

## **APPENDIX 19**

# **FISA PARA ROWING CLASSIFICATION REGULATIONS – EVENT REGULATIONS AND/OR DEPARTURES FROM THE FISA RULES OF RACING**

*The FISA Para Rowing Classification Regulations are an integral part of the FISA Rules of Racing, related Bye-Laws and Event Regulations available at [www.worldrowing.com](http://www.worldrowing.com).*

### **International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code**

*FISA has implemented these Classification Regulations having regard to the IPC Classification Code (“the IPC Code”). In the event that these Classification Regulations fail to provide for a matter in respect of which there is provision in the IPC Code, the provisions appearing in the IPC Code shall apply and be regarded as being part of these Regulations.*

## **1. Introduction to Classification**

### **1.1 Classification: An Overview**

- 1.1.1 *In accordance with the IPC Code, the term “classification”, as used in these Regulations, refers to the process by which athletes are evaluated by reference to the impact of impairment on their ability to compete in the sport of rowing. The purpose of Classification is to provide a structure for competition. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an athlete’s impairment is relevant to sport performance and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes. Classification determines the eligibility to compete and groups athletes for competition.*
- 1.1.2 *The allocation to an athlete of a Sport Class is determined by a medical and technical assessment of the athlete, and, if required, observation in training and/or competition. These processes are explained in these Classification Regulations.*
- 1.1.3 *A Sport Class will only be allocated to an Athlete who has an impairment that is the direct result of an underlying health condition which has resulted in a permanent and verifiable activity limitation.*

- 1.2 *Eligible Impairments – Following is a list of eligible impairments, being those impairments accepted by FISA for classification of para rowers:*
- 1.2.1 *Visual impairment – Athletes with impaired vision have reduced or no vision as a result of damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain. Examples include: retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.*
  - 1.2.2 *Impaired muscle power – Athletes with impaired muscle power have a health condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force. Examples include: spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.*
  - 1.2.3 *Impaired range of movement – Athletes with impaired range of movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints. Examples include: arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.*
  - 1.2.4 *Limb deficiency – Athletes with limb deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example traumatic amputation), illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).*
  - 1.2.5 *Hypertonia – Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.*
  - 1.2.6 *Ataxia – Athletes with ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.*
  - 1.2.7 *Athetosis – Athletes with athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements. Examples include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.*

- 1.3 *Non-eligible Impairments – Any impairment not listed in Article 1.2 is referred to as a Non-eligible Impairment. Examples include:*
  - 1.3.1 *Pain;*
  - 1.3.2 *Hearing impairment;*
  - 1.3.3 *Low muscle tone;*
  - 1.3.4 *Hypermobility of joints;*
  - 1.3.5 *Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;*
  - 1.3.6 *Impaired muscle endurance;*
  - 1.3.7 *Impaired motor reflex functions;*
  - 1.3.8 *Impaired cardiovascular functions;*
  - 1.3.9 *Impaired respiratory functions;*
  - 1.3.10 *Impairment metabolic functions;*
  - 1.3.11 *Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.*
- 1.4 *The IPC has specified certain health conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Examples are:*
  - 1.4.1 *Health conditions that primarily cause pain, such as myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.*
  - 1.4.2 *Health conditions that primarily cause fatigue, such as chronic fatigue syndrome.*
  - 1.4.3 *Health Conditions that primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia, such as Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.*
  - 1.4.4 *Health Conditions which are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature, such as conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.*
- 1.5 *Submission of Medical Documentation*
  - 1.5.1 *An athlete's member federation shall send, by email, to the Head of Classification or Chief Classifier all required relevant medical documentation no later than 30 days prior to the date of classification. The purpose of this documentation is to allow FISA to verify that an athlete's impairments are the direct*

*result of a health condition which has resulted in a permanent and verifiable activity limitation. Medical documentation here includes, but is not limited to, medical history or results from any relevant investigations (MRI, CT scan, EMG, EEG, nerve conduction, visual tests), athlete's date of birth, and date of injury. Where documentation is not submitted by the required deadline, an athlete may be refused classification evaluation.*

- 1.5.2 *This documentation must be provided on the FISA Medical Diagnostics Form for athletes with physical impairments, and on the VI Medical Form for athletes with visual impairments.*
- 1.5.3 *The documentation must be completed in full in English, and be dated and signed by an appropriate medical doctor. It must also include any required test results as listed on the forms. Where the medical documentation is not written in English, an official translation shall be provided. Any translation must be accompanied by an official certification that it is a true and correct translation.*
- 1.5.4 *Upon receipt, the Head of Classification or Chief Classifier will review and either accept the documentation as sent, or may request the member federation to provide specific additional information. The reason for this is to make a preliminary assessment of whether the athlete has an eligible impairment that is the direct result of a health condition that leads to a permanent and verifiable activity limitation. The Head of Classification or Chief Classifier may at any stage seek additional medical, technical or scientific opinion, and may also appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee if deemed necessary to make the decision. It is important to note that the Classification Panel will also review all medical documentation during classification evaluation with the athlete present. The Panel may decide at the time of classification that the athlete does not have an eligible impairment, and the athlete will not be allowed to undergo classification assessment.*
- 1.5.5 *If an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed, the Head of Classification will notify the athlete's member federation which additional diagnostic information is required for the athlete, and the purposes for which it is required.*
  - a. *The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of the Diagnostic Information.*

