

## **APPENDIX R15**

### **PARA ROWING CLASSIFICATION REGULATIONS – EVENT REGULATIONS AND/OR DEPARTURES FROM THE WORLD ROWING RULES OF RACING**

*The World Rowing Para Rowing Classification Regulations are an integral part of the World Rowing Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations.*

#### **International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code**

*World Rowing has implemented these Classification Regulations having regard to the IPC Classification Code (“the IPC Code”). In the event that these Classification Regulations fail to provide for a matter in respect of which there is provision in the IPC Code, the provisions appearing in the IPC Code shall apply and be regarded as being part of these Regulations.*

#### **1. Introduction to Classification**

- a. *Classification: An Overview*
  - i. *In accordance with the IPC Code, the term “classification”, as used in these Regulations, refers to the process by which athletes are evaluated by reference to the impact of impairment on their ability to compete in the sport of rowing. The purpose of Classification is to provide a structure for competition. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an athlete’s impairment is relevant to sport performance and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes. Classification determines the eligibility to compete and groups athletes for competition.*
  - ii. *The allocation to an athlete of a Sport Class is determined by a medical and technical assessment of the athlete, and, if required, observation in training and/or competition. These processes are explained in these Classification Regulations.*
  - iii. *A Sport Class will only be allocated to an Athlete who has an impairment that is the direct result of an underlying health condition which has resulted in a permanent and verifiable activity limitation.*
- b. *Eligible Impairments – Following is a list of eligible impairments, being those impairments accepted by World Rowing for classification of para rowers:*
  - i. *Visual impairment – Athletes with impaired vision have reduced or no vision as a result of damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain. Examples include: retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.*
  - ii. *Impaired muscle power – Athletes with impaired muscle power have a health condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force. Examples include: spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.*
  - iii. *Impaired range of movement – Athletes with impaired range of movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints. Examples include: arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.*
  - iv. *Limb deficiency – Athletes with limb deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).*

- v. *Hypertonia – Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.*
- vi. *Ataxia – Athletes with ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.*
- vii. *Athetosis – Athletes with athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements. Examples include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.*
- c. *Non-eligible Impairments – Any impairment not listed in Regulation 1) b) is referred to as a Non-eligible Impairment. Examples include:*
  - i. *Pain;*
  - ii. *Hearing impairment;*
  - iii. *Low muscle tone;*
  - iv. *Hypermobility of joints;*
  - v. *Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;*
  - vi. *Impaired muscle endurance;*
  - vii. *Impaired motor reflex functions;*
  - viii. *Impaired cardiovascular functions;*
  - ix. *Impaired respiratory functions;*
  - x. *Impairment metabolic functions;*
  - xi. *Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.*
- d. *The IPC has specified certain health conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Examples are:*
  - i. *Health conditions that primarily cause pain, such as myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.*
  - ii. *Health conditions that primarily cause fatigue, such as chronic fatigue syndrome.*
  - iii. *Health Conditions that primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia, such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.*
  - iv. *Health Conditions which are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature, such as conversion disorders or posttraumatic stress disorder.*
- e. *Submission and Review of Medical Documentation*
  - i. *An athlete's member federation shall upload all required relevant medical documentation via the World Rowing Pre-Classification Portal no later than 40 days prior to the date of classification. The purpose of this documentation is to allow World Rowing to verify that an athlete's impairments are the direct result of a health condition which has resulted in a permanent and verifiable activity limitation. Medical documentation here includes, but is not limited to, medical history or results from any relevant investigations (MRI, CT scan, EMG, EEG, nerve conduction, visual tests), athlete's date of birth, and date of injury. Where documentation is not submitted by the required deadline, an athlete may be refused classification evaluation.*
  - ii. *This documentation must be provided on the World Rowing Medical Diagnostics Form for athletes with physical impairments, and on the VI Medical Form for athletes with visual impairments.*
  - iii. *The documentation must be completed in full in English, and be dated and signed by an appropriate medical doctor. It must also include any required test results as listed on the*

*forms. Where the medical documentation is not written in English, an official translation shall be provided. Any translation must be accompanied by an official certification that it is a true and correct translation.*

- iv. Upon receipt, the Chief Classifier will review and either accept the documentation as uploaded, or may request the member federation to provide specific additional information. The reason for this is to make a preliminary assessment of whether the athlete has an eligible impairment that is the direct result of a health condition that leads to a permanent and verifiable activity limitation. The Chief Classifier may at any stage seek additional medical, technical or scientific opinion, and may also appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee (EAC) if he or she deems it necessary to make the decision. It is important to note that the Classification Panel will also review all medical documentation during classification evaluation with the athlete present. The Panel may decide at the time of classification that the athlete does not have an eligible impairment, and the athlete will not be allowed to undergo classification assessment.*
- v. If an EAC is formed, the Classification Coordinator will notify the athlete's member federation which additional Diagnostic Information is required for the athlete and the purposes for which it is required.*
  - 1) The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of the Diagnostic Information.*
  - 2) The EAC shall be comprised of the Chief Classifier, in addition to the Classification Advisory Panel (CAP) and medical classifier(s) for the classification panel that the athlete is being considered for. If the medical classifiers have not yet been appointed for that Classification Panel upon the receipt of medical documentation, then the CAP and Chief Classifier will select another international medical classifier. The EAC may consult with other experts with appropriate medical qualifications depending on the diagnosis of the athlete. They will be required to uphold the same privacy requirements as all classifiers.*
  - 3) Wherever possible, all references to the name or member federation of the athlete should be withheld from the EAC. Each member will review the diagnostic information and decide whether it establishes the existence of an eligible impairment.*
  - 4) If the EAC concludes that the athlete has an eligible impairment, the athlete will be permitted to complete the athlete evaluation with a Classification Panel.*
  - 5) If the EAC is not satisfied that the athlete has an eligible impairment, the Chief Classifier will provide a decision to this effect, in writing to the relevant member federation. The member federation will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further diagnostic information to the EAC for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Chief Classifier will inform the member federation.*
  - 6) If the decision is not changed, the Classification Coordinator will issue a final decision to the member federation.*
  - 7) The EAC shall make its decisions by a majority. The CAP may veto any decision if they do not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the athlete has an eligible impairment.*
- vi. If World Rowing determines that an athlete does not have an eligible impairment, a sport class of Not Eligible (NE) must be allocated to that athlete, and the sport class status shall be Confirmed.*
  - 1) An athlete who is allocated a sport class of NE because the athlete does not have an eligible impairment will not be evaluated by a World Rowing Classification Panel.*

