

International
Paralympic Committee

Turning Research Findings into Classification Rules



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Paralympic
Committee

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Classification Committee



Introduction

Turning Research Findings into Classification Rules

- What Doesn't Change
- What Does Change
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Engagement with the IPC
- Timelines
- Classification and the Paralympic Vision





What doesn't change

Not all sports' classification rules need to change

- The Purpose of Classification
- Eligible Impairments
- Sports Class Status
- Non Eligible Sport Class
- Intentional Misrepresentation
- Data Privacy Governance
- Protest and Appeals

Classification Model Rules for Para Sports
Model Rules consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and
accompanying International Standards

January 2017



What does change

The key aspects of a sport's classification rules can change

- Minimum impairment Criteria
- Sport Classes (including equipment to be used)
- Athlete evaluation process
- Classifier requirements/qualifications/certification



Stakeholder Engagement

Engage with NPCs, Athletes and Coaches

- *International Sport Federations must provide appropriate notice to National Federations and National Paralympic Committees of anticipated changes to Classification Systems and any other change(s) that might impact on Sport Class allocation. The aforementioned parties must be provided a rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation and any transition rules, as applicable. The same parties must be provided an opportunity to submit feedback and comments.*



Stakeholder Engagement

Get feedback and adjust findings accordingly

- IF to promote the benefits of the research findings
- Opportunity to adjust the proposed classes
- Analyze impact on competitions
- Further development of Classifier training material





Stakeholder Engagement

The Athlete Classification Code says “engage with the IPC”

- *International Sport Federations must notify the IPC before Classification System changes and any other change(s) that might impact on Sport Class allocation with the rationale for change, the proposed timelines for implementation, transition rules, as applicable, and an overview of the process of consultation that is initiated as part of the system review process. The IPC must be provided an opportunity to submit feedback and comments.*

Engage with the IPC



Ensure compliance with the Athlete Classification Code

- Make use of research centers to validate research findings
- Ensure that there is no mixing of classification concepts with competition formats (for example, factor systems)
- Ensure the research is fully in compliance with the Code in determination of Minimum Impairment Criteria and Sport Classes
- Ensure proposed changes will assist IF in Paralympic Games participation



Timelines – Paralympic Cycles



Timing must be governed by the Paralympic Cycle

- Rule changes must be made before the start of the Games qualification period
- All engagements and refinements to take place ahead of rule changes.
- IF to ensure it is geared up for the impact the changes will have on the sport and the athletes.



Timelines. - Before rule changes

Ensure adequate engagement

- IPC
- NPCs
- Athletes and coaches
- Classifiers





Prepare Classifiers

Define criteria for becoming a classifier

Certification/Recertification workshops for sufficient classifiers

Sourcing of equipment for new evaluation process





Shadow Classification System

To determine sports classes, researches run the new system on top of the current

- Run major international competitions using the current classification system, but all athletes need to undergo athlete evaluation using the new evaluation methodology
- Takes place before sports rules are updated
- Doesn't affect participation
- No changes to athlete's sport class
- Data is used to best determine sports classes for the new system



Timelines – Update the rules

- Follow governance structures of the IF to get the classification rules changed.
- Ensure there are classification opportunities available at events following the change date
- Ensure enough qualified classifiers and equipment is available.
- Engage with LOCs of upcoming major events

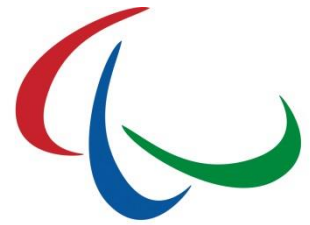


Achieving the Paralympic Vision



Classification as a key component of the aspiration of the Paralympic Movement

- *“The vision of the Paralympic Movement is “to enable Para athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world”. The unique systems of classification used in Para sport perform two critical functions to support the realisation of this vision: (1) defines who is eligible to compete in Para sport and consequently has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic athlete; and (2) groups athletes into sport classes which aim to ensure that the impact of impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which athlete or team is ultimately victorious.”*
 - 2015 Athlete Classification Code, Introduction
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Thank you

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