



PA Classification Standard: Athlete Evaluation

Last Updated December 2021

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
1. Purpose	3
2. Who does this Standard apply to?	3
3. General principles of Athlete Evaluation.....	4
4. International Sport Federation Roles and Responsibilities	4
5. PA Roles and Responsibilities	5
6. NSO/NSOD Roles and Responsibilities	5
7. Levels of Athlete Evaluation in Australia	7
8. International Level Athlete Evaluation	7
9. National Level Athlete Evaluation	8
10. Provisional/ Entry Level Classification.....	19
11. Organising Athlete Evaluation	21
12. Classification Master Lists	21
13. Definitions	21
14. Relevant policies, codes and standards.....	22
Appendix A IPC Code of Ethics	24

1. Purpose

1.1 This document:

- Sets out the position, role and responsibilities of Paralympics Australia (PA) with regards to Athlete Evaluation, as the national paralympic member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and in accordance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code and Standards (IPC Code) and the IPC Model of Best Practice for National Classification; and
- Provides a framework for the common technical and operational procedures of National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) and National Sporting Organisations for people with Disability (NSODs) who deliver the Australian Para-sport program and Athlete Evaluation opportunities.

1.2 This document should be read in conjunction with the IPC Code, IPC Code of Ethics (Appendix A), relevant International Sport Federation (IF) Classification Rules, PA Athlete Classification Policy and other relevant PA Policy and Standards.

1.3 In the event that this Standard fails to provide for a matter covered by a provision in the IPC Code, the provision appearing in the IPC Code shall apply and be regarded as being part of this Standard.

1.4 A list of definitions and abbreviations is provided at the end of this Standard.

2. Who does this Standard apply to?

2.1 This Standard applies to:

- PA employees, contractors and volunteers
- Selected Athletes and Appointed Officials of Paralympic Teams
- PA Member organisations, their member organisations, athletes and athlete support personnel and any other persons (paid or unpaid) who is engaged by the PA Member to support classification activities.
- Any other organisations or individuals engaged by PA for Classification purposes

2.2 PA will only recognise Australian classification activities that are conducted within the scope of this Standard and other PA Policy. This Standard does not apply to sports opportunities provided by PA Members for athletes with

impairments outside of the IPC Code (eg hearing impairment, transplant recipient).

- 2.3 The delivery of classification services for each sport in Australia is the responsibility of the Australian member organisation of the relevant IF, unless otherwise agreed by the IF member, PA and Sport Australia. For the purposes of this Standard, the term NSO/NSOD is used to refer to the organisation approved by the IF member, PA and Sport Australia for the delivery of the Australian Para-sport program.

3. General principles of Athlete Evaluation

- 3.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the Classification Rules of a Sport Federation in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 3.2 Athlete Evaluation encompasses:
- a) an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for a sport (Eligibility Assessment);
 - b) an assessment of whether the Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment
 - c) Criteria for a sport; and
 - d) the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 3.3 The assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for a sport must be conducted by the governing Sport Federation.
- 3.4 The assessment of whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport, the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status must be undertaken by a Classification Panel in accordance with the relevant Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

4. International Sport Federation Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 IF Classification Rules must be in compliance with the IPC Code. The IF is required, by way of their Classification rules, to publish and implement provisions relating to the components of Athlete Evaluation that are

undertaken by a Classification Panel as part of International Athlete Evaluation.

5. PA Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1 Develop and support the implementation of a national classification program in accordance with this Standard.
- 5.2 Provide support, education and resources to enable its members to comply with this Standard.
- 5.3 Monitor compliance and address non-compliance of its members to this Standard.
- 5.4 Provide general education to build classification awareness within the Australian sports community, para-athletes and other relevant stakeholders (including media & spectators) in relation to this Standard.

6. NSO/NSOD Roles and Responsibilities

- 6.1 PA adopts an inclusive approach for Australia's Para-Sport system, with the expectation that Para-sport and classification programs are equally recognised and embedded within the structure, systems, people and pathways of an NSO/NSOD.

