



# **CODE REVIEW: PHASE 2 CONSULTATION**

**SURVEY**

**AUGUST 2022**

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for participating in the Phase 2 Consultation for the review of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) and its supporting International Standards.

All feedback will be analysed by the Code Drafting Team. Their task is to determine how best to incorporate the feedback and produce a new draft of the Code.

We strongly recommend that, while you are completing this survey, you read through the relevant sections of the draft Classification Code, International Standards, and Summary of Changes and Rationale document in parallel. The Summary of Changes and Rationale document provides more context behind the targeted questions and may help you to interpret them. Relevant articles from the Code and International Standards are also included in the Summary of Changes and Rationale document.

As this survey is provided as an editable PDF form, you will be able to save your work as you progress. **It is not mandatory to answer all questions.**

### PRIVACY

Please be aware that all feedback may be published for transparency reasons. By submitting it, please be aware that your name and/or organisation may be identified, along with your feedback, and shared on the IPC website. Feedback will not be anonymised.

### QUERIES

For any queries or additional feedback, please contact us at [codereview@paralympic.org](mailto:codereview@paralympic.org)

### DEADLINE FOR FEEDBACK

We kindly ask you to return the completed Code Review: Phase 2 Consultation survey to [codereview@paralympic.org](mailto:codereview@paralympic.org). The deadline for submitting feedback is **Thursday 15 December 2022**.

We encourage you to join the consultation calls and in-person meetings the IPC will organise between August and December 2022 in relation to this project. Through these engagement opportunities, we will seek to provide more information on the changes proposed in the new drafts and facilitate discussion around targeted questions and other areas of classification.

### STRUCTURE

This survey is split into sections. In addition to providing feedback on the targeted questions, space has also been provided at the end to comment on any article of

the draft Code or International Standards. When referring to a specific article please include:

- (i) the sub-section(s) of the article that you wish to provide feedback on (for example "Article 1.2" or "Articles 1.2 and 1.6.1");
- (ii) your feedback; and if applicable
- (iii) your suggested re-drafting

If you do not have any feedback on certain questions and/or chapters, these can be left blank. There are also mandatory questions (marked in red with an asterisk \*) which should not be left blank.

Please continue to the next page to begin. Thank you for completing this survey.

## ABOUT YOU

Please provide your details below.

**Note:** As indicated above, please understand that for reasons of transparency, all feedback submitted through this survey may be published in a non-anonymised format.

What is your full name? \*

What is your email address? \*

**Note:** We may contact some respondents to discuss their feedback. Please note, your email address will not be shared or published.

What is your role or job title? \*

If not applicable, please type "N/A".

What organisation do you work for or represent? \*

If not applicable, please type "N/A".

Are you providing feedback on behalf of the organisation above? \*

Are you a current/former Para Athlete? \*

Are you a classifier? \*

If yes, please specify for which organisation(s)/at which level?

# 1 IPC CLASSIFICATION CODE (DRAFT, VERSION JULY 2022)

The first draft of the IPC Classification Code (version July 2022) and International Standards, as well as the Summary of Changes and Rationale document can be found here for your reference:

<https://www.paralympic.org/classification-code-review>

## 1.1 THE CODE AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

The draft Code now incorporates three International Standards.

**Targeted question:** Please provide feedback on the usability of the draft Code, which now incorporates three International Standards on Eligible Impairments, Athlete Evaluation, and Protests and Appeals.



## 1.2 THE PURPOSE AND LINK WITH IPC'S VISION

Chapter 1 of the draft Code includes a new section aiming to explain the link between the IPC's vision ("make for a more inclusive world through sport") and Classification (see Article 2).

**Targeted question:** Is the link between IPC's vision and mission, and Classification, clearly described in the Code?

If you wish, please use the space below to elaborate further.