- b. *The Committee should, in principle, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. They will be required to uphold the same privacy requirements as all classifiers.*
- c. *If the Head of Classification is not satisfied that he holds the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he/she will not participate in the review of the information but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.*
- d. *Wherever possible, all references to the name or member federation of the athlete should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member will review the diagnostic information and decide whether it establishes the existence of an eligible impairment.*
- e. *If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the athlete has an eligible impairment, the athlete will be permitted to complete the athlete evaluation with a Classification Panel.*
- f. *If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the athlete has an eligible impairment, the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect, in writing to the relevant member federation. The member federation will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further diagnostic information to the Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the member federation.*
- g. *If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the member federation.*
- h. *The Eligibility Assessment Committee shall make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Committee, he may veto any decision if he does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the athlete has an eligible impairment.*
- i. *The Head of Classification may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.*

- 1.5.6 *If FISA determines that an athlete does not have an eligible impairment, a sport class of Not Eligible (NE) must be allocated to that athlete, and the sport class status shall be Confirmed.*
- a. *An athlete who is allocated a sport class of NE because the athlete does not have an eligible impairment has no right to any further evaluation or assessment by FISA, and the provisions in 4.8 do not apply.*
  - b. *If another International Sports Federation has allocated an athlete with a sport class of NE because the athlete does not have an eligible impairment, FISA may do likewise without the need for the process detailed in 1.5.5 of these regulations.*

## **2. Classifiers**

### 2.1 Classification Personnel

- 2.1.1 *The IPC Code and FISA Para Rowing Regulations recognise Classifiers as FISA Rowing officials.*
- 2.1.2 *The following personnel have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of classification, and are appointed by the FISA Executive Committee in consultation with the FISA Para Rowing Commission:*

#### *Head of Classification*

*The Head of Classification is the person responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of classification matters for FISA. In principle, this position should be filled by a Level 2 International FISA classifier; or otherwise by a person who works closely together with experienced FISA classifiers. The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other FISA officials or representatives. When needed, the Head of Classification may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.*

#### *Classifier*

*A Classifier is a person appointed and certified by FISA as being competent to evaluate Athletes (as part of a Classification Panel), in accordance with the FISA Classification Regulations.*

### *Chief Classifier*

*A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed for a specific FISA Recognised Competition, responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters at that Competition. The duties of the Chief Classifier may include, but are not limited to:*

- a. Liaising with the organising committee and teams before a Competition to identify and notify athletes who require Evaluation;*
- b. Liaising with the organising committee and FISA before a Competition to ensure travel, accommodations, and working logistics are provided for Classifiers;*
- c. Supervising Classifiers to ensure that Classification Regulations are applied appropriately during a specific Competition; and*
- d. Supervising Classifiers and trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels.*

*The Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other Classifiers, or other FISA officials or representatives, and/or appointed persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.*

#### *2.1.3 FISA Classifiers must be qualified in one or more of the following disciplines:*

- a. Medical Classifier – A qualified medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or physiotherapist all of whom have the competencies and qualifications relevant to conduct the medical section of the classification.*
- b. Technical Classifier – A person with extensive practical knowledge of rowing, such as a rowing coach, sport scientist, former rower, or similarly qualified person, all of whom have the competencies and qualifications relevant to conduct the technical section of the classification.*

## *2.2 Classifiers – Levels and Duties*

*FISA categorises its Classifiers (all of whom must comply with the IPC and FISA Classifier Code of Conduct at all times) as follows:*

- 2.2.1 Trainee – An individual who is in the process of formal training by FISA, but has not met the requirements of a FISA Level 1 International Classifier. A Trainee Classifier shall not serve on an*

*International Classification Panel but may continue to practice his skills at a national level. They may only issue a sport class status of New. A Trainee Classifier shall have attended a FISA Basic Classification Workshop.*

- 2.2.2 *Level 1 International Classifier – An individual who has successfully completed a FISA Advanced International Classification Workshop, has demonstrated his ability to classify rowers, has shown competence in performing all the classification tasks, has demonstrated a clear understanding of the sport and the rules, has passed a written and oral exam, and has met the requirements of the FISA Para Rowing Commission to be appointed as a FISA International Classifier. A FISA Level 1 International Classifier may be appointed to serve on a FISA Classification Panel at a FISA Recognised Competition 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 1 Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel. A FISA Level 1 Classifier may also assist the Para Rowing Commission (at regattas) with monitoring compliance with the rules and regulations regarding equipment including but not limited to, strapping and pontoons.*
- 2.2.3 *Level 2 International Classifier – An individual appointed as such by the FISA Executive Committee, in consultation with the Head of Classification and Para Rowing Commission, 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 2 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 Para Rowing Commission. A FISA Level 2 Classifier may also serve on a Classification Protest Panel. A FISA Level 2 Classifier may also assist the Para Rowing Commission (at regattas) with monitoring compliance with the rules and regulations regarding equipment including but not limited to strapping and pontoons.*