NSO/NSODs are expected to:

- 6.2 Implement a national model that conforms with IF Classification Rules as much as is practical, and in any event, ensure IPC Code Compliance.
- 6.3 Establish a classification program, rules and procedures related to Athlete Evaluation that includes:
 - Determining the standard of competition at which National Level Athlete Evaluation is required (eg at State or national competitions) and subsequently deliver classification opportunities accordingly. NSO/NSODs must publish and promote the opportunities and any conditions regarding National Level Athlete Evaluation opportunities to enable athletes to access the opportunities.
 - Adopting the Minimum Impairment Criteria, Sport Classes and Sport Class Status' defined by their IF within their Para-Sport system;

- Establishing a position for athletes' eligibility for Multiple Sport Classes as per Article 9.8 of this standard (in the case where multiple sport class opportunities exist within a sport);
- Developing NSO/NSOD Classification Form/s including Athlete Evaluation Consent Form
- Developing a Medical Review process as per Article 9.12 of this standard.
- Maintain and publishing a Classification masterlist as per Article 12 of this standard.

- 6.4 Ensure Athlete Evaluation processes have appropriate safeguards in place to protect the physical and psychological health and wellbeing of parties involved in Athlete Evaluation;
- 6.5 NSO/NSODs are to comply with local public health advice and review any health risks associated with the delivery of classification activities. Classification should be implemented in accordance with standard infection control procedures and relevant state and national work health and safety legislation.
- 6.6 Ensure adequate screening of high performance athletes is undertaken to minimise risk and support wellbeing for athletes and team members undertaking International Level Classification;
- 6.7 Ensure Athlete Evaluation takes place in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the PA Classification Standard: Classification Data Protection (including but not limited to medical documentation, electronic pictures, videos or other notes) and the PA Classification Standard: Classification Personnel and Training;
- 6.8 Ensure processes are in place to manage classification intelligence, investigations and subsequent disciplinary proceedings in relation to this Standard and in accordance with PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation;
- 6.9 Clearly outline the codes of conduct and expectations of their members, athletes, athlete support personnel, classification personnel and any other persons or organisations engaged by them within their classification system in relation to this standard;
- 6.10 Develop and deliver Classification education and awareness programs for Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, member organisations and any other

relevant stakeholders (including media and spectators) in relation to this standard;

- 6.11 Integrate changes made by their IF to Classification Rules in respect to Athlete Evaluation, within six months after the IF change is made and align any changes as closely to the IF system as is practical; and
- 6.12 Collaborate with PA in the continuous improvement of national classification activities in relation to the Standard.

7. Levels of Athlete Evaluation in Australia

- 7.1 There are two recognised levels of Athlete Evaluation:
 - International Level Athlete Evaluation
 - National Level Athlete Evaluation
- 7.2 NSO/NSODs may also choose to offer a Provisional or some other form of entry level Classification service as a less structured indication of athlete eligibility and sport class as per provisions outlined in Article 10 of this Standard.

8. International Level Athlete Evaluation

- 8.1 International Level Athlete Evaluation is a sport specific classification process, carried out by an authorised International classification panel, according to the rules, policies and procedures of the relevant IF.
- 8.2 With the endorsement of their NSO/NSOD, athletes may attend International Level Athlete Evaluation at internationally approved or sanctioned competitions, in Australia or overseas. International Level Athlete Evaluation is relevant to athletes who are competing in International competition. All athletes progressing to International Level Athlete Evaluation should have undergone National Level Athlete Evaluation and risk screening prior to presenting to International Level Athlete Evaluation.
- 8.3 International Level Athlete Evaluation outcomes supersede any national level or provisional level evaluation outcomes.
- 8.4 Australian athletes who hold an International Level classification will use the IF allocated class for all national level competition.
- 8.5 Where an athlete holds an International Level Classification, but no longer wishes to compete at an International Level, the athlete shall retire from

International competition through their IF's processes. Following the athletes retirement, the athletes IF allocated sport class and sport class status shall be converted to a National Level classification. Athletes with a Review sport class status that was allocated by their IF will be transferred to a National Review status; athletes with Confirmed or Fixed Review Date status will also be transferred to National Confirmed and National Fixed Review Date accordingly.

- 8.6 NSO/NSODs are to ensure that all Athletes, Support Personnel and other program staff are made aware of the respective IF Classification Rules, IPC Code of Ethics (Appendix A), PA Code of Ethics and other NSO/NSOD codes of conduct that may apply to International Level Athlete Evaluation.