## 1.3 THE SCOPE OF THE CODE

Currently, International Federations and IOSDs may, in their classification rules, extend the application of the Code to national or lower-level competitions, but the Code is mandatory for International Competitions only (please see Articles 3,4 and 60). Guidance is sought as to the level at which the Code should be mandatory, and the amount of flexibility that should be provided for below that level.

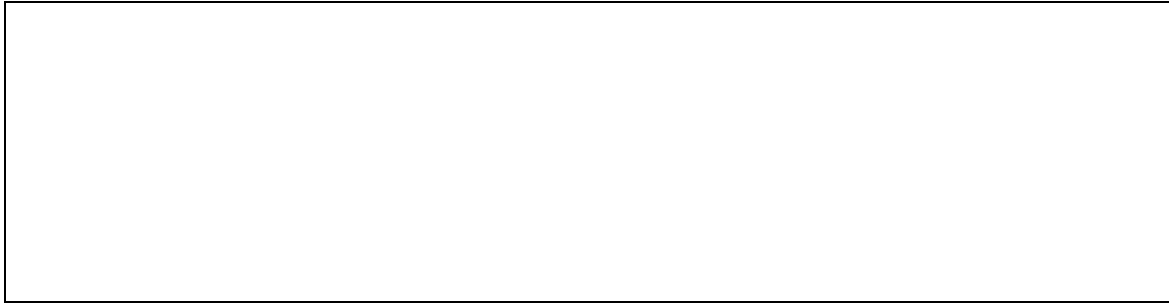
**Targeted question:** Should the scope of the Code be limited only to sports or disciplines on the Paralympic Games programme?

Yes, the Code should only be mandatory for sports or disciplines on the Paralympic Games programme.

No, some provisions of the Code should be made mandatory more broadly than those sports or disciplines which are on the Paralympic Games programme.

No, the Code should be mandatory for all Para sports and all IPC members, across all levels of international competition.

Please give your reasons for the answer above. In particular, are there any aspects of the Code which you think should be optional rather than mandatory at some levels? Alternatively, which you feel should be mandatory at all levels?



**Targeted question:** Should Compliance with the Code be mandatory only at the level of International Federations' competitions which are directly linked with qualification pathways for the Paralympic Games?

If no, please use the space below to elaborate on which levels of competition Compliance with the Code should be mandatory for the International Federations in the Paralympic Games programme.





## **1.4 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF CLASSIFICATION**

The way in which Classification is currently conducted across Para sports potentially differs from the four-stage process described in the draft Code, either between Para sports, or when comparing the Classification process for Athletes with Vision Impairment, Intellectual Impairment, and Physical Impairments (please see Article 5).

**Targeted question:** We welcome feedback on any specific nuances / differences applicable to Classification in different sports or across these impairment groups, and considerations on whether these differences should be reflected in the Code.

## **1.5 ASSESSMENT OF UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION AND ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT**

**Targeted question:** Should the IPC explore forming / endorsing one or more centralised Assessment Bodies for Athletes with Physical, Vision and Intellectual Impairments, with the option for International Federations to make use of such Assessment Bodies (similar to the concept of the Board of Appeal of Classification, which is optionally available to all International Federations)? (Please see Article 6).

In respect to article 18.1.1 in the draft Code, the Code Drafting Team wishes to understand what the current provisions each International Federation have in place around the Classification Panel's assessment on whether the Athlete's Underlying Health Condition leads to an Eligible Impairment are.

**Targeted question:** Please provide feedback on whether the Code should provide further detail in explaining Stage 2, for example, by linking it with the assessment methodology for Minimum Impairment Criteria or providing discretion to the Classification Panel to carry out further tests / assessments.

## **1.6 ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS**

**Targeted question:** Please provide feedback on the definitions of each Eligible Impairment.

Sections from the current International Standard on Eligible Impairments (providing examples of Underlying and non-Underlying Health Conditions) have been removed from the Code. Such examples are intended to be captured in a guideline document(s) accompanying the Code (**please see Articles 8, 9**).