### 2.3 *Classifiers – Training and Competencies*

- 2.3.1 *FISA, in conjunction with member federations, may provide training to national trainee classifiers. Basic Classification Workshops will be offered for people wishing to become Trainee Classifiers.*
- 2.3.2 *FISA shall organise Advanced Classifier Training and Certification Workshops on a regular basis.*
- 2.3.3 *National Trainee Classifiers who wish to attend an Advanced Classification Workshop must provide evidence of at least one classification done in each Sport Class within the 24 months prior to the date of the Workshop, not including those athletes classified during the initial workshop.*
- 2.3.4 *Classifiers shall be required to re-certify at an Advanced Classification Training Workshop:*
- a. *If the Classifier cannot provide proof of at least one classification done for each Sport Class over a two-year period; or*
  - b. *If the Head of Classification in consultation with the Para Rowing Commission is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required competencies to be a FISA Classifier.*
- 2.3.5 *Upon changes to the FISA Rules and or Classification Regulations, Level 1 and 2 International Classifiers are required to acquaint themselves with the changes before conducting any classifications.*
- 2.3.6 *A FISA Level 1 or Level 2 International Classifier may lose their classifier certification if the Head of Classification and Para Rowing Commission are not satisfied that the classifier possesses the required competencies.*

## **3. Classification Panels and Classification Evaluation**

### 3.1 *Classification Panels*

- 3.1.1 *A Classification Panel is comprised of two Classifiers empowered by the Rules of the Sport of Para Rowing to evaluate athletes and allocate Sport Classes.*

- 3.1.2 *The Head of Classification and FISA Para Rowing Commission shall appoint Classification Panels for a particular Competition (including FISA recognised international competitions).*
- 3.1.3 *A Classification Panel for athletes with physical impairments must include a suitably accredited and qualified Medical Classifier and Technical Classifier. For athletes with a visual impairment, a Classification Panel must include 2 suitably accredited VI Classifiers who have been trained and certified through the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).*
- 3.1.4 *Members of a Classification Panel shall not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with Classification and the Para Rowing Commission.*
- 3.1.5 *Members of Classification Panels shall have no significant relationship with any athlete (or any athlete Support Personnel) that might create any real or apparent Conflict of Interest.*
- 3.1.6 *Members of a Classification Panel must disclose any relationship with a team, athlete or athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest.*
- 3.2 *National Classification – All athletes who wish to participate in FISA Competitions should, where possible, be first classified in their country. National level classification may comprise panels with Trainee Classifiers or a combination of Trainee and International Classifiers in accordance with these Regulations.*
- 3.3 *International Classification*
- 3.3.1 *“International Classification” refers to the process of athlete Evaluation by an International Classification Panel (as explained in these Classification Regulations) that is undertaken at, or before, a FISA Recognised Competition.*
- 3.3.2 *An athlete must be allocated a Sport Class by an International Classification Panel prior to being eligible to compete in a FISA Recognised Competition, except in an exceptional circumstance (refer 3.3.5 below).*
- 3.3.3 *International Classification must be conducted by an “International Classification Panel”. An International Classification Panel shall normally be comprised of one Level 1*

*or above Medical Classifier and one Level 1 or above Technical Classifier, both of whom have been duly certified by FISA.*

- 3.3.4 *For athletes with a visual impairment, a Classification Panel must include two suitably accredited VI Classifiers who have been trained and certified through IBSA.*
- 3.3.5 *If the circumstances of a Competition so require, the Head of Classification (or Chief Classifier) may designate that a Classification Panel may consist of one qualified International Classifier in special cases, in particular where the number of available Classifiers is reduced prior to or at a Competition through unforeseen circumstances. In such instances, Review status shall be issued. The review date will be prior to the next competition in which the rower is to compete and the athlete shall be classified at or prior to the next competition he enters.*
- 3.3.6 *An International Classification Panel may seek additional medical, sport, or scientific expertise if it considers that this would assist it in completing the process of athlete Evaluation.*

#### **3.4 Preparing Classification Panels for Competition**

- 3.4.1 *The Head of Classification should, where possible, appoint a Chief Classifier at least three months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels shall, where possible, be appointed at least two months before a Competition.*
- 3.4.2 *The Head of Classification may act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition.*
- 3.4.3 *The Chief Classifier for an event shall provide the organising committee with an Athlete Evaluation schedule prior to the event, and to member federations and/or teams on or before their arrival at the event.*
- 3.4.4 *In respect of competitions where athletes with physical and/or visual impairments are to compete, the Chief Classifier must ensure that Classification Panels are certified to conduct Athlete Evaluation in respect of athletes with physical and/or visual impairments.*

## **4. Classification: Athlete Evaluation**

### **4.1 Athlete Evaluation: General**

- 4.1.1 *“Athlete Evaluation” is the process by which an athlete is assessed by a Classification Panel in order that the athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.*
- 4.1.2 *Athlete Evaluation and its associated processes shall be conducted in English. The respective member federation is responsible for arranging for an interpreter if this is required by the athlete for the purpose of Athlete Evaluation.*
- 4.1.3 *Each athlete shall choose one person to accompany them when presenting for Athlete Evaluation. If the athlete is a minor, that athlete must be accompanied by a member of the relevant member federation. The accompanying person may not influence the Athlete Evaluation in any way.*
- 4.1.4 *The athlete and the relevant member federation are jointly responsible for ensuring that the athlete attends Athlete Evaluation. If an athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Evaluation Session, specify a revised date and time for a further Evaluation Session. If the athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the athlete fails to attend Athlete Evaluation on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated.*
- 4.1.5 *The athlete must agree to and accept the terms of the FISA Para Rowing Consent Form prior to participating in Athlete Evaluation by signing the Consent Form.*
- 4.1.6 *Athletes must attend Athlete Evaluation in suitable attire and with all necessary sports equipment, including cushions, straps, and any additional equipment that the athlete specifically uses. The athlete must provide a recognised form of identification, such as a passport, or official identity card.*
- 4.1.7 *The athlete must disclose to the Classification Panel prior to Athlete Evaluation any medication and/or any medical device/ Implant routinely used by the athlete. The Classification Panel may in its sole discretion decline to proceed with Athlete Evaluation if it considers that the use of such medication will affect its ability to conduct Physical and Technical Assessment.*

