

2006 FISA CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES for Adaptive Rowers

PREAMBLE

FISA's objective for adaptive rowing is inclusion: to provide the opportunity for athletes with a disability, both men and women, to compete at FISA events and Paralympic Games. FISA is responsible for the classification of adaptive athletes who wish to compete in rowing at an international level and has established classification criteria which define the minimum disability of an athlete permitted to compete in each of the designated boat classes. Before a rower can compete in a FISA event, the Paralympic Qualification regatta or Paralympic Games, the classification of the rower must be approved by FISA.

Classification places athletes in groupings with other athletes of similar levels of functional ability to provide competition which is as fair as possible. In spite of this criteria, FISA recognises and accepts that the respective classifications encompass a range of disabilities and that there will be athletes with disabilities which may be greater than the minimum and who may therefore be at a disadvantage competing in their adaptive boat class.

These guidelines will be revised as FISA works to harmonize its classification procedures with the International Standards set out in the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code. The Code will be accepted by FISA on or before the opening of the 2008 Paralympic Games and implemented by FISA on or before the opening of the 2012 Paralympic Games.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Before commencing the classification process all rowers are required to complete and sign a *FISA Classification Application Form* and to also sign the *FISA Consent for Adaptive Rowing Classification Form* and *Declaration of Medical Conditions that may require Emergency Measures*. The application form is not complete unless all the requested documentation is attached.

Athletes with a visual impairment or an intellectual disability must include with their application documentation to demonstrate that they have met the appropriate classification requirements as prescribed below.

Athletes with a physical disability must be classified by FISA Classifiers to confirm that they meet the eligibility requirements prescribed below.

FISA CLASSIFIERS

An International Rowing Classifier is one who has been approved as such by FISA. There are two types of FISA Classifier:

- (1) FISA Classifier (Medical): a medical doctor, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or similarly qualified person;
- (2) FISA Classifier (Technical): a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, physical educator or similarly qualified person.

FISA Classifiers shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may appoint an Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding the qualification process and the appointment of Classifiers.

CLASSIFICATION STATUS:

New (N) Status

A sport class status allocated to an athlete who has not been classified by a FISA International Classification Panel but who has been classified by one of either an international classifier from another Paralympic sport, a FISA trainee classifier or a FISA Classifier who may classify rowers from their own federation or region and such classifications shall have the status of "N". A rower with a classification status of "N" may compete at National level or non-FISA event.

Review (R) Status

FISA Classifiers may allocate a classification with an "R" status to a rower where the Classifiers consider the rower's current disability may change, further observation is required, or for reasons determined by FISA (for example a Protest). Rowers with an "R" classification may be required to undergo a further classification process prior to competing at a FISA event, the Paralympic Qualification regatta or the Paralympic regatta.

Confirmed (C) Status

For a Confirmed international status classification, the rower must be classified by FISA Classification Panel [one Classifier (Medical) and one Classifier (Technical)]. A rower with "C" status classification may compete in all FISA and Paralympic events permitted by their classification.

PROCESS FOR CLASSIFYING ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

The standard FISA classification process is conducted by a FISA International Classification Panel comprised of two FISA Classifiers, one of whom must be a FISA Classifier (Medical) and one a FISA Classifier (Technical).

The process involves three parts:

- (1) Bench Test – directed by a FISA Classifier (Medical) with Technical Classifier in attendance.
- (2) Ergometer Test- directed by a FISA Classifier (Technical) with Medical Classifier in attendance.
- (3) On Water Observation- directed by both a FISA Classifier (Medical) and a FISA Classifier (Technical) during training and/or competition.

Classifiers will assess rowers with a physical disability according to the processes described in the *FISA Adaptive Rowing Classification Manual*.

INTERIM CLASSIFICATION

As an interim measure, and exception to the standard FISA classification process, pending the qualification of a sufficient number of FISA Classifiers, classification may be undertaken by a team comprised of a qualified international classifier in another Paralympic sport and a person with technical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach. If this interim measure is to be used, specific prior approval in each case must be obtained from FISA.

