	USABA
Judo	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)	USABA
Powerlifting	World Para Powerlifting (WPP)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics
Rowing	World Rowing Federation (FISA)	US Rowing
Shooting	World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics
Swimming	World Para Swimming (WPS)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics Swimming
Table Tennis	International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)	USA Table Tennis
Taekwondo	World Taekwondo	USA Taekwondo
Triathlon	World Triathlon	USA Triathlon
Volleyball (Sitting)	World ParaVolley (WPV)	USA Volleyball
Wheelchair Basketball	International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)	NWBA
Wheelchair Fencing	International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)	Wheelchair & Ambulatory Sports USA
Wheelchair Rugby	International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)	United States Wheelchair Rugby Association (USWRA)
Wheelchair Tennis	International Tennis Federation (ITF)	USTA

Sports on the Programme of the Paralympic Games – Winter

SPORT	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	US Member of IF
Alpine Skiing	World Para Alpine Skiing (WPAS)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics Alpine Skiing
Curling	World Curling Federation (WCF)	USA Curling
Ice Hockey	World Para Ice Hockey (WPIH)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics
Nordic Skiing	World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics Nordic Skiing
Snowboard	World Para Snowboard (WPSB)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics Snowboard

IPC Regonised International Federations [*not on the Paralympic Games Programme*]

SPORT – SUMMER (14)	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	US Member of IF
Armrestling	World Armrestling Federation	United States Armrestling Federation (USAF)
Bowling	International Bowling Federation (IBF)	United States Bowling Congress
Field Hockey	International Hockey Federation (FIH)	USA Field Hockey
Football 7-a-Side	International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF)	US Soccer
Flying Disc	World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)	USA Ultimate
Golf	International Golf Federation (IGF)	USGA
Handball	International Handball Federation (IHF)	USA Team Handball
Karate	World Karate Federation	USA Karate
Modern Pentathlon	Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM)	USA Modern Pentathlon
Powerchair Football	International Federation of Powerchair Football (FIPFA)	United States Power Soccer Association
Sailing	World Sailing	US Sailing
Sport Climbing	International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC)	USA Climbing
Surfing	International Surfing Association (ISA)	USA Surfing
Wheelchair Dance Sport	World Para Dance Sport (WPDS)	USOPC / U.S. Paralympics
SPORT – WINTER (1)	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION	US Member of IF
Bobsleigh & Skeleton	International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF)	USA Bobsled & Skeleton Federation



U.S. Paralympics
NATIONAL APPEALS COMMITTEE For CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES
AUGUST 12, 2020

Section 1. Jurisdiction.

These National Appeals Committee for Classification (NAC) Procedures are applicable to National Classification for Paralympic sports managed and governed by U.S. Paralympics. Only matters concerning National Classification fall within the jurisdiction of these NAC Procedures. Any member or participant of any National Classification by reason of participation in any provisional, digital, or in-person classification sanctioned, organized or held by U.S. Paralympics, agrees to be subject to these NAC procedures and agrees to be bound by any decision rendered pursuant to these NAC procedures.

Section 2. Designation of Complaints.

NAC Appeals may only be filed if U.S. Paralympics or any aggrieved individual feels there was a procedural error made in respect to the allocation of a sport class and/or sport class status; and the procedural error could reasonably have caused the athlete to be allocated an incorrect sport class and/or sport class status. Appeals should only be filed after all other procedural avenues have been exhausted (i.e. request for review and/or protest as applicable).

[Note: the limited scope of review available to the NAC appeal body is a fundamental aspect of an appeal. The allocation of a sport class and sport class status is a sport classification decision and must be made by those experts who are authorized and certified by a national and/or international federation to do so. Those decisions must not be changed except by other persons who are similarly authorized and certified. In particular, the right to appeal must not be seen as an opportunity to simply dispute the opinion of the relevant experts, and the NAC appeal body will only review the process by which the decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been conducted in accordance with the rules.]

Section 3. Manner of Filing.

The appellant shall file the written complaint with the USOPC Manager of Classification. The complaint shall set forth in clear and concise language, preferably in numbered paragraphs: (i) the athlete's name, sport, sport class(es), and sport class status (ii) the alleged procedural error and how such error could reasonably have caused the athlete to be allocated an incorrect sport class and/or sport class status (iii) the evidence to support the claim(s).