- 2) *If another International Sports Federation has allocated an athlete with a sport class of NE because the athlete does not have an eligible impairment, World Rowing may do likewise without the need for the process detailed in 1) e) v) of these Regulations.*

## **2. Classifiers**

### *a. Classification Personnel*

- i. *The IPC Code and World Rowing Para Rowing Regulations recognise Classifiers as World Rowing officials.*
- ii. *International Classifiers must comply with the IPC and World Rowing Classifier Code of Conduct at all times.*
- iii. *The following personnel have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of classification, and are appointed by the World Rowing Executive Committee in consultation with the World Rowing Para Rowing Commission:*

#### *1) Classification Advisory Panel (CAP)*

*The CAP comprises up to four experienced International Classifiers who shall be responsible for providing medical and technical expertise for the purpose of directing, informing and guiding World Rowing classification matters. Each must be a Level 2 International Classifier, having a comprehensive understanding of the IPC Classification Code and the World Rowing Classification Regulations currently in force.*

*These individuals will be appointed by the World Rowing Executive Committee for a four-year term starting on 1st January of the year following the Paralympic Games and ending on 31st December following the next Paralympic Games and may be reappointed.*

*The list of members of the CAP will be published on the World Rowing website.*

#### *2) Classification Coordinator*

*The Classification Coordinator is responsible for the administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for World Rowing. The Classification Coordinator is not necessarily a certified Classifier. The Classification Coordinator's role is primarily an administrative one, in which they will work closely with the CAP. This individual will be appointed by the Executive Director as a member of staff to serve in this position for an indefinite term. The duties of the Classification Coordinator may include, but are not limited to:*

- a) *Facilitating regular reviews of the World Rowing Classification Regulations for relevance to current rowing practice and compliance with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards, in consultation with the CAP.*
- b) *Facilitating the exchange of Classification information and knowledge between the CAP, International Classifiers, World Rowing, IBSA and the IPC.*
- c) *Responsibility for the recruitment of Classifiers and the Chief Classifier for all World Rowing para rowing competitions, as well as any related communications and logistical arrangements (in cooperation with the World Rowing staff).*
- d) *Facilitating the preparation, maintenance, and updating of educational materials to be used by World Rowing during Advanced Classification Workshops.*

- e) *Facilitating the ongoing evaluation and monitoring of the competency levels and proficiency of World Rowing international classifiers.*
- f) *Disseminating information to World Rowing International Classifiers regarding any changes in the Classification Regulations and consulting on issues which affect changes to the World Rowing Classification Regulations.*
- g) *Disseminating of all relevant information regarding classification to the member federations, including changes or potential changes to the Classification Regulations.*
- h) *Acting as the initial point of contact for all classification-related queries from within World Rowing, from member federations and other para sport organisations.*
- i) *Maintaining the Classification Master List of internationally classified para rowers.*

3) *Classifier*

*A Classifier is a person appointed and certified by World Rowing as being competent to evaluate Athletes (as part of a Classification Panel), in accordance with the World Rowing Classification Regulations.*

4) *Chief Classifier*

*A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by the CAP for a specific World Rowing Recognised 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:*

- a) *Reviewing pre-classification documentation for eligibility;*
- b) *Consulting with the CAP when needed;*
- c) *Supervising Classifiers to ensure that Classification Regulations are applied appropriately during a specific Competition;*
- d) *Managing protests relating to classification as per World Rowing Rules; and*
- e) *Liaising with members of the Jury regarding rules and regulations.*

iv. *International Classifiers must be qualified in one or more of the following disciplines:*

- 1) *Medical Classifier – A qualified medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, occupational therapist or physiotherapist all of whom have the competencies and qualifications relevant to conduct the medical section of the classification.*
- 2) *Technical Classifier – A person with extensive practical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, or similarly qualified person, all of whom have the competencies and qualifications relevant to conduct the technical section of the classification.*

b. *Classifiers – Levels and Duties*

*World Rowing categorises its Classifiers as follows:*

- i. *Trainee – An individual who has attended a World Rowing Advanced Classification Workshop and is in the process of formal training by World Rowing, but has not yet met the requirements for a World Rowing Level 1 International Classifier. A Trainee Classifier may classify under the supervision of an International Classification Panel. All classifications performed will be signed off by the overseeing International Classification Panel.*
- ii. *Level 1 International Classifier – An individual who has successfully completed a World Rowing Advanced International Classification Workshop, has demonstrated the*



