

IPC Athletics

**Classification
Rules and Regulations**



September 2011

IPC ATHLETICS CLASSIFICATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

The IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations are integral part of the IPC Athletics Rules and Regulations, available at <http://ipc-athletics.paralympic.org/>.

Changes to these Rules and Regulations

Please note that these Rules and Regulations may be changed at any time as considered necessary by IPC Athletics.

Changes, except otherwise mentioned, will be effective immediately upon release of the revised versions with proper notice of change.

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IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations

1. Introduction to Classification

1.1 Governance

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) acts as the International Federation for the Sport of IPC Athletics. It is responsible for, amongst other things, organising international Competitions and drawing up rules and regulations relevant to the Sport of IPC Athletics, and ensuring that they are followed. IPC carries out its responsibilities as International Federation under the name “IPC Athletics”, and the term “IPC Athletics” should therefore be read in these Classification Regulations as being (where appropriate) equivalent to IPC.

IPC has designated these Classification Regulations as being part of the Sport Rules of IPC Athletics.

1.2 Purpose of Classification Regulations

In accordance with the IPC Classification Code, the term “classification”, as used in these Rules, refers to the process by which Athletes are assessed by reference to the impact of impairment on their ability to compete in the Sport of IPC Athletics. The purpose of Classification is to minimise the impact of eligible impairment types on the outcome of competition, so that athletes who succeed in competition are those with best anthropometry, physiology and psychology and who have enhanced them to best effect.

1.3 Structure of Classification Regulations

- 1.3.1 The Classification Regulations contained in this document provide a framework within which the process of classification may take place. Classification is undertaken so that Athletes can be designated a Sport Class (which groups Athletes together in Competition) and allocated a Sport Class Status (which indicates when Athletes should be evaluated and how their Sport Class may be challenged).
- 1.3.2 The allocation to an Athlete of a Sport Class is determined by a physical and technical assessment of the athlete, and, if required, Observation in Competition. These processes are explained in these Classification Regulations.

- 1.3.3 A Sport Profile explains how an Athlete may be considered eligible to compete within a particular Sport Class. A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete if an Athlete satisfies the requirements of the “Sport Profile” for that Sport Class.
- 1.3.4 The Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes that comprise the Sport of IPC Athletics are set out in the Appendices to these Classification Regulations.
- 1.3.5 The IPC Athletics Sport Profiles explain how an Athlete may be eligible to compete in the Sport of IPC Athletics.
- 1.3.6 International Classification which is not carried out at an IPC Recognized Competition and by a Classification Panel formally appointed by IPC Athletics is not valid.

1.4 IPC Classification Code

IPC Athletics has implemented these Classification Regulations having regard to the IPC Classification Code (the IPC Code). In the event that these Classification Regulations fail to provide for a matter in respect of which there is provision in the IPC Code, the provisions appearing in the IPC Code shall apply and be regarded as being part of these Regulations.

1.5 Definitions

A Glossary of Defined Terms included within these Classification Regulations, although certain terms are defined in the body of these Classification Regulations.

2. Classifiers

2.1 Classification Personnel

- 2.1.1 The IPC Classification Code and IPC Athletics recognise Classifiers as IPC Athletics officials.
- 2.1.2 The following personnel have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of classification, and should be appointed by IPC Athletics:

Head of Classification

The Head of Classification will be the person responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for IPC Athletics. As an alternative or complementary to an individual acting as Head of Classification, the functions of Head of Classification may be fulfilled by a group of persons designated as such by IPC Athletics. In such instances the references in these Regulations to Head of Classification shall be deemed to include such group of persons.

Classifier

A Classifier will be a person appointed and certified by IPC Athletics as being competent to evaluate Athletes (as part of a Classification Panel) at the occasion of IPC Athletics Recognized Competition.

Chief Classifier

A Chief Classifier will be a Classifier appointed for a specific IPC Athletics Recognized Competition, responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters at that Competition. The duties of the Chief Classifier may include, but are not limited to, liaising with organising committees and teams before a Competition to identify and notify Athletes who require Athlete Evaluation; liaising with organising committees before a Competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for Classifiers; supervising Classifiers to ensure that Classification Regulations are applied appropriately during a specific Competition; and supervising Classifiers and trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels.

- 2.1.3 IPC Athletics Classifiers should be qualified in one or more of the following disciplines:

Medical Classifier: a qualified medical professional who has the expertise and experience in dealing with people with the Impairments and Activity Limitations described in the Sport Profiles; or

Technical Classifier: an individual with extensive coaching background in the sport of IPC Athletics or an individual with degree in Sport Science with the requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise to contribute to the assessment of how much various types of impairment impact on the technical execution of the disciplines in IPC Athletics.

2.2 Classifiers – Levels and Duties

IPC Athletics categorises its Classifiers (all of whom must comply with the IPC Classifier Code of Conduct in force from time to time) as follows:

- 2.2.1 **Trainee** - An individual who is being trained by IPC Athletics, but who is not yet certified as a Classifier. A trainee cannot be a Member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. The duties of the trainee may include participation in and observation of the classification process to become familiar with the Classification Regulations, developing competencies and proficiencies relevant to Athlete Evaluation, assistance in research, and attending classification meetings at Competitions.
- 2.2.2 **Level 1 - International Classifier** - a Classifier who has successfully completed IPC Athletics training and has been certified to be a member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. The duties of a Level 1 Classifier may include, but are not limited to: being part of a Classification Panel at IPC Athletics sanctioned or Recognised events; being part of a Protest Panel at IPC Athletics sanctioned or Recognised events; attending classification meetings at Competitions; and assisting in Classifier training and certification as requested by the Head of Classification.
- 2.2.3 **Level 2 – Senior International Classifier** - a Senior Classifier acts in a leadership capacity at Competitions and reports to the Chief Classifier. Senior Classifiers have completed IPC Athletics training, show leadership, participate in research and development of the classification system, and have sufficient experience to implement the IPC Athletics Classification Regulations at a Competition. The duties of a Senior Classifier may include, but are not limited to assisting in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Regulations and profiles for IPC Athletics; participation in Classifier workshops; assisting in regular reviews of Classification Regulations and Sport Profiles; and supervising and evaluating Classifiers.

3 Classification Panels and Classification

3.1 Classification Panels

- 3.1.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers empowered by the Rules of the Sport of IPC Athletics to evaluate Athletes and allocate Sport Classes.
- 3.1.2 The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier should appoint Classification Panels for a particular Competition (including international Competitions).
- 3.1.3 A Classification Panel must include a suitably accredited and qualified physician and/or physiotherapist.
- 3.1.4 Members of Classification Panels should have no significant relationship with any Athlete (or any member of Athlete Support Personnel) that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest.
- 3.1.5 Members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with classification.

3.2 National Classification

All Athletes who wish to participate in IPC Athletics Competitions should, where possible, be classified by their own National Federation in accordance with these Regulations.

3.3 International Classification

- 3.3.1 “International Classification” refers to the process of Athlete Evaluation (as explained in these Classification Regulations) that is undertaken at, or before, an IPC Recognized Competition.
- 3.3.2 An Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class by an International Classification Panel prior to being eligible to compete in an IPC Athletics Recognized Competition, save in the exceptional circumstance that it is not feasible to evaluate all Athletes that are subject to Athlete Evaluation at that Competition.
- 3.3.3 International Classification must be conducted by an “International Classification Panel”. An International Classification Panel should be comprised of duly certified IPC Athletics Classifiers. An International Classification Panel shall be

comprised of a minimum of two (2) Classifiers, which must include a Medical Classifier.

- 3.3.4 If the circumstances of a Competition so require, the Head of Classification (or the Chief Classifier for that Competition) may designate that a Classification Panel may consist of one suitably accredited and qualified Medical Classifier in special cases, in particular where the number of available Classifiers is reduced prior to or at a Competition through unforeseen circumstances.
- 3.3.5 An International Classification Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise if it considers that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

3.4 Preparing Classification Panels for Competition

- 3.4.1 The Head of Classification should, where possible, appoint a Chief Classifier at least three (3) months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels should, where possible, be appointed two (2) months before a Competition.
- 3.4.2 The Head of Classification may act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The Head of Classification and the Chief Classifier should identify which Athletes will require Athlete Evaluation at a Competition (where necessary, in conjunction with the Local Organising Committee or similar body for the Competition).
- 3.4.3 The Chief Classifier should provide the Local Organising Committee (or similar body) for the Competition with an Athlete Evaluation schedule prior to the Competition, and to National Federations and/or teams on or before their arrival at the Competition.
- 3.4.4 In respect of Competitions where physical, visual and/or intellectual impaired Athletes are to compete, the Chief Classifier must ensure that Classification Panels are certified to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of physical, visual and/or intellectual impaired Athletes. This may result in six Classification Panels being required, two in order to conduct Athlete Evaluation for physical impaired Athletes, two in order to conduct Athlete Evaluation for visual impaired Athletes, and two in order to conduct Athlete Evaluation for intellectual impaired Athletes.

4 Classification: Athlete Evaluation

4.1 Athlete Evaluation

- 4.1.1 “Athlete Evaluation” is the process by which an Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel in order that the Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 4.1.2 Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes shall be conducted in English.
- 4.1.3 The Athlete and the relevant National Federation are jointly responsible for ensuring that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.4 The Athlete must agree to and accept the terms of the IPC Athletics Athlete Evaluation Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.5 If the Athlete wishes to compete within a Sport Class designated for Athletes with Physical or Visual Impairments, the Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation in the attire and with all necessary sports equipment as is specified for the relevant Sport or Event by IPC Athletics. The Athlete must provide a Recognised form of identification, such as a passport, ID Card or Competition Accreditation.
- 4.1.6 If an Athlete has a health condition that causes pain, which limits or prohibits full effort, the Classification Panel may decide that Athlete Evaluation will not take place. The Classification Panel may, in its sole discretion, agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.
- 4.1.7 The Athlete must disclose details of any medication routinely used by the Athlete prior to Athlete Evaluation. The Classification Panel may in its sole discretion decline to proceed with Athlete Evaluation if it considers that the use of such medication will affect its ability to conduct Physical and Medical Assessment. The Classification Panel may agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.
- 4.1.8 If an Athlete fails to disclose the use of medication as required by Section 4.1.7 the Chief Classifier may set aside the Athlete’s Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status, and require that the Athlete repeat Athlete Evaluation.

- 4.1.9 An Athlete should attend Athlete Evaluation with all relevant medical documentation. The following should be noted:
- 4.1.9.1 The purpose of this documentation is to permit the Classification Panel to verify that an athlete's impairments are the direct result of a health condition
 - 4.1.9.2 Medical documentation includes but is not limited to medical history or results from any relevant investigations (e.g., MRI, CT scan, EMG, EEG, nerve conduction, visual tests).
 - 4.1.9.3 The documentation must:
 - be in English
 - Be dated, signed by an appropriate medical authority and provide contact details for the signing medical authorities (E.G., on letterhead);
 - 4.1.9.4 The Classification Panel may, at its sole discretion, decline to proceed with Athlete Evaluation if it requires extra time in order to review the documentation. After the review of documentation the Classification Panel may (but is not obliged to) agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time.
- 4.1.10 If the classification team deems such documentation necessary and they are not available, the classification may be deferred until the documentation is available, and a class not assigned. If the documentation does not provide evidence beyond reasonable doubt that the impairments result from a health condition, the athlete will be classified Not Eligible
- 4.1.11 One person may accompany Athletes during Athlete Evaluation, who should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sporting ability. An interpreter may also accompany the Athlete.
- 4.1.12 Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition.

