



Para Classification Rules

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Part One: General Provisions

1. Scope and Application Adoption

- 1.1. These FISO Classification Rules and Regulations (Classification Rules) have been prepared by World Obstacle, the Fédération Internationale de Sports d'Obstacles (FISO) to implement the requirements of the IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2. These Classification Rules are referred to in FISO Competition Rules Master Source Document, which may be amended from time to time.
- 1.3. The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from FISO and may be amended by FISO from time to time.

Classification

- 1.4. The term "Classification" refers to a structure for competition, which aims to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sporty performance, and to ensure that athletes compete equitably in each event category of the sport.
- 1.5. The purpose of classification is to minimize the impact of impairment types on the outcome of competitions.
- 1.6. The goals of classification are to:
 - 1.6.1. define who is eligible to compete in Para Obstacle;
 - 1.6.2. group Athletes into Sport Classes to minimize the impact of Impairment and maximize the likelihood that the best athletes win.
- 1.7. These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with FISO and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by FISO.
- 1.8. These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of FISO including, but not limited to, FISO Competition Rules. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the IPC Classification Code shall take precedence.
- 1.9. These Classification Rules include provisions related to:
 - 1.9.1. Eligible Impairments and Minimum Impairment Criteria (in accordance with the International Standard (IS) for Eligible Impairments);
 - 1.9.2. Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation (in accordance with the IS for Athlete Evaluation);
 - 1.9.3. Protests and Appeals (in accordance with the IS for Protests and Appeals);
 - 1.9.4. Classifier Personnel and Training (in accordance with the IS for Classifier Personnel and Training);
 - 1.9.5. Data Protection (in accordance with the IS for Classification Data Protection).

Interpretation and Relationship to Code

- 1.10. References to an 'Article' mean an Article of these Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to these Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these Classification Rules.
- 1.11. References to a "category" in these Classification Rules refer to a specific event category or format.
- 1.12. These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner, that

is consistent with the current IPC Athlete Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

International Classification

- 1.13. FISO will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.14. FISO will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions (or other such locations as defined by FISO). FISO will advise its membership in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).
- 1.15. An athlete will only be permitted to undergo international classification if he or she is registered according to FISO Competition Rules and has been entered in an FISO event or competition recognized by FISO where international classification is taking place or has entered a recognized classification opportunity by FISO.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1. It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with the requirements of these Classification Rules.

Athlete Responsibilities

- 2.2. The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
 - 2.2.1. be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - 2.2.2. participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
 - 2.2.3. ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to FISO;
 - 2.2.4. cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules;
 - 2.2.5. actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities

- 2.3. The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:
 - 2.3.1. be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - 2.3.2. foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
 - 2.3.3. assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems;
 - 2.3.4. cooperate with any investigations concerning these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel Responsibilities

- 2.4. The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:
 - 2.4.1. have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - 2.4.2. use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
 - 2.4.3. assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including

participation in education and research;

2.4.4. cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Part Two: Classification Personnel

3. Classification Personnel

3.1. Classification Personnel are fundamental for the implementation of these Classification Rules. FISO will appoint Classification Personnel who are responsible for the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for FISO.

HC and Deputy HC

3.2. FISO will appoint a HC. The HC (HC) is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for FISO in conjunction with the Classification Advisory Group (CAG) and the FISO Competitions Commission.

3.3. The Deputy Head of Classification (DHC) is a classifier that may be appointed to assume the roles and responsibilities of the HC.

3.4. If a HC cannot be appointed, FISO may appoint another person, or persons, provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct, to act as the HC.

3.5. The HC or their representative may delegate responsibilities or transfer tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by FISO.

3.6. The HC may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

Process to appoint HC, Deputy HC or Equivalent Representative Persons

3.7. After the election of a Para Obstacle Committee, FISO will request National Federations (NFs) to make nominations for the positions of HC and Deputy HC from FISO Level 2 senior classifiers. The Para Obstacle Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Board for a formal appointment of each position.

3.8. Each of the HC and Deputy HC positions will have, once appointed, the same term duration as the active Para Obstacle Committee.

3.9. The Classification Advisory Group will be a working group that will make formal recommendations to the Para Obstacle Committee on all Classification related matters and also work with FISO Sports Department.

3.10. The Classification Advisory Group will comprise at least three (3) individuals, including the HC and Deputy HC. The HC will be the chairperson of the Classification Advisory Group. The other individuals will be proposed by the FISO Competitions Commission together with the HC and DHC and appointed by the Executive Board.

3.11. FISO Executive Board may replace these appointed individuals at any time.

Chief Classifiers

3.12. A Chief Classifier (CC) is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a Competition or at such other location as defined by FISO in particular, a CC may be required by FISO to do the following:

3.12.1. identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;

3.12.2. supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;

- 3.12.3. manage Protests in consultation with FISO;
 - 3.12.4. liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.
- 3.13. A CC may delegate responsibilities and/or transfer tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified FISO officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

Classifiers

- 3.14. A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by FISO, or the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

Classification Panel

- 3.15. Classification Panels for each season will be appointed by the HC in collaboration with Competitions Commission to determine the eligibility, the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of the athletes competing in that event under FISO Competition Rules.
- 3.16. Classification panels should include a minimum of two (2) classifiers, in which at least one (1) medical classifier must be present.
- 3.17. In exceptional circumstances, a panel may be set up with only one (1) medical classifier. In this case, the athletes can only be allocated a Review category class status.
- 3.18. Host NFs may request to have up to two (2) (2) observers for classification procedures. Trainee classifiers will have priority and the presence of observes will depend on the approval by the athletes and FISO.
- 3.19. Two (2) classification panels are required in order to follow the procedure of a submitted protest. The CC may be a member of one (1) of the panels.

Trainee Classifiers

- 3.20. A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by FISO.
- 3.21. FISO may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.
- 3.22. NFs may nominate FISO certified national classifiers as trainees in order to follow the pathway to become international classifiers.

4. Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1. A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by FISO as having the appropriate Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2. FISO will provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3. In accordance with FISO Classifier Education and Certification process, there are 4 level of classifiers:
- National Classifier (NC)
 - Classifier Trainee (TC)
 - Level 1 International Classifier (L1C)
 - Level 2 International Classifier (L2C)

- 4.4. A Classifier must:

- 4.4.1. Have a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;
- 4.4.2. Have an understanding of the category(s) for which they seek certification to act as a Classifier, including an understanding of the technical rules of the category(s);
- 4.4.3. Have an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and
- 4.4.4. Have a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for FISO. These include that Classifiers must either:
 - a) be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which FISO at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment that have experience in standard muscle power testing procedures and assessment of neurological impairments; ophthalmologist or optometrist for Athletes with a Vision Impairment; or
 - b) have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the Obstacle; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and category-specific expertise, which FISO at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.
- 4.4.5. Submit evidence of their relevant qualification with their CV.
Have experience in the category or classify nationally for their NF. Undergo the [IPC Academy's](#) course for [Introduction to Para Sport](#)
- 4.5. The FISO process for Classifier Certification includes:
 - 4.5.1. a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
 - 4.5.2. quality assessment for the period of certification;
 - 4.5.3. a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
 - 4.5.4. a process for re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.6. FISO may determine limitations for a Classifier, including (but not limited to):
 - 4.6.1. a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.6.2. the possibility to lose his/her Classifier Certification if FISO is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
 - 4.6.3. that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if FISO is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

5. Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1. The integrity of Classification depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. FISO has adopted professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct', which is based on the IPC Code of Ethics.
- 5.2. All classifiers must adhere to the IPC Classification [Code of Ethics](#), in order to:
 - 5.2.1. Act as neutral evaluators in determining Sport Class and Sport Class Status for all athletes;
 - 5.2.2. Perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes and their support personnel;
 - 5.2.3. Have respect for FISO Competition Rules;
 - 5.2.4. Have respect for their colleagues;

- 5.2.5. Understand the consequence of non-compliance with FISO Competition rules;
- 5.2.6. Maintain confidentiality of Athlete Evaluation information in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection;
- 5.2.7. Declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest; and
- 5.2.8. Must not assume any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a competition and avoid taking on any other roles and responsibilities where they are acting as classifiers. For example, a classifier must not act as a competition technical official, such as a judge or have any other role with their NF or FISO.
- 5.3. Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to FISO.
- 5.4. If FISO receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, will take disciplinary measures against the reported classifier which can include a temporary suspension from classifier duties or even revoking the classifier's certification.
- 5.5. FISO has discretion to determine whether a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

6. General Provisions

- 6.1. FISO has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methods whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2. These Classification Rules include provisions regarding:
 - 6.2.1. an assessment of whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the category;
 - 6.2.2. an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the category; and
 - 6.2.3. the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the tasks and activities fundamental to the category.

7. Eligible Impairment

- 7.1. Any Athlete wishing to compete in Para Obstacle governed by FISO must have an underlying Health Condition that has a pathological cause which leads to a permanent Eligible Impairment.
- 7.2. Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have to compete in Para Obstacle governed by FISO. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One or Two is referred to as a Non- Eligible Impairment. Appendix Three includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.3. FISO must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is permanent.
- 7.4. FISO will require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Three lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
- 7.5. An Athlete must supply FISO with Medical Diagnostic Information by the following means:

- 7.5.1. The relevant NF must submit the Medical Diagnostics Form, for either Visual or Physical Impairment, to FISO upon completing, or before registration for the respective event, and no later than 8 weeks prior to the event where classification will be conducted.
- 7.5.2. The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in a single, clearly legible vertical oriented PDF format file, written in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional.
- 7.6. The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with the requested supportive Diagnostic Information. This could include, but should not be limited to:
 - 7.6.1. medical letters and reports detailing medical history, results of radiological examinations;
 - 7.6.2. other diagnostic tests relevant to the athlete's medical condition;
 - 7.6.3. Athletes who have multiple Sclerosis must include an MRI that is not older than a year.
- 7.7. If no Medical Diagnostic Form is submitted for an athlete, the athlete runs the risk of not being classified at the nominated event.
- 7.8. FISO may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with supportive Diagnostic Information) if FISO considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.9. If FISO requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information, it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Panel to do so.
- 7.10. The process for forming an Eligibility Assessment Panel and considering Diagnostic Information is as follows:
 - 7.10.1. The HC/Classification Advisory Group will notify the NF that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The HC will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
 - 7.10.2. The HC/Classification Advisory Group will set timelines for the submission of the Medical Diagnosis Information.
 - 7.10.3. The Classification Advisory Group will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Panel. The Eligibility Assessment Panel must, if practicable, be comprised of the HC and at least two (2) other experts with appropriate medical qualifications, from the L2C. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Panel must sign confidentiality undertakings.
 - 7.10.4. If the HC or any member of the Classification Advisory Group believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Panel.
 - 7.10.5. Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Panel. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Panel will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
 - 7.10.6. If the Eligibility Assessment Panel concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
 - 7.10.7. If the Eligibility Assessment Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the HC, or representative, will inform the relevant NF and provide a decision to this effect in writing. The NF will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Panel for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, FISO will inform the NF.
 - 7.10.8. If the decision is not changed, FISO will issue a final decision letter to the NF informing them that the athlete is Not Eligible with a Confirmed Status and the athlete will not be permitted to complete

Athlete evaluation with a classification panel.

7.10.9. The Eligibility Assessment Panel may make its decisions by a majority. If the HC is part of the Eligibility Assessment Panel, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.

7.11. FISO may delegate one (1) or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

7.12. If during the process of determining whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment FISO becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances FISO will explain the basis of its designation to the NF.

8. Minimum Impairment Criteria

8.1. An Athlete who wishes to compete in a category must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that category.

8.2. FISO has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the tasks and activities fundamental to the category.

8.3. Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to the different category classes and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.

8.4. A Classification Panel must assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy FISO that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.

8.5. Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a category must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that category.

8.6. An athlete who is allocated a Sports Class NE by a Classification panel is entitled to a second Classification from another Classification panel at the earliest possibility. If the athlete wished to undertake a second classification their Sports Class and Sports class Status will be NE R (Review).

9. Sport Class

9.1. A Sport Class is a category defined by FISO in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the tasks and activities fundamental to a category.

9.2. An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para Obstacle must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of these Rules.

9.3. An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para Obstacle must be allocated a Sport Class.

9.4. Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by FISO (in accordance with Article 22.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be based solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the tasks and activities fundamental to category. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

9.5. Appendices One, Two and Three of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

10. Classification Not Complete (CNC)

- 10.1. If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation, FISO or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the HC or the relevant CC may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Complete (CNC).
- 10.2. The designation Classification Not Complete (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Complete (CNC) will however be recorded for FISO Classification Master List.
- 10.3. An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Complete (CNC) may not compete in the category of Para-Obstacle.
- 10.4. An athlete's classification will be suspended and will be considered not completed if the process of classification cannot be completed for one (1) of, but not limited to, the following:
 - 10.4.1. A failure on the part of the athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;
 - 10.4.2. A failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - 10.4.3. Insufficient medical information to give evidence of an athlete's impairment eligibility;
 - 10.4.4. The Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
 - 10.4.5. The athlete has a health condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner, for example pain;
 - 10.4.6. If an athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
 - 10.4.7. If in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel the athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
 - 10.4.8. The athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner;
 - 10.4.9. The athlete failed to attend one (1) or more components of the classification evaluation;
 - 10.4.10. Force majeure circumstances.
- 10.5. An athlete whose class cannot be completed will not be permitted to compete at that event or until classification has been completed.
- 10.6. If Athlete Evaluation is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
 - 10.6.1. An explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the athlete will be provided to the athlete and/or the relevant NF;
- 10.7. If an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the CC or HC, Athlete Evaluation will be resumed.
- 10.8. If the athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within any timeframe specified, Athlete Evaluation will be terminated, and the athlete must be precluded from competing at any competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed.

Part Four: Athlete Evaluation Process & the Classification Panel

11. Athlete Evaluation

Definition

- 11.1. Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an athlete is assessed by a classification panel for the athlete to be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 11.2. The allocation of a Sport Class must be based on an evaluation by a classification panel of the extent to which the athlete's impairment affects the tasks and activities fundamental to the category. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 11.3. A Sport Class must be allocated based solely on the impact that Eligible Impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of the category. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the category, allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.

12. The Classification Panel

- 12.1. A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by FISO to conduct the components of Athlete Evaluation as part of an Evaluation Session.