*ability to classify rowers, has shown competence in performing all the classification tasks, has demonstrated a clear understanding of the sport and the rules, has passed a written and oral exam, and has met the requirements of the World Rowing Para Rowing Commission to be certified as a World Rowing International Classifier. A World Rowing Level 1 International Classifier may be appointed to serve on a World Rowing Classification Panel at a World Rowing Recognised Competition and is qualified to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of a rower wishing to compete at a World Rowing Recognised Competition or IPC event. A World Rowing Level 1 Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel.*

- iii. *Level 2 International Classifier – An individual certified by the CAP who has completed the requirements necessary to serve on a World Rowing International Classification Panel and who has a high level of experience and has demonstrated competency in administrative, teaching and mentoring skills and has a sound and current knowledge of the rules, regulations and practices relating to Para Rowing, classification and the IPC Classification Code. A Level 2 International Classifier may be appointed to act as Chief Classifier at an international regatta and may conduct Advanced Classification Workshops to identify, train, and evaluate candidates to serve as International Classifiers in cooperation with the World Rowing Para Rowing Commission. A World Rowing Level 2 Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel.*
- c. *Classifiers – Training and Competencies*
  - i. *World Rowing categorises its classifiers in training (all of whom must comply with the IPC and World Rowing Classifier Code of Conduct at all times) as follows:*
    - 1) *Mentee Classifiers - Mentee Classifiers have attended an international classification workshop and require further mentorship and observation. These classifiers may not classify internationally.*
    - 2) *Trainee Classifiers - Trainee Classifiers have attended a World Rowing Advanced Classification Workshop and have demonstrated competence but require more hands-on experience.*  
  
*These classifiers may already be classifiers at the national level for a particular member federation, but may not classify internationally unless as described in Regulation 2)b)i).*
  - ii. *Member federations are responsible for the education and training of their own National Level classifiers. World Rowing may provide educational resources upon request.*
  - iii. *World Rowing shall organise Advanced Classifier Workshops based on World Rowing's assessment of need.*
  - iv. *National Classifiers who wish to attend an Advanced Classification Workshop must provide evidence of at least one classification done in each Sport Class within the 24 months prior to the date of the Workshop.*
  - v. *Re-certification - International Classifier status recertification is required every two years. An International Classifier shall be recertified by the CAP upon*
    - 1) *providing proof of a classification in each Sport Class which they have completed within the immediate past two years; and*
    - 2) *the CAP being satisfied that at that time they have the required competencies for certification.*  
  
*International Classifiers who do not meet these criteria shall be required to re-certify by attendance at, and satisfactory completion of, an Advanced Classification Workshop*

- vi. *Upon changes to the World Rowing Rules and/or Para Classification Regulations, Level 1 and 2 International Classifiers are required to acquaint themselves with the changes before conducting any classifications.*
- vii. *The CAP may cancel or downgrade the certification of a Level 1 or Level 2 International Classifier if it is not satisfied that the classifier possesses the required competencies, or has violated the Classifiers' Code of Conduct. In some instances, the CAP may create a personalised improvement plan to address a specific concern with an International Classifier. Only after the plan has been completed by the Classifier to the satisfaction of the CAP may that Classifier regain their status as a Level 1 or Level 2 International Classifier.*

### **3. Classification Panels and Classification Evaluation**

- a. *Classification Panels*
  - i. *A Classification Panel is comprised of two Classifiers empowered by the Rules of the Sport of Para Rowing to evaluate athletes and allocate Sport Classes.*
  - ii. *The CAP shall appoint Classification Panels for a particular Competition (including World Rowing Recognised Competitions).*
  - iii. *A Classification Panel for athletes with physical impairments must include a suitably accredited and qualified Medical Classifier and Technical Classifier. For athletes with a visual impairment, a Classification Panel must include 2 suitably accredited VI Classifiers who have been trained and certified through the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).*
  - iv. *Members of a Classification Panel shall not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with Classification and the Para Rowing Commission or Sports Medicine Commission.*
  - v. *Members of Classification Panels shall have no significant relationship with any athlete (or any athlete Support Personnel) that might create any real or apparent Conflict of Interest.*
  - vi. *Members of a Classification Panel must disclose any relationship with a team, athlete or athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest.*
- b. *National Classification – All athletes who wish to participate in World Rowing Recognised Competitions should, where possible, be first classified at a national level.*
- c. *International Classification*
  - i. *"International Classification" refers to the process of athlete Evaluation by an International Classification Panel (as explained in these Classification Regulations) that is undertaken at, or before, a World Rowing Recognised Competition.*
  - ii. *An athlete must be allocated a Sport Class by an International Classification Panel prior to being eligible to compete in a World Rowing Recognised Competition, except in an exceptional circumstances (refer 3)c)v) below).*
  - iii. *International Classification must be conducted by an "International Classification Panel". An International Classification Panel shall normally be comprised of one Level 1 or above Medical Classifier and one Level 1 or above Technical Classifier, both of whom have been duly certified by World Rowing.*
  - iv. *For athletes with a visual impairment, an International Classification Panel must include two suitably accredited VI Classifiers who have been trained and certified through IBSA.*
  - v. *If the circumstances of a Competition so require, the CAP may designate that a Classification Panel may consist of one qualified International Classifier in special cases, in particular where the number of available Classifiers is reduced prior to or at a Competition through unforeseen circumstances. In such instances, Review status shall*

*be issued. The review date will be prior to the next competition in which the athlete is to compete. The athlete is required to be classified at or prior to their next competition.*