4.2 Athlete Evaluation Process

The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass one or more of the following:

4.2.1 Physical Assessment

The Classification Panel should conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete in accordance with the Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes within IPC Athletics, so as to establish that the Athlete exhibits an Impairment that qualifies the Athlete for participation in the Sport.

4.2.2 Technical Assessment

The Classification Panel should conduct a technical assessment of the Athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the Athlete participates. Technical Assessment may include an assessment of components of sport cognition.

The means by which Technical Assessment should take place should be specified in the Sport Profile for the relevant sport Class. Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the Athlete in order to observe how the Athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions.

4.2.3 Specified Means of Physical and Technical Assessment

These Regulations may specify certain means of conducting Physical and Technical Assessment. These means are explained in the Appendices to these Regulations and may be amended and/or updated from time to time by IPC Athletics.

4.2.4 Observation Assessment

4.2.4.1 The Classification Panel may conduct Observation Assessment, which shall involve observing an Athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the Sport.

4.2.4.2 Observation Assessment should only take place if a Classification Panel cannot complete Athlete Evaluation without observing the Athlete in Competition (for example, in situations where the Athlete is borderline as between Sport Classes).

4.2.4.3 Observation Assessment may take place by way of, but must conclude no later than, First Appearance.

4.2.5 Observation Assessment and Athletes with Visual Impairment

Observation Assessment is not required in respect of Athletes with Visual Impairment who undergo Athlete Evaluation pursuant to the Sport Profiles for these Athletes' Sport Classes.

5 Classification: Sport Class and Sport Class Status

5.1 Sport Class and Sport Class Status

5.1.1 Sport Class

5.1.1.1 A Sport Class is a category in which Athletes are designated by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from Impairment, and the degree to which that Impairment impacts upon sport performance. A range of function will exist within each Sport Class.

5.1.1.2 These Regulations provide for a range of Sport Classes, as explained in the Appendices to these Regulations. The means by which a Sport Class is allocated is explained in the Appendices to these Regulations, which may be amended and/or updated from time to time by IPC Athletics. A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete following completion of Athlete Evaluation.

5.1.1.3 An Athlete that does not have a Sport Class prior to an IPC Athletics Recognized Competition must be allocated an "Entry Sport Class" prior to Athlete Evaluation. An "Entry Sport Class" is a Sport Class allocated to an Athlete by a National Federation prior to an international or major Competition in order to indicate the Sport Class within which the Athlete intends competing. All Athletes allocated an Entry Sport Class for a Competition must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at that Competition.

5.1.2 Sport Class Status

5.1.2.1 A Sport Class Status will be allocated to an Athlete following allocation of Sport Class.

5.1.2.2 Sport Class Status indicates the extent to which an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete

Evaluation, and whether (and by what party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

5.1.3 Sport Class Status Designations

The following Sport Class Status designations shall be used to indicate Sport Class Status

5.1.3.1 Sport Class Status New (N)

Sport Class Status New (N) is assigned to an Athlete who:

- has not been evaluated by an International Classification Panel but has been allocated an Entry Sport Class by a National Federation (following National classification or otherwise) in order that Athlete Evaluation may take place.

N Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at an international or major Competition Recognised by IPC Athletics, save in the exceptional circumstance that it is not feasible to evaluate all Athletes that are subject to Athlete Evaluation at that Competition.

5.1.3.2 Sport Class Status Review (R)

Sport Class Status Review (R) is assigned to an Athlete who:

- has been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel but is subject to re-evaluation. The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during a Competition. R Athletes include, but are not limited, to Athletes who have fluctuating and/or progressive Impairments, or, because of their age, have Impairments that may not have stabilised.
- has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel and found to be either Non Cooperative during Evaluation, or Intentionally Misrepresenting Skills during Evaluation, but is subsequently eligible to undertake Athlete Evaluation.

R Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at an international or major Competition

Recognised by IPC Athletics, save in the exceptional circumstance that it is not feasible to evaluate all Athletes that are subject to Athlete Evaluation at that Competition.

If an International Classification Panel assigns an Athlete with a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review it may also, if it considers it appropriate to do so based upon the particular circumstances of that Athlete, set a date that shall be referred to as the "Fixed Review Date". Prior to the Fixed Date, the Athlete:

- shall not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation;
- shall retain the Sport Class assigned to that Athlete, with Sport Class Status Review, and be permitted to compete accordingly;
- may, at the Athlete's request, attend Athlete Evaluation.

A Fixed Review Date may only be set by an International Classification Panel.

5.1.3.3 Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is assigned to an Athlete who:

- has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel, and the International Classification Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change. An Athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete Athlete Evaluation at Competitions sanctioned by IPC Athletics. An Athlete with a C Sport Class must, however, undergo Athlete Evaluation if a Protest is made under Exceptional Circumstances;
- has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel and allocated Sport Class NE, and wishes to undertake Athlete Evaluation. Such request needs to be accompanied by an application for Medical Review with clearly motivated change of medical condition over the previous assessment;

5.1.3.4 Restrictions on Allocating Confirmed Status

An Athlete cannot be assigned Sport Class Confirmed if the Classification Panel that designated the relevant Sport Class consisted of one Classifier only.

5.1.3.5 Athlete Application to Change Sport Class (“Medical Review”)

This Section applies to an Athlete with:

- Sport Class Status Confirmed, or
- Sport Class Status Review, if that Athlete has been allocated a Fixed Review Date

who wishes to use the “Medical Review” process to have his or her Sport Class Status reviewed.

An Athlete to whom this Section applies who believes that, as a result of a medical intervention (for example, surgery or other corrective treatment), that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the Sport Profile for that Athlete’s Sport Class, may request that the Head of Classification designate that either:

- the Athlete’s Sport Class Status shall be amended to Review Status; or
- the Athlete’s Fixed Review Date is amended.

Any such request must be made in accordance with the “Medical Review” process guidelines as determined from time to time by IPC Athletics.

5.2 Tracking Codes and Observation Assessment

If an Athlete, following completion of Physical and Technical Assessment, is required by a Classification Panel to complete Observation Assessment, such Athlete will be assigned, where practicable, a Tracking Code pending the allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status (which will be allocated following completion of Observation Assessment).

This Tracking Code will be designated as either a “Competition New Status” (CNS) or a “Competition Review Status” (“CRS”). Such Athletes shall retain the CNS or CRS Tracking Code until Observation Assessment is completed.

5.2.1 Competition New Status

5.2.1.1 Competition New Status (CNS) shall be assigned to a New Athlete who has been assigned an Entry Sport Class, has undertaken Physical and Technical Assessment, but is required to undertake Observation Assessment prior to or during First Appearance (as is defined in these Regulations).

5.2.1.2 For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete who has been assigned an Entry Sport Class, but has not undertaken Physical and Technical Assessment (because it is not feasible to evaluate that Athlete at that Competition), but has been given permission by the Chief Classifier for the Competition (and/or the Head of Classification) to compete, will not be assigned CNS.

5.2.2 Competition Review Status

5.2.2.1 Competition Review Status (CRS) shall be assigned to an Athlete who has entered a Competition with a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review, has undertaken Physical and Technical Assessment, but is required to undertake Observation Assessment during First Appearance (as defined in these Regulations).

5.2.2.2 For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete who has been assigned an Entry Sport Class, but has not undertaken Physical and Technical Assessment (because it is not feasible to evaluate that Athlete at that Competition), but has been given permission by the Chief Classifier for the Competition (and/or the Head of Classification) to compete, will not be assigned CRS.

5.3 Ineligibility and Sport Class NE

5.3.1 If an Athlete does not have a relevant Impairment, or has an Activity Limitation resulting from a relevant Impairment that is not permanent the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete.

5.3.2 In these circumstances, the Athlete will be assigned Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

5.3.3 If an International Classification Panel allocates an Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible at a Competition, the Athlete must undergo

Athlete Evaluation by a second Classification Panel either at that Competition or as soon as practicable thereafter. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete's Sport Class is NE the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition, and will have no further right to Protest. This Section shall not apply to an Athlete Evaluation conducted following a Protest made under Exceptional Circumstances.

5.3.4 An Athlete who has been assigned Sport Class NE may only undertake further Athlete Evaluation with the express permission of the Head of Classification. This permission may be granted if:

5.3.4.1 The Head of Classification is provided with information which demonstrates that there has been a significant change in the Athlete's circumstances (for example, medical factors) since the Athlete's most recent evaluation; and/or

5.3.4.2 Sport Class allocation criteria have changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation, and the Head of Classification believes that, in the interests of fairness, the Athlete should be permitted an opportunity to undertake Athlete Evaluation; and/or

5.3.4.3 The Head of Classification is provided with any other information that demonstrates that, in the interests of fairness, the Athlete should be permitted an opportunity to undertake Athlete Evaluation.

5.3.5 For the avoidance of doubt, the restrictions placed on an Athlete detailed above shall apply within the Sport of IPC Athletics only.

5.4 First Appearance

5.4.1 "First Appearance" means the first time that an Athlete competes during a Competition. First Appearance in one Sport Class shall apply to all Events within the same Sport Class.

5.4.2 The Local Organising Committee for a Competition shall provide all teams with details of which Athletes who enter a Competition with Sport Class Status N or R, and when they are scheduled to make First Appearance.

5.5 Allocation of Sport Class to Athletes with Physical Impairment

- 5.5.1 Following completion of Physical Assessment and/or Technical Assessment the Athlete will be:
- allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status; or
 - if Observation Assessment is required, allocated an Initial Sport Class with either Sport Class Status Competition New Status (CNS) or Competition Review Status (CRS).
- 5.5.2 An Athlete will be permitted to compete at a Competition following the allocation of an Initial Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- 5.5.3 If the Athlete is required by the Classification Panel to complete Observation Assessment, this should take place prior to or during First Appearance.
- 5.5.4 Following completion of Observation Assessment, the Athlete's Sport Class will either be upheld or amended by the Classification Panel (which may include finding that the Athlete is Not Eligible); and the Classification Panel will either designate the Athlete's Sport Class Status as Review or Confirmed (save that an Athlete cannot be assigned a Confirmed Sport Class if the Classification Panel that designated the relevant Sport Class consisted of one Classifier only).
- 5.5.5 The Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete following completion of Athlete Evaluation will be notified to the National team representative for the Athlete and the Local Organising Committee for the Competition as soon as possible following First Appearance.

