

IPC ALPINE SKIING CLASSIFICATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Version December 2009

1. Introduction to Classification

1.1 Governance

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

IPC has designated these Classification Rules and Regulations as being part of the Sport Rules of Alpine Skiing.

1.2 Structure of Classification Regulations

1.2.1 The Classification Regulations contained in this document provide a framework within which the process of classification may take place. Classification is undertaken so that Athletes can be designated a Sport Class (which groups Athletes together in Competition) and allocated a Sport Class Status (which indicates when Athletes should be evaluated and how their Sport Class may be challenged).

1.2.2 The allocation to an Athlete of a Sport Class is determined by a variety of processes that may include a physical and technical assessment and observation in training and/or competition, as explained in these Classification Regulations.

1.2.3 A Sport Profile explains how an Athlete may be considered eligible to compete within a particular Sport Class. A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete based on the degree to which an Athlete satisfies the requirements of the “Sport Profile” for that Sport Class.



1.2.4 The Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes that comprise the Sport of Alpine Skiing are set out in Appendix One to these Classification Regulations.

1.3 Purpose of Classification Regulations

1.3.1 The term “classification”, as used in these Rules, refers to the process by which Athletes are assessed by reference to the impact of impairment on their ability to compete in Alpine Skiing Events. It is intended to provide a framework for fair Competition and to ensure that the strategies, skills and talent of Athletes and teams determine competitive success. Classification is undertaken to both ensure that a relevant level of impairment is present in an Athlete, and that that impairment has a demonstrable impact upon sport performance.

1.3.2 The IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Profiles explain how an Athlete may be eligible to compete in IPC Alpine Skiing sporting event.

1.4 IPC Classification Code

IPC Alpine Skiing has implemented these Classification Regulations in compliance with the IPC Classification Code (the IPC Code). In the event that there is any inconsistency between any provisions of these Classification Regulations and the IPC Code, the provisions appearing in the IPC Code shall prevail.

1.5 Definitions

A Glossary of Defined Terms (which generally appear in capital letters in these Rules) is included within these Classification Regulations, although certain terms are defined in the body of these Classification Regulations.

2. Classifiers

2.1 Classification Personnel

2.1.1 The IPC Classification Code and IPC Alpine Skiing recognise Classifiers as games officials.



- 2.1.2** IPC Alpine Skiing should appoint the following personnel. Each will have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of classification for IPC Alpine Skiing:

Head of Classification

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

Classifier

A Classifier will be a person appointed and certified by IPC Alpine Skiing as being competent to evaluate Athletes (as part of a Classification Panel) for international Competition.

Chief Classifier

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

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

Medical: a doctor who has experience in dealing with people with the impairments and Activity Limitations described in the Sport Profiles; or

Physiotherapist: a physiotherapist (or practitioner from a related discipline) trained to work with individuals with the



impairments and Activity Limitations described in the Sport Profiles.

2.2 Classifiers – Levels and Duties

IPC Alpine Skiing categorises its Classifiers as follows:

2.2.1 Trainee - An individual who is being trained by IPC Alpine Skiing, but who is not yet certified as a Classifier. A trainee cannot be a Member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. The duties of the trainee may include participation in and observation of the classification process to become familiar with the Classification Regulations, developing competencies and proficiencies relevant to Athlete Evaluation, assistance in research, and attending classification meetings at Competitions. A Trainee Classifier is required to adhere to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

2.2.2 Level 1 - International Classifier - a Classifier who has successfully completed IPC Alpine Skiing training and has been certified to be a member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. The Classifier is required to adhere to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of a Level 1 Classifier may include, but are not limited to: being part of a Classification Panel at IPC Alpine Skiing sanctioned events; being part of a Protest Panel at IPC Alpine Skiing sanctioned events; attending classification meetings at Competitions; and assisting in Classifier training and certification as requested by the Head of Classification.

2.2.3 Level 2 – Senior Classifier - a Senior Classifier acts in a leadership capacity at Competitions and reports to the Chief Classifier. Senior Classifiers have completed IPC Alpine Skiing training, show leadership, participate in research and development of the classification system, and have sufficient experience to implement the IPC Alpine Skiing Classification Regulations at a Competition. The Classifier is required to adhere to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of a Senior Classifier may include, but are not limited to assisting in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Regulations and profiles for IPC Alpine Skiing; participation in Classifier workshops; assisting in regular reviews of Classification Regulations and Sport Profiles; and supervising and evaluating Classifiers.