- vi. *An International Classification Panel may seek additional medical, sport, or scientific expertise if it considers that this would assist it in completing the process of athlete Evaluation.*
- d. *Preparing Classification Panels for Competition*
  - i. *The CAP should, where possible, appoint a Chief Classifier at least three months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels shall, where possible, be appointed at least two months before a Competition.*
  - ii. *A member of the CAP may act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition.*
  - iii. *The Classification Coordinator or Chief Classifier for a Competition shall provide the organising committee with an Athlete Evaluation schedule prior to the Competition, and to member federations and/or teams on or before their arrival at the event.*
  - iv. *In respect of Competitions where athletes with physical and/or visual impairments are to compete, the CAP must ensure that Classification Panels are certified to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of athletes with physical and/or visual impairments.*

#### **4. Classification: Athlete Evaluation**

- a. *Athlete Evaluation: General*
  - i. *“Athlete Evaluation” is the process (as defined by the assessment methodology described in the World Rowing Classifiers Manual) 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. This applies to both on water and indoor rowing.*
  - ii. *Each athlete shall choose one person to accompany them when presenting for Athlete Evaluation. If the athlete is a minor, that athlete must be accompanied by a member of the relevant member federation. The accompanying person may not influence the Athlete Evaluation in any way.*
  - iii. *Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes shall be conducted in English. The respective member federation is responsible for arranging for an interpreter to be present (in addition to the representative listed in 4)a)ii)) if this is required by the athlete for the purpose of complying with the Athlete Evaluation process.*
  - iv. *The athlete and the relevant member federation are jointly responsible for ensuring that the athlete attends Athlete Evaluation. If an athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Evaluation Session, specify a revised date and time for a further Evaluation Session. If the athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated.*
  - v. *The athlete must agree to and accept the terms of the World Rowing Para Rowing Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation by signing the Consent Form.*
  - vi. *Athletes must attend Athlete Evaluation in suitable attire (such that an athlete’s ability to row is not limited by their attire) and with all sports equipment which the athlete specifically uses, including (but not limited to) cushions, straps, prosthetics. The athlete must provide a recognised form of photo identification, such as a passport, or official identity card.*
  - vii. *The athlete must disclose to the Classification Panel prior to Athlete Evaluation any medication and/or any medical device/ Implant routinely used by the athlete. 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 Technical Assessment. The Classification Panel may agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.*

- viii. *A Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant athlete, their member federation and World Rowing when allocating a Sport Class.*
- ix. *A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the Chief Classifier. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order that it can allocate a Sport Class.*
- x. *Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification.*
- xi. *Athlete Evaluation must take place in a manner that respects the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Data Protection and consistent with the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training. For this purpose, the IPC's International Standard for Classification Data Protection shall be regarded as part of these regulations and shall be followed by all concerned parties.*
- xii. *The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following stages:*
  - 1) *Assessment of Eligible Impairment;*
  - 2) *Assessment against Minimum Impairment Criteria;*
  - 3) *Allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status.*
- b. *Assessment of Eligible Impairment – Assessment of an eligible impairment is normally completed prior to the Athlete Evaluation, by the Head of Classification or Chief Classifier, using the medical documentation which has been provided earlier.*
- c. *Assessment of Minimum Impairment Criteria*
  - i. *Only an athlete who has an Eligible Impairment shall be assessed for meeting the minimum impairment criteria for Para Rowing.*
  - ii. *For athletes with a physical impairment, the minimum impairment criteria is a full loss of three fingers on one hand, or at least a trans-metatarsal amputation of the foot, or the loss of ten points on one limb or fifteen points across two limbs when assessed using the Functional Classification Assessment Chart as included in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities. (Refer World Rowing website, Eligible Impairment Types and Medical Diagnostic Requirements).*
  - iii. *For Athletes with a visual impairment, the minimum impairment as assessed by approved VI Classifiers is a classification of B3.*
- d. *Athlete Evaluation Process*
  - i. *Athletes with a visual impairment will be assessed by an International Classification Panel comprising IBSA approved VI classifiers.*
  - ii. *Athletes with a physical impairment will be assessed by a World Rowing Classification Panel (Refer 3)a) above). The Classification Panel will conduct a medical and technical assessment of the athlete to establish that the athlete has a permanent Impairment that qualifies the athlete for participation in para rowing and if so to determine the athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class status.*
  - iii. *These Regulations specify certain means of conducting Medical and Technical Assessment. These means are described in the World Rowing Classifiers Manual and may be amended and/or updated from time to time by the World Rowing Para Rowing Commission.*

- iv. *The Classification Panel may conduct an on-water Observation Assessment before allocating a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status. Observation of the on-water assessment follows the principles of the technical assessment. It complements the technical assessment by providing the Classification Panel an opportunity to observe the athlete in an on-water sport situation where they are able to demonstrate their functional ability in the boat.*
- v. *If an athlete is required to undertake Observation in Competition Assessment, the Classification Panel will specify to the athlete what is to be observed and why, how this is to take place and by whom.*
- e. *Suspension of Athlete Evaluation – A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend Athlete Evaluation if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including, but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:*
  - i. *A failure on the part of the athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Regulations;*
  - ii. *A failure on the part of the athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;*
  - iii. *The Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the athlete will affect the ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;*
  - iv. *The athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner. This may include the athlete's inability to demonstrate abilities because of pain;*
  - v. *An athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;*
  - vi. *In the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel the athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;*
  - vii. *The athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or*
  - viii. *The athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner.*
- f. *Sport Class*
  - i. *Para Rowing Sport Classes are:*
    - 1) *PR3-PI;*
    - 2) *PR3-PI and eligible for the PR3Mix2x;*
    - 3) *PR3-PI and not eligible for the PR3Mix2x;*
    - 4) *PR3-B1;*
    - 5) *PR3-B2;*
    - 6) *PR3-B3;*
    - 7) *PR2;*
    - 8) *PR1; and*
    - 9) *Not Eligible (NE).*