*The Classification Panel may agree to Athlete Evaluation taking place at a later time and date in such circumstances.*

- 4.1.8 *A Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant athlete, his member federation and FISA when allocating a Sport Class.*
- 4.1.9 *A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order that it can allocate a Sport Class.*
- 4.1.10 *Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification.*
- 4.1.11 *Athlete Evaluation must take place in a manner that respects the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Data Protection and consistent with the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training. For this purpose, the IPC's International Standard for Classification Data Protection shall be regarded as part of these regulations and shall be followed by all concerned parties.*
- 4.1.12 *The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following stages:*
- a. Assessment of Eligible Impairment;*
  - b. Assessment against Minimum Impairment Criteria;*
  - c. Allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status.*
- 4.2 *Assessment of Eligible Impairment – Assessment of an eligible impairment is normally completed prior to the Athlete Evaluation, by the Head of Classification or Chief Classifier, using the medical documentation which has been provided earlier.*
- 4.3 *Assessment of Minimum Impairment Criteria*
- 4.3.1 *Only an athlete who has an Eligible Impairment shall be assessed for meeting the minimum impairment criteria for Para Rowing.*
- 4.3.2 *For athletes with a physical impairment, the minimum impairment criteria is a full loss of three fingers on one hand,*

*or at least a trans-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 Assessment Chart as included in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities. (Refer FISA website, Classification Paperwork).*

4.3.3 *For Athletes with a visual impairment, the minimum impairment as assessed by approved VI Classifiers is a classification of B3.*

#### 4.4 Athlete Evaluation Process

4.4.1 *Athletes with a visual impairment will be assessed by IBSA approved VI classifiers.*

4.4.2 *Athletes with a physical impairment will be assessed by a FISA Classification Panel (Refer 3.1 above). The Classification Panel will conduct a medical and technical assessment of the athlete to establish that the athlete has a permanent Impairment that qualifies the athlete for participation in para rowing and if so to determine the athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class status.*

4.4.3 *These Regulations specify certain means of conducting Medical and Technical Assessment. These means are explained in the FISA Classifiers Manual and may be amended and/or updated from time to time by the FISA Para Rowing Commission.*

4.4.4 *The Classification Panel may conduct an on-water Observation Assessment before allocating a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status.*

4.4.5 *On-water Observation Assessment shall only take place if a Classification Panel cannot complete the Athlete Evaluation without observing the athlete in competition or on Water (for example, in situations where the Athlete is borderline between Sport Classes).*

- 4.4.6 *If an athlete is required to undertake Observation in Competition Assessment, the Classification Panel will specify to the athlete what is to be observed and why, how this is to take place and by whom.*
- 4.5 *Suspension of Athlete Evaluation – A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend Athlete Evaluation if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including, but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:*
- 4.5.1 *A failure on the part of the athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Regulations;*
- 4.5.2 *A failure on the part of the athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;*
- 4.5.3 *The Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the athlete will affect the ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;*
- 4.5.4 *The athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner. This may include the athlete's inability to demonstrate abilities because of pain;*
- 4.5.5 *An athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;*
- 4.5.6 *In the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel the athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;*
- 4.5.7 *The athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or*
- 4.5.8 *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.*

## 4.6 Sport Class

### 4.6.1 Para Rowing Sport Classes are:

- PR3-PI;
- PR3-B1;
- PR3-B2;
- PR3-B3;
- PR2;
- PR1; and
- Not Eligible (NE).

*(Refer Appendix to these Regulations for a detailed description)*

4.6.2 *The means by which a Sport Class is allocated is explained in the FISA Para Rowing Classifiers Manual, which may be amended and/or updated from time to time by the FISA Para Rowing Commission with approval from FISA Council. A Sport Class will be allocated to an athlete following completion of the Athlete Evaluation.*

### 4.6.3 Sport Class: Not Eligible (NE)

- a. *An athlete who does not have a health condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment or has an impairment that does not meet the minimum impairment criteria must be allocated a Sport Class of Not Eligible.*
- b. *The Sport Class Not Eligible does not infer that the Athlete does not have an impairment.*
- c. *If a FISA International Classification Panel allocates an athlete a Sport Class of Not Eligible, the athlete shall undergo Athlete Evaluation by a second Classification Panel either immediately or as soon as practical thereafter. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the athlete's Sport Class is NE, the athlete will not be eligible to compete and will have no further right to Protest.*
- d. *Pending any such second assessment the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class Not Eligible and Sport Class Status Review (R) and will not be permitted to compete. Upon being confirmed as NE by a second Classification Panel, the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class Status of Confirmed (C).*

#### 4.7 Sport Class Status

4.7.1 *A Sport Class Status will be allocated to an athlete following allocation of a Sport Class.*