3. Classification Panels and Classification

3.1 Classification Panels

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

3.2 National Classification

All Athletes eligible to participate in IPC Alpine Skiing Competitions should, where possible, be classified by their own National Federation. National classification should be conducted in accordance with the Sport Profiles. National Classifiers should be trained according to IPC Alpine Skiing approved standards.

3.3 International Classification

- 3.3.1** “International Classification” refers to the process of Athlete Evaluation (as explained in these Classification Regulations) that is undertaken at, or before, a major and/or international Competition that has been sanctioned by IPC Alpine Skiing.
- 3.3.2** An Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class by an International Classification Panel prior to being eligible to compete in an international or major Competition sanctioned by IPC Alpine Skiing.
- 3.3.3** An “International Classification Panel” must conduct International Classifications. An International Classification Panel should be comprised of suitably accredited and certified Classifiers. An International Classification Panel must comprise



not less than two Classifiers, and a major Competition must have at least two Classification Panels (subject to Section 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 below).

- 3.3.4** An International Classification Panel appointed to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of Athletes intending to compete in Sport Classes for Visually Impaired athletes may consist of one Classifier only. This is to be treated as a transition measure, which is intended to cease to be of any effect after sport specific Athlete Evaluation is introduced in respect of Sport Profiles for Visually Impaired Athletes.
- 3.3.5** The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier may designate that a Classification Panel may consist of one suitably accredited and qualified physician or physiotherapist in special cases, in particular where the number of available Classifiers is reduced prior to or at a Competition through unforeseen circumstances.
- 3.3.6** An International Classification Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise if it considers that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

3.4 Preparing Classification Panels for Competition

- 3.4.1** The Head of Classification should, where possible, appoint a Chief Classifier at least three (3) months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels should, where possible, be appointed two (2) months before a Competition.
- 3.4.2** The Head of Classification may act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The Head of Classification and the Chief Classifier should work with the Local Organising Committee for the Competition to identify which Athletes will require Athlete Evaluation at the Competition.
- 3.4.3** The Chief Classifier should provide the Local Organising Committee for the Competition and National Federation teams with an Athlete Evaluation schedule on or before their arrival at the Competition.
- 3.4.4** In respect of Competitions where both physically and visually impaired Athletes are to compete, the Chief Classifier must ensure that Classification Panels are certified to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of physically impaired and/or visually impaired Athletes. In respect of major Competitions, this may result in four Classification Panels being required, two



in order to conduct Athlete Evaluation for physically impaired Athletes, and two in order to conduct Athlete Evaluation for visually impaired Athletes.

- 3.4.5** A Classification Panel may conduct Athlete Evaluation for both physically and visually impaired Athletes if the Members of the Classification Panel are suitably qualified and certified.

4. Classification: Athlete Evaluation

4.1 Athlete Evaluation

- 4.1.1** “Athlete Evaluation” is the process by which an Athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel in order that the Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 4.1.2** Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes shall be conducted in English.
- 4.1.3** The Athlete and the relevant National Federation are jointly responsible for ensuring that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.4** The Athlete must agree to and accept the terms of the IPC Alpine Skiing Athlete Evaluation Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.1.5** The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation with all necessary sports equipment and in such attire as is specified for the Sport for which the Athlete is being evaluated. The Athlete must provide a recognised form of identification, such as a passport or an ID Card.
- 4.1.6** If an Athlete has a health condition that causes pain, which limits or prohibits full effort, the Classification Panel may decide that Athlete Evaluation will not take place. The Classification Panel may, in its sole discretion, agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.
- 4.1.7** The Athlete must disclose details of any medication routinely used by the Athlete prior to Athlete Evaluation. The Classification Panel may in its sole discretion decline to proceed with Athlete Evaluation if it considers that the use of such medication will affect its ability to conduct Physical and Medical Assessment. The Classification Panel may agree to



Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.