General Provisions

- 12.2. A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least of two (2) certified Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances, a CC may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one (1) Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a valid medical qualification.
- 12.3. A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

Classification Panel Responsibilities

- 12.4. A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
 - 12.4.1. Confirm the athlete has an eligible impairment type;
 - 12.4.2. Assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for FISO;
 - 12.4.3. Assess the extent to which an Athlete can execute the tasks and activities fundamental to the category; and
 - 12.4.4. Conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.
- 12.5. Following the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 12.6. Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by FISO unless FISO requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.7. The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

13. Pre-competition Evaluation Process

- 13.1. The Competitions Commission in conjunction with the CC, the Technical Delegate and the Local Organising Committee will coordinate and develop a classification schedule ensuring that all classifications will take place before the athletes' race briefing. A period shall be set aside for possible Classification Protests.

- 13.2. As soon as a NF has registered an athlete to an event, the FISO Competitions Commission will confirm the athletes' class and status based on FISO Classification Master List. All those with New (N) or Review (R) or Provisional Classification Status (PCS) or those protested shall be assigned a classification appointment. The FISO Competitions Commission will communicate the classification appointment (venue, assigned times) to the athletes' NF, the HC, the assigned CC, the Local Organising Committee and the assigned Technical Delegate.
- 13.3. An average of sixty (60) minute periods shall be designated for each appointment (with adequate meal times and breaks scheduled for the classifiers).

14. Evaluation Responsibilities

- 14.1. The Athlete's NF is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.

Athlete responsibilities

- 14.2. Athletes who undergo classification will need to report to the classification panel at their designated time.
- 14.3. Failure to report for classification at the designated time, without reasonable explanation to the chief classifier, will result in the athlete not being classified and not being able to compete at the Para Obstacle event.
- 14.4. Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's NF when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has cognitive/understanding challenges.
- 14.5. The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and category history.
- 14.6. The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by FISO and sign accordingly.
- 14.7. The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, photo ID card, National Federation license card or event accreditation.
- 14.8. A passport sized photo must be submitted.
- 14.9. Although already submitted to FISO, 8 weeks in advance of classification, it is mandatory for athletes to bring with them to Classification Evaluation, a copy of FISO Physical Impairment (PI) Medical Diagnostic Form, completed by their medical doctor, and previously submitted to FISO, or FISO Visual impairment (VI) Medical Diagnostic Form, completed by an ophthalmologist.
- 14.10. Failure to provide the required medical documentation during classification may result in the athlete being allocated a status of "CNC" (Classification Not Complete) and not be able to compete in that event.
- 14.11. Athletes must dress appropriately in athletic clothes and bring all supportive equipment (prosthesis, orthoses, slings, crutches etc.) to the classification appointment, and hand bike or racing wheelchair.
- 14.12. English is the official language for the classification assessments. Athletes must be accompanied by an interpreter (if English is not their first or commonly spoken language).
- 14.13. All athletes must present a true and accurate medical and sporting history and must cooperate fully in the examination process and observation phase of classification. Non-cooperation may lead to sanctions, as explained in Part Seven of these Rules.
- 14.14. An athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the

classification panel and be currently taking, at time of classification, all medication that will be used during competition.

Classification Panel Responsibilities:

- 14.15. The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary for it to allocate a Para Sport Class (Sport Class).
- 14.16. The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by FISO. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete's NF will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the Athlete support person.
- 14.17. In addition to any opinion(s) sought, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, NF, National Paralympic Committee and FISO (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.

15. Athlete Evaluation Process

15.1. Athlete Evaluation process:

- 15.1.1. An assessment of whether the athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the category;
- 15.1.2. An assessment of whether an athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the category which involves an assessment and evaluation of the severity of the impairment and the extent to which the athlete can execute the tasks and activities fundamental to the category;
- 15.1.3. **Physical Assessment:** The classification panel will conduct a physical assessment of the athlete, to establish whether the athlete's health condition presents as an eligible physical or visual impairment type and meets the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria;
- 15.1.4. **Technical Assessment:** The Classification Panel will conduct a Technical Assessment of the athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the athlete's physical ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, tasks and activities that are part of Obstacle;
- 15.1.5. **Observation in Competition Assessment** may be conducted to ensure that the outcome of the athlete's physical and technical assessments is reflected in the athlete's ability to perform in the competition:
 - 15.1.5.1. The observation in competition period begins upon arrival at the competition venue on race day and until the end of competition;
 - 15.1.5.2. If changes to an Athlete Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition Assessment, the changes are effective immediately. FISO must consider the impact any such changes on results and prizes;
- 15.1.6. The allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status:
 - 15.1.6.1. A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the HC and/or the CC. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order that it can allocate a Sport Class or solve athlete evaluation related queries;
 - 15.1.6.2. Video footage, photography or other multimedia material may be used by the Classification Panel/s during the evaluation period for all classification purposes connected to the competition. The evaluation period is from the start of classification assessment to the end of competition and the allocation of Sports Class and Sports Class Status.

16. Observation in Competition

- 16.1. Observation in Competition Assessment may be required by a classification panel before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 16.2. The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are explained in section 3.16 of Appendix I.
- 16.3. The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the internal Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.

17. Remote Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 17.1. If an athlete is attending an event where no classification is offered, he/she will be able to obtain a Provisional Classification Status (PCS) from FISO and will need to provide the required Provisional Classification Form and Medical Diagnosis Form no later than eight (8) weeks' prior the competition. If the athlete has a health condition that presents as a permanent eligible impairment type, the athlete will receive a PCS status.
- 17.2. For the athlete to preserve the results and ranking points achieved in the current season, he/she must attend an FISO classification opportunity within a year of receiving the PCS category class status.
- 17.3. An athlete with a Provisional Classification Status will have no protest opportunities.

18. Changes in Sport Class before and after First Appearance

18.1. Before Competition

SCENARIO	OUTCOME
<p>a) Athlete undergoes classification</p> <p>Athlete changes Sport Class</p>	<p>CC notifies Athlete/NF, Technical Delegate and Race Referee immediately after change of Sport class identified. Sports Class outcome is posted at the race briefing.</p> <p>Start list is updated from athletes old to new category's class.</p> <p>Bib number is reassigned accordingly by the Technical Delegate.</p>
<p>b) Athlete undergoes classification</p> <p>Athlete is declared non- eligible (NE) by first assessment panel</p>	<p>Sport Class NE Review status is assigned and athlete is given the opportunity to be seen by a second panel at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>2nd Panel not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete remains NE Sports class with R category's class status and cannot compete at the event or other events until the protest is resolved. Athlete is removed from the start list. Does not appear on the results. <p>2nd Panel available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an athlete is declared NE by second panel, an NE Sports Class becomes a confirmed Sports class Status (C) Athlete cannot compete at the event. Athlete is removed from the start list and does not appear in the results.