Section 4. Statute of Limitations.

An appeal filed under these NAC Procedures shall be filed within thirty days (30) days of the occurrence of the alleged procedural error.

Section 5. Hearing Panel.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the USOPC Chief of Paralympic Sport shall appoint a hearing panel consisting of three (3) individuals familiar with classification to hear the complaint. At a minimum, at least one (1) of the hearing panel members will be an athlete representative. The USOPC Chief of Paralympic Sport shall also appoint a chair of the hearing panel from among the three individuals appointed.

The Hearing Panel shall be responsible to ensure that all appeals are heard in a timely, fair and impartial manner taking no longer than 28 calendar days to complete the proceedings.

Section 6. Conduct of the Proceeding.

The hearing panel shall rule on all motions and other administrative matters raised in the proceeding. If the appeal is not dismissed, the hearing panel shall hold a hearing on the appeal. The hearing panel shall set such timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary. The hearing shall be informal, except that testimony shall be taken under oath.

The hearing may be conducted by teleconference, if necessary or convenient to the parties. Each party shall have the right to appear personally or through a legal representative. All parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present and examine evidence, cross-examine witnesses and to present argument. Members of the hearing panel shall have the right to question witnesses or the parties to the proceeding at any time.

Section 7. Expedited Procedures.

Upon the request of a party, and provided that it is necessary to expedite the proceeding in order to resolve a matter relating to a competition that is so scheduled that compliance with regular procedures would not be likely to produce a sufficiently early decision to do justice to the affected parties, the USOPC Chief of Paralympic Sport is authorized to set a timeline for an expedited hearing.

Section 8. Decision.

The NAC appeal body will either affirm the decision appealed against or set aside the decision appealed against. In particular, the NAC will have no power to modify, alter or otherwise change any athlete evaluation, sport class and/or sport class status decision (for example by allocating an athlete a new sport class and/or sport class status). Appeal decisions are final and not subject to further appeals.

Section 9. Fees.

There will be a \$250 fee associated with the filing of an appeal of alleged procedural errors of U.S. Paralympics National Policies and Procedures or other rule or regulation related to classification.

Section 10. Other Matters.

No Retaliation. Neither U.S. Paralympics nor any U.S. Paralympics member, employee, coach, referee/official or board member shall retaliate against an individual for the filing of an appeal under these procedures. It shall constitute a violation of U.S. Paralympics rules and grounds for discipline to retaliate against any individual for the filing of an appeal.

Office of the Athlete Ombuds - The Office of the Athlete Ombuds offers cost-free, confidential, independent advice to athletes regarding grievance processes and assists athletes in resolving disputes or concerns. For advice or assistance, athletes may contact the Office at (719) 866-5000, ombudsman@usathlete.org, or www.usathlete.org.



**UNITED STATES OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
U.S. PARALYMPICS NATIONAL TEAMS
AND
U.S. PARALYMPICS PROGRAMS**

PLEDGE AND AGREEMENT

I pledge to uphold the spirit of this Code of Conduct (the “Code”), which offers a guide to my conduct as a member of a U.S. Paralympics National Team or a U.S. Paralympics Team to international competition (the “Team”). This Code applies to those Paralympic sports in which the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has not recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code.

I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of my membership on the Team.

As a Member of the Team, I hereby promise and agree that I:

- will abide by all published rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by U.S. Paralympics or the USOPC;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will notify U.S. Paralympics if (i) I have a physical injury or illness that might compromise my ability to compete; (ii) will submit, if requested, to a physical/medical examination by medical personnel approved by the USOPC and authorize the submission of the physical examination/medical information to US Paralympics and the USOPC; and (iii) understand that such injury or illness may be the cause for my not being selected to the Team, being removed from the Team, or not being allowed to participate if I remain on the team.
- will comply with all aspects of the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s (the “Center”) SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements (the “SafeSport Code”) and all other applicable athlete safety policies, procedures and protocols of the USOPC and the Center. Such policies include the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies;
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or USOPC rules;