Any classification allocated under this interim measure shall be an 'N' STATUS. A completed and signed classification application form must be submitted to FISA with the required documentation for approval.

2006 Interim Classification Process

FISA has given specific prior approval for the following interim classifications in 2006:

Athletes may be classified:

1. at a FISA Classification workshop: Hong Kong in February, Great Britain in May or Canada in June
2. by FISA trainee Classifiers if the classification is approved by the FISA Chief Classifier before 7 July 2006
3. by an IPC International Classifier from another sport and a person with technical knowledge of rowing if the classification is approved by the FISA Chief Classifier before 7 July 2006
4. those classified at the previous World Rowing Championships with "permanent" status must have their classification re-confirmed by the FISA Chief Classifier before 7 July 2006.

Note:

1. All rowers with (C) status should submit their 2006 classification application before the entry deadline for the 2006 World Rowing Championships. Those failing to be classified will be ineligible unless they are approved by the FISA Chief Classifier before the submission deadline of 7 July 2006.
2. Entry to the 2006 World Rowing Championships for rowers with (N) status will only be granted if the Classification Application Form is completed fully and correctly, and all required supporting documentation has been received within the deadline. If any documentation is incomplete, the entry will not be accepted.

RECLASSIFICATION

Once a rower has been classified and has received a C sport class status, the rower can only be reclassified if there has been a change in the rower's disability, a change in the classification system, or a Protest lodged in accordance with the Rules that results in a reclassification.

ELIGIBILITY & CLASSIFICATION

A. LTA (Legs, trunk and arms)

The LTA class is for rowers with disability but who have the use of their legs, trunk and arms and who can utilise the sliding seat. LTA rowers must meet minimum disability requirements in at least one of the following three disability groups:

(1) Intellectual disability

A rower must meet the eligibility criteria established by the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) and have completed the athlete eligibility application using the April 2005 Form on the INAS-FID website (www.inas-fid.org) and have been issued with a INAS-FID Athletes Card. Athletes classified under criteria prior to April 2005 must be re-registered with INAS-FID using the April 2005 Form. The *FISA Classification Application Form* must be completed and submitted to FISA accompanied by a copy of INAS-FID April 2005 Form with support documents such as copy of IQ test score and INAS-FID athletes card by the closing date for entries for the event at which the athlete wishes to compete. For 2006, the deadline for submission of the Classification Application will be 7 July 2006.

(2) Visual impairment

A rower must have been classified by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) in one of the B3, B2 or B1 classes. Refer <http://www.ibsa.es>. The *FISA Classification Application Form* must be completed with supporting documentation and submitted to FISA by the closing date for entries for the event at which the athlete wishes to compete. For 2006, the deadline for submission of the Classification Application will be 7 July 2006.

(3) Physical Disability

The minimum physical disability is the loss of ten points on one limb or fifteen points across two limbs when assessed against the *Functional Classification Test* (as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities), or a full loss of three fingers on one hand.

Eligible LTA rowers will typically have a minimum disability equivalent to one of the following:

- Amputation: At least one single foot amputation at the metatarsal tarsal joints or three fingers of one hand.
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1.
- Cerebral Palsy Class 8 (CP-ISRA).
- Blind: 10% of vision in best eye with best correction (from visual acuity above 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or a visual field of more than 5% and less than 20%)
- Intellectual impairment: INAS-FID April 2005 criteria

Note:

If a crew includes rowers whose disability is visual impairment, a maximum of two such rowers is permitted in the LTA4+, one of whom must be B1 or B2. All visually impaired rowers must wear FISA approved eyewear at all times when on the water during both training and competition from the opening day of the course until the final race of their competition. Such eyewear shall completely block all light. Control Commission officers may check eyewear during competition to ensure that they comply with the above.