*The Eligibility Requirements for each Sport Class are set out at Regulation 9).*

- ii. *The means by which a Sport Class is allocated is described in the World Rowing Para Rowing Classifiers Manual. A Sport Class will be allocated to an athlete following completion of the Athlete Evaluation.*
- iii. *Sport Class: Not Eligible (NE)*
  - 1) *An athlete who does not have a health condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment or has an impairment that does not meet the minimum impairment criteria must be allocated a Sport Class of Not Eligible.*
  - 2) *The Sport Class Not Eligible does not infer that the Athlete does not have an impairment.*
  - 3) *If a World Rowing International Classification Panel allocates an athlete a Sport Class of Not Eligible, the athlete shall undergo Athlete Evaluation by a second International Classification Panel either immediately or as soon as practical thereafter. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the athlete's Sport Class is NE, the athlete will not be eligible to compete and will have no further right to Protest.*
  - 4) *Pending any such second assessment the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class Not Eligible and Sport Class Status Review (R) and will not be permitted to compete. Upon being confirmed as NE by a second Classification Panel, the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class Status of Not Eligible Confirmed (C).*
- g. *Sport Class Status*
  - i. *A Sport Class Status will be allocated to an athlete following allocation of a Sport Class.*
  - ii. *Sport Class Status New (N)*
    - 1) *New status must be allocated when an athlete has not been evaluated by a World Rowing International Classification Panel, but who has been classified by two Trainee Classifiers (one Medical and one Technical), or one Trainee and one International Classifier, within their own member federation or region.*
    - 2) *N Status Athletes must complete an Athlete Evaluation by a World Rowing International Classification Panel prior to competing at an International or World Rowing Recognised Event.*
  - iii. *Sport Class Status Review (R)*
    - 1) *A Classification Panel which consists of one Classifier may only designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review.*
    - 2) *A Classification Panel with at least one of the Classifiers from the athlete's own country may only designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review.*
    - 3) *If under Regulation 4)f)iii)(3) the second Classification Panel finds the athlete is eligible, then the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class Status Review (R) until the next classification opportunity.*
    - 4) *An athlete will be issued a Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required before an athlete can be allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed. This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the athlete:*
      - a) *has only recently entered competition in Para Rowing;*
      - b) *has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/ Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable;*
      - c) *is a minor.*
    - 5) *If a World Rowing International Classification Panel assigns an athlete with a Sport Class Status Review, it shall set a date that shall be referred to as the "Review*

*Date". This date shall depend on the characteristics of the individual case but must be clearly indicated in the Classification Panel decision. The reason for review shall also be documented.*

- 6) *Prior to the Review Date, the athlete:*
  - a) *Shall not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation;*
  - b) *Shall retain the Sport Class assigned to that athlete, with Sport Class Status Review, and be permitted to compete accordingly.*
- 7) *A Review Date may only be set by a World Rowing International Classification Panel. An athlete with Sport Class Status Review is required to complete Athlete Evaluation at the first opportunity after the Review Date. The athlete shall not be eligible to compete again in that Sport Class after the Review Date unless they have completed the required Athlete Evaluation.*
- iv. *Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) – Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is assigned to an athlete who has been evaluated by a World Rowing International Classification Panel and the International Classification Panel has determined that the athlete's Sport Class will not change. An athlete with a C Sport Class Status must undergo Athlete Evaluation if a Protest is made by World Rowing or in the event of a change in the relevant Rules or Regulations.*
- h. *Medical Review*
  - i. *A change in the nature or degree of an athlete's Impairment may mean that a review is needed to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that athlete is correct. This review is referred to as 'Medical Review'. A Medical Review is commenced by way of a 'Medical Review Request'.*
  - ii. *An athlete's member federation shall request a Medical Review of an athlete if it believes that, as a result of a medical intervention (for example, surgery or other treatment), or progression of their disability, that their Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status (better or worse).*
  - iii. *The Medical Review Request must be made to the CAP via [classification@worldrowing.com](mailto:classification@worldrowing.com). It must include an explanation of how and to what extent the athlete's relevant impairment has changed and why the member federation believes that the athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate. All relevant supporting documentation must be uploaded by the member federation to the World Rowing Pre-Classification Portal.*
  - iv. *The CAP must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request will be upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request. The CAP may seek assistance from qualified Medical Classifiers or an EAC if needed.*
  - v. *If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) pending the outcome of evaluation by a Classification Panel.*
- i. *Notification of Athlete Evaluation*
  - i. *Following completion of the Medical and Technical Assessment by a Classification Panel, the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status and advised orally of the outcome at the completion of the evaluation.*
  - ii. *The Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the athlete following completion of the Athlete Evaluation at a Competition will be notified to the member federation representative for the athlete and a copy of the classification documentation will be provided before the end of competition.*
  - iii. *The results of Athlete Evaluations undertaken at a Competition will be published on the event notice board prior to competition commencing.*

