

2010 FISA ADAPTIVE ROWING CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

PREAMBLE

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

Classification places rowers with disabilities in groupings with other rowers of similar levels of functional ability to provide a competition opportunity that is as equal 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 rowers with disabilities which may be greater than the minimum and who may therefore be at a disadvantage competing in their respective sport class.

These guidelines have been revised to harmonize FISA's classification procedures with the International Standards set out in the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code. The Code has been accepted by FISA and is intended to be implemented by FISA on or before the opening of the 2012 Paralympic Games.

FISA CLASSIFIERS

A FISA International Classifier is one who has been appointed as such by FISA. There are two types of FISA International Classifier:

- (1) FISA Medical Classifier: a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or physiotherapist
- (2) FISA Technical Classifier: a person with extensive practical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, physical educator or similarly qualified person.

Organisation of Classifiers

The Executive Committee shall appoint a **FISA Head of Classification** from amongst the FISA International Classifiers with responsibility for the overall direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for FISA.

The Adaptive Rowing Commission, in consultation with the Head of Classification, shall appoint a FISA International Classifier as **Chief Classifier** for each FISA event where adaptive races are held. The Chief Classifier shall be responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters at the event for which they are appointed.

A **FISA Classification Panel** shall comprise two (2) FISA International Classifiers, one a Medical Classifier, and one Technical Classifier for the purposes of classification of rowers. For international classification, this panel shall be appointed by the FISA Adaptive Rowing Commission and may be comprised of either Level One or Level Two International Classifiers.

Levels of Classifiers

A FISA Level Two International Classifier is a person appointed as such by the FISA Executive Committee, in consultation with the Head of Classification, who has completed the requirements necessary to serve on a FISA International Classification Panel and who has a high level of experience and has demonstrated adept judgment on classifications as an International Classifier and when relevant, arbiter of protests. A Level Two International Classifier may be appointed to act as Chief Classifier at an international regatta and may conduct International Classification Workshops to identify, train, and evaluate candidates to serve as International Classifiers in cooperation with the FISA Adaptive Rowing Commission. A FISA Level Two Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel.

A person may be appointed by FISA as a FISA Level One International Classifier if they have participated in a FISA Advanced International Classification Workshop, have demonstrated their ability to classify rowers, have shown competence in performing all of the classification tasks and have met the requirements of the FISA Adaptive Rowing Commission to be appointed as a FISA International Classifier. A FISA International Classifier may be appointed to serve on a FISA Classification Panel and is qualified to determine the sport class and sport class status of a rower wishing to compete at a FISA or IPC event. A FISA Level One Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel.

A **Trainee Classifier** is a person who is in the process of formal training by FISA, but has not met the requirements as a FISA Level One International Classifier. A Trainee Classifier shall not serve on an International Classification Panel and shall continue to practice their skills at a national level. They may only issue a sport class status of New.

SPORT CLASS STATUS

Upon completion of the classification process, a rower will receive one of the following:

New (N) Status

A sport class status of "N" shall be allocated to a rower who has not been classified by a FISA 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 federation or region. A rower with a sport class status of "N" may not compete at a FISA event, or the Paralympic Qualification Regatta or Paralympic Games Regatta.

Confirmed (C) Status

A sport class status of "C" may only be allocated by a FISA International Classification Panel, none of whom shall be from the athlete's national federation. A rower with "C" status is confirmed for international competition and may compete in all FISA, Paralympic events, and international regattas permitted by their sport class and sport class status.

Review (R) Status

A sport class status of "R" shall be allocated by a FISA International Classification Panel to a rower where the Panel considers the rower's sport class status might change (due to a change in disability or a change in the classification process), or when any member of the International Classification Panel is from the national federation of the rower. Rowers with an "R" status may be required to undergo a further classification evaluation once a year prior to competing at a FISA event, the Paralympic Qualification Regatta, Paralympic Games Regatta, or any international regatta. The time frame for review may vary.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ROWERS SEEKING FISA INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Before the classification process can commence, an applicant shall complete, sign, and submit to FISA the following:

- *FISA Classification Application Form,*
- *Declaration of Medical Conditions that may require Emergency Measures Form,*
- *FISA Consent for Adaptive Rowing Classification Form,*
- Documentation from a medical doctor written clearly in English, stipulating the cause and extent of a rower's disability and the date of the disability. Where the original document is in a language other than English, any translation must be accompanied by an official certification that it is a true and correct translation. The application form will not be regarded as complete unless all the required documentation is attached in English.