9. National Level Athlete Evaluation

- 9.1 National Level Athlete Evaluation is a sport-specific classification process, carried out by an authorised Australian classification panel, as per the NSO/NSOD Classification Rules.
- 9.2 NSOs/NSODs must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent processes in place concerning the components of Athlete Evaluation that are completed by a Classification Panel.

At a minimum these provisions must specify that:

- 9.2.1 Classification Panels must include a minimum of two Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances, the NSO/NSOD may utilise one Classifier only if there is an insufficient number of Classifiers to constitute a two-person Classification Panel, subject to the restriction that such a Classifier possesses a medical/allied health qualification.
- 9.2.2 Athletes have the right to choose one person, and are encouraged to do so, to accompany them during the Evaluation Session (Athlete representative). If the Athlete is under 18 years of age or has a legal guardian, it is mandatory that the athlete is accompanied. The NSO/NSOD may, at its discretion, approve more than one representative to accompany the athlete.
- 9.2.3 Athletes must verify their identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a birth certificate, Medicare card, passport, drivers license, NSO/NSOD license card or event accreditation.
- 9.2.4 All Athletes and Athlete Representatives must provide written consent prior to undergoing Athlete Evaluation including:
- Acknowledgement of the governing rules and processes to be

undertaken during Athlete Evaluation, including any requirements outlined in the NSO/NSOD classification rules and the principles of the IPC Code of Ethics (Appendix A);

- Declaration of sufficient personal health to enable their full participation in Athlete Evaluation processes and minimise any health risk to others;
- Understanding of requirement to participate honestly and with best effort, as well as to declare future medical intervention. Additionally, acknowledgement of the consequences for not doing so under the provisions for Intentional Misrepresentation;
- Acknowledgement of rights to protest and/or appeal outcomes;
- Agreement to be photographed and/or videotaped for Athlete Evaluation purposes; and
- Give consent for Data processing and disclosure for the classification purposes.

9.2.5 The Classification Panel must conduct its assessments in spoken English. If the Athlete requires an interpreter (eg language other than English or Auslan), the athlete is responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter will be permitted to accompany the Athlete in addition to the Athlete Representative.

9.2.6 A Classification Panel, with the agreement of their NSO/NSOD, may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, if it feels that such opinion is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class or Sport Class Status.

9.2.7 An Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant or use of sports equipment to the Classification Panel.

9.2.8 An Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

9.2.9 NSO/NSODs may establish a minimum age, level of sport proficiency and/or level of competition in order for athletes to undertake National Level Athlete Evaluation. It is recommended that any requirements be aligned with the principles and opportunities that exist for athletes without impairments to compete in that sport.

9.2.10 A Classification Panel may only Process Classification Data and information supplied to it by the relevant Athlete and NSO/NSOD when allocating a Sport Class. It is important that a Classification Panel has access to all the

information that it considers necessary for the allocation of a Sport Class including but not limited to previous classification documentation and relevant diagnostic information. NSO/NSODs should develop and publish policies regarding the use of third-party video material if this is collected and processed for classification decision making.

9.3 National Level Eligibility Assessment

- 9.3.1 The assessment of whether an athlete has an eligible impairment must be undertaken as provided for in the PA Classification Standard: Eligible Impairments.
- 9.3.2 If Eligibility Assessment is conducted in advance of the Athlete Evaluation, consent to process their Classification Data must be obtained before this information is processed. That is, consent must be signed before any medical data can be received and processed by the NSO and shared with the Classification Panel/Eligibility Assessment personnel.

9.4 National Level Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 9.4.1 An athlete who wishes to compete in Para-sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for that sport.
- 9.4.2 Each IF, by its classification rules, has a minimum impairment criteria (MIC) which determines an athletes' eligibility to compete in that sport. The NSO/NSOD must adopt the MIC and provisions for assessment of the MIC that are set by the IF.