**Targeted question:** Would including specific references to common Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to Eligible Impairments (for each Eligible Impairment) make the Code and the Classification process easier to understand? Or could such examples be provided in separate guidance on specific Health Conditions?

## **1.7 PERMANENT HEALTH CONDITIONS AND STABLE IMPAIRMENTS**

Any new impairment applying to be recognised as an Eligible Impairment, must, as one of the criteria, “be Stable or Progressive for a defined period of no less than the duration of a Competition”. **(Please see Article 10, Appendix One Definitions)**

**Targeted question:** Please provide feedback on the definitions of Permanent, Stable, and Progressive and their use in relation to Underlying Health Conditions, Eligible Impairments and the duration of a Competition.

**Targeted question:** Should the Code provide further clarification around these terms, including the term ‘fluctuating’?

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer.

## 1.8 RATIONALE FOR ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

A new section introduced in the draft Code captures the historical rationale for the existing ten Eligible Impairments and, more importantly, provides criteria for any new impairment to be recognised as an Eligible Impairment. The criteria are split into scientific and pragmatic criteria, aiming to: (i) determine if the new impairment meets the fundamental principles of Classification, and (ii) to demonstrate whether there is an existing organisation catering for Athletes with that impairment and whether it offers sporting opportunities (**please see Article 10**).

**Targeted question:** Please provide feedback on this section of the Code.

## 1.9 CLASSIFICATION PANEL

The draft Code specifies that at least one member of a Classification Panel must not be of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed (**please see Articles 7, 8, 27.1.3**).

**Targeted question:** Should the Code require that an International Federation must appoint a Classification Panel where at least one Classifier is not of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed (as in the current draft)?

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer.

**Targeted question** Should the Code prescribe that an International Federation must not appoint a Classification Panel consisting of two Classifiers of the same nationality?

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer.

**Targeted question:** In exceptional circumstances, where an International Federation has authorised a Classification Panel to consist of one Classifier, should the International Federation exercise discretion in deciding whether that Classifier can proceed with an Evaluation Session with an Athlete of the same nationality?

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer.

## 1.10 MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA

The Minimum Impairment Criteria define the minimum level of impairment required to participate in a Para sport. It must be based on and assessed using objective and reliable methods to assess the Eligible Impairment, and not influenced by training, skill, or equipment. This section in the draft Code has not changed, but it requires further consideration (**please see Article 20**).

**Targeted question:** Should the Code include regulations for the Minimum Impairment Criteria to be assessed:

Solely based on an evaluation of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment using impairment- based tests.

Based on an evaluation of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment where the Minimum Impairment Criteria can be set as a combination of multiple Eligible Impairments.

Based on an evaluation of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment where the Minimum Impairment Criteria can be set as a combination of multiple Eligible Impairments and sport-specific tests (excluding sport performance tasks).

Other, please specify:

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer.

## **1.11 DESIGNATION 'NOT ELIGIBLE'**

Not Eligible is no longer a Sport Class but rather a designation. Doing so ensures that Sport Classes are reserved only for Athletes who have an Eligible Impairment and meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria, and thereby are allowed to compete (please see Articles 5.2, 14, 21).

**Targeted question:** Are you in support of the changes suggested for Not Eligible no longer being a Sport Class but rather a designation?

If no, please explain your rationale.

An Athlete can be deemed Not Eligible for two reasons. The new draft captures both reasons by having two Not Eligible designations: NE - EI and NE - MIC (please see Articles 5.2, 14, 21).

**Targeted question:** Are you in support of the changes suggested for Not Eligible being split into two categories to differentiate two potential uses of this designation in relation to not having an Eligible Impairment and not meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria?

If no, please explain your rationale.

## **1.12 THE USE OF ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT**

The Code gives discretion to the Classification Panel to decide how to handle situations where (a) an Athlete attends an Evaluation Session without their Adaptive Equipment, or (b) an Athlete attends an Evaluation Session with Adaptive Equipment different to that which they intend on using / subsequently use in Competition (**please see Articles 20.2.2, 23.3.4, 27.1.2(c)**).