- 4.1.8** If an Athlete fails to disclose the use of medication as required by Section 4.1.7 the Chief Classifier may set aside the Athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status, and require that the Athlete repeat Athlete Evaluation. If this results in a change in Sport Class the consequences set out in Section 5.6 below shall apply.
- 4.1.9** One person may accompany athletes during Athlete Evaluation, who should be familiar with the Athlete's impairment and sporting ability. An interpreter may also accompany the Athlete.
- 4.1.10** Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition.

4.2 Athlete Evaluation Process

The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following:

4.2.1 Physical Assessment

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

4.2.2 Technical Assessment

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

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



4.2.3 Specified Means of Physical and Technical Assessment

These Regulations may specify certain means of conducting Physical and Technical Assessment. These means are included as Appendix Two to these Regulations and may be amended and/or updated from time to time by IPC Alpine Skiing.

4.2.4 Observation Assessment

The Classification Panel may, if it considers it necessary, conduct Observation Assessment, which shall involve observing an Athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the Sport. Observation Assessment may take place by way of, but must conclude no later than, First Appearance.

4.2.5 Observation Assessment and Visually Impaired Athletes

Observation Assessment is not required in respect of Visually Impaired Athletes who undergo Athlete Evaluation pursuant to the Sport Profiles for Visually Impaired Sport Classes.

5. Classification: Sport Class and Sport Class Status

5.1 Sport Class and Sport Class Status

5.1.1 Sport Class

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

5.1.1.2 A Sport Class will be allocated to an Athlete following completion of Athlete Evaluation.

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



for a Competition must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at that Competition.

5.1.2 Sport Class Status

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

5.1.2.2 Sport Class Status indicates the extent to which an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation, and whether (and by what party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

5.1.3 Sport Class Status Designations

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

5.1.3.1 Sport Class Status New (N)

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

- has not been evaluated by an International Classification Panel but has been allocated an Entry Sport Class by a National Federation (following National classification or otherwise) in order that Athlete Evaluation may take place; or
- has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel and allocated Sport Class NE, and wishes to undertake Athlete Evaluation.
- has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel at a previous international Competition and found to be either Non Cooperative during Evaluation, or Intentionally Misrepresenting Skills during Evaluation.

N Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at an international or major Competition sanctioned by IPC Alpine Skiing.

5.1.3.2 Sport Class Status Review (R)

Sport Class Status Review (R) is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel but is subject to re-evaluation. The Athlete must attend Athlete Evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during a Competition. R Athletes include, but are not limited, to Athletes who have fluctuating and/or



progressive impairments, or, because of their age, have impairments that may not have stabilised.

R Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at an international or major Competition sanctioned by IPC Alpine Skiing.

5.1.3.3 Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is assigned to an Athlete who has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel and the International Classification Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change. An Athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete Athlete Evaluation at Competitions sanctioned by IPC Alpine Skiing. An Athlete with a C Sport Class must, however, undergo Athlete Evaluation if a Protest is made under Exceptional Circumstances.

5.1.3.4 Restrictions on Allocating Confirmed Status

An Athlete who wishes to compete within a Sport Class for Physically Impaired Athletes cannot be assigned a Confirmed Sport Class:

- until Observation Assessment and/or First Appearance requirements, if required by a Classification Panel, are satisfied;
- if the Classification Panel which designated the relevant Sport Class consisted of one Classifier only.

For the avoidance of doubt this Section does not apply to Athletes who wish to compete within a Sport Class for Visually Impaired Athletes.

5.2 Ineligibility and Sport Class NE

- 5.2.1** If an Athlete does not have a relevant impairment (according to the rules of the Sport in which the Athlete is seeking to participate), or has an Activity Limitation resulting from a relevant impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the Athlete's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with Athletes without impairment, the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete.



- 5.2.2** In these circumstances, the Athlete will be assigned Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 5.2.3** If an International Classification Panel allocates an Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible at a Competition, the Athlete will be entitled to undergo Athlete Evaluation by a second Classification Panel either at that Competition or as soon as practicable thereafter. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete's Sport Class is NE the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition, and will have no further right to Protest.
- 5.2.4** Section 5.2.3 shall not apply to an Athlete Evaluation conducted following a Protest made under Exceptional Circumstances.