B. TA (Trunk and Arms)

The TA class is for rowers who have trunk movement but who are unable to use the sliding seat to propel the boat because of significantly weakened function of the lower limbs.

Eligible TA rowers would typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Bilateral around knee amputation, or impaired quadriceps, or
- Neurological impairment equivalent to a complete lesion at L3 level, or an incomplete lesion at L1, or
- Combination of the above such as one leg with around knee amputation and one leg with quadriceps impairment; or
- Classification by the international sports federation for athletes with cerebral palsy (CP-ISRA) as eligible to be in CP Class 5.

C. A (Arms Only)

The A class is for rowers who have no or minimal trunk function (i.e. shoulder function only). An A class rower is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders only.

Eligible rowers would typically have a minimum disability equivalent to at least one of the following:

- Cerebral Palsy Class 4 (CP-ISRA); or
- Neurological Impairment with a complete lesion at T12 level, or an incomplete lesion at T10, or
- Functional impairment of *rectus abdominis* (Beevor's sign).

CONSENT FOR FISA ADAPTIVE ROWER CLASSIFICATION

Explanation:

For a rower to be eligible to compete in FISA and Paralympic events, the rower must be classified under the FISA Classification guidelines.

Failure to cooperate with the Classifiers or failure to complete the classification procedure will lead to ineligibility to compete in the FISA event, the Paralympic Qualification regatta or the Paralympic Games.

The Classification process will be conducted with all due care to limit any discomfort to individual athletes. However, failure to complete the classification process, regardless of discomfort, will result in the rower not being classified and therefore not being eligible to compete in FISA or Paralympic events. The rower may withdraw their consent at any time but the process will then not be undertaken and the rower will not be classified and will also not be eligible to compete in FISA or Paralympic events.

By signing this consent form the rower agrees to waive his/her rights to make any claim against the Classifiers, FISA or anyone who might then claim against the Classifiers or FISA, for indemnification for any damages or claims of personal injury or any other claim arising from or in any way related to the classification procedure of the rower. The rower agrees to fully indemnify FISA and the Classifiers should any claim be made against them in any way related to the classification of the rower.

The following is an agreement by the rower, and the rower's parent/legal guardian where appropriate, consenting that the rower agrees to fully participate in the FISA identified eligibility criteria and classification procedure.

By signing below the rower agrees to complete the test honestly to the best of his/her ability.

I, _____ of (Federation) _____

consent to be classified under the FISA identified eligibility criteria and classification procedure for FISA and Paralympic events.

I _____ Parent/legal guardian of (name of rower) _____

_____ consent to the above on behalf of _____

Signature of Rower: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Guardian: _____ Date: _____

(Note: Confirmation of guardianship status may be required).

Signature of Witness: _____ Date: _____

Print witness name and address: _____

DECLARATION OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT MAY REQUIRE EMERGENCY MEASURES
[please print all information and complete in English]

I wish to compete in FISA adaptive rowing events.

[PLEASE PRINT FULL NAME]

I understand that FISA requires me to state any known medical conditions that may compromise my safety on the water. I understand that I must state the current management for my condition[s]

(please print n/a if there are no associated medical conditions)

I suffer from _____

The current management for the above is _____

I have the following allergies: _____

My medication is as follows: _____

I understand that if I fail to state any known medical conditions and if this condition results in having to perform a rescue, I will automatically be deemed ineligible for the present competition. I also understand that if a condition becomes evident for the first time during competition and is diagnosed at the time e.g. dehydration, I will still be eligible to compete as long as I observe the recommended management for the condition.

SIGNATURE OF ROWER: _____

SIGNATURE of PARENT/GUARDIAN/WARD [UNDER AGE 18]: _____

SIGNATURE OF PERSONAL DOCTOR/TEAM PHYSICIAN: _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: _____

DATE : _____

ADAPTIVE ROWING CLASSIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in English

Family Name: _____ Given Name _____

Sex: _____ Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Address: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Federation _____

Please attach the following documentation as appropriate to the application:

1. INAS-FID documentation (including a copy of IQ test score and athletes card).
2. IBSA documentation (including a report signed by a medical ophthalmologist or optometrist).
3. For physically disabled athletes, letter from a medical physician with the rower's diagnosis.