5.6 Changes in Sport Class after First Appearance

- 5.6.1 If an Athlete makes a First Appearance in an Event, that Event shall be called in this sub-section "the First Appearance Event". The Classification Panel must conduct Observation Assessment during the First Appearance Event, following which the Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status may be changed or maintained.

If the Athlete's Initial Sport Class is changed following the First Appearance Event:

- The change of Sport Class is effective at the end of the First Appearance Event;

- The Athlete's results achieved (including the award of any medals) in the First Appearance Event shall stand;
- The Chief Classifier will inform the Technical Delegate and the Local Organising Committee for a Competition;
- The Athlete will only be eligible to compete in such Events as remain available within the Athlete's revised Sport Class;
- The Local Organising Committee for a Competition may make adjustments to start lists and schedule in accordance with the sports and/or Classification Regulations of IPC Athletics; and
- The Local Organising Committee for a Competition must advise other teams/nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as logistically possible.

5.7 Final Confirmation at the end of the Competition

The Chief Classifier for the Competition must publish each Sport Class and Sport Class Status assigned by the Classification Panels before the end of each Competition. The results from Classification at each Competition will be published for all countries on the IPC Athletics website within four (4) weeks of the end of the event.

6 Classification: Failure to Comply with Evaluation Rules

6.1 Athlete Failure to attend Evaluation

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

6.2 Non-Cooperation during Evaluation

- 6.2.1 An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in an Athlete Evaluation shall be considered non co-operative during evaluation.
- 6.2.2 If the Athlete fails to co-operate during Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at the respective Competition in the respective sport.
- 6.2.3 Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation then the Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.
- 6.2.4 Any Athlete found to have been non co-operative during an evaluation shall not be permitted to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation for that sport for a minimum of twelve (12) months starting from the date upon which the Athlete failed to cooperate.

6.3 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 6.3.1 An Athlete, who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skill and/or abilities will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.

In addition:

- The Athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of two (2) years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities;
- The Chief Classifier will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete from the IPC Athletics classification master list;
- The Athlete will be designated as IM (intentional misrepresentation) in the IPC Athletics classification master list and on the IPC Athletics web list;
- The Athlete will not be permitted to undergo any further evaluation within IPC Athletics for a period of two (2) years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities; and
- The National Federation will be informed of the decision.

- 6.3.2 An Athlete who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from IPC Athletics events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate to IPC Athletics. Such an Athlete will also receive a lifetime ban from all sports in respect of which the IPC acts as International Federation, and from sports that have agreed to recognise such bans with the IPC.

6.4 Intentional Misrepresentation After Evaluation

- 6.4.1 This Clause applies to an Athlete who:

- has been designated with a Confirmed Sport Class, and
- after the designation of the Confirmed Sport Class, is subject to any form of “medical intervention” (such as surgery, a pharmacological intervention or other corrective treatment).

- 6.4.2 If such an Athlete knows (or should know) that the effect of the medical intervention is that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the Sport Profile for the Athlete’s Sport Class, that Athlete must provide details of the medical intervention to the Head of Classification, in accordance with the Medical Review Process as determined by the IPC Athletics.

- 6.4.3 If the Athlete fails to provide details of the medical intervention to the Head of Classification, the Athlete will be deemed to have intentionally misrepresented his/her skill and/or abilities if:

- the Athlete’s Sport Class is subsequently changed as a result (in total or in part) of the medical intervention, and
- the International Classification Panel responsible for changing the Athlete’s Sport Class believes that the Athlete either knew, or should have known, that the effect of the medical intervention was that his or her Impairment and Activity Limitations no longer match the Sport Profile for the Athlete’s Sport Class.

- 6.4.4 In such circumstances, at a minimum, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.

6.5 Failure to Attend/Misrepresentation and Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel

- 6.5.1 IPC Athletics shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete evaluation; to fail to cooperate; intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.
- 6.5.2 Those who are involved in advising Athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions given to the Athlete.
- 6.5.3 These sanctions shall apply to Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to provide information relating to medical intervention, in accordance with the Medical Review Process.
- 6.5.4 In this circumstance, reporting the Athlete Support Personnel to the appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by the Athlete.

6.6 Publication of Penalties

IPC Athletics will disclose details of penalties imposed upon Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel.

7 Classification: Protests and Appeals

7.1 Protests

- 7.1.1 The term “Protest” refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete’s Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 7.1.2 A successful Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a “Protest Panel”.
- 7.1.3 An Athlete's Sport Class may only be protested once in any individual Competition. This restriction does not apply to Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances.

- 7.1.4 IPC Athletics may only resolve a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by IPC Athletics
- 7.1.5 Protests should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on Competition participation, and Competition schedules and results.
- 7.1.6 Protests may be submitted only during a Competition (save for Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances).

7.2 When Protests May Take Place

- 7.2.1 Any National Federation, or the Chief Classifier, following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class, may protest athletes who entered the competition with Sport Class New Status (N). Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall be designated:
 - Review Status (R); or
 - Confirmed Status (C); or
 - Not Eligible to Compete (NE)
- 7.2.2 Any National Federation or the Chief Classifier following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class may protest athletes who enter the competition with Sport Class Status Review (R). Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall remain Review Status or be designated:
 - Confirmed (C) Status; or
 - Not Eligible to Compete (NE)
- 7.2.3 Athletes with Sport Class Confirmed Status (C) may be protested only in Exceptional Circumstances. For the avoidance of doubt, Athletes who have entered a Competition with either Sport Class Status N or Sports Class Status R, and, following Athlete Evaluation, have been designated with Sport Class Confirmed Status (C), will be subject to protest by either the Athlete, or a National Federation, at that Competition only.

7.3 Protest Procedures during Competitions

- 7.3.1 Protests may be submitted by a National Federation representative authorised to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager) and/or the Chief Classifier.

- 7.3.2 The Chief Classifier for the event, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorised to receive Protests on behalf of IPC Athletics at an event.
- 7.3.3 An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested, either by the Athlete's National Federation or a different National Federation within one (1) hour of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class being published. If the Classification Panel makes its decision following First Appearance, a Protest can only be made within fifteen (15) minutes of the decision being published.
- 7.3.4 Protests must be submitted in English on a designated Protest form that should be made available by the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest form must include the following:
- The name, nation and sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
 - Details of the decision being protested;
 - The reason for the Protest;
 - Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest;
 - The signature of the National Federation representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable; and
 - A fee of at a minimum one hundred (100) Euros (unless there is a different amount specified for that Competition).
- 7.3.5 Upon receipt of the Protest form, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that if there is no valid reason for a Protest, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier shall decline the protest and notify all relevant parties. IPC Athletics will retain the Protest fee.
- 7.3.6 If the Protest is declined the Chief Classifier shall provide a verbal explanation to the National Federation as soon as is possible, and a written explanation as is practicable.
- 7.3.7 If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel shall consist of, at a minimum, the same number of Classifiers as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, and shall, if this is practicable and possible, comprise Classifiers of equal or greater level of certification as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class.

- 7.3.8 The Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation that led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than eighteen (18) months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 7.3.9 The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 7.3.10 All documentation submitted with the Protest form shall be provided to the Protest Panel.
- 7.3.11 The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class (including from the initial Classification Panel whose decision is the subject of the Protest).
- 7.3.12 Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in these Regulations. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation. IPC Athletics will retain the Protest fee unless the Protest is upheld.
- 7.3.13 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest.

7.4 Protests in Exceptional Circumstances

- 7.4.1 A Chief Classifier may make a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances in respect of any Athlete at any time during or prior to a Competition.

Exceptional circumstances may result from:

- A change in the degree of Impairment of an Athlete;
- An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class;
- An error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability; or
- Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation.

- 7.4.1 The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:

- The Chief Classifier shall advise the Athlete and relevant National Federation and/or National Paralympic Committee that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances;
- The processes and procedures referred to in Articles 7.3 (where relevant) will apply to Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.

7.5 Responsibility for Ensuring Compliance with Protest Rules

- 7.5.1 A National Federation making a Protest is solely responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.
- 7.5.2 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest because no valid reason for a Protest has been identified by the National Federation, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest. The time frames for submitting a Protest shall remain the same in such circumstances.
- 7.5.3 If a National Federation resubmits a Protest, all protest procedure requirements will apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a second Protest fee must be paid (which will be refunded if the Protest is upheld).

7.6 Appeals

- 7.6.1 The term "appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 7.6.2 IPC Athletics has designated the International Paralympic Committee Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the appeal body for IPC Athletics. The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals to the BAC are provided by the IPC. The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws, which are part of the IPC Handbook.

8 Ad Hoc Rules for Paralympic Games and Major Events

These Classification Regulations may amended, supplemented or superseded by the Classification Guide for a Paralympic Games or Major

Competition. The Classification Guide for a Paralympic Games or Major Competition shall detail the timeframes within which the Classification Guide will take precedence over these Regulations.

9 Glossary

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| Activity Limitation | Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities that may include attainment of high performance skills and techniques in the field of sporting performance. |
| Athlete | For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the International Level (as defined by each International Federation) or National Level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation. |
| Athlete Evaluation | The process by which an Athlete is assessed in order to be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. |
| Athlete Support Personnel | Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition. |
| Classifier Code of Conduct | The Classifier Code of Conduct is the regulatory document published by IPC from time to time which sets standards for Classifier behaviour. |
| Competition | A series of individual Events conducted together under one ruling body. |
| Conflict of Interest | A Conflict of Interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment. |
| Event | An "Event" is a sub-set of a Competition that requires specific technical and sporting skills. |

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| Impairment | A feature adversely affecting an Athlete's biomechanical execution of athletic disciplines which results in an Activity Limitation. |
| International Competition | A Competition where an international sports organization (IPC, IF, Major Competition Organization, or another international sport organization) is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition. |
| International Federation (IF) | A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic Athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC. IPC is an International Federation for a number of Paralympic Sports. |
| IPC | International Paralympic Committee. |
| Local Organising Committee for Competition | An administrative body formed for the purposes of organising and administering a specific Competition or series of Competitions. |
| National Competition | A Competition where the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition. |
| National Federation | The organization recognized by an IF as the sole national governing body for its sport. |
| National Paralympic Committee (NPC) | A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of Athletes with a disability in that country or territory to the IPC. In addition, the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF. |
| Paralympic Games | Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games. |
| Protest | The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class status is submitted and subsequently resolved. |

Recognized

A Recognized Competition includes the Paralympic Games, World Championships, Regional Championships and any other Competitions that are formally approved or sanctioned by the IPC

Appendix One to IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations

Athletes with Physical Impairments – Classes T/F31-38, 40-46, 51-58

This Appendix details the Sport Classes that are to be allocated to Athletes with Physical Impairments who wish to compete in IPC Athletics competitions.