#### 4.7.2 Sport Class Status New (N)

- a. *New status must be allocated when an athlete has not been evaluated 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 member federation or region.*
- b. *N Status Athletes must complete an Athlete Evaluation by a FISA International Classification Panel prior to competing at an International or FISA Recognised Event.*

#### 4.7.3 Sport Class Status Review (R)

- a. *A Classification Panel which consists of one Classifier may only designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review.*
- b. *A Classification Panel with at least one of the classifiers from the athlete's own country may only designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review.*
- c. *An athlete will be issued a Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required before an athlete can be allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed. This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the athlete:*
  - *has only recently entered competition in Para Rowing;*
  - *has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/ Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable;*
  - *is a minor.*

*If a FISA International Classification Panel assigns an athlete with a Sport Class Status Review, it shall set a date that shall be referred to as the "Review Date". This date shall depend on the characteristics of the individual case but must be clearly indicated in the Classification Panel decision. The reason for review shall also be documented.*

*Prior to the Review Date, the athlete:*

- *Shall not be required to attend Athlete Evaluation;*
- *Shall retain the Sport Class assigned to that athlete, with Sport Class Status Review, and be permitted to compete accordingly.*

*A Review Date may only be set by a FISA International Classification Panel. An athlete with Sport Class Status Review is required to complete Athlete Evaluation at the first opportunity after the Review Date. The athlete shall not be eligible to compete again in that Sport Class after the Review Date unless he has completed the required Athlete Evaluation.*

- 4.7.4 Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) – Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is assigned to an athlete who has been evaluated by a FISA International Classification Panel and the International Classification Panel has determined that the athlete’s Sport Class will not change. An athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete Athlete Evaluation at Events recognised by FISA. An athlete with a C Sport Class must, however, undergo Athlete Evaluation if a Protest is made by FISA.*

#### **4.8 Medical Review**

- 4.8.1 A change in the nature or degree of an athlete’s Impairment may mean that a review is needed to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that athlete is correct. This review is referred to as ‘Medical Review’. A Medical Review is commenced by way of a ‘Medical Review Request’.*
- 4.8.2 An athlete’s member federation shall request a Medical Review of an athlete if it believes that, as a result of a medical intervention (for example, surgery or other treatment), or progression of his disability, that his Impairment and Activity Limitations are no longer consistent with the athlete’s Sport Class or Sport Class Status (better or worse).*
- 4.8.3 The Medical Review Request must be made to the Head of Classification, must include an explanation of how and to what extent the athlete’s relevant impairment has changed and why the member federation believes that the athlete’s Sport*

*Class may no longer be accurate. The request must include all relevant supporting documentation.*

4.8.4 *The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request will be upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request. The Head of Classification may seek assistance from qualified medical classifiers or an Eligibility Assessment Committee if needed.*

4.8.5 *If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) pending the outcome of evaluation by a Classification Panel.*

#### 4.9 *Notification of Athlete Evaluation*

4.9.1 *Following completion of the Medical and Technical Assessment, the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status and advised orally of the outcome at the completion of the evaluation.*

4.9.2 *The Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the athlete following completion of the Athlete Evaluation at an event will be notified to the member federation representative for the athlete and a copy of the classification documentation will be provided before the end of competition.*

4.9.3 *The results of Athlete Evaluations undertaken at an event will be published on the event notice board prior to competition commencing.*

4.9.4 *The Classification Master List will also be published on [www.worldrowing.com](http://www.worldrowing.com) as soon as possible following the event.*

#### 4.10 *Intentional Misrepresentation*

4.10.1 *An athlete must not intentionally misrepresent his skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment to a Classification Panel. If an athlete attempts to deceive the Classification Panel during the course of Athlete Evaluation, he is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.*

4.10.2 *An athlete who intentionally misrepresents his/her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of his/her Eligible Impairment by any other act or omission is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.*

- 4.10.3 *Intentional Misrepresentation includes misrepresentation away from Athlete Evaluation, including misrepresentation after allocation of a Sport Class such as a failure to make a medical notification as to a change in impairment that an athlete or athlete Support Personnel knows does or may affect a Sport Class. It also includes actions prior to evaluation, such as deliberately tiring the body as in a coordination impairment, or failure to take prescribed medication.*
- 4.10.4 *Any athlete or athlete Support Personnel, who knowingly assists, covers up or disrupts the evaluation process with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel, or is in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation is guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.*
- 4.10.5 *If FISA commences disciplinary proceedings against an athlete or athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation (and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation), the Executive Committee may, at or after the time of notification of such proceedings, impose a provisional suspension on the person or persons concerned.*
- 4.10.6 *An athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is subject to a provisional suspension may not, during the period of provisional suspension, participate in any capacity in any competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by FISA and its member federations.*
- 4.10.7 *An athlete or athlete Support Personnel who receives notice of a provisional suspension may apply to the Executive Committee for any provisional suspension to be lifted on the basis that facts exist that make it clearly unfair, in all of the circumstances, for a provisional suspension to be imposed.*
- 4.10.8 *If the Executive Committee imposes a provisional suspension it should ensure there can be an expedited hearing no later than 14 days after the date of application by the athlete or athlete Support Personnel for such a hearing.*
- 4.10.9 *The consequences that will be applied to an athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving*

*Intentional Misrepresentation shall be one or more of the following:*

- a. *Disqualification from all events at the competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred; or*
- b. *Not eligible for Athlete Evaluation or participation in any competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by FISA and its member federations for a specified period of 48 months.*

