

Para-snowboard classification update

Changes to SB-LL class

The IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee has announced a division in the existing Para-Snowboard lower limb impairment sport class (SBLL) resulting in two separate lower limb classes SBLL-1 and SBLL-2, effective immediately for the 2014/15 season and 2015 World Championships.

The APC has amended the 2015 World Championships selection criteria to reflect the changes in the classification system and provide a pathway for SBLL-1 qualification and selection.

Athletes must hold a IPC license and access international classification in the 2014/15 season to be considered for selection in addition to meeting the performance requirements.

Athletes who intend to nominate for the 2015 World Championships must notify the APC by 14 November, 2014 by email to michele.menso@paralympic.org.au.

The APC will facilitate national classification processes for snowboard early in the 2014/15 domestic season. The APC will facilitate access to international classification for athletes who may be eligible for the SBLL-1 class under certain conditions outlined below.

Classification Process

There are two opportunities for snowboard international classification in the 2014/15 season;

- Landgraaf, NED: 17 and 18 November 2014.
- Aspen, USA: 10 and 11 January 2015.

The IPC announcement regarding the new classification system was made without enough notice to facilitate access in Landgraaf. The only opportunity for Australian athletes to access classification in the 2015 season is in Aspen, 10 – 11 January.

The APC will facilitate international classification for athletes who may be eligible for the SBLL-1 class in the following circumstances;

- To be considered to attend international classification, athletes who have not competed internationally must at a minimum have a current SBLL class (Australian provisional or national).
- Athletes who have previously competed internationally and have an existing international level classification can access an international review of their class if impacted by this change in classes.
- All athletes who wish to access international classification or have their classification reviewed must consent to have their current national and/or international classification information reviewed by an Australian classifier. This process will provide an indication of the likelihood of the new class (SBLL-1 or SBLL-2) based on the SBLL-1 minimal criteria.

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- Athletes may also be asked to provide additional supporting medical diagnostic documentation as a part of this process.
- If it is determined through this process that the athlete may meet the SBLL-1 minimal eligibility, the APC will facilitate access to classification in Aspen.
- Athletes accessing classification in Aspen will be required to have the IPCAS Physical Impairment (PI) Medical Diagnostic form completed by a specialist.
- Athletes are responsible for the cost of their IPC license and all expenses related to their attendance at classification in Aspen.
- Athletes will be supported during their classification evaluation in Aspen by a member of APC staff.

Timelines for classification preparation:

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 rd November, 2014 | Athletes to advise APC of request to be internationally classified and provide consent for the APC to share and review exiting classification data. Indication of likelihood of class based on review of previous classification commences |
| 7 th November, 2014 | Athletes advised of likelihood of meeting criteria of SBLL-1 class and provided with the IPC PI Medical Diagnostics form if they may be eligible for the SBLL-1 class |
| 14 th November, 2014 | Final date for athletes to advise the APC of intention to nominate for 2015 IPCAS World Championships |
| 28 th November, 2014 | Athletes submit completed IPC PI Medical Diagnostics form and supporting medical documents (eg specialist reports, Xrays etc) to the APC |
| 2 nd January, 2015 | Athletes receive a copy of the classification schedule for Aspen |
| 10 th – 11 th January, 2015 | Classification in Aspen |

Any questions about classification and athlete eligibility should be directed to Anna Muldoon, Classification Manager at anna.muldoon@paralympic.org.au

Any questions about 2015 World Championships eligibility and selection should be directed to Alison Campbell, Senior manager Performance at alison.campbell@paralympic.org.au.

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Minimal Eligibility Criteria

The minimal criteria for the two sport classes (SBLL-1 and SBLL-2) for athletes with a lower limb impairment are outlined below.

SBLL – 1

| Eligible Impairment | Minimum Criteria |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Limb Deficiency | Single above knee amputation, including through the knee |
| Impaired Muscle Power | Total score of 0-10 points in one leg (max score = 30 points in one leg) |
| | Total score of 0-30 points in two legs (max score = 60 points in two legs) |
| Hypertonia | Grade 2 or more on Ashworth scale in any direction of movement in BOTH legs. |
| Ataxia or Athetosis | Must be observable through involuntary movement in both legs and trunk. |
| Limb Deficiency | Absence of a functional knee joint in at least one leg. |
| Impaired Passive Range of Motion | No passive range of movement in both ankle joints AND a loss of at minimum 50% of passive range of movement in at least one knee or hip joint. The assessment of Impaired Range of Motion will be complemented with an assessment of Impaired Muscle Power. |

SBLL – 2

| Eligible Impairment | Minimum Criteria |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Limb Deficiency | Single or double above ankle amputation |
| Impaired muscle power | In One Leg resulting in a score of 0-2 in ankle dorsiflexion and ankle plantar flexion OR knee flexion and extension OR hip flexion and extension OR resulting in a score of 24 points or less across ankle, knee and hip (max score = 30 one leg). |
| Hypertonia | Grade 2 or more on Ashworth Scale in any direction of movement in at least one leg. |
| Ataxia or Athetosis | Must be observable through involuntary movement in at least one leg. |
| Limb Deficiency | Resulting in a loss of functional ankle joint, i.e. absence of ankle joint. |
| Leg Length Difference | Difference that warrants a correction of at least 7 cm to the snowboard boot to equate it to the non-impaired limb. |
| Impaired Passive Range of Motion | No passive range of movement in the ankle joint or a loss of at minimum 50% of passive range of movement in at least one knee or hip joint. The assessment of Impaired Range of Motion will be complemented with an assessment of Impaired Muscle Power. |