- am not currently provisionally suspended or serving a period of ineligibility for a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;
- will immediately notify the USOPC at athlete.safety@usoc.org if I have any (a) unresolved allegations of SafeSport Code violations, (b) participation restriction, safety plan(s), temporary measure(s) and/or sanction(s);
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors; and I have the affirmative duty to disclose my criminal history to the USOPC. Failing to disclose, or intentionally misrepresenting, an arrest, plea, or conviction is grounds for disciplinary action regardless of when the offense is discovered or occurred;
- will not participate or assist in any gambling or betting activities associated with any event related to my sport or my participation;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of the IPC and its pertinent committees, and its pertinent member organizations and under the rules of the USOPC;
- am in possession of a valid U.S. passport, that will not expire prior to six months following the conclusion of any international competition, should I be chosen for an international team that requires a passport;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- will maintain a level of personal hygiene and cleanliness appropriate to respect my teammates;
- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior nor in any form of verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;
- will follow the Team rules, whether set by Team leadership or adopted by consensus, including by way of example, rules regarding curfew and required attendance at Team meetings;
- agree to wear the uniforms approved by U.S. Paralympics at official activities sponsored by the USOPC or U.S. Paralympics as directed by U.S. Paralympics staff, and I agree to compete in the U.S. Paralympics-approved Team uniform, where such a uniform is provided, in competitions at which I am supported by U.S. Paralympics. I agree to wear the names and logos of U.S. Paralympics sponsors, suppliers and licensees on Team competition wear, other uniforms and casual wear as provided by U.S. Paralympics. I agree to not alter any Team uniform, either by removing or obstructing the names or logos of U.S. Paralympics sponsors, suppliers and licensees or by adding patches, stickers, or other means of displaying unauthorized names, logos or messages;
- agree to not demean or defame the USOPC, U.S. Paralympics or its sponsors, their names, logos, marks, products or services. I acknowledge that endorsing and supporting U.S. Paralympics sponsors through my actions and words reflects well on the team and on those supporting the team.

- agree to be filmed, videotaped and photographed, and to have my image and voice otherwise recorded, in any media, during any event I am attending under the auspices of the USOPC or U.S. Paralympics, by U.S. Paralympics official photographer(s), film crew(s) and video crew(s), and by any other entity authorized by U.S. Paralympics, under the conditions specified by U.S. Paralympics. I hereby grant U.S. Paralympics the irrevocable, perpetual, fully paid-up, worldwide right and license to use, and to authorize third parties to use, in all media, my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for: (1) news and information purposes, (2) promotion of the Paralympic movement and the specific competition(s) in which I compete, (3) promotion of the Team, and (4) promotion of U.S. Paralympics and the USOPC ; in no event may U.S. Paralympics or the USOPC use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in my USOPC or Paralympic Team apparel or equipment or the use of any USOPC or U.S. Paralympics logo for the purpose of trade, promotion, fundraising or on merchandise, without the prior written consent of U.S. Paralympics;
- will abide by the rules of the IPC or other Paralympic international federation concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used in competition or on my body (such as visible tattoos).
- will be responsible for payment of all legal fees and expenses if I require legal representation because I am accused of a doping violation or criminal misconduct, or if for any other reason I require the services of an attorney;
- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, the Team, U.S. Paralympics, the USOPC, and the United States; and
- will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and the Paralympic Movement.

ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

I may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, at 719.866.5000 or ombudsman@usathlete.org for further information regarding my rights under this Code that are not answered by U.S. Paralympics.

PARTICIPANT AFFIRMATION

I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being a member of the Team.

Signature

Date

Name (Print)

PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION

(For Participants Under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)

I certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and accept this Code of Conduct and, on behalf of my minor participant, agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being a member of the Team.

Signature

Date

Name (Print)

Relationship (Parent or Guardian)



REQUEST FOR CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Athletes who wish to obtain copy of their classification information are required to fill in the information below. Please submit one form per athlete.

An athlete's classification form can ONLY be requested by the athlete or athlete's parent/guardian if the athlete is under the age of 18. If a coach or program director would like a copy of an athlete's classification card, you must have the athlete make the request for the form.