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For Classifier's Use Only

Diagnosis+ Associated Diagnosis+ other Comments:

Visual Impairment: _____ IBSA number: _____

Intellectual Disability: _____ INAS-FID number: _____

Physical Disability:

Amputee _____ since _____

Spinal Level Impaired _____ Complete / Incomplete since _____

Others _____

Documentation of Disability Attached

Progressive: Yes / No Seizures: Yes / No Asthma: Yes / No

Ability to Walk: Yes / No Crutches/Aids: Yes / No Wheelchair: Yes / No

Testing Place & Date: _____ Recommended Class: LTA TA A

Classifier/s Comment :.....

.....

Final Classification: **New** **Review** **Confirmed**

If R (Review) Status, provide reasons.....

Signature, FISA Classifier (Medical) Signature, FISA Classifier (Technical) Signature, Rower

ADAPTIVE ROWING FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION TEST

Athlete Name: _____ **Country:** _____

Functional Classification Test	Muscle Strength (0-5 scale, no +/- scale)		Range of Movement (0-5 scale)	
	Right	Left	Right	Left
UPPER LIMBS				
Shoulder				
Flexion				
Extension				
Elbow				
Flexion				
Extension				
Wrist				
Flexion				
Extension				
Fingers				
Flexion				
Extension				
TOTAL UPPER: R(80) L(80)				
TRUNK				
Flexion/Extension: R(10) L (10)				
LOWER LIMBS	Right	Left	Right	Left
Hips				
Flexion				
Extension				
Knee				
Flexion				
Extension				
ANKLE				
Flexion (Plantarflexion)				
Extension(Dorsiflexion)				
TOTAL LOWER: R(60) L(60)				

Scales for Muscular strength

- 0 No muscle contraction
- 1 Flicker or trace of contraction
- 2 Active movement with gravity eliminated
- 3 Active movement against gravity
- 4 Active movement against gravity and resistance
- 5 Normal power

Scales of Functional Range of Movement

- 0 No functional range of movement
- 1 Slight functional range of movement
- 2 25% functional range of movement
- 3 50% functional range of movement
- 4 75% functional range of movement
- 5 Normal functional range of movement

Minimal Disability:

(Refer Adaptive Rowing Functional Classification Test)

Yes / No (Please circle): Minimal loss of 10 points on one limb or 15 points across two limbs in the above functional classification test chart.

Yes / No (Please circle) Full loss of three fingers on one hand

SQUAT TEST

90 degree Squat Test: *Pass / Fail*

Comments:

LONG SIT TEST

Long Sit Test: *Pass / Fail*

Comments:

ERGOMETER TEST AND ON-WATER OBSERVATION

Comments on ergometer test and on-water observation:

(Note: Comments should provide an indication of whether these tests confirm the bench test results and why, and if not why the ergometer test and/or on-water observation leads the classifiers to confirm a different category).

FISA CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM

To be completed by a rower wishing to protest against his/her own classification

Name of Rower:

Family Name: _____ Given Name: _____

Federation: _____

Current Classification and Sport Class Status: please put "√" on the eligible class

LTA _____ TA _____ A _____

Current classification: New Review Confirmed

Signature of person submitting form: _____

Full name of person submitting the form (if different from the rower to whom this protest applies) and relationship to the rower

Details of Protest:

Official use only

Date and Time received: _____

Protest Fee Paid (must be attached): _____

Signature of FISA Chief Classifier: _____

Decision of the Classification Protest Panel:

Allowed/ Dismissed

Reasons: _____

Date, Time: _____

Names of Classification Protest Panel Members: (Please print)

_____ **FISA Classifier**

_____ **FISA Classifier**

_____ **FISA Classifier**

Signatures: _____