9.5 Determining National Level Sport Classes

- 9.5.1 Sport class is a category or class defined by each IF in which athletes are grouped according to activity limitation resulting from their impairment. The resulting sport class provides the structure for a sport's competition format. NSO/NSODs must adopt the sport classes and assessment methods defined by their IF. Any additional classes adopted by the NSO/NSOD are considered outside of the scope of this Standard.
- 9.5.2 The allocation of a sport class must be based on the evaluation by a Classification Panel. This evaluation must take place in an environment that allows for sufficient assessment of the relevant components of the athlete evaluation process. This assessment may take place alongside or away from competition.
- 9.5.3 All IFs require that an Athlete undertakes a Physical Assessment, with some IFs also requiring athletes to undergo Technical Assessment and

Observation Assessment in the allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status. NSO/NSODs should adopt the same methodology of the Athlete Evaluation process as their IF, where this is practical at a National level.

9.6 National Level Sport Class Status

9.6.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest in accordance with the PA Classification Standard: Protest and Appeals.

9.6.2 The Sport Class Status' defined by the IPC Code include:

- New (N)
- Review (R);
- Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD);
- Confirmed (C);

9.6.3 NSO/NSODs must adopt the Sport Class Status of R, FRD and C for National Level Athlete Evaluations. An NSO/NSOD may adopt N status as it deems appropriate.

9.6.4 Sport Class Status New (N)

9.6.4.1 An Athlete may be designated with Sport Class Status New (N) if they have entered for a Competition but have not yet undergone Athlete Evaluation; meaning that the Athlete will be assessed by a Classification Panel at an upcoming opportunity.

9.6.5 Sport Class Status Review (R)

9.6.5.1 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that future Athlete Evaluation will be required. This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:

- has only recently started Competition in Para sports;
- has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/s that is permanent but not stable; and/or
- has not reached full musculo-skeletal or sports maturity.

- A Physical Impairment Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier, where this classifier is a Medical Classifier, must designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- A Vision Impairment Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier, may designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).

9.6.5.2 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any National Competition unless the NSO/NSOD specifies otherwise.

9.6.6 Sport Class Status Fixed Review Date (FRD)

9.6.6.1 A Classification Panel may designate an Athlete's Sport Class with Sport Class Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD). An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (FRD) is required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first available opportunity after the relevant fixed date has passed. That is, an athlete with FRD status reverts to an R status after the review date has passed at which point the provisions of Article 9.6.5 apply.

9.6.6.2 A Vision Impairment Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD).

9.6.7 Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

9.6.7.1 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is and will remain stable. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation. The only circumstances in which an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation will be:

- as provided in the PA Classification Standard: Protests and Appeals
- via the Medical Review Process
- if there is a change in the NSO/NSOD Classification Rules.

9.6.7.2 A Vision Impairment Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

9.6.8 If an NSO/NSOD changes the criteria or methodology used to allocate Sport Classes, it may change Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) and

Athletes with Sport Class Status with Fixed Review Date (FRD) to Sport Class Status Review (R).

9.7 National Level: Athletes who are Not Eligible

9.7.1 If an NSO/NSOD determines that an Athlete has:

- a Health Condition that will not lead to an Eligible Impairment; or
- an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment, the NSO/NSOD must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

9.7.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class NE.

9.7.3 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible because the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria that Athlete may be eligible to compete within another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.

9.7.4 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible, it must not be inferred from this that the Athlete does not have any Impairment.

9.7.5 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible on the basis that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete must be reviewed by a second Classification Panel. This must take place as soon as is possible. Pending any such second assessment, the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment, unless otherwise authorised by the NSO/NSOD.

9.7.6 If a second Classification Panel also allocates Sport Class Not Eligible because the Athlete fails to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or if the Athlete declines to be reviewed by a second Classification Panel, Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete in any future Competitions for that Para-Sport.

9.7.7 Wellbeing supports should be available to athletes and athlete support personnel who are allocated Sport Class Not Eligible.

9.8 Eligibility For Multiple National Level Sport Classes

9.8.1 It is possible that an Athlete may be eligible for two or more Sport Classes within one sport. For example, it may be the case that an Athlete has a combination of physical impairment, vision impairment and/or intellectual impairment. Further, an Athlete might have a Physical Impairment which

would make them eligible for a Sport Class in two different disciplines (for example sitting and standing in sports like archery/alpine skiing/athletics).

9.8.2 NSO/NSODs are recommended to follow the processes outlined by their IF to deal with such scenarios, where this is practical at a national level. NSO/NSODs must specify their processes within their Classification Rules and/or any other relevant rules.