Rowers with a visual impairment or an intellectual disability must also include with their application, documentation to demonstrate they have met the appropriate classification requirements as prescribed below in sections entitled "Sport Class" items 1 and 2.

PROCESS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY A Classification Panel will assess rowers with a physical disability according to the process described in the *FISA Adaptive Rowing Classification Manual*. The process involves three parts:

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

If a rower has an amputation, he or she must be classified with and without their prosthesis. The rower will be issued the more functional sport class. Rowers who use an orthosis must be classified with and without their orthosis. The rower will be issued the more functional sport class. Rower's prostheses and orthoses may not cause the rower to be issued a less functional sport class than if they row without the device.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

A rower with a physical disability is eligible to compete as an adaptive rower if he/she is classified and issued with one of the three FISA sport classes below which cover the following:

- Visual impairment
- Physical disabilities which lead to sufficient loss of functionality determined during the functional classification test.

SPORT CLASS FOR ROWERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

FISA recognizes three (3) adaptive rowing sport classes for rowers with a physical disability: LTA, TA, AS.

A. LTA (Includes LTA-PD, LTA-B1, LTA-B2, LTA-B3)

Rowers with a verifiable and permanent disability 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 LTA class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel.

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

- Amputee.
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1.
- Cerebral Palsy Class 8 (CPISRA).
- Visual Impairment: 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%)

LTA class rowers must meet minimum disability requirements in at least one of the following disability groups:

(1) LTA-PD Physical Disability

The minimum physical disability is a full loss of three fingers on one hand, OR at least a tarsal 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 Test* as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities

(2) LTA-B1, LTA-B2, LTA-B3 Visual impairment

Prior to any FISA event at which they wish to compete, a rower with visual impairment must have been classified by an ophthalmologist or the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) in one of the B3 (LTA-B3), B2 (LTA-B2) or B1 (LTA-B1) classes. Refer to <http://www.ibsa.es>. The *FISA* forms must be completed with supporting documentation and submitted to FISA by the closing date for entries for the event at which the rower wishes to compete (refer to the Vision Qualification Form). Prior to competing at the World Rowing Championships, any Paralympic Qualification Regatta, or the Paralympic Games, all Visually Impaired rowers must undergo a classification by an IBSA Classifier. This may occur prior to or at the event during the classification evaluation period.

B. TA

Rowers who have functional use of the trunk and who are not able to use the sliding seat to propel the boat because of significantly weakened function or mobility of the lower limbs will be assigned to the TA class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel.

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

- Bilateral around knee amputation, or significantly 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 significant quadriceps impairment; or
- Classification by the international sports federation for rowers with cerebral palsy (CPISRA) as eligible to be in CP Class 5.

C. AS

Rowers who have minimal or no trunk function (i.e. shoulder function only) will be assigned to the AS class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel. An AS class rower is able to apply force predominantly using the arms and/or shoulders. These athletes will likely also have poor sitting balance.

Eligible rowers may 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

ELIGIBILITY FOR ROWERS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

A rower with an intellectual disability is eligible to compete as an adaptive rower if he/she is classified and issued with the FISA sport class for an intellectual disability.

SPORT CLASS FOR ROWERS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

FISA recognizes one adaptive rowing sport class for rowers with an intellectual disability: ID

ID

Rowers with an intellectual disability will be assigned to the ID class. Rowers with intellectual disability will be assessed under the INAS-FID June 2009 criteria for intellectual impairment and must meet the following requirements:

ID class rower must be registered with the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) and have completed the athlete's classification application using the form on the INAS-FID website (www.inas-fid.org) and have been issued an INAS-FID Athletes Card. The FISA Documentation must be completed and submitted to FISA accompanied by a copy of INAS-FID Athletes card by the closing date for entries for the event at which the rower wishes to compete. These athletes will also be required to undergo additional rowing specific functional testing by an International Classification Panel to determine eligibility.

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 TA may compete in LTA events, but may not compete in AS events.