

## Australian Classification Observers Code of Conduct

### Observers and Trainee Classifiers during the classification process

From time to time, permission may be given by the Chief Classifier for Observers or Trainee classifiers to observe the classification process. This document is to be used to brief observers on the classification process, as well as to outline their obligations and conduct as an observer.

For the purposes of this document both Observers and National Trainee Classifiers are referred to as Observers, unless otherwise specified.

### What is Classification?

In sport, classification exists so that athletes compete in fair and equal competition. In Paralympic Sport, the wide range of sports and disabilities create unique classification systems. Paralympic classification groups athletes according to how their disability impacts on their sport. Athletes compete against others with similar disabilities, so that the athletes who succeed do so on the basis of athletic performance.

The spirit of the IPC Classification Code is to create a classification process in which each athlete is classified in a way that is fair, proper, and respectful and pitched at a level that is particular to each athlete's development and comprehension. Classification should be conducted in a way that is mutually co-operative, friendly, efficient and non-confrontational.

### Classification is generally conducted as a three stage process:

- Stage 1- Examination, which entails assessment of that athletes impairment, new tasks and assessment of skills that are closely related to those required during their sport.
- Stage 2-Sports specific assessment. The athlete performs skills that are specific to their sport under competition conditions.
- Stage 3- Competition review. The athlete is observed while competing.

Classification is a personal process individual to each athlete and it is important to remember that being present as an observer is a privilege. Classification may require the discussion of an athlete's personal and medical information. Classification also determines who an athlete competes against in their sport, so it also may be a stressful and emotional process for an athlete and their representative.

### Observers Code of Conduct

As an observer you must abide by the following:

- You must disclose to the classification panel any relationship with a team, Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest and understand that information gained from observing cannot be used to protest or used in the interest of other athletes.
- You should sit to the side of the classification process, so as not to interfere with the process.
- You should not wear any clothing that bears an affiliation to a state, national organisation or team.
- You should be respectful to the Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel .



# CLASSIFICATION

- Treat Classifiers with professional dignity and courtesy, recognising that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to comment or make criticism of classifiers, their decisions or decision making in public.
- You will treat all athlete information and discussions had during the classification process as confidential information.
- You should not communicate with the classification panel, athletes or athlete representative during the classification process unless requested by the classifier.
- You should raise any questions with panel members after the full completion of the classification process, when the athlete has been informed of the outcome and has left the classification room.
- When discussion between observers as part of the continued education process is required, it must be respectful and unobtrusive, preserving the dignity of the athlete and others involved in the process.
- You should remain present for the whole of the defined classification observation period, and forfeit any team duties during this observation period.
- Observers should take no part in the administration or paperwork completed during the classification process. Trainee classifiers may complete some of the administration process and classification activities under supervision, as part of their education. All education must be approved by the Chief Classifier.
- You must not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.

Observers must be aware that there may be consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Please be aware that at any time the Chief classifier has the right to request that an observer leave the classification process.

I \_\_\_\_\_ [insert observers name] have read and understood my obligations whilst observing the classification process.

Observer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

National Trainees forms are valid for a 12 month period.

<p><b>Official Use Only</b></p> <p>Chief Classifier Name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Observer role:   <input type="checkbox"/> National Trainee Classifier                      <input type="checkbox"/> General observer</p> <p>Approved Dates of observation: _____</p> <p>The Chief Classifier should indicate the period for observation that is approved for the observer. Typically this may be one or two days associated with a particular competition.</p>
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