9.9 Recognition of VI sport classes

9.9.1 Due to the consistent nature of VI classification rules and procedures across most sports, pre-existing VI classifications may be recognised across a number of sports. A pre-existing national or international level VI classifications will be recognised under the following conditions:

- Documented evidence of the pre-existing classification is available;
- The athlete's medical condition must not have changed since their last classification;
- Only the athlete's most recent classification will be recognised;
- All Para-sports may be mutually recognised; with the exception of Shooting and Archery, which may only be recognised in cases where the athlete's eligible impairment meets the eligibility criteria for these two sports.
- The Sport Class Status of the existing and most recent classification will be recognised. That is, an athlete with a Review, Fixed Review Date or Confirmed status in their existing sport, will be allocated a national level Review, Fixed Review Date or Confirmed status in their new sport/s.

If one or more of the above conditions is unable to be met, the athlete will be required to present for a new classification opportunity.

In addition, any changes to sport class as a result of international level classifications will supersede any pre-existing national level outcomes across all national VI sports (with the exception of shooting and archery which will be recognised if the athlete's eligible impairment is consistent across sports).

9.10 Failure of an Athlete to Attend a National Level Evaluation Session

9.10.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending scheduled Evaluation Session/s.

9.10.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier, if appointed, or the otherwise designated NSO/NSOD Classification Personnel. If the NSO/NSOD is satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Evaluation Session, they may specify a revised date and time for a further Evaluation Session.

9.10.3 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, the NSO/NSOD may preclude the Athlete from further competing.

9.11 Suspension of National Level Athlete Evaluation

9.11.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier if appointed, may suspend Athlete Evaluation if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to one or more of the following circumstances:

- a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the relevant NSO/NSOD Classification Rules;
- a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
- the Classification Panel considers that the use (or non-use) of any medication disclosed by the Athlete will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
- if an Athlete has a health condition (of any nature or description) that may limit or prohibit the Athlete from complying with requests made by the Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner (e.g., pain);
- if an Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
- if an Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given to them by a Classification Personnel to such an extent that an Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner;

- the Athlete's representation of his or her 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.

9.11.2 If Athlete Evaluation is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:

- an explanation for the suspension and the remedial action and timeframe for remedial action that is required will be provided to the Athlete, and details recorded on sport classification documentation; if an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier, if appointed, NSO/NSOD Classification Personnel or Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
- if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified or to a satisfactory standard, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing in the designated Para-Sport classes until Athlete Evaluation is completed. The Athlete should be designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) within the NSO/NSOD Classification Master List.

9.11.3 The suspension of Athlete Evaluation may be subject to further investigation regarding possible Intentional Misrepresentation. Procedures for investigation of potential Intentional Misrepresentation follow the PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation.

9.12 National Level Athlete Evaluation Outcomes.

9.12.1 National Level Athlete Evaluations are to be documented on the official NSO/NSOD classification form.

9.12.2 The classification panel may utilise video footage during any part of the Athlete Evaluation process to assist in their decision making. Where video footage is critical to the decision-making process, this should be stored as part of the athletes classification data.

9.12.3 Following the classification panel's decision on an athlete's sport class and sport class status and as soon as is practically possible, a member of the classification panel, shall verbally inform the athlete of the decision.

9.12.4 Information provided to the athlete shall include the:

- Athlete's sport class;

- Athlete's sport class status;
- Rationale for the decision; and
- Opportunities to Protest the decision.

9.12.5 If Athlete Evaluation is held at a competition, the Classification Personnel designated by the NSO/NSOD must convey the classification outcomes to the Organising Committee so that they can prepare start lists and make associated event management arrangements.

9.12.6 All classification outcomes shall be confirmed in writing to the athlete, as soon as is practically possible. Copies of the full NSO/NSOD Classification Form are to be made available to the athlete on request.

9.13 National Level Medical Review

9.13.1 NSO/NSODs must:

- Publish clear and transparent provisions regarding Medical Review within their NSO/NSOD Classification Rules
- Develop a Medical Review Form
- Determine the Classification Personnel responsible for Processing Medical Review applications

9.13.2 A Medical Review refers to a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment. Medical review requests only apply to athletes with National Level Confirmed or Fixed Review Status classifications. If the NSO/NSOD adopts a provisional classification system, the Medical Review process should also apply to athletes with a Provisional Classification.