5.3 Allocation of Sport Class to Visually Impaired Athletes

- 5.3.1** If an Athlete wishes to compete within a Sport Class designated for Visually Impaired Athletes, the Athlete must complete Physical Assessment and Technical Assessment only. Athlete Evaluation will be completed once Physical Assessment and Technical Assessment have been completed to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel. The Athlete will then be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status by the Classification Panel.
- 5.3.2** The Athlete will not be required to undertake Observation Assessment and will not be subject to First Appearance requirements.

5.4 First Appearance

- 5.4.1** "First Appearance" means the first time that an Athlete competes during a Competition. First Appearance in one Event shall apply to all Events within the same Sport Class.
- 5.4.2** The Local Organising Committee for a Competition shall provide all teams with details of which Athletes who enter a Competition with Sport Class Status N or R are scheduled to make First Appearance, and when they are scheduled to make First Appearance.



5.5 Allocation of Sport Class to Physically Impaired Athletes

5.5.1 Following completion of Physical Assessment and Technical Assessment the Athlete will be:

- a) allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status; or
- b) if Observation Assessment is required, allocated an Initial Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

5.5.2 An Athlete will be permitted to compete at a Competition following the allocation of an Initial Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

5.5.3 If the Athlete is required by the Classification Panel to complete Observation Assessment, this should take place either before or during First Appearance.

5.5.4 Following completion of Observation Assessment for Athletes with Initial Sport Class New Status (which may be completed by the Athlete making a First Appearance in a Competition):

- a) the Athlete's Initial Sport Class will either be upheld or amended by the Classification Panel; and
- b) the Classification Panel will change the Athlete's Initial Sport Class Status to either Review or Confirmed.

5.5.5 Following completion of Observation Assessment for Athletes with Initial Sport Class Review Status (which may be completed by the Athlete making a First Appearance in a Competition):

- a) the Athlete's Initial Sport Class will either be upheld or amended by the Classification Panel; and
- b) the Athlete's Initial Sport Class Status will be maintained as Review or changed to Confirmed by the Classification Panel.

5.5.6 Sections 5.5.4 and 5.5.5 shall be subject to sub-section 5.1.3.4 in relation to the allocation of a Confirmed Sport Class.

5.5.7 The Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete following completion of Athlete Evaluation will be notified to the National team representative for the Athlete and the Local Organising Committee for the Competition as soon as possible following First Appearance.



5.6 Changes in Sport Class after First Appearance

5.6.1 An Athlete's Initial Sport Class may be changed following First Appearance.

If an Athlete with an Initial Sport Class makes a First Appearance in an Event, that Event shall be called in this subsection "the First Appearance Event". If the Athlete's Initial Sport Class is changed following First Appearance:

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

5.7 Final Confirmation at the end of the Competition

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

6. Classification: Failing to Comply with Evaluation Rules

6.1 Athlete Failure to attend Evaluation

- 6.1.1** If an Athlete fails to attend evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.



- 6.1.2** Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend evaluation, an Athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend evaluation.
- 6.1.3** Failure to attend evaluation includes not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place; or not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation; or not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

6.2 Non-Cooperation during Evaluation

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

6.3 Intentional Misrepresentation

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

In addition:

- The Athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of two (2) years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities;



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

6.3.2 An Athlete who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from IPC Alpine Skiing events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate to IPC Alpine Skiing.

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

6.4.1 IPC Alpine Skiing shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete evaluation; to fail to cooperate; intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

6.4.2 Those who are involved in advising Athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions given to the Athlete.

6.4.3 In this circumstance, reporting the Athlete Support Personnel to the appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by the Athlete.

6.5 Publication of Penalties

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



7. Classification: Protests and Appeals

7.1 Protests

- 7.1.1** The term “Protest” is used in these Rules as it is in the IPC Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals. It refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete’s Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 7.1.2** A successful Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a “Protest Panel”.
- 7.1.3** An Athlete's Sport Class may only be protested once in any individual Competition. This restriction does not apply to Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 7.1.4** IPC Alpine Skiing may only resolve a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by IPC Alpine Skiing.
- 7.1.5** Protests should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on Competition participation, and Competition schedules and results.
- 7.1.6** Protests may be submitted only during a Competition (save for Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances).