	<p>Athlete must be informed by the classifiers that he/she can register for the AG race if the timing of races allows for it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If athlete is eligible, athlete should remain on the start list with the designated category class allocated by the second panel.
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18.2. After Competition (includes observations during competition)

SCENARIO	OUTCOME
a) Athlete changes Sport Class as a result of observation during First Appearance (in Competition)	<p>CC notifies Athlete/NF through final classification results posting and informs Race Referee and Technical Delegate.</p> <p>Race Referee decides if the change is applicable for the given event results and notifies Timing so athlete is correctly ranked in new category.</p> <p>Past results/rankings may be revisited.</p>
b) Athlete's Sport Class is protested	<p>Review status is assigned and the athlete is given the chance to be seen by a second panel at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>2nd panel not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results and category class stand as they are and a Note should be added in the official results indicating the athlete has been protested and is pending resolution. Athlete is made Review Sport Class Status. <p>2nd panel available; the following scenarios can occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirms the decision of the first panel, results and category class stand as they are. • Changes the decision of the 1st panel, the subsequent procedures are described in 18.2 a) • If the athlete is declared non-eligible, Sport Class Status becomes NE-Review. Athlete is shown with no ranking after the DSQ and DNF IRM codes with an NE-R as total time.
c) Athlete is declared non-eligible (NE) due to observation	<p>If a 2nd panel is available procedure as in 18.2 b) is followed. If a 2nd Panel is not available:</p> <p>The athlete remains NE with R status. The athlete is shown with no ranking after the DSQ and DNF IRM codes with an NE as total time.</p>

19. Sport Class Status

19.1. If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

19.2. The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel after an Evaluation Session will be one (1) of the following:

- Confirmed (C)
- Review (R)
- Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

Sport Class Status New

19.3. An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by FISO prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition, unless FISO specifies otherwise. The athlete's Sports Class is still subject to protest according to FISO Para Obstacle first appearance (in competition) requirements.

19.4. Sports Class Status N includes athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their NF for entry purposes.

Sport Class Status Confirmed

19.5. An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the tasks and activities fundamental to the category are and will remain stable.

19.5.1. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (except in relation to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests, Medical Review and changes to Sport Class criteria).

19.5.2. A Classification Panel that consists of only one (1) Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

Sport Class Status Review

19.6. An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.

19.7. The athlete's Sports Class is still subject to protest according to FISO Para Obstacle first appearance requirements. This includes athletes who are protested, but no second panel is available at the competition, or athletes who have been reassessed after protest, but who have not been observed in competition by a second panel (PR).

19.8. Further Evaluation Sessions may be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited to situations where:

19.8.1. Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by FISO and is new to the category;

19.8.2. Athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable;

19.8.3. Athlete has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or athletic maturity;

19.8.4. Athlete has had a medical review request approved;

19.8.5. Athletes with Sport Class NE remain non-eligible with a Review status until a second classification panel is able to examine the athlete;

19.9. A Classification Panel that consists of only one (1) Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class

Status Review with a FRD but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

- 19.10. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition, unless FISO specifies otherwise.

Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date

- 19.11. An Athlete may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a FRD if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the FRD.

19.11.1. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a FRD will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant FRD.

19.11.2. An Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a FRD may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant FRD, except if related to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

Changes to Sport Class Criteria

- 19.12. If FISO changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:

19.12.1. FISO may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or

19.12.2. FISO may remove the FRD for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and

19.12.3. in both instances, the relevant NF shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

20. Multiple Sport Classes

- 20.1. This Article applies to Athletes who are potentially eligible to be allocated more than one (1) Sport Class.

Multiple Eligible Impairments

- 20.2. An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment, may be eligible to be allocated more than one (1) Sport Class in relation to those Eligible Impairments. In such instances:

20.2.1. the Athlete's NF must notify FISO as to the Athlete's Eligible Impairments and the Athlete's eligibility to be allocated more than one (1) Sport Class in respect of those Impairment types, and provide all necessary medical diagnostic information as required;

20.2.2. the Athlete must be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each Sport Class relevant to his or her multiple Impairments, either at the relevant Competition or the subsequent Competition;

20.2.3. after the Evaluation Sessions referred to in Article 15.1 the Athlete must choose the Sport Class that he or she wishes to compete in (the preferred Sport Class). If the allocation of any Sport Class is subject to Observation in Competition the Athlete must select the preferred Sport Class before making any First Appearance;

20.2.4. the selection of Sport Class will be subject to all applicable FISO Rules and Regulations and;

20.2.5. the Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Sport Class and details of the Athlete's preferred Sport Class will be published.

Changing Sport Class

- 20.3. An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment, may request to change his or her preferred Sport

Class:

- a) at the end of the season when the Athlete's first Evaluation Session was completed; or
- b) after the close of the Paralympic Games, and before the start of the next season thereafter.

20.4. A request to change a preferred Sport Class must be sent to FISO by the Athlete's NF. The application must be submitted to FISO in accordance with the time frame identified under Article 20.3.

20.5. Nothing prohibits an Athlete from making a Medical Review Request at any time in respect of any Sport Class.

21. Notification

21.1. The CC has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of the outcomes of Athlete Evaluation after each of the classification sessions.

21.2. Once the Classification Panel has allocated the Sport Class, verbal notification of the athlete's Sports Class is provided to the athlete. If the athlete decides not to sign the form, it is considered that the athlete has been informed in person about the outcome of classification.

21.3. A Class Status can only be allocated after the First Appearance has been completed.

21.4. The CC must liaise with the Race Referee to ensure start lists are updated accordingly after each of the classification sessions.

21.5. A list with the complete classification outcomes must be posted and available to all NFs at the Para Obstacle briefing.

21.6. After the race, final classification outcomes will be posted in the area the Technical Delegate has designated at the briefing. It is the NFs and athlete's responsibility to check and refer to these results in case they are potentially involved in further completion of their assessment or a protest.

21.7. The completed Classification Evaluation Card will be filed in a protected database and maintained by FISO. NFs may request from FISO a copy of an athlete's classification evaluation after the competition.

21.8. Official confirmation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status will be sent to the relevant NF in the form of a Classification Certification, upon written request to FISO.

21.9. FISO Para Obstacle Master List will be updated after each event within 7 days where classification takes place. www.worldObstacle.org

21.10. An official report must be submitted after the event from the CC to FISO Technical Delegate to be included in the events' post-race report.

Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible

22. Sport Class Not Eligible

General Provisions

22.1. If FISO determines that an Athlete:

22.1.1. has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

22.1.2. does not have an Underlying Health Condition;

FISO must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

22.2. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a category that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that category.

Absence of Eligible Impairment

22.3. If FISO determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:

22.3.1. will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and

22.3.2. will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by FISO.

22.4. If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, FISO may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.

22.5. An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by FISO or a Classification Panel (if delegated by FISO) will not have the right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any category, if that Athlete has:

22.5.1. an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

22.5.2. a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;

Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria

22.6. A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable:

22.6.1. Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.

22.6.2. If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the CC); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

22.7. If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.

22.8. If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a category the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another category, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that category.

22.9. If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the category of FISO.

Part Six: Misconduct during Evaluation Session

23. Failure to Attend Evaluation Session

23.1. An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.

23.2. An Athlete's NF must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.

23.3. If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the CC. The CC may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities at a Competition, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.