9.13.3 A Medical Review Request is to be submitted if since the athlete's last classification:

- The Athlete's impairment and function has become less severe (ie has improved), either through medical treatment or other means. Examples of such treatment include, but are not limited to, changes in medication, botox injections to reduce hypertonia or increase the active range of movement; tendon releases; orthopaedic rods or other joint fixations to assist posture or joint stability, corrective eye surgery; or
- The Athlete's impairment has become more severe (ie has worsened)

including but not limited to progressive or deteriorating conditions, has had intervention, or a change in amputation level to the extent that the athlete most likely does not fit their current sport class anymore.

- An Athlete has a new Health Condition or Eligible Impairment.

9.13.4 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency. An athlete must notify the NSO/NSOD prior to competing at any future event or within 12 months of the change occurring, whichever comes sooner. Any Athlete who fails to draw these to the attention of their NSO/NSOD may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation in accordance with PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation.

9.13.5 A Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed, and why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate. It will generally be the case that any Medical Review Request will need to be accompanied by medical records.

9.13.6 It is recommended that NSO/NSODs do not charge a fee for Medical Review requests.

9.13.7 The designated NSO/NSOD Classification Personnel must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request must be upheld as soon as is possible following receipt of the Medical Review Request. It is recommended that NSO/NSODs allow three months for processing Medical Review Requests.

9.13.8 If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect, at which point the provisions of athletes with R status apply.

9.13.9 In the instance of athletes with a vision impairment, if the Medical Review Request is upheld and the athlete holds classifications across two or more sports, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect across all sports the athlete holds a national level classification for.

9.13.10 If an athlete holds a current International level classification, and has not retired from International level competition, the IF Classification Rules, govern any medical review processes.

10. Provisional/ Entry Level Classification

- 10.1 Provisional Classification is a process that may be offered by an NSO/NSOD to athletes as a entry level classification process. It may also assist sports in offering classification to athletes in locations where face to face classification is not available. Provisional Classification is an indication of athlete eligibility and sport class only.
- 10.2 It is recommended that provisional classifications be conducted by certified classifiers in that sport and in accordance with the NSO/NSOD classification rules. Generally, the assessment of medical information by one medical classifier is considered sufficient.
- 10.3 Once an athlete has undergone National Level Athlete Evaluation this supersedes any previous Provisional Classification outcome.
- 10.4 It is recommended that Provisional Classifications be valid for entry level competition only. NSOs are strongly discouraged from allowing athletes with provisional classifications to compete at national competition.
- 10.5 It is recommended that Athletes holding a Provisional Classification are not eligible for records, rankings and any Australian team selection at the final discretion of the NSO/NSOD.
- 10.6 At a minimum, Provisional Classification methods established by NSO/NSODs should follow:
 - Gain written consent to process Athletes personal and classification information;
 - Collection of sufficient medical and other sport information to give a likely indication of Eligibility Assessment and allocation of Sport class. For example this may be conducted via submission of medical and/or sports data via written report, or photo, video or other multimedia;
 - Assessment by classifier/s of information supplied by athlete;
 - Provide written notification of Provisional Classification outcomes as soon as is practically possible;
 - Publishing provisional outcomes on the Masterlist.
- 10.7 NSO/NSODs should allocate a clearly distinguishable indicator of athletes who have undergone a Provisional Classification in their masterlist eg Indicate

which athletes hold an International level, National level or Provisional level classification.

- 10.8 It is recommended that Provisional Level classifications that are allocated an eligible class are allocated Review status. The Review status indicates that the athletes Provisional Level classification remains valid without expiry for entry level competition, subject to the conditions in Article 10.9, however is to undergo review by a National level classification opportunity if they progress to higher level competition or where a more accurate classification is required.
- 10.9 Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level classification who do not demonstrate the presence of an Eligible Impairment, as per the conditions of Eligibility Assessment outlined in PA Classification Standard: Eligible Impairments, are to be allocated a Sport Class of NE and Sport Class Status of Confirmed.
- 10.10 Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level classification, who meet the conditions of Eligibility Assessment outlined in PA Classification Standard: Eligible Impairments but do not appear to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the Para-sport are to be allocated a Sport Class of NE and Sport Class Status of Review. It is recommended that these athletes are permitted to be reviewed by a National level Classification Panel.
- 10.11 It is recommended that athletes who hold a provisional level classification may have their provisional outcome reviewed and a new provisional classification issued if:
- their medical condition has changed by way of the Medical Review Process outlined in Article 9; or
 - there is a relevant change in the NSO/NSOD Classification rules that would affect the provisional class they have been allocated.