Name of athlete requesting the copies: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please list sport and event in which classification information is being requested:

Sport Event Name

Sport Event Name

Sport Event Name

Sport Event Name

Athlete/Parent Gaurdian Name

Athlete/Parent Gaurdian Signature

Date: _____

**If the form is faxed or mailed an original signature is required. **

Please submit request to:
United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee
Attn: Classification Manager
1 Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
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NATIONAL PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

U.S. Paralympics along with our national classifiers have identified a need to research alternate methods of evaluation for athletes. There are many cases in which an event is unable to schedule and support a classification panel in order to evaluate new athletes. To best ensure that athletes are competing in appropriate sport class(es) if they have not yet undergone national classification evaluation, a provisional assessment has been developed. The national sport class status for this provisional assessment will be NP – National Provisional as outlined below:

National Provisional (NP): The athlete has received a PROVISIONAL sport class(es) by alternative evaluation methods including video analysis, remote evaluation, and/or medical diagnostics information. The athlete must go through athlete evaluation at the national level at the earliest opportunity in order to receive a recognized national sport class and sport class status. Athletes who receive an NP status will be listed in the national classification database.

FAQ:

I am a new athlete or parent/guardian of a new athlete and I do not know the difference between National Provisional, National New and International Classification. How do I determine what is best for me right now? It is recommended to read pages 6-9 of the USA National Classification Policies and Procedures which will outline what each sport class status means. For any additional questions please contact the USOPC Classification Manager at NPCUSAclassification@usopc.org to determine the best route for you.

Am I eligible to receive an NP sport class status? The NP sport class status option is ONLY for athletes with physical impairments that have not yet undergone national or international classification evaluation, and plan to attend a Para-sport competition where national and/or international classification evaluation is not offered.

I have a visual impairment or intellectual impairment; do I go through the NP process? No, athletes with visual impairments should contact the USOPC Classification Manager for eligibility information. Athletes with intellectual impairments should contact Athletes Without Limits for eligibility information and applications at www.athleteswithoutlimits.org or 202-544-0510.

Who does the evaluation to determine NP status? National classifiers for the respective sport and/or relevant U.S. Paralympics and/or NGB/HPMO professional staff with classification expertise.

What is the purpose of having the NP status? To provide a temporary and provisional sport class to athletes who have not yet been evaluated by a national classification panel and who plan to attend a competition at which national classification evaluation is not being offered.

How does it work? Athletes who have never undergone classification evaluation who plan to compete in an event where no national classification is being offered will need to submit a series of documents and/or video for review at least 4 weeks in advance of the competition. The athlete must submit

medical documentation (national medical diagnostics form) including impairment diagnosis. The athlete may also be asked to submit a series of pre-determined video clips based on the impairment type. Documentation and video will be reviewed and a provisional sport class(es) allocated. In some cases, additional documentation may be requested from the athlete if necessary in order to complete assessment of the provisional sport class(es).

After I receive my NP status, what happens next? With an NP sport class status an athlete will be listed in the national classification database for the respective sport. The ultimate goal is for the athlete to obtain a national sport class and sport class status via evaluation by a national classification panel at an approved competition, however this may not always be possible the first time the athlete competes. Athletes with provisional sport class(es) and the NP sport class status will be strongly encouraged to attend the next opportunity for national classification evaluation.

Can I compete with an NP status my entire career? This will be determined on a case by case basis. If an athlete only attends one local meet a year where national classification evaluation is never offered the athlete may be allowed to keep their provisional status for a longer period of time. For athletes that attend multiple meets per year it is strongly encouraged to undergo national classification evaluation as soon as possible since the NP status is meant to be temporary. In the future a defined timeframe may be placed on how long the NP status is able to be retained by an athlete.

Can I break a record with my NP status? No. Records can only be set by athletes with NN, NR, NC national sport class status or an international sport class status for the respective sport.

When I submit my forms am I guaranteed to receive a sport class(es) and NP sport class status? No, there may be cases in which it may not be possible to accurately allocate a provisional sport class(es) based solely on video review and/or medical diagnostics information. If this is the case the athlete and/or parent/guardian will be notified as soon as practicable. The athlete must either attend a national classification evaluation opportunity in order to determine sport class(es) OR compete in the open, if offered, division at the competition.