- 23.4. If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated, and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

Part Seven: Medical Review

24. Medical Review

- 24.1. This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with FRD.
- 24.2. A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the tasks and activities required by a category in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 24.3. A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's NF (together with a USD\$100.00 non-refundable fee and any supporting documentation). The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the tasks and activities required by a category has changed.
- 24.4. A Medical Review Request must be received by FISO as soon as reasonably practicable and no less than six weeks prior to the next classification opportunity.
- 24.5. The HC, or representative, must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 24.6. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of changes that could improve an athlete's abilities and skills but fails to draw those to the attention of their NF or FISO, may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 24.7. If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.
- 24.8. If the Medical Review Request is denied, the applicant may appeal this decision to FISO Executive Board.

Part Eight: Intentional Misrepresentation

25. Intentional Misrepresentation

- 25.1. It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 25.2. It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.
- 25.3. In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation:
- 25.3.1. A formal report by the involved classification panel together with evidence will be submitted to the FISO Competitions Commission who will follow up with the panel to determine the actions to be followed.
- 25.3.2. If it is an external body from FISO presenting the allegation, a formal report with evidence must be submitted to the FISO Competitions Commission who will follow up with the HC in order to

determine the actions to be followed.

- 25.3.3. In any case, FISO may deem a hearing necessary to be conducted in order to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 25.4. The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one (1) or more of the following:
 - 25.4.1. Warning to the athlete on the consequences of intentional misrepresentation.
 - 25.4.2. not be allowed to compete at the event in which the athlete presented for classification evaluation.
 - 25.4.3. being allocated a Sport Class of Not Eligible (NE) and Sport Class Status of FRD and being suspended for a period ranging from 12 to 48 months should the athlete be found to be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.
 - 25.4.4. Publication of their names and suspension period on FISO Classification Master List.
- 25.5. Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one (1) occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible with FRD Status for a period from four years to life.
- 25.6. Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one (1) occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period from four years to life.
- 25.7. If another International Sports Federation in the Paralympic Movement brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by FISO.
- 25.8. Any consequences to be applied to an Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel or Athlete delegation member who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of FISO.
- 25.9. Any disciplinary action taken by FISO pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.

Part Nine: Protests

26. Scope of a Protest

- 26.1. A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 26.2. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

27. Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

A Protest may only be made by one (1) of the following bodies:

- 27.1. a NF; or
- 27.2. a National Paralympic Committee; or
- 27.3. FISO.

28. National Protests

- 28.1. A NF or a National Paralympic Committee may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation, not an athlete who is not under their jurisdiction.
- 28.2. A NF or a National Paralympic Committee may only make a Protest within the set timelines as outlined by FISO:
- 28.2.1. Before the race:
- 28.2.1.1. This period starts once the athlete and/or NF have been informed of the athlete's Sport Class or once the classification outcome has been posted;
 - 28.2.1.2. The CC, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorized to receive Classification Protests on behalf of FISO at that event;
 - 28.2.1.3. Classification Protests must be submitted to the CC within sixty (60) minutes of the end of the athlete's classification assessment or within sixty (60) minutes after the official publication of the classification results at the athlete's briefing.
- 28.2.2. During/after the race:
- 28.2.2.1. The CC, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorized to receive Classification Protests on behalf of FISO at that event.
 - 28.2.2.2. The intent to issue a classification protest must be communicated to the CC within 5 minutes after the classification outcomes have been posted in the finish area or 5 minutes from the moment the athlete involved in a protest crosses the finish line, whichever occurs last. Once the intention to protest is initiated, the time limit will be extended by 15 minutes at which time all protest documents need to be submitted.
 - 28.2.2.3. Race results can only become official after this process is completed.
- 28.3. If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a NF may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place, the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

29. National Protest Procedure

- 29.1. To submit a National Protest, a NF or a National Paralympic Committee must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by FISO at the Competition and via FISO website, and must include the following:
- 29.1.1. the name and category of the Protested Athlete;
 - 29.1.2. the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
 - 29.1.3. an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the NF believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - 29.1.4. reference to the rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
 - 29.1.5. the Protest Fee set by FISO.
- 29.2. The Protest Documents must be submitted to the CC of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified by FISO Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the CC must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with FISO of which there are two (2) possible outcomes:
- 29.2.1. the CC may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the CC, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements, or
 - 29.2.2. the CC may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the CC, the Protest complies with the

Protest requirements.

29.3. If the Protest is dismissed the CC must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the NF as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.

29.4. If the Protest is accepted:

29.4.1. the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class Status is already Review (R);

29.4.2. the CC must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and

29.4.3. FISO must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

30. FISO Protests

30.1. FISO may make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:

30.1.1. it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or

30.1.2. a NF makes a documented request to FISO. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of FISO.

31. FISO Protest Procedure

31.1. If FISO decides to make a Protest, the HC must advise the relevant NF of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.

31.2. The HC must provide the relevant NF with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the HC considers it is justified.

31.3. If FISO makes a Protest:

31.3.1. the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;

31.3.2. the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete’s Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and

31.3.3. a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

Athlete Sport Class Status	Protest by own NF / National Paralympic Committee		Protest by FISO		Possible Outcome	
	Before	During/After	Before	During/After	Before	During/After
New (N)	YES	YES	YES	YES	R/NE	R/C/NE
Review (R)	YES	YES	YES	YES	R/C/NE	R/C/NE
Provisional Classification Status (PCS)	NO	NO	NO	NO	N	N
Review Fixed Date (RFD)	NO	NO	YES	YES	R/C/NE	R/C/NE

Confirmed (C)	NO	NO	YES*	YES*	R/C/NE	R/C/NE
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32. Protest Panel

- 32.1. A CC may fulfil one (1) or more of the HC’s obligations in if authorised to do so by the HC.
- 32.2. A Protest Panel must be appointed by the HC in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 32.3. A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
- 32.3.1. made the Protested Decision; or
 - 32.3.2. conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the NF, National Paralympic Committee or FISO (whichever is relevant).
- 32.4. The HC must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 32.5. The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 32.6. The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel’s decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.
- 32.7. The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an FISO Protest is final. A NF, National Paralympic Committee or FISO may not make another Protest.

33. Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 33.1. If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
- 33.2. the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and
- 33.3. all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

34. Special Provisions

FISO may plan (subject to the approval of the IPC) for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, FISO must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

35. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

The IPC and/or FISO may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or FISO other Competitions.

Part Ten: Appeals

36. Appeal

An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

37. Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

An Appeal may only be made by one (1) of the following bodies:

- 37.1. a NF; or
- 37.2. a National Paralympic Committee.

38. Appeal Process

- 38.1. If a NF considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and therefore an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal;
- 38.2. No Classification Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of Sport Class or Sport Class Status. Under no circumstances shall the Classification Appeal Body modify a classification decision by allocating a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status to an athlete;
- 38.3. The Classification Appeal Body shall hear classification appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to classification protest procedures, have been exhausted;
- 38.4. The Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals;
- 38.5. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable BAC Bylaws.

Timeline for Appeal Submission

- 38.6. Classification appeals may be submitted and commenced no later than 30 days after the classification process took place, by submitting a Notice of Classification Appeal to FISO Secretary General. FISO shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Classification Appeal to all parties involved.
- 38.7. Only a NF (or National Paralympic Committee at the Paralympic Games) has the right to submit a Notice of Classification Appeal in English by using FISO Classification Appeal Form under
 - 38.7.1. (<http://www.worldObstacle.org>).
- 38.8. A refundable deposit of EUR 100 (or equivalent) must accompany all appeals. The deposit will be retained by FISO, if the appeal is denied.
- 38.9. Upon receipt of a Notice of Classification Appeal, FISO shall conduct a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the Classification Appeal. If not, FISO shall issue a written dismissal of the Classification Appeal.