7.2 When Protests May Take Place

- 7.2.1** Athletes with Sport Class New Status (N) may be protested by any National Federation, or the Chief Classifier, following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall be designated:
- Review Status (R); or
 - Confirmed Status (C); or
 - Not Eligible to Compete (NE)
- 7.2.2** Athletes with Sport Class Status Review (R) may be protested by any National Federation or the Chief Classifier following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall remain Review Status or be designated:



- Confirmed (C) Status; or
- Not Eligible to Compete (NE)

7.2.3 Athletes with Sport Class Confirmed Status (C) may be protested only in Exceptional Circumstances.

7.3 Protest Procedures during Competitions

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

7.3.2 The Chief Classifier for the event, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorised to receive Protests on behalf of IPC Alpine Skiing at an event.

7.3.3 An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested, either by the Athlete's National Federation or a different National Federation within one (1) hour of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class being published. If the Classification Panel makes its decision following First Appearance, a Protest can only be made within fifteen (15) minutes of the decision being published.

7.3.4 Protests must be submitted in English on a designated Protest form that should be made available by the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest form must include the following:

- The name, nation and sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
- Details of the decision being protested;
- The reason for the Protest;
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest;
- The signature of the National Federation representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable; and
- A fee of one hundred (100) Euros (unless there is a different amount specified for that Competition).

7.3.5 Upon receipt of the Protest form, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that if there is no valid reason for a Protest, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier shall decline the



protest and notify all relevant parties. IPC Alpine Skiing will retain the Protest fee.

- 7.3.6** If the Protest is declined the Chief Classifier shall explain why to the National Federation as soon as is possible.
- 7.3.7** If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel shall consist of, at a minimum, the same number of Classifiers as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, and shall comprise Classifiers of equal or greater level of certification as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class.
- 7.3.8** The Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation that led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than eighteen (18) months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 7.3.9** The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 7.3.10** All documentation submitted with the Protest form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. Protest Panels should conduct the initial evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel that allocated the Athlete's most recent Sport Class.
- 7.3.11** The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class (including the initial Classification Panel).
- 7.3.12** Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in these Regulations. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation. IPC Alpine Skiing will retain the Protest fee unless the Protest is upheld.
- 7.3.13** The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest.

7.4 Protests in Exceptional Circumstances

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

Exceptional circumstances may result from:



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

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

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

7.4.2 Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in these Regulations. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.

7.4.3 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest.

7.5 Responsibility for Ensuring Compliance with Protest Rules

7.5.1 A National Federation making a Protest is solely responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.

7.5.2 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest because no valid reason for a Protest has been identified by the National Federation, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest. The time frames for submitting a Protest shall remain the same in such circumstances.



7.5.3 If a National Federation resubmits a Protest, all protest procedure requirements will apply. For the avoidance of doubt, a second Protest fee must be paid (which will be refunded if the Protest is upheld).

7.6 Appeals

The term "appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

IPC Alpine Skiing has designated the International Paralympic Committee Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the appeal body for IPC Alpine Skiing. The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals to the BAC are provided by the IPC. The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws, which are part of the IPC Handbook.

The BAC shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed; and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.

8. Ad Hoc Rules for Paralympic Games and Major Events

These Classification Regulations may be amended, supplemented or superseded by the Classification Guide for a Paralympic Winter Games or Major Competition. The Classification Guide for a Paralympic Winter Games or Major Competition shall detail the timeframes within which the Classification Guide will take precedence over these Regulations.



Glossary

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



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



APPENDIX ONE: IPC ALPINE SKIING SPORT PROFILES

This Appendix details the Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes designated by IPC Alpine Skiing for Physically and Visually Impaired Athletes.

Each Sport Profile explains the “Inclusion Criteria” for that Sport Class, which in turn describe the impairment (or degree of impairment) that the Athlete must exhibit in order to be eligible to compete within that Sport Class. The Sport Profiles for the Sport Classes designated by IPC Alpine Skiing for Physically Impaired Athletes also describe the manner in which the Athlete will compete.

Class LW2

Athletes eligible for Class LW2 are those with impairment in one entire lower limb (involving pelvis and structures distal).

The Athlete must ski using two skis and two ski poles.

Inclusion Criteria:

Single above knee amputation; or

Single through knee amputation; or

Single arthrodesis or ankylosis of knee and/or hip with zero degree of movement of the knee and/or hip; or

Single lower limb impairment that may require use of full limb orthosis;
or

Single lower limb affected by:

- Paralysis comparable to a through knee or above knee amputation;
or
- Dysmelia comparable to a through knee or above knee amputation;
or
- Other orthopedic or neurological involvement comparable to a through knee or above knee amputation.