It is divided into four parts:

1. Introduction: an overview of the classification process for athletes with Physical Impairments, as well as important information about the status of this Appendix.
2. Eligibility: Identifies the types of impairments that are eligible for IPC Athletics, as well as the Minimal Disability Criteria, which provide an operational description for how severe an impairment must be in order to be eligible for IPC Athletics.
3. Methods of Assessment: a description of the assessment techniques to be applied in the evaluation process for Athletes with Physical Impairments
4. Sport Class Profiles for Athletes with Physical Impairments: a list of the Sport Profiles for Athletes with Physical Impairments

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Prior to (or as part of) Physical and Technical Assessment, an Athlete must demonstrate the presence of a qualifying Impairment that meets the Eligibility Criteria set by IPC Athletics (see section 2).
- 1.2 IPC Athletics Classification is therefore based on the straightforward concept: an Athlete is assessed according to a set methods of Physical and Technical Assessment, and that following that assessment the Athlete is allocated a sport class. This sport class allocation may be modified following Observation Assessment. This final decision after Observation Assessment, if applicable, then determines what Sport Class the athlete will compete in.
- 1.3 The provisions of the “IPC Athletics Classification Project for Physical Impairments: Final Report – Stage 1” will replace Appendix 1 of these IPC Athletics Classification Rules and

Regulations from the date of the closing of the London 2012 Paralympic Games onwards.

Up until the London Paralympic Games, athletes will be assessed against both the sport class criteria presented in this Appendix and the sport class criteria presented in the “IPC Athletics Classification Project for Physical Impairments: Final Report – Stage 1”. The results of both findings will be reported on the classification sheet, with the current sport class criteria being valid before and during the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

In the course of 2012 IPC Athletics will release the revised Appendix 1.

- 1.4 When these IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations are silent on the methods that apply for setting eligibility and minimal disability criteria, as well as for methods of assessment of athletes, the provisions that are in place from September 2012 onwards will apply. These are available from the document entitled “IPC Athletics Classification Project for Physical Impairments: Final Report – Stage 1”, which is posted on the IPC Athletics website (<http://ipc-athletics.paralympic.org/>). For example, this handbook does not specify which method for assessing muscle power should be used, creating the possibility for inconsistent outcomes. However, the Final Report – Stage 1 specifies that the “Daniels and Worthingham Method (2002)” should be used, and this will be used by IPC Athletics Classifiers from now onwards.

2. Eligibility and Minimal Disability Criteria

- 2.1 At the time the 2006 IPC Athletics Classification Manual was written, eligibility and MDC were determined by referring to the manuals from CPISRA (2004-8), ISOD and ISMWSF. The relevant Minimal Disability Criteria (MDC) from these documents have been collated in this section and are integral part of these IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations so that these can be read and understood without cross-reference to other classification manuals, and to avoid that IPC Athletics Classification is subject to changes in any of the above classification manuals.
- 2.2 The following impairment types are eligible in IPC Athletics:
- Hypertonia: Health conditions which cause hypertonia include, but are not limited to Cerebral Palsy (CP), stroke, acquired brain injury, multiple sclerosis;

- Ataxia: health conditions which cause ataxia include, but are not limited to CP, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, Friedreichs ataxia and spinocerebellar ataxia)
- Athetosis: health conditions which cause athetosis include, but are not limited to chorea, and CP;
- Loss of limb or limb deficiency, such as results from trauma-related amputation or congenital limb deficiency (dysmelia);
- Impaired range of movement: health conditions which cause impaired range of movement include, but are not limited to arthrogryposis and ankylosis and trauma-related arthrodesis;
- Impaired muscle power such as results from spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, brachial plexus injury, spina bifida, post-polio or Guillain-Barre syndrome;
- Limb-length difference, such as results from congenital dysgenesis or trauma
- Short stature: health conditions which cause short stature include, but are not limited to, Achondroplasia, spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia

2.3 Minimal Disability Criteria (MDC)

2.3.1 To be eligible for events Recognized by IPC Athletics up to and including the London 2012 Paralympic Games, athletes with impairments identified in 2.2 must meet one or more of the Minimal Disability Criteria as described:

| Impairment type | Criteria |
|--|---|
| MDC – Hypertonia / Ataxia / Athetosis | <p>Minimally affected diplegic, spasticity grade 1; hemiplegic, spasticity grade 1; monoplegic; minimal athetoid/ataxic athlete. Must have clear evidence of spasticity, involuntary movement and/or ataxia. As a guide, clear evidence should include at least 1 major sign and 1 minor sign from the list below:</p> <p>Major</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear uni-or bilateral Babinski • Clear uni-or bilateral clonus (e.g. 4 beats) • Noticeably brisk reflexes or clear difference in reflexes between right and left • Clear evidence of athetosis or ataxia <p>Minor</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stiffness or rigidity in 1 or more limbs Mild atrophy or shortening of a limb |
| MDC - Muscle power upper limb | <p>Scores muscle power from 0-5 for following ARM movements,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoulder: abduction, adduction, flexion and extension Elbow: Flexion and extension Wrist: plantar flexion, dorsiflexion; Fingers (2-5): Flexion and extension at metacarpo-phalangeal joints; Thumb: Opposition and extension <p>Maximum points (unimpaired muscle power) = 60 (L) + 60 (R). Eligible Impairment of muscle power is a loss of ≥ 20 points out of a possible 60 in one arm. In assessing, all muscle grade points are tallied, including grades one and two.</p> |
| MDC – Muscle Power Lower Limb | <p>Score muscle power from 0-5 for following LEG movements,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hip abduction, adduction, flexion and extension Knee: Flexion and extension Ankle: plantar and dorsiflexion <p>Maximum points (unimpaired muscle power) = 80 (40 on left and 40 on right)</p> <p>Eligible impairment of muscle power is a loss of ≥ 10 points out of a possible 80. In assessing, all muscle grade points are tallied, including grades one and two.</p> |
| MDC - Amputation upper limb | Amputation through or above the WRIST joint |
| MDC - Amputation lower limb | Amputation through or above the ANKLE joint |
| MDC – Range of Movement upper limb | <p>One or more of the joints identified is restricted as described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoulder: arm can be elevated to 135 degrees only, or ankylosis in any position; Elbow: extension defect of 45 degrees or ankylosis in any position Wrist: Ankylosis |
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| MDC – Range of Movement lower limb | <p>One or more of the joints identified is restricted as described:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hips: decrease in flexion-extension of 60 degrees or ankylosis; • Knee: extension defect of 30 degrees or ankylosis in any position; • Ankle: Ankylosis; • Back and Torso: Severely reduced mobility of a permanent nature, for example scoliosis measuring over 60 degrees curve as measured by the Cobb method. X-ray proof is necessary. |
| MDC – Leg length difference | <p>At least 7cm difference between left and right leg. Measurements to be taken from the inferior aspect of the anterior superior iliac spine to the most medial tip of medial malleolus on same side.</p> |
| MDC – Short stature | <p>Standing height as indicated below PLUS evidence of achondroplasia, a genetic condition causing abnormal growth and development of bone and cartilage and resulting in disproportionately short limbs. People with short stature resulting from dysfunction of the pituitary gland are not eligible. Athletes must be ≥ 18ys old.. Males: ≤ 145cm, Females: ≤ 140cm</p> |

3. Methods of Assessment

3.1 Introduction

The Physical and Technical Assessment Tests used by IPC Athletics as part of Athlete Evaluation comprise a number of individual tests, each of which is designed to finally allocate a sport class to the relevant Athlete. The tests described will permit the classification panel to estimate how much activity limitation is caused by a person's impairment or combination of impairments. :

3.2 Assessment Methods

3.2.1 The following should be noted when the degree of Impairment present in Wheelchair Athletes is being assessed:

- the level of spinal injury, including the actual fracture level, and the actual spinal cord injury level;

- whether the Athlete is complete or incomplete spinal cord injured and the sensory and motor levels; and
- the level of amputation and any associated Impairments.

The following testing techniques should be employed:

- Manual muscle charting;
- Sensory testing (light touch and pin prick);
- Range of movement of the spine and limb joints;
- Muscle tone assessment.
- Tendon reflex assessment.
- Pathological reflexes (Babinski-Hoffmann).
- Proprioception testing.
- Limb length measurement.

Physical examination can be performed by either carrying out a total examination of the Athlete (which is preferable), or an examination of the area of the injury. A full examination should always be conducted in relation to an Athlete with an incomplete spinal cord injury.

3.2.2 Pre-Competition Testing

Members of Classification Panels should note the following:

- there is appropriate equipment and facilities available to carry out specific tasks, including the Athlete's track chair or field chair, a track with an appropriate surface and a throwing circle with appropriate tie-downs and correct implement weights;
- there is adequate time available to time is taken to perform the pre-competition testing;
- a record of the qualifying performances of all Athletes who are being classified is available.

3.2.3 Observation of Athletes - General

Members of Classification Panels should note the following:

- Classifiers must make sure that they can see clearly and have access to equipment such as binoculars and video.
- All actions undertaken by an Athlete should be observed, including -
 - the undressing that occurs prior to going into the throwing circle
 - the transfer on to the throwing chair

- what assistance the Athlete offers with the tie-downs both at the beginning and the end
- the transfer back into the day chair
- the adjustment of clothing which may occur at the conclusion of the exercise

It must be remembered that if an Athlete has only three throws, the actual duration of performance is very short. This is one area where athletics differs from other sports.

3.2.4 Observing Track And Field Athletes Prior To Competition And In Competition

Members of Classification Panels should note the following:

3.2.4.1 For Track

- The type of glove used.
- The starting position of the hands/gloves.
- The point of contact of the gloves on the push rim.
- What happens to the trunk when the gloves make contact with the push rim?
- What trunk movements occur at other times during the cycle of movement?
- What happens to the head during the cycle of movement?
- How far do the shoulders extend during the cycle of movement?
- What happens to the trunk when the Athlete stops pushing?

3.2.4.2 For Field

- The grip on the throwing implement
- The grip of the non-throwing arm that may include assessment of the manner of gripping of the holding bar.
- The starting position, release position, and finishing position of the throwing arm.
- The functional use of the non-throwing arm. Is there active elbow movement and/or is the arm used to control trunk movement after release of the implement?
- Trunk movements
 - Off the back of the chair upward.
 - Forwards and backwards.
 - Rotation.
 - Side to side.

- Pelvic stability.
- Leg movements.
- The position of the chair in the throwing circle.
- The attachments to assist throwing including strapping, hand grip etc.

3.2.5 Assessing Athletes with Spinal Impairments

The following factors are important in the assessment of an Athlete who has a spinal cord injury, curvature or fusion.

- 3.2.5.1 Aetiology (cause of disability).
- 3.2.5.2 The type of spinal curvature present – whether it is caused by scoliosis, kyphosis, or kypho-scoliosis.
- 3.2.5.3 Where the apex of the curve is and where the actual curve appears to start from and where it appears to finish.
- 3.2.5.4 The relationship between the rib cage and the pelvis, in particular whether the rib cage free of contact with the pelvis or is in contact with the pelvis, and whether the rib cage is inside the pelvis on one side.
- 3.2.5.5 The muscle power of the upper and lower abdominals and upper and lower spinal extensors, and whether the loss in muscle strength is symmetrical.
- 3.2.5.6 Where there is scoliosis, an assessment whether there is asymmetry of muscle power in the abdominals and spinal extensors should be made, and if so, whether there is asymmetry in the lower limb muscles.
- 3.2.5.7 The fracture level and in relation to spina bifida, the neurological level.

