



International
Paralympic
Committee

International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training

September 2016

International Paralympic Committee

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Introduction

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

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

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training must be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

Purpose

The purpose of the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training is to outline the procedures for Classifier recruitment, training, certification and Re-certification.

Definitions

This International Standard uses the defined terms in the Code and other International Standards. Further defined terms specific to this International Standard are as follows:

Classifier Certification: the processes by which an International Sport Federation must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

Classifier Competencies: the qualifications and abilities that the International Sport Federation deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by that International Sport Federation.

Continuing Education: the delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by an International Sport Federation to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

Entry Criteria: standards set by an International Sport Federation relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may, for example, include



former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

Entry-level Education: the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by an International Sport Federation to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

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

Re-certification: the process by which an International Sport Federation must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.



1 General Provisions

- 1.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of Classification Rules. Classifiers are the International Sport Federation officials responsible for Athlete Evaluation according to the specific requirements of each sport, the Code and the International Standards.
- 1.2 International Sport Federations *must* have within their Classification Rules a clear and transparent process for the recruitment, education, training, certification and Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 1.3 This process *must* include:
 - 1.3.1 Entry Criteria;
 - 1.3.2 the required mode of education and training necessary to obtain and maintain Classifier Certification, including Re-certification;
 - 1.3.3 Classifier Competencies;
 - 1.3.4 Classifier Certification; and
 - 1.3.5 a Classifier Code of Conduct.

2 Classification Personnel

- 2.1 An International Sport Federation must appoint the Classification Personnel as specified below:

Classifiers
- 2.2 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official by an International Sport Federation to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.
- 2.3 An International Sport Federation must set Entry Criteria in respect of the persons that it will certify as Classifiers.
- 2.4 Classifiers may be former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the competencies and qualifications relevant to conduct all, or specific parts, of Athlete Evaluation, according to the Classification Rules of the relevant International Sport Federation.



[Comment to Article 2.4: Each International Sport Federation determines what qualifications and competencies it requires Classifiers to have and must make these requirements clear and transparent. Some sports will require specialist medical expertise, others will require specific sport experience, and others may require a combination of expertise.]

Classification Panels

- 2.5** A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by an International Sport Federation to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules of that International Sport Federation.

Head of Classification

- 2.6** The Head of Classification is a person appointed by an International Sport Federation to be responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for that International Sport Federation.
- 2.7** If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, an International Sport Federation may appoint another person, or group of persons (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification.
- 2.8** If not a certified Classifier, the Head of Classification must work closely together with experienced Classifiers in the sport.
- 2.9** The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other International Sport Federation officers or representatives.
- 2.10** If certified as a Classifier, the Head of Classification may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

Chief Classifier

- 2.11** The Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by an International Sport Federation to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to that International Sport Federation Classification Rules.
- 2.12** The Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other Classifiers, or other International Sport Federation officers or representatives, and/or appointed persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.



Trainee Classifiers

- 2.13 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training to become a Classifier for that International Sport Federation.
- 2.14 An International Sport Federation may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel to develop the necessary Classifier Competencies in order to achieve certification.

3 Classifier Training

- 3.1 International Sport Federations must provide training and education to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 3.2 International Sport Federations must specify in their Classification Rules Entry-level Education and how they will provide Continuing Education for advanced training and Maintaining Certification of Classifiers.
- 3.3 International Sport Federations are recommended to make Classifier training and education resources available to National Bodies or National Paralympic Committees for the purpose of national Classifier training.

4 Classifier Competencies

- 4.1 International Sport Federations *must* have within their Classification Rules a clear description of Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 Classifier Competencies *must* include that a Classifier has:
 - 4.2.1 a thorough understanding of the relevant sport Classification Rules;
 - 4.2.2 an understanding of the relevant sport and its rules;
 - 4.2.3 an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and
 - 4.2.4 the professional qualifications, level of experience and any other skills or competencies the relevant International Sport Federation determines the Classifier must possess to conduct Athlete Evaluation in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.



5 Classifier Certification Process

- 5.1 Classifier Certification is the process through which an individual achieves the Classifier Competencies in a particular sport.
- 5.2 Classifier Certification *must* include:
- 5.2.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
 - 5.2.2 quality assessment for the period of a certification;
 - 5.2.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/ or withdrawal of certification;
 - 5.2.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers; and
 - 5.2.5 a process for non-active Classifiers.
- 5.3 International Sport Federations must make provision in their Classification Rules for Classifier Certification.

[Comment to Article 5.3: An International Sport Federation may decide to introduce levels of certification or licensure for Classifiers and the required competencies for each.]

- 5.4 An International Sport Federation may provide that Classifier Certification is subject to certain limitations, including but not limited to:
- 5.4.1 a limitation on the impairment type, such as physical, vision or intellectual, for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
 - 5.4.2 a limitation on the components of Classification for which a Classifier is certified to conduct, such as medical or technical;
 - 5.4.3 a limitation on the level of Competition or event at which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
 - 5.4.4 that the Classifier Certification is valid for a specific time frame only;
 - 5.4.5 that the Classifier Certification must be made subject to review within a specific timeframe by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
 - 5.4.6 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if the International Sport Federation is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or



- 5.4.7 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if the International Sport Federation is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

6 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 6.1 The integrity of Classification in Para sport depends on the professional conduct of Classification Personnel. International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules a clear set of behavioural and ethical standards that all Classification Personnel must comply with when acting as a Classifier or Trainee Classifier. These standards are referred to as a 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 6.2 International Sport Federations must provide within their Classification Rules that all Classification Personnel must comply with the relevant Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 6.3 Each International Sport Federation's Classifier Code of Conduct *must* provide that Classifiers:
- 6.3.1 comply with the International Sport Federation Code of Ethics;
 - 6.3.2 act as neutral evaluators in determining Sport Class and Sport Class Status for all Athletes;
 - 6.3.3 perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes;
 - 6.3.4 maintain confidentiality of Athlete Evaluation information in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation;
 - 6.3.5 comply with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection;
 - 6.3.6 declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest; and
 - 6.3.7 must not assume any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a Competition.

[Comment to Article 6.3.7: Classifiers must avoid taking on any other roles and responsibilities at Competitions where they are acting as Classifiers. For example, a Classifier must not act as a technical official at a Competition, such as a judge or other sport official, when acting as a Classifier in that same Competition. Similarly, Classifiers must declare any pre-existing personal or professional relationship(s) that may give rise to the perception or possibility of that relationship affecting their ability to make an objective decision or assessment when acting as a Classifier.]



- 6.4** International Sport Federations must also include in their Classifier Code of Conduct a provision that enables the International Sport Federation to determine, in its sole discretion, whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

[Comment to Article 6.4: International Sport Federations have the right not to appoint Classifiers, or withdraw appointments of Classifiers, who are in personal or professional relationships that might, in the view of the International Sport Federation, give rise to an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest.]

- 6.5** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules procedures for reporting and investigating complaints of non-compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct that must include procedures for taking disciplinary measures against Classifiers found to be in violation of the Classifier Code of Conduct.