Class LW3

Athletes eligible for Class LW3 are those with impairment in two lower limbs, which includes whole and/or partial limb dysfunction.

The Athlete must ski using two skis and two ski poles.

Inclusion Criteria:

Above knee or below knee amputations in both legs; or

Bilateral forefoot amputation proximal to metatarsals; or

Functional double foot impairment resembling double forefoot amputation; or

Permanent incomplete spinal cord injury paralysis without spasticity where muscle strength is decreased bilaterally; maximal 65 points total for both limbs and with a minimal of five points missing in one of the legs; one of the movements must have at least three points missing; or

Incomplete spinal cord injury with severe spasticity (Grade 3-2); or

Neuromuscular diseases comparable to double below knee amputation with ordinary prosthesis; or

Spastic diplegia; or

Dysmelias comparable to double below knee amputation with ordinary prosthesis; or

Bilateral fixed knee joints.

Class LW4

Athletes eligible for Class LW4 are those with impairment in one lower limb below the knee.

The Athlete must ski using two skis and two ski poles.

Inclusion Criteria:

Single below knee amputation minimum through the ankle joint; or

Motor paresis or paralysis with decrease of muscular strength on the lower limbs with a maximum of 70 points (able bodied normal = 80) of



muscle strength. At least 10 points missing in one of the legs and one of the movements must have at least three points missing; or

Monoplegia, comparable with single below knee amputation; or

The difference in length between right and left legs is at least 7cm after correction.

Class LW5/7

Athletes eligible for Class LW5/7 are those with impairment in both upper limbs.

The Athlete must ski using two skis but no ski poles.

Inclusion Criteria:

Bilateral upper limb amputation; or

Motor paresis/paralysis or dysmelia of both upper limbs

Class LW6

Athletes eligible for Class LW6 are those with impairment in one entire upper limb.

The Athlete must ski using two skis and one ski pole.

Inclusion Criteria:

Single upper limb amputation through or above the elbow; or

Comparable motor paresis or paralysis in one upper limb above the elbow and/or involves the entire limb; in such cases the athlete has no use of the entire limb and therefore the limb must be fixed to the body during competition. Use of prosthetic is not allowed; or

Dysmelia or similar condition above the elbow; or

Neuromuscular disease or orthopedic condition affecting one arm comparable to above criteria. In such case the athlete has no use of the entire limb and therefore the limb must be fixed to the body during competition. Use of prosthetic is not allowed.



Class LW8

Athletes eligible for Class LW8 are those with impairment in one upper limb below the elbow.

The Athlete must ski using two skis and one ski pole.

Athletes in this class will be strictly forbidden to use affected arm to assist poling or paddling.

Inclusion Criteria:

Single upper limb amputation below the elbow; or

Comparable motor paresis or paralysis in one upper limb below the elbow; or

Dysmelia or similar conditions below the elbow; or

Fixed elbow with less than 5 degrees flexion or extension and with no ability to ski with a ski pole on the affected side; or

Neuromuscular disease or orthopedic condition affecting one arm comparable to above criteria.

Class LW9

Athletes eligible for LW9 are those with a combination of impairments in both the upper and lower extremities.

The Athlete must ski using two skis and either one ski pole or two ski poles.

Upon observation, athletes may be placed in other classes depending on the athlete's technical ability on the track.

Inclusion Criteria:

The athlete has impairment in one arm and one leg meeting impairment criteria according to Sport Class LW4 and LW8; or

Cerebral palsy, or a neurological impairment that presents in a similar way to cerebral palsy, affecting at least one arm and one leg.



Class LW10*

Inclusion Criteria

Athletes eligible for class LW10 are those with impairments in the lower limb(s) and the trunk.

Athlete Profile

The athlete will have minimal trunk muscle activity in flexion and extension so that the athlete is unable to maintain a sitting position against gravity while properly strapped to the test table and without arm support; and

The Athlete will have no buttock sensibility S1-S5

Class LW10.5*

Inclusion Criteria

Athletes eligible for class LW10.5 are those with impairments in the lower limb(s) and the trunk.