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- iv. *The Classification Master List will also be published on [www.worldrowing.com](http://www.worldrowing.com) as soon as possible following the Competition.*
  - j. *Intentional Misrepresentation*
    - i. *Athletes must not intentionally misrepresent their skills and/ or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment to a Classification Panel. If athletes attempt to deceive the Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation, they are guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.*
    - ii. *Any athlete who intentionally misrepresents their skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of their Eligible Impairment by any other act or omission is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.*
    - iii. *Intentional Misrepresentation includes misrepresentation away from Athlete Evaluation, including misrepresentation after allocation of a Sport Class such as a failure to make a medical notification as to a change in impairment that an athlete or athlete Support Personnel knows does or may affect a Sport Class. It also includes actions prior to evaluation, such as deliberately tiring the body as in a coordination impairment, or failure to take prescribed medication.*
    - iv. *Any athlete or athlete Support Personnel, who knowingly assists, covers up or disrupts the evaluation process with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel, or is in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.*
    - v. *If World Rowing commences disciplinary proceedings against an athlete or athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation (and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation), the Executive Committee may, at or after the time of notification of such proceedings, impose a provisional suspension on the person or persons concerned.*
    - vi. *An athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is subject to a provisional suspension may not, during the period of provisional suspension, participate in any capacity in any competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by World Rowing and its member federations.*
    - vii. *An athlete or athlete Support Personnel who receives notice of a provisional suspension may apply to the Executive Committee for any provisional suspension to be lifted on the basis that facts exist that make it clearly unfair, in all of the circumstances, for a provisional suspension to be imposed.*
    - viii. *If the Executive Committee imposes a provisional suspension it should ensure there can be an expedited hearing no later than 14 days after the date of application by the athlete or athlete Support Personnel for such a hearing.*
    - ix. *The consequences that will be applied to an athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall be one or more of the following:*
      - 1) *Disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred; or*
      - 2) *Not eligible for Athlete Evaluation or participation in any Competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by World Rowing and its member federations for a specified period of 48 months.*
    - x. *The consequences that will be applied to an athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion is up to a lifetime period of being not eligible for Athlete Evaluation or participation in any Competition, event or*



*other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by World Rowing and its member federations.*

- xi. If an athlete or athlete Support Personnel is subject to disciplinary proceedings by another International Sports Body in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in the imposition of a penalty, then that penalty shall also be recognised by World Rowing and shall be applied as if the Intentional Misrepresentation had occurred under these Regulations.*
- xii. Any consequences to be applied to crews or member federations, which include an athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at World Rowing's discretion.*
- k. Publication of Penalties – World Rowing will disclose on its website details of penalties imposed upon athletes and athlete Support Personnel found in breach of these Regulations and Bye-Laws.*

## **5. Protests**

- a. The term "Protest" in these Regulations refers to a process by which the outcome of Athlete Evaluation may be challenged.*
  - i. A Protest may be made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class to an Athlete. No Protest may be made in respect of the designation of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.*
  - ii. An accepted Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a "Protest Panel".*
  - iii. A Protest for a VI classification should be communicated to the Chief Classifier and through consultation with the IBSA classification panel may be accepted or declined. If another IBSA classification panel is available at the same event the panel can be appointed as the Protest Panel. If another panel is not available then the protest will be referred to the next available opportunity for VI classification.*
  - iv. Protests shall be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on competition participation, competition schedules and results.*
- b. Parties Permitted to Make a Protest*  
*Protests may only be made by the following parties:*
  - i. A member federation;*
  - ii. World Rowing.*
- c. Member Federation Protests*
  - i. A member federation may make a Protest on behalf of an athlete.*
  - ii. A member federation Protest must be made at a Competition, or at a non-competition venue as provided for in these Regulations.*
  - iii. The member federation making the Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest procedure requirements are complied with.*
  - iv. A member federation may not make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any athlete who is under the jurisdiction of another member federation. If a member federation believes there are grounds for a Protest in respect of the Sport Class allocated to such an athlete it may request World Rowing to make a Protest while providing evidence for the reason for this request. Such requests must be submitted in writing by the member federation to [classification@worldrowing.com](mailto:classification@worldrowing.com) and must include the evidence for the reason for this request.*

- d. *Member Federation Protest Procedure*
- i. *Protests must be submitted in English on a World Rowing Classification Protest Form (available on the World Rowing website). The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest Form must include the following:*
    - 1) *The name and member federation of the athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;*
    - 2) *Details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;*
    - 3) *A reasoned explanation for the Protest, including why the member federation believes the Protested Decision is flawed;*
    - 4) *All documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest;*
    - 5) *the signature of the member federation representative; and*
    - 6) *A fee of one hundred (100) Euros or equivalent.*
  - ii. *The Protest Form, supporting explanation and documentation, and fee, must be submitted to the Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition within two (2) hours of the Classification Panel's decision regarding the Sport Class being published. Upon receipt of the Protest Form and the information and/or documentation specified above, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review of the Protest to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included.*
  - iii. *If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not supported by evidence and/or otherwise does not comply with the relevant Protest procedures, the Chief Classifier shall decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases, the Chief Classifier shall provide a verbal explanation as soon as possible and a written explanation to the member federation as soon as is practicable. World Rowing will retain the Protest fee.*
  - iv. *If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the member federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier. The time frame for re-submitting a Protest shall be 2 hours from the time the member federation is notified of the decision. If the member federation is unable to provide the additional documentation within the time frame, they must request an extension of time, submitting in writing the reason for the delay, and the expected time frame required to remedy the deficiencies. The Chief Classifier will verbally and in writing approve the request if a reasonable explanation is provided.*
  - v. *If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is supported by evidence and complies with the relevant Protest procedures the Protest must be accepted.*
  - vi. *If the Protest is accepted:*
    - 1) *The athlete's Protested Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest and the athlete's Protested Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;*
    - 2) *The Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, which must be, if practicable, at the Competition at which the Protest was made. If the Protest occurs outside of an event, the Classification Coordinator shall make every attempt to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, which may be at the next Competition.*
    - 3) *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 that evaluation took place more than twelve (12) months prior to the Protest being submitted.*