*4.10.10 The consequences that will be applied to an athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion is up to a lifetime period of being not eligible for Athlete Evaluation or participation in any competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by FISA and its member federations.*

*4.10.11 If an athlete or athlete Support Personnel is subject to disciplinary proceedings by another International Sports Body in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in the imposition of a penalty, then that penalty shall also be recognised by FISA and shall be applied as if the Intentional Misrepresentation had occurred under these Regulations.*

*4.10.12 Any consequences to be applied to crews or member federations, which include an athlete or athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at FISA's discretion.*

*4.11 Publication of Penalties – FISA will disclose on its website details of penalties imposed upon athletes and athlete Support Personnel found in breach of these Regulations and Bye-Laws.*

## **5. Protests**

*5.1 The term "Protest" refers to a process by which the outcome of Athlete Evaluation may be challenged.*

*5.1.1 A Protest may be made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class to an Athlete. No Protest may be made in respect of the designation of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.*

- 5.1.2 *A successful Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a “Protest Panel”.*
- 5.1.3 *FISA may only resolve a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by FISA. A Protest received regarding a rower with a visual impairment will be referred to IBSA to resolve.*
- 5.1.4 *Protests shall be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on competition participation, competition schedules and results.*

## 5.2 *Parties Permitted to Make a Protest*

*Protests may only be made by the following parties:*

- *A member federation;*
- *FISA.*

## 5.3 *Member Federation Protests*

- 5.3.1 *A member federation may make a Protest on behalf of an athlete.*
- 5.3.2 *A member federation may make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any athlete under its jurisdiction who at the time of being entered for a competition holds a Sport Class that has been designated either Sport Class Status New (N) or Sport Class Status Review (R).*
- 5.3.3 *A member federation Protest must be made at a competition, or at a non-competition venue as provided for in these Regulations.*
- 5.3.4 *The member federation making the Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest procedure requirements are complied with.*
- 5.3.5 *A member federation may not make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any athlete who is under the jurisdiction of another member federation. If a member federation believes there are grounds for a Protest in respect of the Sport Class allocated to such an athlete it may request FISA to make a Protest while providing evidence for the reason for this request.*

#### 5.4 Member Federation Protest Procedure

- 5.4.1 *Protests must be submitted in English on a FISA Protest Form (available on the FISA website). The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest Form must include the following:*
- a. *The name and member federation of the athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;*
  - b. *Details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;*
  - c. *A reasoned explanation for the Protest, including why the member federation believes the Protested Decision is flawed;*
  - d. *All documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest;*
  - e. *the signature of the member federation representative; and*
  - f. *A fee of one hundred (100) Euros.*
- 5.4.2 *The Protest Form, supporting explanation and documentation, and fee, must be submitted to the Chief Classifier for the relevant Competition within two (2) hours of the Classification Panel's decision regarding the Sport Class being published. Upon receipt of the Protest Form and the information and/or documentation specified above, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review of the Protest to determine if there is a valid reason for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included.*
- 5.4.3 *If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not supported by evidence and/or otherwise does not comply with the relevant Protest procedures, the Chief Classifier shall decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases, the Chief Classifier shall provide a verbal explanation as soon as possible and a written explanation to the member federation as soon as is practicable. FISA will retain the Protest fee.*
- 5.4.4 *If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the member federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier. The time frame for re-submitting a Protest shall be 2 hours from the time the*

*member federation is notified of the decision. If the member federation is unable to provide the additional documentation within the time frame, they must request an extension of time, submitting in writing the reason for the delay, and the expected time frame required to remedy the deficiencies. The Chief Classifier will verbally and in writing approve the request if a reasonable explanation is provided.*

5.4.5 *If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is supported by evidence and complies with the relevant Protest procedures the Protest must be accepted.*

5.4.6 *If the Protest is accepted:*

a. *The athlete's Protested Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest and the athlete's Protested Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;*

b. *The Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, which must be, if practicable, at the competition at which the Protest was made. If the Protest occurs outside of an event, the Head of Classification shall make every attempt to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, which may be at the next event.*

c. *The members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation that led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than twelve (12) months prior to the Protest being submitted.*

5.4.7 *The Head of Classification and/or the Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.*

## 5.5 FISA Protests

5.5.1 *FISA may make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any athlete under its jurisdiction at any time.*

5.5.2 *FISA may make a Protest regarding the Sport Class of an athlete if it has good reason to believe that the athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to*

*rowing are not consistent with the Sport Class that has been allocated to the athlete.*

#### **5.6 FISA Protest Procedure**

**5.6.1** *The FISA Head of Classification will advise the relevant member federation at the earliest possible opportunity that a Protest is to be made.*

**5.6.2** *The FISA Head of Classification will provide the member federation with a reasoned explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the FISA Head of Classification or Chief Classifier believes that the Protest is justified.*

**5.6.3** *If FISA makes a Protest:*

- a. The athlete's Protested Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the athlete's Protested Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;*
- b. A Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.*

**5.6.4** *A Chief Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of FISA if it is in the interests of fairness to athletes to do so.*

#### **5.7 Resolving a Protest: the Protest Panel**

**5.7.1** *The Head of Classification may delegate any or all of his obligations under this Regulation to the Chief Classifier.*

**5.7.2** *A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions in this Regulation relating to the appointment of a Classification Panel (see 3 above).*