Athlete Profile

The athlete will have some upper abdominal and trunk extensor muscle activity or lower motor function with spinal fusion or scoliosis; and

The athlete will sit statically without arm support when sitting with proper strapping to the test table and will not be able to move beyond base of support; and

The Athlete will have no buttock sensibility S1-S5

Class LW11*

Inclusion Criteria

Athletes eligible for class LW11 are those with impairments in the lower limbs and the trunk. The athlete retains the use of abdominal muscles and trunk extensor muscles, especially those muscle attaching to the pelvis.

Athlete Profile

The athlete will be unable to stand and/or walk even with orthosis; and



The athlete will be able to sit unsupported (with or without strapping) on the test table and move trunk out of base of support and return unaided while maintaining sitting position; and

The athlete will be unable to flex either hip from a sitting position against gravity; and

The athlete will be may have loss of buttock sensibility S1-S5

Class LW11.5*

Inclusion Criteria

Athletes eligible for class LW11.5 are those with impairments in the lower limb(s) and the trunk. Athletes have near to normal trunk muscles activation.

Athlete Profile

The athlete may be able to stand or walk with or without aid of orthosis; and

The athlete will be able to flex either hip from a sitting position against gravity through partial range; and

The athlete may have some hip extension (Grade 2 or less); and

The athlete may have loss of buttock sensibility S1-S5

Class LW12*

Inclusion Criteria

Athletes eligible for class LW12 are those with impairments in the lower limb(s) with normal trunk function.

Athlete Profile

The athlete may have Grade 3-5 hip flexion and extension (unilateral or bilateral); and

The athlete may have incomplete loss of buttock sensibility S1-S5; and

The athlete may be able to walk with or without aids or orthosis.



*** Sport Profiles: Sitting Classes LW10-12:**

The Sport Profiles for these Sports Classes have common Inclusion Criteria. Each Sport Profile contains specific Inclusion Criteria relating to impairment and a separate “Athlete Profile” which describes the required level of Activity Limitation referable to impairment.

Inclusion Criteria for Classes LW10, LW10.5, LW11, LW11.5 and LW12:

Athletes competing in Sport Classes LW10, LW10.5, LW11, LW11.5 and LW12 will exhibit varying degrees of impairment. However, in order to be eligible to compete in Sport Classes LW10, LW10.5, LW11, LW11.5 and LW12 the Athlete must exhibit one of the following impairment(s):

Single below knee amputation minimum through the ankle joint; or

Motor paresis or paralysis with decrease of muscular strength on the lower limbs with a maximum of 70 points (able bodied normal = 80) of muscle strength. At least 10 points missing in one of the legs and one of the movements must have at least three points missing; or

Monoplegia, comparable with single below knee amputation; or

The difference in length between right and left legs is at least 7cm after correction.



Sport Profiles for Alpine Skiing – Visually Impaired Athletes

Each Sport Profile explains the “Inclusion Criteria” for that Sport Class, which in turn describe the impairment that the Athlete must exhibit in order to be eligible to compete within that Sport Class.

Class B1

Inclusion Criteria

The Athlete will have no light perception in either eye and/or slight perception, but will be unable to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction. The athlete skis with opaque goggles.

Class B2

Inclusion Criteria

The Athlete will only be able to recognize the shape of a hand up to a visual acuity of 2/60 and/or visual field of less than five degrees.

Class B3

Inclusion Criteria

The Athlete will have visual acuity from 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or visual field of more than five degrees but less than 20 degrees.



APPENDIX TWO: IPC ALPINE SKIING ASSESSMENT METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

This Appendix details the processes and techniques developed by IPC Alpine Skiing that form part of the Athlete Evaluation process. Classifiers use them in order to determine Sport Class.

IPC Alpine Ski Classification – Athletes with Physical Impairment LW2-12

1. General

The IPC Alpine Skiing Classification Rules require that an Athlete undertakes physical and technical evaluation in order to be allocated a Sport Class. This is required in order to establish that the Athlete exhibits an impairment that qualifies the Athlete for competition, and that the Athlete exhibits Activity Limitations resulting from that impairment that affect the Athlete’s ability to compete. Both of these components are part of the overall eligibility assessment process that is an integral feature of Athlete Evaluation.