11. Organising Athlete Evaluation

- 11.1 The requirements for each sport's athlete evaluation processes are outlined in the specific IF Classification Rules. These processes should be followed by the NSO/NSOD, where practical at a national level.
- 11.2 All Athlete Evaluation is to be delivered in a manner that minimises risks, and meets the required occupational work and safety requirements and any other applicable legislation.
- 11.3 The generic operational requirements for the delivery of national athlete evaluation should follow the processes outlined in the PA Best Practice Classification Organisers Guide.

12. Classification Master Lists

- 12.1 NSO/NSODs must maintain and publish a Classification masterlist of all Australian athletes who have been classified at provisional, national and international level, including sufficient information for the athlete to be identified for competition such as the athletes name, athletes membership number, sex, year of birth, state, sport class and sport class status.
- 12.2 Classification Masterlists are to be updated by the NSO/NSOD following each Athlete Evaluation. The timeframe for this update should be included in the NSO/NSOD Classification rules. It is recommended that this be up dated no more than two months after the classification has taken place.

13. Definitions

This Standard uses the defined terms from the IPC Code and PA Athlete Classification Policy. Further defined terms specific to this Standard are:

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, a person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by each International Federation) or national or lower level (as defined by each NSO/NSOD). Any reference to an Athlete includes a reference to the Athlete's legal guardian where the context so permits.

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.
Chief Classifier:	A Classifier appointed by an NSO/NSOD to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to that NSO/NSOD Classification Rules.
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 to allocate 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 the sport.
Head of Classification:	A person appointed by an NSO/NSOD to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for that NSO/ NSOD.
Health Condition:	Any pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.
Medical Review:	The process by which the sports federation identifies 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 an Athlete for Medical Review

14. Relevant policies, codes and standards

- [IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards](#)
- [IPC Classification Code Model of Best Practice - National Classification](#)
- [IPC Code of Ethics](#)
- [PA Classification Standard - Eligible Impairments](#)

- [PA Classification Standard - Protests and Appeals](#)
- [PA Classification Standard - Classification Personnel and Training](#)
- [PA Classification Standard – Classification Data Protection](#)
- [PA Classification Standard – Intentional Misrepresentation](#)
- [PA Code of Conduct](#)
- [Other PA policies](#) (including but not limited to People Protection Policy and Privacy Policy)

Appendix A IPC Code of Ethics

Relevant sections of IPC Code of Ethics that relate to athletes and other athlete related classification personnel:

All athletes and support personnel shall:

- accept the fundamental values of honesty, human rights, fairness, justice, non-discrimination and personal integrity;
- act with dignity, integrity and equality;
- avoid improper use of information;

All athletes shall:

- participate in Para-sport events, competitions and activities in the true spirit of fair play for the glory of sport;
- respect the performance of their fellow competitors and not cause any illegal obstruction, damage or bodily harm to them;
- respect their coaches and team officials and not follow any illegal advice that would violate the Paralympic ideals of fair play;
- respect the IPC Classification Code and process and participate fully in it. They must respect the final decision of classifiers and officials and understand that failure to do so may jeopardise their ability to participate in [Para-sport] events and competitions. Athletes and team officials will only lodge a protest when there is genuine doubt about the classification of an athlete.
- not support or assist other athletes to gain any illegal or unfair advantage and shall report any infringement to this principle to the responsible officials.

All coaches and team members (and other athlete support personnel) shall:

- comply with the Paralympic ideals in the spirit of fair play.
- never compromise true sportsmanship or the Paralympic values and ideals to obtain personal, team or national advantage;
- observe and follow the IPC Classification Code and all competition rules and regulations; and shall report any irregularity to the responsible officials;
- respect the classification process and shall ensure that their athletes perform honestly; and make protests only when there is genuine doubt about the classification of a competitor.