**Targeted question:** Should the Code prescribe what the consequences should be in these two scenarios?

If your answer is yes, should these consequences differ based on:

- (i) the sport in question?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (ii) the reason the Athlete attended the Evaluation Session without their Adaptive Equipment / with different Adaptive Equipment?

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer(s).



### 1.13 SPORT CLASS

While the definition of the Sport Class has not been altered, it is recognised that the Code does not specifically address how Sport Classes are to be developed by each sport and whether any consideration is to be given to the number of available Sport Classes within a sport, depending on the number of Eligible Impairments that the sport caters for and the evidence in support of the sport's Classification system (**please see Article 23**).

**Targeted question:** Please provide your views on whether the Code should stipulate how Sport Classes are to be defined and decided on within each sport.

The draft Code states that an Athlete must compete in a Sport Class allocated to them. However, the Code currently does not address issues regarding the concepts of 'combining classes', 'competing up' or 'factor systems' (which allow athletes in different Sport Classes to compete together for the same medal) (**please see Article 23**).

**Targeted question:** Feedback on whether the Code should address the link between Sport Classes and Competition formats is welcomed. If you are in favour of any or all of these concepts ('combining classes', 'competing up' or 'factor systems') please explain why and what information should be included in the Code. If not, please specify why and please clarify whether the Code should specifically allow International Federations' full discretion in deciding on their Competition formats.

## 1.14 OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT

**Targeted question:** Should the Code allow for a Classification Panel to carry out Observation Assessment in all First Appearance events within a Sport Class (as currently drafted in Article 24.4.2)?

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer.

Following an Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel may either: allocate the Athlete a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status; or require the Athlete to redo any or all of the components of the Evaluation Session (including Observation Assessment) that the Classification Panel deems necessary.

**Targeted question:** If the Athlete is required to re-do components of the Evaluation Session, should it be mandatory that the Athlete undergoes a further Observation Assessment (as prescribed in the current Code), or should this decision be left to the discretion of the Classification Panel (as prescribed in the draft Code)?

If possible, please provide a rationale for your answer.

## 1.15 UPDATES TO SPORT CLASS STATUS

A new Sport Class Status, titled 'Lapsed' (L), is introduced. This Status is used if an Athlete fails to undergo an Evaluation Session within a specified time period or if an Athlete retires from the sport as defined by the International Federation. An Athlete is not allowed to compete under Sport Class Status Lapsed until they undergo an Evaluation Session (please see Article 25).

**Targeted question:** Do you find it helpful introducing the Sport Class Status Lapsed to manage situations such as (i) an Athlete fails to undergo an Evaluation Session as prescribed by the Sport Class Status 'Review at Next Available Opportunity' and 'Review with a Fixed Review Date', and (ii) an Athlete retires from the sport?

If no, please explain your rationale.

## 1.16 LOCATION OF EVALUATION SESSIONS

The draft Code distinguishes Evaluation Sessions that take place In-Competition and Out-of-Competition.

**Targeted question:** Please provide feedback on the clarification provided in this Article in further distinguishing between Evaluation Sessions held In-Competition and Out-of-Competition (please see Article 31).

## **1.17 REMOTE CLASSIFICATION AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

For mandatory levels that the Code applies to, the draft Code sets the standard for all Evaluation Sessions to be held in person with the Classification Panel and the Athlete. There is nothing in the Code that prevents an International Federation or National Federation from implementing a different standard (such as remote participation and the use of technology) for other levels of Competition (**please see Articles 32, 70**).

**Targeted question:** Please provide feedback on the Code specifically restricting the format of Evaluation Sessions to 'in-person' for mandatory levels that the Code applies.

**Targeted question:** Article 32.2 identifies which persons may attend Evaluation Sessions remotely. Are there any other persons that should be added to this list?