In order to complete Physical and Technical Evaluation, a Classification Panel must:

- have access to medical documentation regarding the athlete’s impairment;
- conduct “functional testing” using standardized equipment as explained in the Classification Rules;
- conduct observation in training practice and/or competition

2. Classification Procedures:

A Classification Panel should ensure that the following assessment procedures are undertaken as part of physical and technical evaluation:

- 2.1** Completion of the personal data and medical information on the classification card.
- 2.2** Completion of a manual muscle test (Clarkson 2000) and/or joint mobility test (Clarkson 2000), and entering test results on the classification card. For the assessment of athletes with spinal cord injury, the ASIA classification has to be used (Maynard



1997) and for the assessment of CP Athletes the Ashworth Scale (Ashworth 1964).

- 2.3** Completion of a functional assessment with the appropriate tests which are dependent on the functional ability of the athlete.
- 2.4** Athletes with neurological impairment may be re-evaluated on an annual basis until they show a stable profile.
- 2.5** Observation of the Athlete in practice and/or in competition. Observation in competition complements physical and technical evaluation.

Athletes must attend evaluation with such ski equipment (for example, skis, poles and boots) as the Classification Panel may require.

Classification Panels are responsible for and manage any video recording necessary for classification purposes associated with the competition.

Physical and Technical Evaluation Requirements

Note: For all sitting classes the athletes are not permitted to use or have their lower limbs outside of their sit-ski at any time during the competition.

The Classification Panel shall conduct the following tests in connection with physical and technical evaluation.

The Athlete is required to be strapped to the test board, at the hip joint, over the knees and over the ankle, in order that the following may be assessed:

1. Trunk Function

- a. Muscle function
- b. Range of movement

2. Hip Function

- a. Flexion
- b. Extension
- c. Range of movement
- d. Amputee stump length

3. Buttock Sensibility According to the ASIA Classification

- 0 = No function, test impossible
- 1 = Weak or poor function
- 2 = Fair function
- 3 = Normal function



The athlete is in the long sitting position or with bended knees on the test table depending on his/her impairment. Special designed cushions are used to sit on and as support under the knees. The athlete has to be strapped to the test board, at the hip joint, over the knees and over the ankle.

The Classification Panel will ensure that the following tests are performed:

Test 1

Sitting ability and movement in the sagittal plane. Sitting with the hands behind the neck, flex forwards at the waists as much as possible. Then extend the trunk and lift to a position of 45° forwards flexion. Hold that position, keeping the hands behind the neck

Test 2

Sitting ability and movement in the sagittal plane. Arms folded over the chest, lean back to hold 45° backwards extension and come up again to a complete upright sitting position.

Test 3

Sitting ability and movement in the sagittal and frontal planes. Free rotation of the trunk in the long sitting position. Arms fully abducted.

Observation on the Track in Sitting Classes Requirements

The Classification Panel shall conduct the following tests in connection with physical and technical evaluation.

1. Sitting Position

- a. Leg position
- b. Strapping

2. Performance on the Track

- a. Changing tracks with trunk and hip assistance
- b. Climbing - trunk assistance
- c. Downhill - trunk stability and control
- d. Trunk control in curves



IPC Alpine Ski Classification – Athletes with Visual Impairment B1-3

A Classification Panel should ensure that the Athlete produces, as part of the physical and technical evaluation process, a Clinical Examination Report from Ophthalmologist, which should include at the minimum:

- a. Athlete identification
- b. Ophthalmologist identification
- c. Medical diagnosis
- d. List of medications currently used
- e. Prescription for use of lenses in sport, if applicable
- f. Prescription for use of spectacles in sport, if applicable
- g. Any (eye) surgery performed, and results of the outcome, if applicable
- h. Description of any progressive condition
- i. Depending on the nature of the impairment, latest report on:
 - i. Goldmann Visual Field Perimetry, stimulus III / 4 *
 - ii. Electroretinography (ERG/EOG)
 - iii. Visual Evoked Potentials (VEP)
 - iv. Cerebral Magnet Resonance Imaging (MRI)

* in case Goldmann Visual Field Perimetry is not available, results from the following tests will be considered as alternative:

- Twinfield Kinetic Manual Strategy
- Octopus Kinetic Manual Strategy

All documentation must be typewritten and in English

Failure to present the above information may result in the Athlete being designated as being Not Eligible.