Can I have an NP status and attend international classification evaluation without ever undergoing national classification evaluation? All athletes are strongly encouraged to undergo the national classification evaluation process first so they can become familiar with what will occur during the international evaluation process and also to understand which sport class(es) they fit into.

What if I miss the 4-week deadline, may I still submit a request for NP sport class status? All athletes are strongly encouraged to submit their information as soon as possible and by all published deadlines. U.S. Paralympics cannot guarantee that athletes will be evaluated for NP sport class status in time for the designated competition if the deadline is not met.

I don't have the ability to upload videos, can I still submit my medical information to be evaluated? Please contact the U.S. Paralympics Classification Manager for assistance in uploading required information.

I received my sport class(es) allocation and NP sport class status and I don't agree with the outcome given, what can I do? The NP sport class status is meant to be temporary until the athlete has the opportunity to undergo national classification evaluation. Once the athlete completes the process for the NP sport class status, they must compete with the sport class(es) allocated until such time they attend national classification evaluation.

I received my NP status for a local competition, but now I want to undergo national classification evaluation. How do I find a competition where national classification is being offered? Visit the U.S. Paralympics website and select the respective sport events page to view upcoming national classification opportunities.



U.S. CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM

Athlete family name: _____

Athlete given name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Sport: _____

Current NATIONAL sport class(es): _____

INTERNATIONAL sport class(es) YES NO

International Sport Class(es): _____

International Sport Class status: _____

*****If international sport class status is C-confirmed or R-review, no protest is possible at the National level*****

Reason for protest: _____

Name of individual submitting protest form: _____

Position / title: _____

Organization: _____

Date of Submission: _____

Protest fee submitted on (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Signature of individual submitting protest form: _____

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 Protest received on (dd/mm/yyyy): _____ Time (00:00): _____

Protest received by (name and position): _____

Signature: _____

Protest fee amount received: _____

Protest fee received by (name and position): _____

Signature: _____

 Protest Decision: ACCEPTED / DENIED

Name of Individual making protest determination: _____

Title / Position: _____

Date: _____

If denied, rationale: _____

If accepted, details for conducting the protest:

Classifier 1 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 2 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 3 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Competition where protest to be conducted: _____

Location / Venue: _____ Date: _____



U.S. REQUEST FOR CLASSIFICATION REVIEW FORM

Athlete family name: _____

Athlete given name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Sport: _____

Current NATIONAL sport class(es): _____

INTERNATIONAL sport class(es) YES NO

International Sport Class(es): _____

International Sport Class status: _____

*****If international sport class status is C-confirmed or R-review, no review is possible at the National level*****

Reason for review (pertinent medical documentation must be attached): _____

Name of individual submitting request: _____

Position / title: _____

Organization: _____

Date of Submission: _____

Signature of individual submitting request: _____

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Request received on (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Request received by (name and position): _____

Signature: _____

Review Decision: ACCEPTED / DENIED

Name of Individual making review determination: _____

Title / Position: _____

Date: _____

If denied, rationale: _____

If accepted, details for conducting the review:

Classifier 1 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 2 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 3 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Competition where review to be conducted: _____

Location / Venue: _____ Date: _____



Request for National Classifiers

To assist with the provision of National Classifiers at domestic competitions, local organizers must submit a written request to U.S. Paralympics by August 31 [winter sports] or November 15 [summer sports] of the preceding year. Please submit 1 form per sport if requesting classification for multiple sports at an event.

Which sport are you requesting a panel for?

Classification Date(s):

Competition Date(s):

Competition Name:

Competition Location (City,State):

Venue Address:

Classification Venue Address (If different from competition venue):

LOC contact name:

LOC contact phone number:

LOC contact e-mail address:

Event web site URL:

Number of panels requested:

How many athletes do you anticipate participating in this event?

Will this event have an open division?

For additional information on how National Classification Panels are appointed or to reference the LOC responsibilities please view the [U.S. Paralympic National Classification Policies and Procedures](#). Please submit your forms to the USOPC Classification Manager at NPCUSAclassification@usopc.org or via fax at 719-866-2029.