3.2.6 Assessing Spinal Fusion

Classification Panels should make note of the following:

- 3.2.6.1 How long the fusion appears to be: generally the fusion for a fracture level is over fewer vertebral segments than for a scoliosis. Assessing the muscle power of the upper and lower abdominals and the upper and lower spinal extensors is important, and the effect of surgery on spinal extensor function has to be noted. Functional tests should be undertaken to

assess an Athlete's motor ability, and whether the movement has been affected by scoliosis, spinal fusion or spasticity.

- 3.2.6.2 The longer the spinal fusion is, the greater the effect on movement and muscle power. If there is contact between the rib cage and the pelvis, spinal movements will be reduced. Trunk mobility should be assessed where possible both above and below the spinal fusion.
- 3.2.6.3 Treatment of the spine may reduce the effectiveness of the spinal extensor muscles and the abdominal muscles: it may reduce the lateral flexion and rotational ability as well as the flexion/extension movements.
- 3.2.6.4 Functional tests demonstrate flexion (forwards movement of the spine) and extension (backwards movement of the spine) or rotation (turning movements in either direction) and tests to determine how far an Athlete can lift off his or her lap in the sitting position are helpful. Functional tests for wheelchair Athletes in their day chair include asking them to push up a hill and assessing the pattern of spinal movement i.e. is the spinal curve normal or is there a tendency to lordose the spine. If there is a tendency to lordose the spine, then what level is this occurring?
- 3.2.6.5 Another functional test is to ask the Athlete to push their track chair on grass. The added resistance helps not only assess the abdominal function but may also help assess the spinal movement. The next assessment requires the Athlete to be observed prior to competition either using their track chair on the actual track or field chair in the field.
- 3.2.6.6 As with all sports, the ultimate demonstration of movement potential occurs when the Athlete is in the competition.

3.2.7 Assessing Athletes with Polio

Classification Panels should make note of the following:

- 3.2.7.1 Evaluation may be taking place several years after the maximum effect of the spinal insult. The muscles that are functioning in either the upper or lower limbs may have initially been affected and the muscle power that

is being tested as a 5 may only be a 4+. It is beneficial to compare the muscle bulk of the upper limbs to the trunk and to the lower limbs. A decrease in bulk or even apparent absence of a muscle does not always mean a total loss of functional muscle power.

- 3.2.7.2 Polio Athletes who are tetraplegic are most likely to have had the involvement of all muscle groups. The muscles that are assumed to have Grade 5 power in the upper limbs may have been involved in the process (which may explain the small number Athletes with polio who compete in longer distance events in the tetraplegic classes (800 metres and above)). Involvement of the diaphragm and other respiratory muscles in such a severe polio may also be a limiting factor in aerobic activity.
- 3.2.7.3 Polio Athletes may have skip lesions – that is, they may have normal trunk function and weakness in the lower limbs, and one upper limb with normal function and one upper limb with weakness in one muscle group.
- 3.2.7.4 If an Athlete has had polio at a young age, they may have scoliosis, and asymmetry of trunk muscle function.
- 3.2.7.5 If an Athlete has asymmetry of muscle bulk, the Athlete may have differing levels of function in each lower limb. The classification can proceed according to where the muscle bulk is, even though the Athlete is not showing any movement in the area. The only time a classifier has to be careful in relation to assessing muscle bulk of the lower limbs like this is when an Athlete is overweight.
- 3.2.7.6 There have been various arguments about polio Athletes having the advantage of intact sensation. However, if an Athlete cannot move a joint, then having sensation in the joint may not be very helpful. In time there may also be a fall-off of the sensory appreciation coming from that joint because of the lack of use.
- 3.2.7.7 Post-polio syndrome (PPS) should be considered where relevant. There are many theories as to why this occurs. Classifiers must be aware of this

syndrome and in particular of PPS Athletes showing unexplained muscle fatigue and weakness.

- 3.2.7.8 If a polio Athlete is not cooperative, using asymmetry of muscle bulk to work out what muscle movements are potentially present can be helpful.

3.2.8 Assessing Athletes with Spina Bifida

Classification Panels should make note of the following:

- 3.2.8.1 Cerebral – (UMN-upper motor neurone) – coordination of upper limb movements;
- 3.2.8.2 Spinal curvature and pelvic tilt noting relationship of the rib cage and pelvis;
- 3.2.8.3 Hip contractures as well as hip subluxation and dislocation;
- 3.2.8.4 The effect of any surgery on the hip joint;
- 3.2.8.5 The higher the spinal cord level involvement, the more likely that the Athlete will have upper limb coordination problems;
- 3.2.8.6 The higher the spinal cord level, the more likely that the Athlete will have upper limb coordination problems. This needs to be taken into account when classification is carried out. The assessment of the Athlete's upper limb function is by using examination techniques employed when assessing Athletes with cerebral palsy. An indication as to whether there may be upper limb coordination problems of Central Nervous System origin (e.g., Athetosis or Ataxia) is that the Athlete has had hydrocephalus and associated drainage operations (although this is not always so). Such Athletes may be eligible to compete in the Cerebral Palsy classes.
- 3.2.8.7 The higher the level of spinal cord involvement the more likely there will be significant spinal deformity either in the form of shortening of the spine due to scoliosis or kypho-scoliosis. The higher the level of spinal cord involvement the more likely that the Athlete will have pelvic tilting which does impact on muscle power, that the Athlete may have in the trunk and also in the lower limbs. The higher the level of spinal cord

involvement the more likely that one side of the rib cage and the pelvic rim will come into contact. This potentially will restrict trunk rotation and will impact on the Athlete's ability in field events.

- 3.2.8.8 If there is hip muscle imbalance and the hip flexors and adductors are present but the abductors and extensors are absent there will either be subluxation or dislocation of the hips. This will impact on muscle strength. Sometime surgery will have been carried out to correct this tendency and this will also impact on the remaining muscle strength.
- 3.2.8.9 Some Athletes with spina bifida will have an ileal conduit i.e. a urinary collection system in which part of the bowel is used as the bladder, and which has an exit point through the abdominal wall. This may interfere with abdominal muscle strength.
- 3.2.8.10 Sometimes the higher the level the more likely the Athlete will have had a spinal fusion which impacts on trunk function and also may make any remaining abdominal and leg muscle power less functional.
- 3.2.8.11 The lower limbs themselves may be spastic or flaccid or have a mixed pattern.
- 3.2.8.12 An L4 Athlete with spina bifida classically has power in hip flexors, adductors, knee extensors and the medial knee flexors (hamstrings). When the Athlete is tested in the sitting position the medial knee flexors (hamstrings) may register moderate power. There should be an absence of lateral knee flexors (hamstrings).
- 3.2.8.13 An L5 Athlete with spina bifida classically has hip flexors, adductors, and abductors, knee extensors and flexors, and ankle dorsi-flexors.
- 3.2.8.14 An S1 Athlete with spina bifida will have hip flexors, abductors, adductors and some extensor function, knee flexors and extensors, ankle dorsi-flexors with some ankle plantar flexion function.
- 3.2.8.15 Often Athletes with spina bifida will have had surgery on their feet in the form of fusion operations. This has been carried out because of foot deformities and is

usually due to muscle imbalance. Ankle fusion surgery will impact on muscle function below the knees.

3.2.9 Assessing Athletes With Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury

3.2.9.1 A Classification Panel should

- assess the motor and sensory function in all areas;
- note the location of the increase in tone i.e. upper limbs, abdominals, and lower limbs; and
- when assessing incomplete Athletes the three areas that need to be considered include the arms, the trunk and the legs.

3.2.9.2 When an incomplete tetraplegic Athlete is assessed, accurate assessment of the three areas will assist in determining the classification of the Athlete. It must be noted that spasticity is rarely helpful in athletic performance. It varies so much e.g. temperature, emotion and there is no active control of the level of spasticity. Athletes do try to reinforce any spasticity that is useful, but should never be penalized for doing so.

3.2.9.3 Incomplete paraplegics are usually assessed depending on the level of muscle power in the lower limbs.

3.2.9.4 Those Athletes who have F52 in the arms some F55 function (3s to 4s) in the trunk will probably be classified as F53 Athletes. F52 Athletes who have full F55 function (4s to 5s) will most likely be classified as F54 Athletes.

3.2.9.5 Incomplete paraplegics are usually assessed depending on the level of muscle power in the lower limbs.

3.2.9.6 Those Athletes who have grade 1s and 2s in most muscle groups in the lower limbs will generally fit into the F56 class.

3.2.9.7 Those Athletes who have grade 2s and 3s in most muscle groups in the lower limbs will generally fit into the F57 class.

3.2.9.8 Those Athletes who have grade 3s and 4s in most muscle groups in the lower limbs will generally fit into the F58 class.

3.2.9.9 It is important to note where the Athlete has significant muscle power when assessing their movement potential for field events, e.g. if an Athlete has 1s and 2s in most muscle groups but then has 4s in the hip abductors and extensors, then this will influence the classification of the Athlete for these muscle groups are important when throwing from the sitting position.

3.2.10 Assessing Athletes with an Amputation

Classification Panels should make note of the following:

3.2.10.1 It is important to examine and measure the stump.

3.2.10.2 Muscle charting of the stump is essential and includes testing flexion, extension, abduction and adduction. It is important to test the strength of hip extension from the 90° flexed position i.e. the sitting position.

3.2.10.3 The second area is to chart the range of movement of the hip joint and the purpose of doing this is to assess whether there are contractures at the hip joint level. If an Athlete is sitting for long periods he may develop a flexion contracture. Another factor that may contribute to contractures is an imbalance of muscle action at the level of the hip joint e.g. abductors versus adductors, or extensors versus flexors.

3.2.10.4 Measurement of the length of the stump is important and can be carried out by the Athlete having an x-rays of the stump, which records the stump length or it could be achieved by direct measurement. Of the two methods the x-ray method is more accurate for often there is a lot of soft tissue between the bony part of the stump and the skin at the end of the stump. However direct measurement is more practical and should be used routinely. X-rays may be used in borderline cases.

3.2.10.5 Using a tape measuring from the tip of the greater trochanter to the approximate end of the femur is the measurement that is made. The next measurement is the distance from the point of the elbow to the tip of the middle finger in which the wrist, hand and middle

finger should be in a straight line during measurement. The reason for doing this measurement is that the distance from the point of the elbow to the tip of the middle finger is the same as from the tip of the greater trochanter to the level of the knee joint.