## **1.18 SUSPENSION OF EVALUATION SESSION AND 'CNC' DESIGNATION**

The draft Code adds that the 'Classification not Completed' designation can be assigned a maximum of three times, after which an International Federation may decide not to provide further Evaluation Session opportunities for a specified period of time, at the discretion of the International Federation (please see Articles 29, 30).

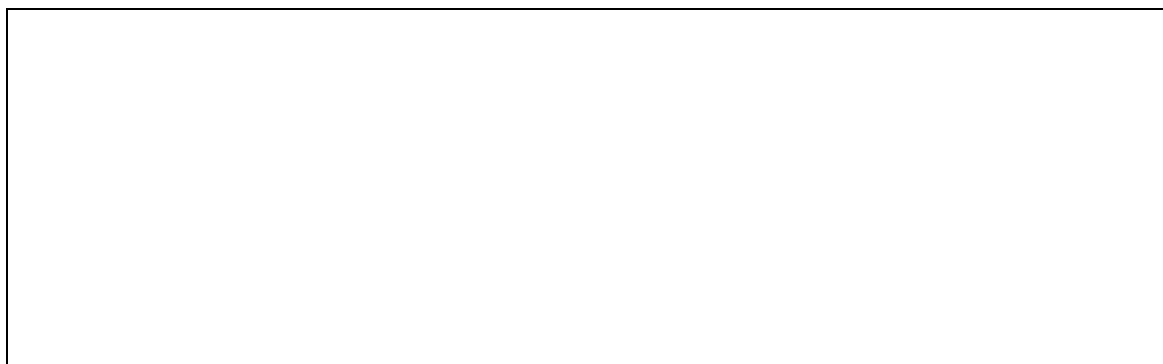
**Targeted question:** Should there be a specific limit on the number of times that an Athlete can be designated 'Classification not Completed' before they are prevented from attending further Evaluation Sessions for a specified period of time, as suggested in the draft Code?

If yes, should International Federations specify, at their discretion, the period of time until an Athlete can present for an Evaluation Session again, or should this be prescribed in the Code?

## **1.19 PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

The threshold for a National Protest to be upheld in the draft Code requires the National Federation to establish a reasonable basis upon which it believes an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

**Targeted question:** Please express your view on whether each Athlete should instead be entitled to simply object to the Sport Class they were allocated, and thereby automatically receive the right for a second Evaluation Session (i.e., an automatic reassessment right), or whether the Code should retain a threshold (and what that threshold should be) (please see Articles 39-50).