**5.7.3** *A Protest Panel must not include any person who:*

- was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or*
- has been a member of a Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation in respect of the athlete with the Protested Decision within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, save*

*that the member federation may agree to a Protest Panel comprising such a person.*

5.7.4 *The Head of Classification will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Head of Classification will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.*

5.7.5 *The Protest Panel will conduct the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel may make enquiries of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and of the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.*

5.7.6 *The Protest Panel may seek additional medical, sport, or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class, when deemed necessary, to assist with the decision.*

5.7.7 *The Protest Panel will (if able to do so) allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation. FISA will retain the Protest fee unless the Protest is upheld.*

5.7.8 *The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further member federation Protest.*

5.8 *Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available*

5.8.1 *If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition, then:*

a. *The athlete with a Protested Decision will be permitted to compete within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest, pending the resolution of the Protest;*

b. *All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.*

5.9 *Outcomes of Protest*

*If a Protest results in the Sport Class of an athlete being changed to a Sport Class with less impairment (a more functional Sport Class), then any results of that athlete and the crew of that athlete, and any prizes*

won, since the effective date of the change of Sport Class resulting from the Protest shall be cancelled and forfeited respectively. If medal placings are affected, the medals shall be re-awarded as necessary in accordance with the decision. The Executive Committee may decide to backdate such effective date in cases of Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **6. Appeals**

### **6.1 General Provisions and Definitions**

- 6.1.1 *If a member federation believes that FISA, in the course of applying its Classification Regulations has made an unfair decision, it may apply by way of an Appeal to have that decision set aside.*
- 6.1.2 *A decision will be considered unfair if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in these Classification Regulations and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the decision such that it must be set aside.*
- 6.1.3 *An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with these Regulations.*
- 6.1.4 *The Executive Committee must designate an Appeal Body for the hearing and resolution of Appeals. The Appeal Body shall have the power to either rule that the relevant decision must be upheld, or to set the decision aside. The Appeal Body shall have no power to amend any decision and in particular has no power to amend a Sport Class or Sport Class Status.*
- 6.1.5 *The Appeal Body must comprise at least three people with the appropriate skills and experience to objectively hear the appeal and who were not involved in any way with any of the procedures that are the subject of the appeal.*
- 6.1.6 *The Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.*

### **6.2 Appeal Process**

- 6.2.1 *A member federation may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to FISA.*
- 6.2.2 *A Notice of Appeal must:*

- a. *be made within fifteen (15) days of the decision being appealed;*
  - b. *identify the decision being appealed, by attaching copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;*
  - c. *specify the grounds for the Appeal;*
  - d. *identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal;*
  - e. *be submitted with any fee specified by the Executive Committee.*
- 6.2.3 *Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, FISA must refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.*
- 6.2.4 *Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person save to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal.*
- 6.3 *Appeal Decision*
- 6.3.1 *As soon as is practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Body must issue a written decision regarding the Appeal. The Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision appealed from or set aside the decision. The Appeal Body shall have no further power in respect of its decision.*
- 6.3.2 *If the Appeal Body sets aside a decision it may, if appropriate, make recommendations as to the steps to be taken by FISA in light of that decision.*
- 6.3.3 *The Appeal Body decision shall be provided to all parties. In the case of Appeals made during a competition, the outcome of the Appeal shall be communicated to the competition organising committee.*
- 6.3.4 *The decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal.*
- 6.4 *Outcomes of Appeal – If an Appeal results in the Sport Class of an athlete being changed to a Sport Class with less impairment (a more functional Sport Class), then any results of that athlete and the crew of that athlete, and any prizes won, since the effective date of the change of Sport Class resulting from the Appeal shall be cancelled and forfeited respectively. If*

*medal placings are affected, the medals shall be re-awarded as necessary in accordance with the decision. The Executive Committee may decide to backdate such effective date in cases of Intentional Misrepresentation.*

## **7. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests and Appeals**

- 7.1 *The IPC may issue special ad hoc provisions to supplement these Regulations to operate during the Paralympic Games or other competitions. FISA may also issue special ad hoc provisions to these Regulations to operate during specified competitions under their own jurisdiction.*

### **Glossary**

**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.*

**Appeals:** *The means by which a complaint that Para Rowing has made an unfair decision has been made during the Classification process is resolved.*

**Athlete:** *For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in rowing at the international level or national level (as defined in the FISA Rules of Racing) and any additional person who participates in rowing at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.*

**Athlete Evaluation:** *The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Regulations in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.*

**Athlete Support Personnel:** *Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.*

**BAC:** *The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.*

**Chief Classifier:** *A classifier appointed by the Executive Committee to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Regulations.*

**Classification:** *Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.*

**Classification Data:** *Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Body and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.*

**Classification Intelligence:** *Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.*

**Classification Master List:** *A list made available by the Para Rowing Commission that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.*

**Classification Not Completed:** *the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation.*

**Classification Organisation:** *Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.*

**Classification Panel:** *A group of Classifiers, appointed by Para Rowing, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Regulations.*

**Classification Personnel:** *Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.*

**Classification Rule:** *Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by FISA in connection with Athlete Evaluation.*

**Classification System:** *The framework used by FISA to develop and designate Sport Classes for Para rowing.*

**Classifier:** *A person authorised as an official by the Para Rowing Commission to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.*