- 3.2.10.6 The significance of stump length is that as the leg length increases the leverage factor comes in to play as well as more muscles becoming active i.e. if the amputation is high e.g. just below the lesser trochanter then the Athlete will have less leverage and muscles acting. There will be strong activity in hip abduction and flexion but less effective extension and adduction. As the stump length increases the leverage factor increases and extension becomes stronger, and as further increase in length occurs, hip abduction comes into play.
- 3.2.10.7 The fourth area to record is which hand the Athlete uses during field events. The purpose for doing this is to check whether the side of the amputation is at the same side as the throwing arm.
- 3.2.10.8 By assessing the above four factors and then carrying out pre-competition assessment, classification can be made.
- 3.2.10.9 The following is a guide to the classification of wheelchair amputees:
- F55 Bilateral hip disarticulation
 - F56 Bilateral high above knee amputation. The femoral length will be less than half the distance measured between the point of the elbow and the tip of the middle finger.
 - F57 Bilateral above knee amputation or single hip disarticulation. The femoral length will be greater than half of the length measured between the point of the elbow and the tip of the middle finger.
 - F58 Single above or below knee amputation or bilateral below knee amputation
- 3.2.10.10 Determining prosthesis length for lower limb amputees**

The following rules apply to the length of prostheses used by lower limb amputees .

- Athletes with either unilateral **above knee or unilateral below knee amputation** can use a prosthesis for competition purposes which will result in the amputated side being longer or shorter than the functional length of the non-amputated side.
- The length of prostheses used by athletes with **bilateral lower limb amputations (bilateral below knee amputees, bilateral above knee amputees or combination unilateral above knee and unilateral below knee amputation)** will be determined using the 3-Step process described below. Note that, where possible, a metal tape measure should be used for all measures.:
- **Step 1: Estimate maximum standing height from Ulna length.**

Measure the distance between point of the elbow (olecronon process) and the ulna styloid using the technique depicted in the figure below



Measurement technique for ulna length.

The maximum standing height in metres is determined from the chart below.

3.2.10.11 Ulna lengths

| Ulna Length (centimetres) | Male Height (metres) | Female Height (metres) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 21 | | 1.54 |
| 21.5 | | 1.55 |
| 22 | | 1.56 |

| | | |
|------|------|------|
| 22.5 | | 1.58 |
| 23 | | 1.59 |
| 23.5 | | 1.61 |
| 24 | 1.64 | 1.62 |
| 24.5 | 1.66 | 1.63 |
| 25 | 1.67 | 1.65 |
| 25.5 | 1.69 | 1.66 |
| 26 | 1.71 | 1.68 |
| 26.5 | 1.73 | 1.69 |
| 27 | 1.75 | 1.70 |
| 27.5 | 1.76 | 1.72 |
| 28 | 1.80 | 1.73 |
| 28.5 | 1.82 | 1.75 |
| 29 | 1.84 | 1.76 |
| 29.5 | 1.85 | 1.77 |
| 30 | 1.87 | 1.79 |
| 30.5 | 1.89 | |
| 31 | 1.91 | |
| 31.5 | 1.93 | |
| 32 | 1.94 | |

- **Step 2 Estimate maximum standing height based on measurement of Demi-span.**

Demi-span is measured as the distance from the middle of the sternal notch to the tip of the middle finger in the coronal plane. The measure is best obtained with the athlete standing with their back against a stable wall, right shoulder abducted to 90° with the palm of the hand facing forward. The measure is taken in centimetres. Maximum standing height is then calculated from the following formulae.

Females

Height in cm. = (1.35 x demi-span (cm)) +60.1

Males

Height in cm. = (1.40 x demi-span (cm)) +57.8

- **Step 3 - final estimate of maximum standing height.**

Take the mean of the two estimates, maximum standing height estimated from ulna length and maximum standing height estimated from demi-span. The overall standing height of the Athlete with their

competitive prostheses on must be less than or equal to the mean estimated height plus 2.5% . the maximum standing height will be kept on permanent record in the IPC Athletics Sports Management Data System (SMDS) database

3.2.10.12 It will be a matter of technical routine that all athletes with double lower limb amputations who compete standing up will be measured either before the competition starts, or in the call up room prior to the event or after the event the Athlete has competed in. the measure obtained must at all times be less than the maximum standing height on the SMDS.

3.2.11 The Difficult Athlete

3.2.11.1 An Athlete may be difficult to classify because of their underlying pathology, because of their lack of cooperation at the time of assessment or because of other factors influencing their disability

3.2.11.2 It is important to record a history and carry out a physical examination. If the Athlete is uncooperative, gently explain that you feel they have better function than they are showing and ask them to go away and come back either that day or the next. Gently remind them that if they fail to cooperate then they may not be able to compete. A calm approach is necessary in these circumstances.

3.2.11.3 If an Athlete is not cooperating then functional tests may be used to assist the classification. These include tests for the abdominals, adductors, and the quadriceps muscles.

3.2.11.4 If an Athlete has polio then as previously mentioned, the asymmetry of muscle bulk may assist in classification.

3.2.11.5 If an Athlete is deemed not to be eligible, it is important to inform the Athlete and their representative that they are not eligible. You do not need to tell them what the diagnosis is or what the treatment should be. You merely need to inform them that they do not meet the minimal Impairment for IPC Athletics.

3.2.12 Multiple Subminimal Impairments

- 3.2.12.1 An Athlete, who has more than one impairment either of which does not meet the minimum level, may be eligible to compete. The impairments must impact on the biomechanical execution of either running or throwing events.

4. Sport Class Profiles for Athletes with Physical Impairments

IPC Athletics designates its Sport Classes according to the discipline used in the Event: the track events (running or wheelchair racing) have the prefix “T”, the field events (jumping and throwing) have the prefix “F”. The pentathlon event is referred to as “P”.

4.1 The Sport Classes in IPC Athletics are as follows:

4.2.1 Wheelchair Athletes

- Track – classes T32, T33, T34, T51, T52, T53, T54
- Field – classes F32, F33, F34, F51, F52, F53, F54, F55, F56, F57, F58

4.2.2 Ambulant Athletes

- Track – Classes T35, T36, T37, T38, T42, T43, T44, T45, T46
- Field – Classes F35, F36, F37, F38, F40, F42, F43, F44, F45, F46

4.2 Special provisions with regard to Classes 31 and 32

- 4.2.1 Track: Up to the London 2012 Paralympic Games there will be a sport class T32U (where U = uppers, indicating the chair is propelled with upper limbs) and a sport class T32L (where L = lowers, indicating the chair is propelled with lower limbs). After the London 2012 Paralympic Games, the sport class T32U will become sport class T32 and sport class T32L will become sport class T31. Note that there is no sport class T31 up to the London 2012 Paralympic Games.
- 4.2.2 Field: Up to the London 2012 Paralympic Games, there are two classes F31 and F32 (there is no upper and lower division in field events). These classes remain unchanged for the period post-London 2012 Paralympic Games.

4.3 Special provisions with regard to Classes T/F34 - T/F35 and F42 - F58

IPC Athletics recognises four instances in which an athlete may have an impairment which matches one sports class profile if they compete in a sitting position (i.e., in a wheelchair or from a throwing stool) and another if they compete from the standing position and do not use these devices. These instances are:

- 4.3.1. An ambulant athlete with spastic diplegia featuring lower limb spasticity grade 3. An athlete with this impairment profile would be eligible to compete in:
 - Track: T35 (running) or T34 (wheelchair racing);
 - Field: F35 (standing throws) or F34 (seated or stationary throws);
- 4.3.2. An athlete with unilateral above knee amputation or equivalent. An athlete with this impairment profile would be eligible to compete in:
 - Track: T42 (running) or T54 (wheelchair racing);
 - Field: F42 (standing throws) or F58 (seated or stationary throws);
- 4.3.3. An athlete with unilateral below knee amputation or equivalent. An athlete with this impairment profile would be eligible to compete in:
 - Track: T44 (running) or T54 (wheelchair racing);
 - Field: F44 (standing throws) or F58 (seated or stationary throws).
- 4.3.4. An athlete with bilateral lower limb amputation or equivalent. An athlete with this impairment profile would be eligible to compete in:
 - Track: T43 (running) or T54 (wheelchair racing);
 - Field: F43 (standing throws) or F58 (seated or stationary throws).

In these instances only, athletes are allowed to choose whether they compete in a sitting or standing position with the following provisions:

- An athlete exercises this choice at the time of their FIRST classification by an accredited IPC Athletics Classification panel at an event officially approved by IPC Athletics. Once the athlete has been classified, the athlete must continue to compete using their chosen technique - sitting or standing - in all IPC Athletics approved events.

- An athlete may request ONE review of the choice to compete sitting or standing prior to the start of the second season after the initial international classification took place. The application must be submitted to the IPC Athletics Head of Classification at the moment of renewal of the annual License (end of first trimester of the year). For athletes assessed prior to September 2011, such review request is due by the date of renewal of licenses for the season 2012 (before 31 March 2012).
- An athlete may also request review of the choice if there is a clear medical justification for changing in which case an application for Medical Review is completed.
- An athlete is not permitted to choose to compete from a standing position in one discipline and a sitting position in another discipline (for example, throw as F58 and compete in track as a T42).

It should be noted that the choice to compete sitting or standing is ONLY permitted for an athlete who fits the profile of T/F34 AND T/F35, and is NOT AVAILABLE to any athlete fitting the Sport Class Profiles of T/F36, T/F37 or T/F38.

4.4 Sports Class 31-38

T/F31

- Quadriplegic (Tetraplegic) - Severe involvement. Spasticity Grade 4 to 3+, with or without athetosis or with poor functional range of movement and poor functional strength in all extremities and trunk OR the severe athetoid with or without spasticity with poor functional strength and control. Dependent on a power wheelchair or assistance for mobility. Unable to functionally propel a wheelchair. Lower extremities-considered non-functional in relation to any sport due to limitation in range of movement strength and/or control. Minimal or involuntary movement would not change this person's class.
- Trunk control-static and dynamic trunk control very poor or non-existent. Severe difficulty adjusting back to mid-line or upright position when performing sports movements. Upper extremities-severe limitation in functional range of movement or severe athetosis are the major factors in all sports and reduced throwing motion with poor follow through is evident.

Opposition of thumb and one finger may be possible allowing Athlete to grip.

- Field class F31 determined clearly by the very poor hand function in handling club, shot or discus, in conjunction with throwing motion. A person could have adequate hand function statically but may have less function when throwing due to athetoid involvement or spasticity.