- vii. *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.*
- e. *World Rowing Protests*
  - i. *World Rowing may make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any athlete under its jurisdiction at any time.*
  - ii. *World Rowing may make a Protest regarding the Sport Class of an athlete if it has good reason to believe that the athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to rowing are not consistent with the Sport Class that has been allocated to the athlete.*
- f. *World Rowing Protest Procedure*
  - i. *The CAP will advise the relevant member federation at the earliest possible opportunity that a Protest is being made.*
  - ii. *The CAP will provide the member federation with a reasoned explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the CAP believes that the Protest is justified.*
  - iii. *If World Rowing makes a Protest:*
    - 1) *The athlete's Protested Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the athlete's Protested Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;*
    - 2) *A Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.*
  - iv. *A Chief Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of World Rowing if it is in the interests of fairness to athletes to do so.*
- g. *Resolving a Protest: the Protest Panel*
  - i. *A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Chief Classifier in a manner consistent with the provisions in these Regulations relating to the appointment of a Classification Panel (see Regulation 3)).*
  - ii. *A Protest Panel must not include any person who:*
    - 1) *was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or*
    - 2) *has been a member of a Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation in respect of the athlete with the Protested Decision within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, save that the member federation may agree to a Protest Panel comprising such a person.*
  - iii. *The Chief Classifier will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.*
  - iv. *The Protest Panel will conduct the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel may make enquiries of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and of the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.*
  - v. *The Protest Panel may seek additional medical, sport, or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class, when deemed necessary, to assist with the decision.*
  - vi. *The Protest Panel will (if able to do so) allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation. World Rowing will retain the Protest fee unless the Protest is upheld.*

- vii. *The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further member federation Protest.*
- h. *Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available*
  - i. *If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition, then:*
    - 1) *The athlete with a Protested Decision will be permitted to compete within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest, pending the resolution of the Protest;*
    - 2) *All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.*
  - i. *Outcomes of Protest*
    - i. *If a Protest results in the Sport Class of an athlete being changed to a Sport Class with less impairment (a more functional Sport Class), then any results of that athlete and the crew of that athlete, and any prizes won, since the effective date of the change of Sport Class resulting from the Protest shall be cancelled and forfeited respectively.*
    - ii. *If medal placings are affected, the medals shall be re-awarded as necessary in accordance with the decision.*
    - iii. *The Executive Committee may decide to backdate such effective date in cases of Intentional Misrepresentation.*

## **6. Appeals**

- a. *General Provisions and Definitions*
  - i. *If a member federation believes that World Rowing, in the course of applying its Classification Regulations has made an unfair decision, it may apply by way of an Appeal to have that decision set aside.*
  - ii. *A decision will be considered unfair if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in these Classification Regulations and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the decision such that it must be set aside.*
  - iii. *An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with these Regulations.*
  - iv. *The Executive Committee shall designate an Appeal Body for the hearing and resolution of Appeals. The Appeal Body shall have the power to either rule that the relevant decision must be upheld, or to set the decision aside. The Appeal Body shall have no power to amend any decision and in particular has no power to amend a Sport Class or Sport Class Status.*
  - v. *The Appeal Body must comprise at least three people with the appropriate skills and experience to objectively hear the appeal and who were not involved in any way with any of the procedures that are the subject of the Appeal.*
  - vi. *The Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.*
- b. *Appeal Process*
  - i. *A member federation may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to [classification@worldrowing.com](mailto:classification@worldrowing.com).*
  - ii. *A Notice of Appeal must:*
    - 1) *be made within fifteen (15) days of the decision being appealed;*
    - 2) *identify the decision being appealed, by attaching copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;*
    - 3) *specify the grounds for the Appeal;*

- 4) *identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal;*
- 5) *be submitted with any fee specified by the Executive Committee.*
- iii. *Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, World Rowing shall refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.*
- iv. *Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person save to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal.*
- c. **Appeal Decision**
  - i. *As soon as is practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Body must issue a written decision regarding the Appeal. The Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision appealed from or set aside the decision. The Appeal Body shall have no further power in respect of its decision.*
  - ii. *If the Appeal Body sets aside a decision it may, if appropriate, make recommendations as to the steps to be taken by World Rowing in light of that decision.*
  - iii. *The Appeal Body decision shall be provided to all parties. In the case of Appeals made during a Competition, the outcome of the Appeal shall be communicated to the Competition organising committee.*
  - iv. *The decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal.*
- d. **Outcomes of Appeal** – *If an Appeal results in the Sport Class of an athlete being changed to a Sport Class with less impairment (a more functional Sport Class), then any results of that athlete and the crew of that athlete, and any prizes won, since the effective date of the change of Sport Class resulting from the Appeal shall be cancelled and forfeited respectively. If medal placings are affected, the medals shall be re-awarded as necessary in accordance with the decision. The Executive Committee may decide to backdate such effective date in cases of Intentional Misrepresentation.*

## **7. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests and Appeals**

- a. *The IPC may issue special ad hoc provisions to supplement these Regulations to operate during the Paralympic Games or other competitions. World Rowing may also issue special ad hoc provisions to these Regulations to operate during specified Competitions under their own jurisdiction.*

## **8. Glossary**

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

**Appeal:** *The means by which to resolve a complaint that a decision has been made in contravention of the procedures in these Regulations resulting in some manifest unfairness during the Classification process.*

**Athlete:** *For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in rowing at the international level or national level (as defined in the World Rowing Rules of Racing) and any additional person who participates in rowing at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.*

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



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

**BAC:** The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

**Chief Classifier:** A Classifier appointed by the CAP to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Regulations.