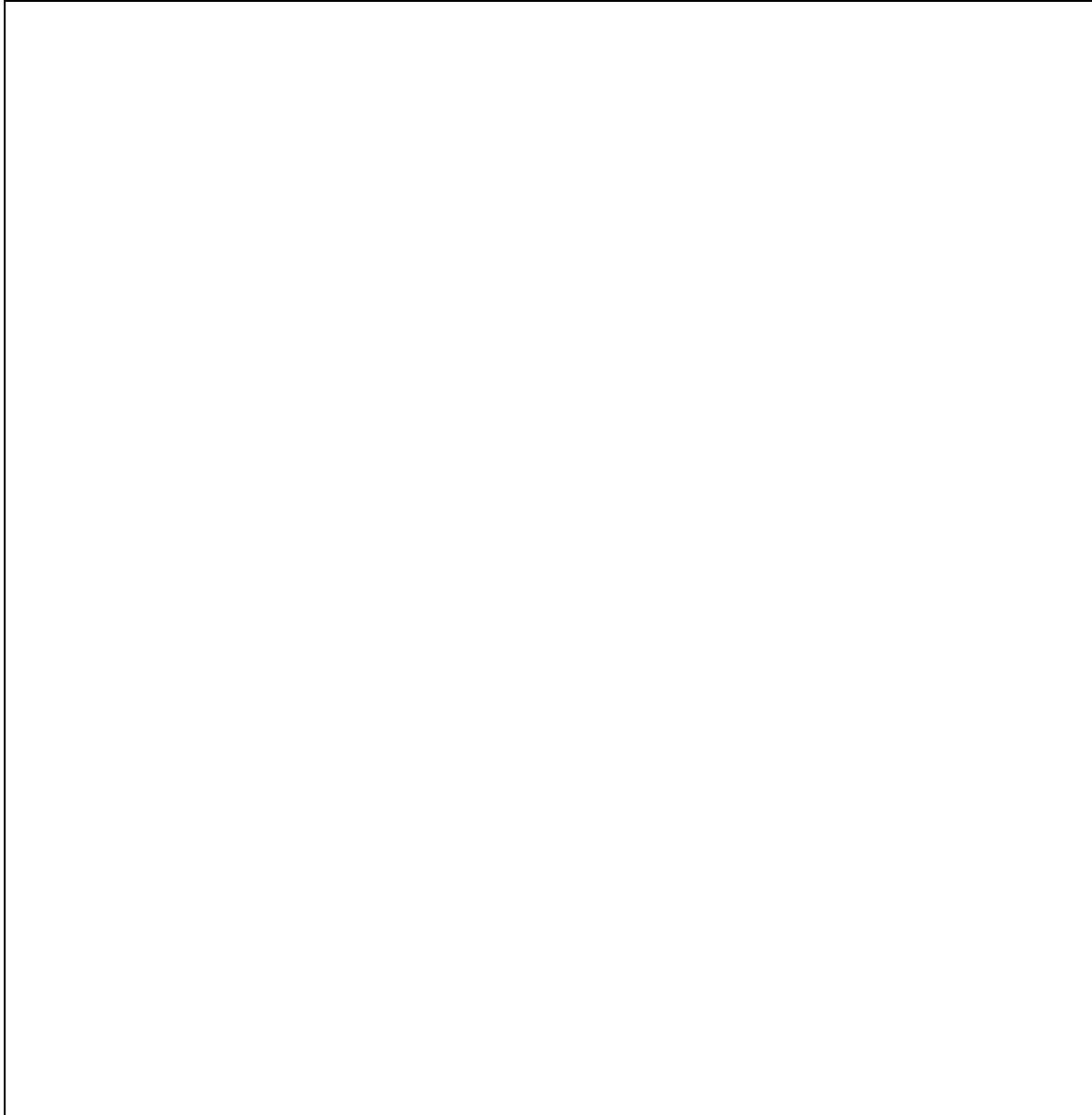


**Targeted question:** In respect to Article 44.6, please provide feedback on the timeframe between the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class and the International Federation's Protest in respect to that Sport Class, which would allow a National Federation to challenge the protest decision.



## **1.20 INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION**

**Targeted question:** The draft Code now provides more details on provisions around Intentional Misrepresentation. Please provide feedback on the new section on Intentional Misrepresentation in the draft Code (**please see Articles 51-58**).



## 2 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

Classification Personnel are fundamental to the management and delivery of Classification. The International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training (name changed from 'Classifier' to 'Classification') sets out provisions on the roles, responsibilities, recruitment and development of Classification Personnel, including Classifiers as the key personnel.

The internal review of this International Standard by the Code Drafting Team and ISCPT Subgroup is not finalised, and consequently extensive revisions can be expected. We welcome your feedback on the items addressed below.

**Targeted question:** Should the Code and International Standards regulate Classifiers' involvement in different roles as a requirement for their certification by an International Federation (both in respect to involvement in different roles within the National Federation / National Paralympic Committee, and the status of active Athletes competing in the sport the International Federations governs)?

In other words, can a candidate Classifier apply for an International Classifier course if they have an active involvement with their NF in another capacity (e.g., a coach, a medical doctor, etc.)?

Please provide a rationale for your response.