T/F32

- Quadriplegic (Tetraplegic)-Severe to moderate involvement. Spasticity Grade 3+ to 3 with or without athetosis. Severe athetoid or tetraplegic with more function in less affected side.. Poor functional strength in all extremities and trunk but able to propel a wheelchair.
- Lower Extremities-A demonstrable degree of function in one or both lower limbs allowing propulsion of the wheelchair automatically qualifies individual as a Class 32 lower. If the classification team determines that the upper limb function is more appropriate for a higher class then the Athlete does not qualify as Class 32. Class 32 Athletes (upper or lower) can sometimes ambulate but never run functionally.
- Static trunk control is fair. Dynamic trunk control is poor as demonstrated by the obligatory use of upper extremities and/or head to assist in returning to the mid-line (upright position).
- Upper extremities. Hand severe to moderate involvement. Spasticity Grade 3. If hand and arm function is as described in Class 31 then lower extremity will determine whether Class 32 is more appropriate.
- A Class 32 Upper Athlete often has a cylindrical or spherical grasp, and can demonstrate sufficient dexterity to manipulate and throw a ball, but will exhibit poor grasp and release. Throwing motions must be tested for effects on hand function. Wheelchair propulsion with upper extremities is also demonstrable. Active range of movement is moderately to severely impaired, thus hand function is the key.
- Upper extremity Athletes with athetosis may demonstrate fair rotation during throwing with unreliable release. For Athletes with spasticity or athetosis the trunk makes a very limited contribution to propulsion of the implement.

T/F33

- Quadriplegic (Tetraplegic). Triplegic, severe hemiplegic – Moderate (asymmetric or symmetric) quadriplegic or severe hemiplegic in a wheelchair with almost full functional strength in dominant upper extremity. It is rare for an Athlete with athetosis to be included within this class unless he/she presents with a predominantly hemiplegic or triplegic profile with almost full function in the dominant upper limb. Can propel a wheelchair independently.
- Lower extremities-spasticity Grade 4 to 3-some demonstrable function can be observed during transfer. May be able to ambulate with assistance or assistive devices but only for short distances.
- Trunk control-fair trunk control is shown when pushing chair, but forward trunk movement is often limited to extensor tone during forceful pushing. Some trunk movement can be noted also in throwing for postural correction, but throwing motions are mostly from the arm. This is a major factor in non-ambulatory capability – rotation is limited. Spasticity Grade 2+.
- Upper extremities-moderate limitation spasticity Grade 2+ in dominant arm shown as limitation in extension and follow through.
- Hand function-dominant hand may demonstrate cylindrical and spherical grasp, with poor finger dexterity demonstrable in release of shot and discus.
- Track (T33). In order to differentiate between Class 33 and 34, trunk mobility in propulsion of the chair, and hand function are important. If an Athlete demonstrates a very poor ability to use rapid trunk movements in the pushing motion, or significant asymmetry in the arm action or grasp and release which impedes the development of forward momentum, he/she is a Class 33. An Athlete using only one arm for wheelchair propulsion may have long strokes and rapid grasp and release in the dominant arm and still be Class 33.
- Field (F33). Sometimes a hemiplegic Athlete with spasticity Grade 4 to 3 in non-dominant arm and near normal function in the dominant arm, or a Class 33 asymmetric diplegic Athlete is more appropriate in Class 34. However, a close look should be

given to the trunk movement, as it is often the determining factor. In all cases movement, follow through and release are ultimate considerations. Split classes can sometimes occur in these cases.

T/F34

- Diplegic – Moderate to Severe involvement
- Good functional strength with minimal limitation or control problems noted in upper limbs and trunk.
- Lower Extremities-Moderate to severe involvement in both legs Spasticity Grade 4 to 3 usually rendering them non-functional for ambulation over long distances without the use of assistive devices. A wheelchair is usually the choice for sport.
- Trunk-spasticity Grade 2 to 1. Minimal limitation of trunk movements when wheeling and throwing. In some Athletes fatigue can increase spasticity which can be overcome with proper positioning. When standing, poor balance is obvious even using assistive devices.
- Upper extremities – the upper limbs often show normal functional strength.
- Minimal limitation of range of movement may be present but close to normal follow through and propulsion is observed when throwing or wheeling.
- Hand function-normal cylindrical/spherical opposition and prehensive grasp is seen in all sports.. Limitation if any is usually apparent only during rapid fine motor tasks. It should be remembered that diplegia implies that there is more spasticity in the lower than the upper extremities. Some involvement spasticity Grade 2+ to 1 can be seen particularly in functional movements of the hands, arms and trunk.
- Track (T34). The Athlete is able to perform long and forceful strokes, with rapid grasp and release, although fine movements of the hands may be affected. During propulsion these fine movements are not essential. Strong trunk movements in forward and backward direction support the arm strokes. If these movements do not occur the trunk is well balanced and forms a stable base for the arm

movements. When the wheelchair makes a curve, the trunk follows the wheelchair without disturbance of balance.

- Field (F34). In throwing events the trunk has to make a complicated, forceful and rapid movement. This movement is complicated because it requires co-ordination of rotation, forward and sideways bending (more complicated than required for propulsion). Because of the slight spasticity in trunk muscles and the negative influence of the spastic legs, some disturbances may be seen when force and speed are required. Slight weakness in fine movements may present problems during the release of a discus and to a lesser extent a javelin. There is even less of a problem with shot.
- The provisions of section 4.3. apply to these athletes.

T/F35

- Diplegic – Moderate involvement. This individual may require the use of assistive devices in walking but not necessarily when standing or throwing. A shift of centre of gravity may lead to loss of balance. A Triplegic may appear in this Class.
- Lower extremities spasticity Grade 3 to 2. Involvement of one or both legs which may require assistive devices for walking. A Class T35 athlete must have sufficient function to run on the track within the rules of IPC Athletics. Athletes who can perform this task but with difficulty may also fit the Sports Class Profile for T34.
- Upper extremities. This is an area where variation occurs. Some moderate to minimal limitation in upper extremities can often be seen particularly when throwing, but strength is within normal limits. Hand function – normal cylindrical/spherical, opposition and prehensile grasp and release in the dominant hand is seen in all sports.
- Field (F35). The major problem is dynamic balance and function when standing in sport with or without assistive devices. Class 35 Athletes may use a run up in field events.
- The provisions of section 4.3. apply to these athletes.

T/F36

- Athetoid or Ataxic – Moderate involvement. The Athlete ambulates without assistive devices. Athetosis is the most prevalent factor, although some ambulant spastic

quadriplegics (i.e. more arm involvement than in ambulant diplegics), may fit this Class. Athetosis means unsteady (writhing), not having the capability to remain still. All four limbs will usually show functional involvement in sports movements. Class 36 Athletes have more control problems in upper limbs than Class 35 Athletes, although the former usually have better function in lower limbs particularly when running.

- Lower extremities. Function can vary considerably depending on the sports skill involved, from poor, laboured, slow walking to a running gait, which often shows better mechanics. There can be a marked contrast between the walking athetoid with uncoordinated gait and the smooth even paced co-ordinated running/cycling action. Cyclical movements however are much better performed like cycling, running and free-style swimming.
- Balance. May have good dynamic balance compared with static balance. Spasticity is common in Class 36 Athletes and should not be a reason for placement in Class 35.
- Upper extremities and hand control-grasp and release can be significantly affected when throwing in the moderate to severe athetoid Athlete. The more spasticity present the greater the limits on follow through and maintenance of balance after throwing.
- Track (T36). A consequence is that starting may present difficulties (e.g. false starts). Explosive movements also are difficult to perform. This is demonstrated in the long jump where an Athlete may have good speed but the height from the board is poor and subsequently the distance covered is rather limited.
- Field (F36). Throwing events require explosive movement. For the same reason as in track, athetoid Athletes have difficulty demonstrating explosive power. This is particularly obvious in shot-put. Athletes with ataxia may demonstrate these problems to a lesser extent as intention tremor is stabilised with the weight of the implement. A run up in the javelin is possible.
- The provisions of section 4.3. apply to these athletes.

T35/F36 (Split class for track and field)

- Quadriplegic - athetoid or ataxic with spasticity. Moderate involvement.
- Lower extremities - spasticity Grade 3 or 2. Involvement of both legs and with sufficient function to run on the track. Usually has good static balance but exhibits problems in dynamic balance activities.
- Upper extremities - athetosis is the most prevalent factor and Athlete demonstrates significantly more control problems than the T/F35 Athlete. Hand control, grasp and release is affected when throwing.
- By splitting classes Athletes who fit this profile are able to run with T35 track Athletes and throw with F36 Athletes

T/F37

- Hemiplegic. This Class is for the true ambulant hemiplegic Athlete. A Class 37 Athlete has Spasticity Grade 3 or 2 in one half of the body. They walk without assistive devices but often with a limp due to spasticity in the lower limb. Good functional ability in dominant side of the body.
- Lower extremities – hemiplegia spasticity Grade 3 to 2. Dominant side has better development and good follow through movement in walking and running. Athlete has difficulty walking on his heels and has significant difficulty with hopping on the impaired leg. Side stepping towards the impaired side is also affected. Athletes with moderate minimal athetosis do not fit into this Class.
- Upper extremities – arm and hand control is only affected in the non-dominant side. There is good functional control on the dominant side.
- Track (T37). In walking the Class 37 Athlete demonstrates a limp on the affected side. While running the limp may disappear almost totally. The reason is that in walking the leg support during stance phase begins with a heel strike. This is the most difficult action for persons with a spastic paresis. In running only the forefoot hits the ground, providing support and push off. The tight calf muscle in the Class 37 Athletes facilitates the push off, and heel strike is not necessary. Thus a more normal looking running pattern.
- The Class 37 Athlete demonstrates a weakness in knee pick up in sprinting and an asymmetrical stride length due

to lack of full forward pelvic rotation and hamstring spasticity decelerating the lower leg too rapidly on the involved side.

- Field (F37). In throwing events the hemiplegic Athlete often demonstrates hip flexion on the affected side instead of hyperextension. Trunk rotation during a throwing action also indicates a loss of fluency. In javelin throwing the transfer from run up to throwing phase demonstrates these difficulties clearly.

T/F38

- Minimal involvement. This class is for the minimally affected diplegic Spasticity Grade 1: hemiplegic Spasticity Grade 1: monoplegic, minimal athetoid/ataxic Athlete.
- An Athlete must have an obvious Impairment of function evident during classification. This Athlete may appear to have near normal function when running but the Athlete must demonstrate a limitation in function to classifiers based on evidence of spasticity (increased tone), ataxic, athetoid or dystonic movements while performing on the field of play or in training.
- Clear evidence must include at least one major and one minor sign from the list below
- Major
 - Clear uni or bilateral Babinski
 - Clear uni or bilateral clonus
 - Noticeably brisk reflexes or clear difference in reflexes left vs. right
 - Clear evidence of athetosis or ataxia
- Minor
 - Stiffness or rigidity in one or more limbs
 - Mild atrophy or shortening of a limb

4.5 Sport Class 40-46

T/F40

- The Athletes must have either achondroplasia or a variation of it

- The Athlete must also be 18 years of age or older. The age of the athlete will be taken as the first day of competition where the first day of competition is the day of the opening ceremony, first day of classification, or first day the athlete competes, whichever is sooner.
- There is a height restriction: for males the limit is 145cm and for females 140cm. Any Athlete who has undergone intervention either in the form of leg lengthening or hormone treatment to increase height is still eligible to compete providing they meet the Minimum Disability Criterion.