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

**Classification Advisory Panel (CAP):** A group of experienced International Classifiers appointed by the World Rowing Executive Committee who shall be responsible for providing medical and technical expertise for the purpose of directing, informing and guiding World Rowing classification matters.

**Classification Coordinator:** A person appointed by World Rowing to be responsible for the administration, coordination and implementation of Classification matters for World Rowing.

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

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

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

**Classification Not Completed:** the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation.

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

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

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

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

**Classification System:** The framework used by World Rowing to develop and designate Sport Classes for Para Rowing.

**Classifier:** A person certified as an official by the CAP to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which the CAP 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 CAP deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for the sport of rowing.

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by the IPC and by World Rowing.

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

**Competition:** A series of individual events conducted together under one organising body. Where such competition relates to rowing, it shall have the same meaning as ‘rowing regatta’ as defined in Rule 1 of the World Rowing Rules of Racing. (see also World Rowing Recognised Competition)

**Competition Venue:** Venues dedicated to the Competition by the organising committee.

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

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

**Education:** The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by the CAP to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Rowing Classifier.

**Eligible Impairment:** An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para Rowing, as detailed in these Classification Rules and Regulations.

**Eligibility Assessment Committee (EAC):** An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

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

**Entry-level Education:** the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by the CAP to begin as a Classifier in the sport of rowing.

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

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

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

**Fixed Review Date:** A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

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

**Impairment:** A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

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

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

**International Competitions:** A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition. Where such competition relates to rowing, International Competition shall have the same meaning as International Regatta as defined in Rule 6 of the World Rowing Rules of Racing.

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

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

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

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

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

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

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

**Medical Review Request:** A request made by a National Body or National Paralympic Committee for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

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

**National Body:** Refers to the national member of an International Sport Federation (member federation).

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

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

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

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

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

**Paralympic Games:** Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

**Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principal effects are lifelong.

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

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

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

**Protested Athlete:** An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged in accordance with these Regulations.

**Protested Decision:** The Sport Class decision being challenged.

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

**Protest Fee:** The fee prescribed by World Rowing, payable by the National Body or National Paralympic Committee when submitting a Protest.

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

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

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

**Re-certification:** The process by which the CAP must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies and re-certifies the Classifier for a further specified period.

**Recognised Competition:** a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by World Rowing at which Para Rowing events take place and/or at which classification is available.

**Research Purposes:** Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**World Rowing Para Rowing Classifiers Manual:** The purpose of this Manual is to guide Para-rowing International Classifiers in the proper completion of the classification process for all rowers with a physical disability.

## 9. Sport Classes and Eligibility Requirements for each Sport Class

- a. PR3 (Includes PR3-PI (eligible for the PR3Mix2x, Not eligible for the PR3Mix2x), PR3-B1, PR3-B2, PR3-B3)
  - i. Rowers with an eligible impairment who have functional use of their legs, trunk and arms for rowing, and who can utilise the sliding seat to propel the boat will be assigned to the PR3 class after being evaluated by a World Rowing Classification Panel.
  - ii. PR3 class rowers must have an eligible impairment and meet at least one of the following definitions of the minimum impairment criteria:
    - 1) PR3-PI Physical Impairment – The minimum impairment criteria is:
      - a) a full loss of three fingers on one hand; or
      - b) at least a trans metatarsal amputation of the foot; or

- c) *the loss of ten points on one limb; or*
  - d) *fifteen points across two limbs when assessed using the Functional Classification Test as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities. \*\*For the PR3 Mix2x boat class, rowers must have a minimum impairment of a loss of at least 20 points in one limb when assessed using the Functional Classification Test as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities.*
- 2) *PR3-B1, PR3-B2, PR3-B3 Visual impairment – Prior to any World Rowing event at which they wish to compete, a rower with visual impairment must have been classified by a VI Classification Panel and be issued a Sport Class in one of the following B3 (PR3-B3), B2 (PR3-B2) or B1 (PR3-B1) classes. Refer to <http://www.ibsa.es>.*
- b. **PR2**
  - i. *PR2 rowers demonstrate rowing-specific impairment primarily affecting the leg drive. PR2 rowers demonstrate significant limitations in the ability to use the sliding seat to propel the boat and therefore, use fixed-seat to compete in para-rowing.*
- c. **PR1**
  - i. *PR1 rowers will demonstrate rowing-specific impairment affecting both the trunk swing and leg drive. PR1 rowers demonstrate significant limitations in the ability to use the sliding seat to propel the boat and therefore, use fixed-seat to compete in para-rowing. Additionally, PR1 rowers demonstrate significant impairment in the ability to generate force through trunk swing rotating about the hips.*
- d. **NE (Not Eligible)**

*This sport class is issued to rowers who have undergone the World Rowing Classification Process and have not met the minimum Eligible Impairment to be eligible to compete as a para rower.*

## **10. Rowing Outside of Assigned Sport Class**

*Rowers may compete in a more functional sport class than their assigned sport class, but not a less functional sport class. For example, a rower classified as PR2 may compete in PR3 events, but may not compete in PR1 events.*