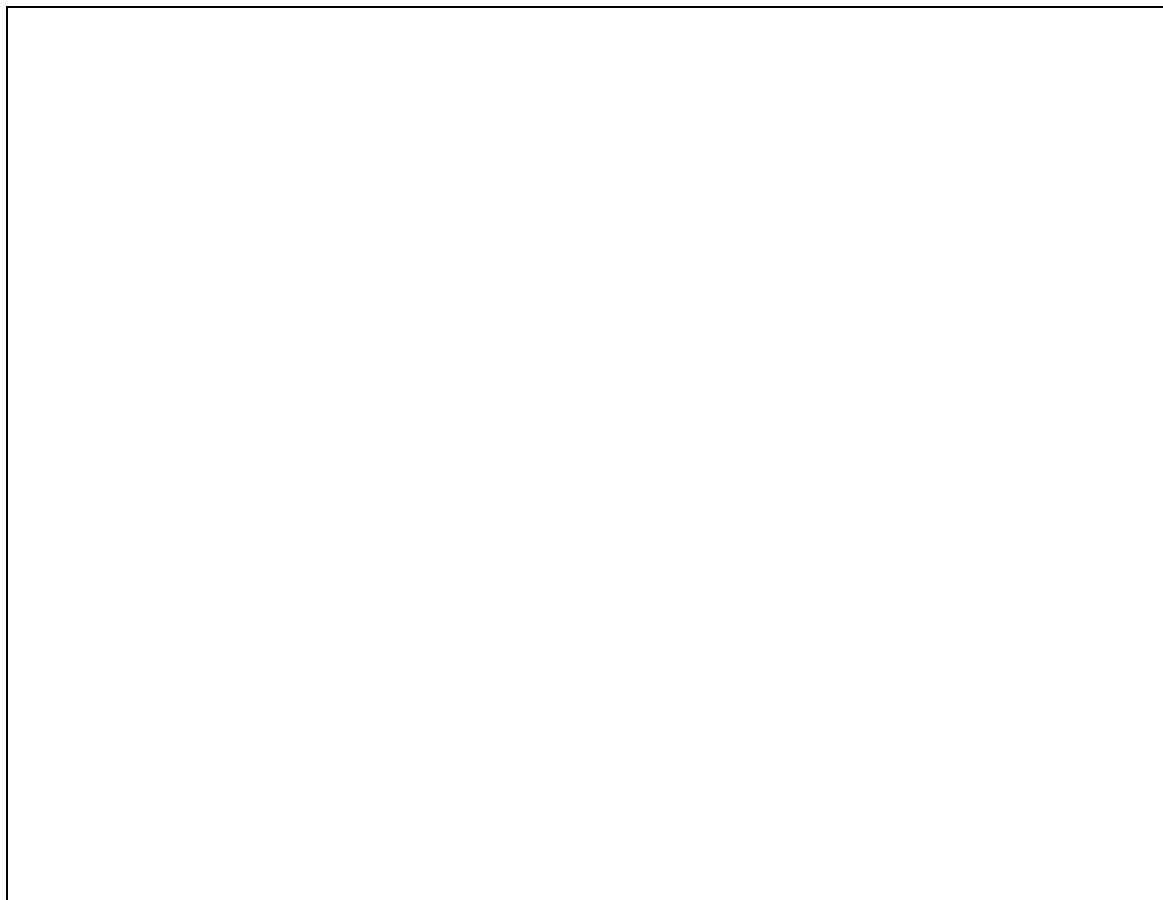
**Targeted question:** Should the Code and International Standards provide further guidance on the roles and responsibilities of other Classification Personnel (e.g., administrative officers, research partners, and education managers)?

Please provide a rationale for your response.

**Targeted question:** Do you have an objections to the Head of Classification acting at the same time as a Classifier or a Chief Classifier for the same International Federation?

If yes, please specify why.