Notes on Medical Terms:

- **Achondroplasia** – is a failure of normal development of cartilage resulting in dwarfism.
- **Dwarfism** – normally results from inherited genes, which leads to abnormal growth and development of bone and cartilage. The condition is not related to the pituitary gland. The eligible Athletes usually have normal spinal length with shortening of the limbs. Athletes with pituitary dwarfism have shortening of the spine and limbs. The pituitary gland produces a secretion that can affect body physique and body functions.

T/F42

Single above knee amputees and Athletes with other Impairments that are equivalent to an amputation that is above knee. This includes athletes from that sport class F58 that compete standing.

The provisions of section 4.3. apply to these athletes.

T/F43

Double below knee amputees and other Athletes with Impairments that are equivalent to a double below knee amputation. This includes athletes from that sport class F58 that compete standing.

The provisions of section 4.3. apply to these athletes.

T/F44

Single below knee amputees and other Athletes with Impairments that are equivalent to single below knee amputee. This includes athletes from sport class F58 that compete standing.

The provisions of section 4.3. apply to these athletes.

T/F45

Double arm amputation (either above or below the elbow) and Athletes with other Impairments that have an equivalent to a double arm amputation.

T/F46

Single arm amputation (either above or below the elbow) and Athletes with Impairments that are equivalent to a single arm amputation.

4.6 Sports Class 51-58**4.6.1 Track****T51**

Athlete will usually have a decrease of shoulder function, elbow flexion and wrist dorsi-flexion to grade 5 power, and triceps function to grade 0-3.

T52

Athlete will have normal shoulder function, normal elbow and wrist function, poor to normal function of the finger flexors and extensors with there being wasting of the intrinsic muscles of the hands.

T53

Athlete will have normal upper limb function with no abdominal or lower spinal muscle activity.

T54

Athletes will have normal upper limb function with a range of trunk function extending from partial trunk function to normal trunk function. There may be significant function in the lower limbs in Athletes who compete in this group.

4.6.2.1 Field**F51**

Athletes will usually have a decrease of shoulder function, elbow flexion and wrist dorsi-flexion to grade 5 power, and triceps function grade 0-3.

F52

Athletes will have good shoulder function, almost normal elbow function, good wrist function but finger flexor and extensor function will be at a maximum grade 3 power.

F53

Athletes will have is normal shoulder function, normal elbow and wrist function, good or normal function of the finger flexors and extensors with there being wasting of the intrinsic muscles of the hands.

F54

Athletes will have normal upper limb function with no abdominal or lower spinal muscular activity.

F55

Athletes will have normal upper limb function. They may have partial or completely normal trunk function. They may have a flicker in their hip flexors. In the case of amputation: Amputees: Bilateral hip disarticulation.

F56

Athletes will have normal upper limb and trunk function. They will have hip flexion and adduction function, knee extension function, and up to grade 3 power in the medial hamstring (knee flexor). In the case of amputation: The femoral length will be less than half the distance measured between the point of the elbow and the tip of the middle finger.

F57

Athletes will have normal upper limb and trunk function. They will have hip flexion and adduction function, hip abduction function, knee flexion and extension function and some function of the ankle dorsi-flexors and plantar flexors. Bilateral above knee amputees with the amputation level being through the lower half of the femur or single hip disarticulation. In the case of amputation: The femoral length will be greater than half of the length measured between the point of the elbow and the tip of the middle finger.

F58

Athletes will have normal function of the upper limbs and trunk with hip flexion, extension, abduction and adduction function. There will be knee flexion and extensor function and ankle dorsi-flexion and plantar flexor function. They should meet criteria for minimal disability. In the case of amputation: Single above or below knee amputees or bilateral below knee amputees.

The provisions of section 4.3. apply to these athletes.

Appendix Two to IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations

Athletes with Visual Impairments – Class T/F 11-13

This Appendix details the Sport Classes that are to be allocated to Athletes with Visual Impairments who wish to compete in IPC Athletics competitions.

It is divided into three parts:

1. Introduction
2. Eligibility and Methods of Assessment: a description of the eligibility criteria applied by IPC Athletics, and the assessment techniques to be applied in the evaluation process for Athletes with Visual Impairments
3. Sport Profiles for Athletes with Visual Impairments: a list of the Sport Profiles for Athletes with Visual Impairments

1. Introduction

- 1.1 IPC Athletics has designated Sport Classes – Sport Class T/F 11-13 – for Athletes with Visual Impairment. These Athletes are referred to as ‘Athletes with Visual Impairment’ in this Appendix.
- 1.2 The processes detailed in this Appendix apply to Athlete Evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for Athletes with Visual Impairment. They apply to the conduct of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Sport Class designated by IPC Athletics for Athletes with Visual Impairment.
- 1.3 The Sport Class allocated to Athletes with Visual Impairment applies to both track and field.

2. Eligibility and Methods of Assessment

- 2.1. To be eligible to compete in Sport Classes T/F 11-13, the Athlete must be affected by at least one of the following impairments, resulting from disease/disorder:
 - impairment of the eye structure;
 - impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways;
 - impairment of the visual cortex of the central brain.

- 2.2. The impairment must be diagnosed by an ophthalmologist and sufficient medical documentation in support of the diagnosis must be presented no later than at the beginning of Athlete Evaluation. For this purpose, the Athlete must bring the fully completed 'Medical Diagnostics Form'. This form should include, at a minimum:
- Athlete Identification
 - Ophthalmologist Identification
 - Medical Diagnostics
 - List of Medications currently used
 - List of eye corrections (glasses, contact lenses, etc.) currently used, detailing the type and strength of correction, if applicable
 - Records of any eye surgery performed, and results of the outcome, if applicable
 - Description of any progressive condition, if applicable
 - Depending on the nature of the impairment, latest report on:
 - Visual Field Assessment (*)
 - Electroretinography (ERG/EOG)
 - Visual Evoked Potentials (EVP)
 - Cerebral Magnet Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- * Visual Field has to be tested by full-field strategy (30° central field test will not be accepted). Assessment has to be done by one of the following devices: Goldmann Visual Field Perimetry, Stimulus III/4, Humphrey Field Analyzer (HFA), Twinfield (Oculus), Octopus (Interzeag), Rodenstock Peristat, Medmont (MAP).*
- 2.3. All documentation must be typewritten and submitted in English. Reports identified under 2.2 may not be older than 12 months on the date of Athlete Evaluation.
- 2.4. Failure to present the above information will entitle the Classification Panel not to proceed with the Athlete Assessment and may result in the Athlete being designated as 'Not Eligible'.
- 2.5. All Athlete Evaluation and Sport Class allocation will be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the eye with better visual acuity whilst wearing best optical correction using spectacles or contact lenses.

- 2.6. Athletes who compete using any corrective devices (integrated glasses, lenses) must attend classification with these devices and their prescription.
- 2.7. Any Athlete Support Personnel accompanying the Athlete in the Assessment room must remain out of sight of the Visual Acuity Charts during Assessment.
- 2.8. An Athlete found to be using corrective devices during competition that were not declared during Athlete Evaluation may be subject to further investigation of 'Non-Cooperation during Evaluation' (see 'IPC Athletics Classification Rules & Regulations, section 6.2) or 'Intentional Misrepresentation' (see 'IPC Athletics Classification Rules & Regulations, section 6.3).
- 2.9. Athletes must declare any change in their mode of optic correction to IPC Athletics before any competition. The Athlete will then undergo a new classification evaluation prior to the next competition under the provisions of the 'IPC Athletics Classification Rules & Regulations. Failure to do so may result in an investigation of 'Intentional Misrepresentation' (see 'IPC Athletics Classification Rules & Regulations, section 6.3).
- 2.10. The assessment rooms (1 per panel) must be at minimum 3 x 7m² in a calm environment. The rooms should have no natural light and eventual windows must be fully obscured. No great variation in luminosity between the waiting area and the assessment room may exist.

The rooms are equipped with 2 tables and 7 chairs, of which 2 chairs are vertically adjustable to slit lamp height.
- 2.11. The following Specified Classification Equipment is required (per panel):
 - Berkeley Rudimentary Vision Test set
 - LogMAR Test chart with Illiterate E for distance visual acuity testing
 - Autorefractometer
 - Box of lenses with frame
 - Lensometer
 - Rules/Rod (30cm)
 - Slit Lamp (with +90 D lens)
 - Ophthalmoscope (direct)
 - Tangent Screen, Targets and patch (preferably white)
 - Drops
 - Dilating (Tropicamide 0.5%)

- Topical Anesthesia (Proparacaine 0.5%)
 - Packing Tape
 - Metric Tape measure
- 2.12. Additionally, the classification venue must have one separate room with the following Specified Classification Equipment:
- Automated perimetry (Goldmann VF Perimeter, Humphrey Field Analyser or Octopus Interzeag)
 - Gonioscope (e.g. Sussman, Zeiss 4 mirror)
- This room needs to be equipped with 2 tables and 4 chairs, of which 2 chairs are vertically adjustable.
- The Organizing Committee needs to discuss the need for technical support to direct automated perimetry with the IPC once the classifiers are appointed.
- 2.13. The Organizing Committee is responsible for making the testing material available on-site for the duration of the Athlete Evaluation Period.
- 2.14. The Classification panel needs to receive copy of all event start lists.
- 2.15. The Classification Panel should have access to internet, copier and printer through the venue offices.

3. Sport Classes Profiles for Athletes with Visual Impairment

3.1. Sport Class T/F11

3.1.1 Visual acuity is poorer than LogMar 2.60.

3.1.2 All Athletes (with the exception of those with prosthesis in both eyes) shall be required to wear opaque goggles for each individual and relay event for the full duration of the event. Athletes whose facial structure will not support goggles shall be required to cover the eyes with an opaque covering.

3.2 Sport Class T/F12

3.2.1 Visual acuity ranges from LogMar 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive), and/or

- 3.2.2 The Athletes has a visual field that is constricted to a radius of less than 5 degrees.

3.2. Sport Class T/F13

- 3.3.1 Visual acuity ranges from 1.40 to 1 (inclusive), and/or

- 3.3.2 The Athlete has a visual field that is constricted to a radius of less than 20 degrees.

4. **Special Considerations regarding Sport Class T/F11-13**

- 4.1 All provisions of the IPC Athletics Classification Rules apply to T/F, with the following clarification:

- 4.1.1 A Classification panel consists of two classifiers, of whom at least one of them shall be a classifier with ophthalmologist qualifications (amendment to classification rules and regulations 3.1.3 and 3.3.4)

- 4.1.2 First Appearance (classification rules and regulations 5.4) does not apply for athletes with visual impairment. Consequently, also article 5.6 becomes redundant.

Appendix Three to IPC Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations

Athletes with Intellectual Impairments – Class T/F20

This Appendix details the Sport Classes that are to be allocated to Athletes with Intellectual Impairments who wish to compete in IPC Athletics competitions.

This section will be completed as soon as any possible.



International Paralympic Committee

Adenauerallee 212-214
53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel. +49-228-2097-200
Fax. +49-228-2097-209

E-mail: info@paralympic.org
www.paralympic.org
www.ParalympicSport.TV