Classification Appeal Procedures

- 38.10. If all other available remedies have been exhausted, FISO shall:
 - 38.10.1. Advise all relevant parties that a Classification Appeal Body will be constituted for the purposes of hearing the classification appeal;
 - 38.10.2. Send a copy of the Notice of Classification Appeal, and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to all parties involved; advise the parties involved that they must, within the 28th day after the Notice of Classification Appeal has been received, submit a list of all documents to the Classification Appeal Body, evidence and expert witnesses to be offered by the opposing party in relation to the classification appeal;
 - 38.10.3. Set a location for the hearing and date: The Classification Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a hearing; either live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

Classification Appeal Body and Hearing Procedures

- 38.11. The Classification Appeal Body should include no less than three (3) individuals, who have at no time been involved with, or informed of, the dispute brought before the Classification Appeal Body;

- 38.12. Classification Appeal Body members will be nominated by FISO Secretary General; Parties will have the right to recuse an Appeal Body panel member(s) when it may be perceived that he/she, his/her NF or National Paralympic Committee has a conflict of interest in the issue under dispute or when his/her independence may be compromised. This recuse must be done within the first 24h from the communication of the Appeal Body composition;
- 38.13. FISO may request the IPC the formation of an Appeal Body to deal with an appeal;
- 38.14. The Classification Appeal Body may designate Counsel to assist it in the hearing;
- 38.15. FISO and the applicable National Paralympic Committee or NF shall have the right to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to engage an interpreter approved by the Classification Appeal Body;
- 38.16. Not more than two (2) representatives of any party, excluding the athlete and any interpreter, shall be entitled to participate in the hearing;
- 38.17. Subject to the Classification Appeal Body's discretion, each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and to call witnesses.

Classification Appeal Decision

- 38.18. The Classification Appeal Body shall issue a written decision resolving any classification appeal after the hearing. The decision shall be provided to all parties;
- 38.19. The Classification Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision that has been appealed against or overrule the decision. If the decision is overruled, the Classification Appeal Body's written opinion shall specify the procedural error committed and shall direct the appropriate party to the decision in a manner consistent with Classification Appeal Body's instructions;
- 38.20. FISO shall be responsible for ensuring that the Classification Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner;
- 38.21. Classification appeal decisions are final and are not subject to any further classification appeal within FISO/IPC.

Confidentiality

- 38.22. Classification Appeal Proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Classification Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the classification appeal:
- 38.22.1. Employees or agents of a party;
- 38.22.2. Witnesses whose testimony may be offered during the classification appeal;
- 38.22.3. Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the classification appeal.
- 38.23. At its sole discretion, the Classification Appeal Body may require all persons who attend a hearing to sign a confidentiality agreement. Any individual refusing to sign said agreement may be excluded from the hearing.

39. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

The IPC and/or FISO may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

Part Eleven: Use of Athlete Information

40. Classification Data

40.1. FISO may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.

40.2. All Classification Data Processed by FISO must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

41. Consent and Processing

41.1. Subject to Article 40, FISO may only process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.

41.2. If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.

41.3. FISO may only process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

42. Classification Research

42.1. FISO may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.

42.2. The use by FISO of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.

42.3. Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to FISO solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.

42.4. FISO may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If FISO wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

43. Notification to Athletes

43.1. FISO must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

43.1.1. that fact that FISO is collecting the Classification Data; and

43.1.2. the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and

43.1.3. the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

44. Classification Data Security

44.1. FISO must:

44.1.1. protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and

44.2. take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

45. Disclosures of Classification Data

45.1. FISO must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.

45.2. FISO may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these

Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

46. Retaining Classification Data

- 46.1. FISO will only retain Classification data for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it will be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised 1 year after the data is considered not necessary.
- 46.2. FISO Classifiers and Classification Personnel will retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

47. Access Rights to Classification Data

- 47.1. Athletes may request from FISO:
 - 47.1.1. confirmation of whether or not that FISO processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
 - 47.1.2. a copy of the Classification Data held by FISO; and/or
 - 47.1.3. correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by FISO.
- 47.2. A request may be made by an Athlete or a NF on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

48. Classification Master List

- 48.1. FISO must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 48.2. FISO must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Bodies on FISO website.
- 48.3. FISO Classification Master List will be available on FISO website under <http://www.wordobstacle.org>

Part Twelve: Glossary

Adaptive Equipment: Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

Appeals: The means by which a complaint that FISO has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in category at the international level (as defined by FISO) or national level (as defined by each NF) and any additional person who participates in category at a lower level if designated by the person's NF.

Athlete Evaluation: The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

BAC: The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

Chief Classifier: A classifier appointed by FISO to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a Competition according to these Classification Rules.

Classification: Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each category or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

Classification Data: Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a NF and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

Classification Intelligence: Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.

Classification Master List: A list made available by FISO that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

Classification Not Completed: the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of Para Sport.

Classification Organisation: Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

Classification Panel: A group of Classifiers, appointed by FISO to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel: Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

Classification Rules: Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by FISO in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

Classification System: The framework used by FISO to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Para category.

Classifier: A person authorised as an official by FISO to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

Classifier Certification: The processes by which FISO must assess that a Classifier has met the Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

Classifier Competencies: The qualifications and abilities that FISO deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for category(s) governed by FISO.

Classifier Code of Conduct: The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by FISO.

Code: The Athlete Classification Code 2015 together with the International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Classifier Personnel and Training; and Classification Data Protection.

Competition: A series of individual events conducted together under one (1) (1) ruling body.

Compliance: The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

Continuing Education: The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by FISO to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the category(s) under its governance.

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

Eligible Impairment: An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para category, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

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

Entry Criteria: Standards set by FISO relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may be, for example, former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

Entry-level Education: the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by FISO to begin as a Classifier in the category(s) under its governance.

Evaluation Session: the session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a category; and allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the tasks and activities fundamental to that category. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

Event: A single race, match, game or singular category contest.

First Appearance: The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

FRD: A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a FRD will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session, except if related to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

HC: A person appointed by FISO to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for FISO.

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

Impairment: A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

Intellectual Impairment: A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills that originates before the age of eighteen (18).

Intentional Misrepresentation: A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or NF as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para category and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

International Competitions: A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

International Sport Federation: A category federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a category for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para category by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain categories.

International Standards: A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

Maintaining Certification: The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

Major Competition Organiser: An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

Medical Diagnostics Form: a form that a NF must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

Medical Review: The process by which FISO identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

Medical Review Request: A request made by a NF for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

Models of Best Practice: An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

NF: Refers to the national member of FISO.

National Laws: The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.

National Paralympic Committee: The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC.

National Protest: A Protest made by a NF or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

Non-Competition Venue: Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by FISO as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status.

Observation in Competition: The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the tasks and activities fundamental to the category.

Paralympic Games: Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games. **Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principle effects are lifelong.

Personal Information: Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

Physical Impairment: an Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Leg Length Difference and Short Stature.

Process/Processing: The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

Protested Athlete: An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

Protested Decision: The Sport Class decision being challenged.

Protest Documents: The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

Protest Fee: The fee prescribed by FISO payable by the NF when submitting a Protest.