**Classifier Certification:** *The processes by which the Para Rowing Commission must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.*

**Classifier Competencies:** *The qualifications and abilities that the Para Rowing Commission deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for the sport of rowing.*

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** *The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by the Para Rowing Commission.*

**Code:** *The Athlete Classification Code 2015 together with the International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Classifier Personnel and Training; and Classification Data Protection.*

**Competition:** *A series of individual events conducted together under one organising body. Where such competition relates to rowing, it shall have the same meaning as 'rowing regatta' as defined in Rule 1 of the FISA Rules of Racing.*

**Compliance:** *The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'*

**Diagnostic Information:** *Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables the assessment of the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition.*

**Education:** *The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by the Para Rowing Commission to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Rowing Classifier.*

**Eligible Impairment:** *An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para sport, as detailed in these Classification Rules Regulations.*

**Eligibility Assessment Committee:** *An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.*

**Entry Criteria:** *Standards set by the Para Rowing Commission relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may be, for example, former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.*

**Entry-level Education:** *the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by the Para Rowing Commission to begin as a Classifier in the sport of rowing.*

**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 allocation of 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 that sport. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.*

**Event:** *A single race, match, game or singular sport contest.*

**Event venue:** Venues dedicated to the Competition or regatta by the organising committee.

**First Appearance:** The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

**Fixed Review Date:** A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

**Head of Classification:** A person appointed by the Executive Committee in accordance with these Regulations to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for the sport of rowing.

**Health Condition:** A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

**Impairment:** A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

**Intellectual Impairment:** A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills that originates before the age of eighteen (18).

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Body as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para sport and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

**International Competitions:** A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition. Where such competition relates to rowing, International Competition shall have the same meaning as International Regatta as defined in Rule 9 of the FISA Rules of Racing.

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

**International Standards:** A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**IPC:** *International Paralympic Committee.*

**Maintaining Certification:** *The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.*

**Major Competition Organiser:** *An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.*

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** *a form that a National Body or National Paralympic Committee must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.*

**Medical Review:** *The process to identify 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 a National Body or National Paralympic Committee for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.*

**Models of Best Practice:** *An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.*

**National Body:** *Refers to the national member of an International Sport Federation.*

**National Laws:** *The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.*

**National Paralympic Committees:** *The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC.*

**National Protest:** *A Protest made by a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.*

**Non-Competition Venue:** *Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by Para Rowing as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status.*

**Observation in Competition:** *The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.*

**Paralympic Games:** *Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.*

**Permanent:** *The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principal effects are lifelong.*

**Personal Information:** *Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.*

**Physical Impairment:** *an Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Leg Length Difference and Short Stature.*

**Process/Processing:** *The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.*

**Protested Athlete:** *An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.*

**Protested Decision:** *The Sport Class decision being challenged.*

**Protest Documents:** *The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.*

**Protest Fee:** *The fee prescribed by FISA, payable by the National Body or National Paralympic Committee when submitting a Protest.*

**Protest Form:** *The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.*

**Protest:** *The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.*

**Protest Panel:** *A Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.*

**Re-certification:** *The process by which the Para Rowing Commission must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.*

**Recognised Competition:** *a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by Para Rowing.*

**Research Purposes:** *Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.*

**Signatories:** Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

**Sport Class:** A category for Competition defined by FISA by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

**Sport Class Status:** A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

**Team Sport:** a sport in which substitution of players is permitted during a Competition.

**Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA):** a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

**Underlying Health Condition:** a Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.

**Vision Impairment:** an Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete's vision.

## **Appendix One to FISA Classification Regulations and Bye-laws**

### **Qualifying Impairment**

Only an athlete having a health condition with a minimum impairment that leads to a permanent and verifiable activity limitation shall be eligible to compete in Para Rowing.

### **Sport Classes and Eligibility Requirements for each Sport Class**

#### **A. PR3 (Includes PR3 PI, PR3 B1, PR3 B2, PR3 B3)**

Rowers with an eligible impairment 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 PR3 class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel.

Eligible PR3 rowers may typically have a minimum disability equivalent to one of the following:

- Amputee.
- Neurological Impairment equivalent to incomplete lesion at S1.
- Cerebral Palsy with minimal involvement, usually with only one limb.

- *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%).*
- *PR3 class rowers must meet minimum eligibility criteria in at least one of the following impairment groups:*
  1. *PR3-PI Physical Impairment – The minimum impairment criteria is:*
    - *a full loss of three fingers on one hand; or*
    - *at least a trans 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. \*\*For the PR3 Mix2x boat class, rowers must have a minimum impairment of a loss of at least 20 points in one limb when assessed using the Functional Classification Test as set out in the Classification Application Form for Physical Disabilities.*
  2. *PR3 B1, PR3 B2, PR3 B3 Visual impairment. – Prior to any FISA event at which they wish to compete, a rower with visual impairment must have been classified by a VI Classification Panel and be issued a Sport Class in one of the following B3 (PR3 B3), B2 (PR3 B2) or B1 (PR3 B1) classes. Refer to <http://www.ibsa.es>.*

## **B. PR2**

*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 PR2 class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification Panel. Eligible PR2 rowers may typically have a minimum impairment 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*
- *Cerebral Palsy affecting both lower limbs.*

## **C. PR1**

*Rowers who have minimal or no trunk function (i.e. primarily shoulder function) will be assigned to the PR1 class after being evaluated by a FISA Classification*