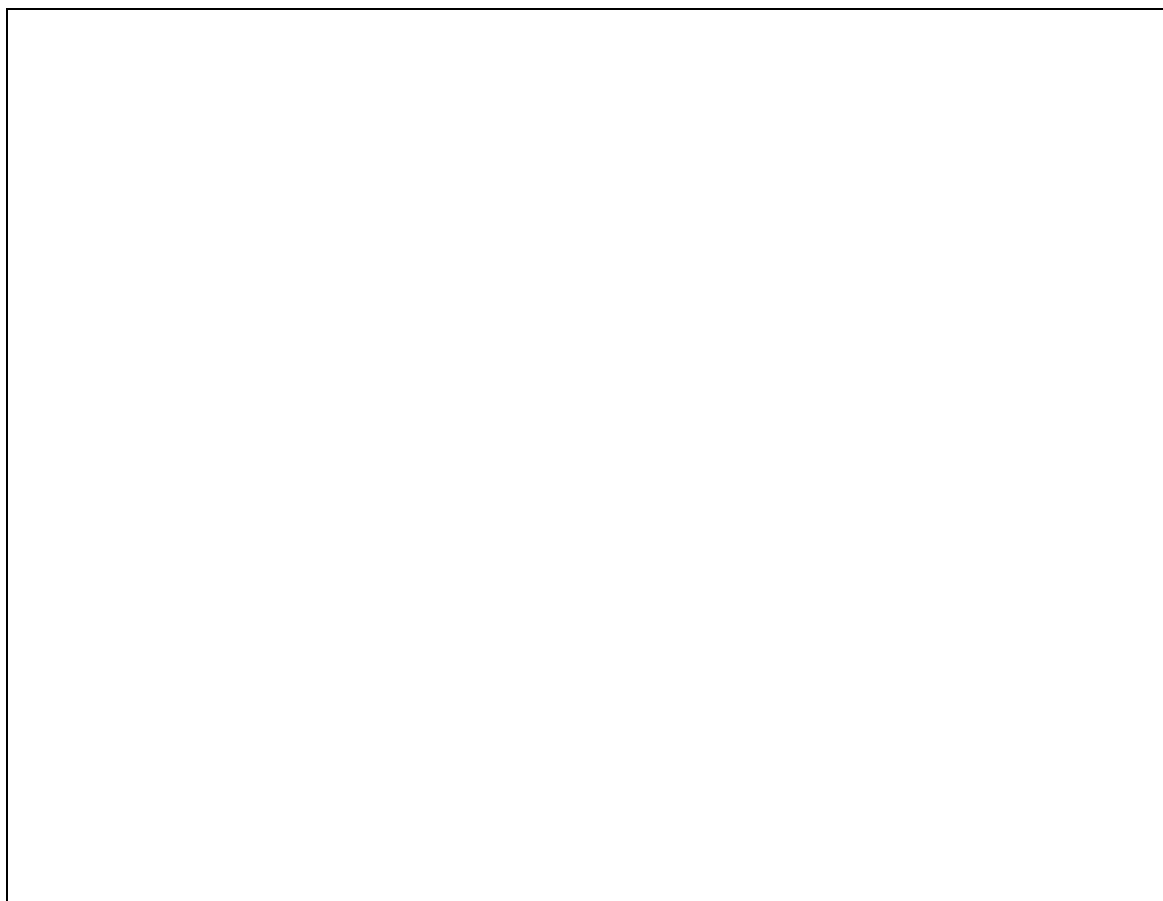
Do you have any other feedback on the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide their feedback on the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training.

### **3 INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR CLASSIFICATION DATA PROTECTION**

This International Standard contains precise and specific provisions regarding the standards that Classification Organisations should adopt and implement relating to the personal data that they process during Classification. The new draft builds on the current International Standard and provides clearer and up-to-date information. There are no new sections in this International Standard, but all the provisions have been further clarified.

Do you have any feedback on the International Standard for Classification Data Protection?



## **4 GENERAL FEEDBACK**

Do you have any other feedback on the first draft of the IPC Classification Code or the International Standards (version July 2022)?

This is your opportunity to provide general comments on the draft Code or feedback on a specific article not referred to already in this survey. Please ensure that you specify the article that you are referring to.