Protest Form: The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.

Protest: The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Protest Panel: A Classification Panel appointed by the CC to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

Re-certification: The process by which FISO must assess that a Classifier has maintained Classifier Competencies.

Recognised Competition: a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by FISO.

Research Purposes: Research into matters pertaining to the development of categories within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each category and the impact of

assistive technology on such activities.

Signatories: Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

Sport Class: A category for Competition defined by FISO by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the tasks and activities required by a category.

Sport Class Status: A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

Team Sport: a category in which substitution of players is permitted during a Competition.

Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA): a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

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

Vision Impairment: an Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete.

Appendix 1: Physical Impairment

1. Impairment Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the category of Para Obstacle:

- 1.1. Athlete must present with one (1) of the Eligible Impairments listed below in Table 1 and this must be permanent and;
- 1.2. The impairment must result from a health condition that is pathological and documented by medical records (trauma, disease, dysgenesis).

TABLE 1

Impairment Type	Examples of Health Conditions that may cause such impairment
<p>Impaired Muscle Power</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.</p>
<p>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one (1) (1) or more joints.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.</p>
<p>Limb Deficiency</p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints because of trauma.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).</p>
<p>Hypertonia</p> <p>Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Ataxia</p> <p>Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.</p>

<p>Athetosis</p> <p>Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
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2. Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

Athlete Evaluation Process

- 2.1. The athlete evaluation process for FISO Para Obstacle Classification System has been developed with the clear purpose to minimize the impact that impairments have on the outcome of competition through the activity of Para Obstacle.
- 2.2. Classifiers assess body functions to evaluate the level of impact impairments have on the performance in Para Obstacle, through:
 - 2.2.1. physical assessment (muscle power or neurological assessment) and;
 - 2.2.2. technical assessment (functional abilities profile).
- 2.3. These processes will determine whether an athlete meets the Minimal Impairment Criteria (MIC) for Para Obstacle.
- 2.4. FISO uses a point system and a weighing factor for classification of athletes with a physical impairment for each discipline of the category (obstacles and running). The total score determines the athlete's category class.

The MIC for the Physical Impairment Sports Classes (POS and POWC)

- 2.5. **PO2 (Ambulant Athletes):** The maximum possible score that can be obtained through the assessment methodology would correspond to an athlete with full muscle power in the ambulant assessment and a full score in the ambulant Functional Abilities Profile (FAP). This is a value of 1280. The score of 1212 represents the minimal impairment criteria (MIC) in Para Obstacle for all physical impairments from PO2 to PO5 category classes, which is equivalent to an athlete with the complete loss of a hand or throughout the wrist amputation. All athletes with impairments from the ambulant classes need to score below that number to ensure they meet the MIC for these classes.
- 2.6. **POWC1-POWC2 (Wheelchair users):** The maximum possible score that can be obtained through the assessment methodology would correspond to an athlete with full muscle power in the wheelchair medical assessment and a full score in the wheelchair Functional Athlete Profile (FAP). This is a value of 667.15. The score of 640.0 represents the minimal impairment criteria in Para Obstacle for all physical impairments that fall under the POWC category class which is equivalent to a high unilateral amputee with no prosthetic use capacity in competition. All athletes with impairments from the wheelchair classes need to score below that number to ensure they meet the MIC for these classes.

3. Assessment Methodology

Physical Assessment: muscle Power and Neurological Screening

- 3.1. Muscle Power assessment is based on the Daniels and Worthingham (D&W) scale published in 2014, version 9. The scale has 6 levels from 0-5. Plus, or minus grades can't be recorded. That is, an athlete will score a 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, not a 2.5 or 3.5 for example.
- 3.2. The athlete is passively taken through the anatomical range of the key movement to assess the available range of movement (ROM). The athlete then actively moves through their available range against gravity and subsequently with resistance provided through the available range by the assessor or with gravity eliminated to identify the muscle power level.

- 3.3. The overall values for each muscle group are factored for each of the Obstacle Race Categories (Ninja, track, Cross Country, Combine) and the reliance on range of motion, upper body, lower body, neuromuscular function and core strength, with different values for the ambulant and wheelchair classes. Scores are weighed against proportionate mean values from category;
- 3.4. Full Range of Movement (ROM) is measured as full available ROM;
- 3.5. Anatomical range is identified for all key movements. E.g. Neck Flexion: 0-40°;
- 3.6. Muscle Testing (Power scale):
 - 0 Total lack of voluntary contraction
 - 1 Faint contraction without any movement of the limb (trace, flicker)
 - 2 Contraction with very weak movement through full range of motion when gravity is eliminated (poor)
 - 3 Contraction with movement through the complete joint range against gravity
 - 4 Contraction with full range movement against gravity and some resistance (good)
 - 5 Contraction normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance (Daniels and Worthingham 2014)
- 3.7. The Muscle Power testing accounts for 70% of the total athlete's total assessment score;

Athletes with Neurological Impairments

- 3.8. All athletes with an underlying health condition which presents as an FISO eligible neurological impairment type such as Ataxia, Athetosis or Hypertonia, will undergo a neurological impairment screen assessment to ensure there are clear signs of such impairment(s).
- 3.9. Athletes with Multiple Sclerosis:
 - 3.9.1. In advance to the competition, these athletes should submit Electromyograms and/or MRI that show a permanent loss of power during activity.
 - 3.9.2. If possible, videos of the athlete on obstacles and running, taken from the back (legs and upper torso) and more important, from the side. Videos of 6-10 seconds duration are to be sent to FISO, at time of submitting the athlete's medical diagnosis form within the timelines as outlined in Article 7.5 and 7.6.
- 3.10. Neurological Impairment Screen
 - 3.10.1. There are a set of tests to verify the presence of Hypertonia, Ataxia or Ataxia as impairment types.

Technical Assessment for Physical Impairments

- 3.11. Athletes will be questioned on and may be requested to perform category and novel tests as part of the technical assessment. This is called the "Functional Abilities Profile" (FAP) assessment. Testing protocols have been identified through current research;
 - 3.11.1. The Technical Tests account for 30% of the athlete's total score.

FAP–technical assessment (PO2-PO3)

- 3.12. Each of the Tests are weighed using a scale of values 1-3. Total scores in each of the segments are weighed against proportionate mean values from each of the segments in Sprint distance Obstacle;

Upper body grip obstacles		Factor
1	Both arms or residual limb able to move through a functional range of motion	2
2	Both arms or residual limb able to move with continuous arm action	2
3	Able to grip ropes, bars, rings, climbing holds, etc. with a partial or full hand on both sides	2
4	Able to hang and support body weight with one hand / arm	1

Run		Factor
6	Able to run without the use of FISO approved lower-limb assistive devices	3
7	Able to maintain a symmetrical running stride (also in length)	2
8	Able to run with a symmetrical body position	1
9	Able to perform a counter movement jump	2

FAP–technical assessment (POWC1-POWC2)

3.13 There are 9 tests with no factoring nor weighting

1	Able to stand unaided & unsupported without the use of FISO approved assistive devices
2	When standing, able to shift weight from one (1) leg to another to the front and side, with or without the use of FISO approved lower-limb assistive devices
3	Able to walk to obstacles without the use of FISO approved assistive devices
4	Able to move both arms through a functional ROM with continuous arm action with full or residual limb
5	Able to grip ropes, bars, rings, climbing holds, etc. with a partial or full hand on both sides
6	Able to transfer to obstacles without assistance
7	Able to propel hand bike without the use of straps around the trunk
8	Able to maintain a trunk to thigh position throughout the propulsive phase in a racing wheelchair
9	Able to sit unsupported in the racing wheelchair

Observation in Competition - Protocol

- 3.13. The purpose of observation in competition is to ratify the outcome obtained by the classification panel following medical and technical classification assessment and ensure that impairment severity is reflected in the athlete's ability to carry out the activities of Obstacle.
- 3.14. Key points to consider during Observation in Competition Assessment may include one (1) or more of the test outlined in articles 13.2 and 13.3.
- 3.15. If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 3.16. An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:
- 3.17. First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes after classification assessment.
- 3.17.1. If an Athlete is subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition and there is a second evaluation conducted where it is determined that the athlete is still required to undergo Observation in Competition, this observation must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA).
- 3.17.2. To reduce the impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results; observation in competition should be avoided by ensuring any doubts around athlete presentation in activity is resolved before competition by introducing extra assessments and other novel tests during the classification assessment. Classifiers must exhaust all options to get the best understanding of the athlete's activity limitation during the classification assessment.

4. Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class

4.1. FISO Scoring system:

FISO uses a points scoring system to define the Minimal Impairment Criteria for Para Obstacle; An athlete must be below 1212 points to be Eligible into the ambulant Para Obstacle class (PO2) and to define each of the ambulant sport class PO2 and the Wheelchair classes POWC.

PO5	Athletes with a mild degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include athletes with below the elbow dysmelia, clubfoot, through the wrist amputation, mild spastic cerebral palsy, partial brachial-plexus on one (1) arm, through the ankle amputation, etc. In run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices	From 1092,0 to 1211,9 points included
PO4	Athletes with a moderate degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include a moderate spastic cerebral palsy, complete brachial-plexus on one (1) arm, through the shoulder amputation, unilateral below the knee amputation, etc. In run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	From 980,0 to 1091,9 points included
PO3	Athletes with a significant degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments	From 910,0 to

	of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include athletes with significant spastic hemiplegia, cerebral palsy, double below knee amputation, combined affected upper and lower limbs such as loss of muscle power in an arm and a unilateral below the knee amputation, etc. In run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	979,9 points
PO2	Athletes with a severe degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include severe cerebral palsy, congenital hemiplegia, above the knee amputation, etc. In run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	Max 909,9 points
POWC	Athletes must use a recumbent handcycle or a racing wheelchair on the run segment; this class includes athletes with a significant degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency and spinal cord injuries such as unilateral above the knee amputation, partial paraplegia, etc. OR; Athletes must use a hand bike or a racing wheelchair on the run segment. This class includes athletes with a severe degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency such as double above the knee amputees, unilateral high level above the knee amputation, severe spinal cord injuries resulting in quadriplegia or paraplegia, etc.	Max 640 points OR;463 Raw Muscle Power score

4.2 POWC Sport Class Allocation:

1. The baseline reference score is 463 but when the athlete is scoring between 455 and 470 points, considerations should be followed.
2. Scores in the Hip and Trunk Flexion and Extension can also be checked in the chart under the RAW Muscle Power (MP) score.
3. For athletes who are scoring at least 3s in one (1) or more of the hip values (mainly extensors and flexors), the trunk values should also be 3 or more.
4. If there are Hip scores that are a maximum score of 2, and trunk scores are 3 or more, the raw MP score must be checked to see if it is at least 463. Additional tests for trunk functionality must be checked on the athlete (please see protocols below).
5. For cases that require further analysis, the athlete must perform the functional test described below:

A) Modified Functional Reach Test (for individuals who cannot stand)

- Sitting in a chair Hips, knees and ankles positioned are at 90 degree of flexion, with feet positioned flat on the floor.
- The initial reach is tested with the patient sitting against the back of the chair with the upper-extremity flexed to 90 degrees.
- Consists of three conditions over three trials.
- Sitting and stabilized, athlete should reach as far as possible leaning forward and return to initial position.

- Sitting and stabilized, lean right with right arm extended as far as possible and recover initial position.
- Sitting and stabilized, lean left with left arm extended as far as possible and recover initial position.
- Instructions should include leaning as far as possible in each direction without rotation and without bracing in any way on the bench/chair.

Appendix 2: Vision Impairment

1. Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<p style="text-align: center;">Vision Impairment</p> <p>Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced, or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.</p>

2. Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 2.1. Minimum Impairment Criteria for Athletes with a vision Impairment have been set based on the Athlete's corrected vision. (The assessment for Athletes with vision Impairment is applied with 'best correction' as the context for visual acuity.)
- 2.2. To be eligible to compete in FISO Para Obstacle the athlete must the criteria below:
 - 2.2.1. The athlete must have at least one (1) of the following impairments:
 - Impairment of eye structure;
 - Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways
 - Impairment of the visual cortex
 - 2.2.2. The athlete's Vision Impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 1.0 or a visual field restricted to less than 40 degrees diameter.
- 2.3. It is the Athlete's NPC's responsibility to provide sufficient evidence of the Athlete's impairment. This must be done by way of submitting the VI Medical Diagnostic form completed by an ophthalmologist and submitted to FISO, with all the requested supplementary medical information, by 6 weeks prior to the classification opportunity.

3. Assessment Method

- 3.1. All athlete evaluation and Sports class allocation will be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the eye with the best visual acuity when wearing the best optical correction.
- 3.2. Depending on the Athletes visual acuity, visual acuity is tested using the LogMAR chart for distance visual acuity testing with Illiterate "E" and/or the Berkeley Rudimentary Vision Test.
- 3.3. Athletes who compete using corrective devices (glasses, lenses) must attend the evaluation session with these devices and prescription.
- 3.4. Athletes must declare any changes in their optical correction to FISO before any competition. If the athlete is a Sports class Review with FRD or Confirmed the athletes Sports class status will be made review and undergo evaluation at the next opportunity.
- 3.5. No observation assessment is required as part of the evaluation process.
- 3.6. The complete reference of the assessment methodology can be found on the [IBSA website](#):

4. Sports Classes

- 4.1. There are three visual impairment Sports classes for FISO Para Obstacle

POVI3	<p>Partial Visual Impairment:</p> <p>Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.40 to 1 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees. This criterion is also the MIC criteria for the Visual Impairment classes.</p> <p>One guide is mandatory throughout the race.</p>
POVI2	<p>Partial Visual Impairment:</p> <p>Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees;</p> <p>One guide is mandatory throughout the race.</p>
POVI1	<p>Total Visual Impairment:</p> <p>No light perception. Visual acuity poorer than LogMAR 2.60</p> <p>One guide is mandatory throughout the race.</p>

Appendix 3

1. Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular and respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

2. Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes

2.1. Athletes who have a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one (1) of the Health Conditions listed in Appendices 1 and 2) but who do not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para category.

2.2. Health Conditions that are primary causes and do not lead to an Eligible impairment include:

- Pain, e.g. Myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.
- Fatigue, e.g. Chronic fatigue syndrome.
- Joint hypermobility or hypotonia, e.g. Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.
- Psychological or psychosomatic in nature, e.g. Conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.