CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

APRIL 2022

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INTRODUCTION

This survey is prepared for International Federations (IFs), International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSDs) and Recognised International Federations (RIFs). Its aims are threefold: 1) to encourage a healthy dialogue on Code Compliance and facilitate IPC's monitoring of Compliance in accordance with Article 13.2 of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code), 2) to supplement the Los Angeles 2028 Sport Programme Questionnaire for IFs, and 3) to gather up-to-date information from each member on various areas in classification which will aid the Code review process.

We hope that completing this survey is as useful to you as it is to the IPC.

We strongly suggest that your Head of Classification (or equivalent) reviews the contents of this survey as soon as it is received. You will note that the survey is divided into sections, each consisting of multiple questions. Some of the questions require a simple numerical response (for example "How many Athletes were evaluated in each year since 1 January 2017?"). These questions are operational and if your organisation uses a Classification Database then the information may be readily available on there.

Capitalised terms in this letter have the meaning given to them in the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards, unless otherwise defined in this survey.

The first four sections (particularly A.4., B.1. – B.3., and D.1. – D.4.) consist of more complex questions. We recommend that these questions are answered by your Head of Classification (or equivalent) in consultation with any relevant advisory groups or committees, as well as research or education partners. We suggest that you set aside a full day to answering these questions as they focus on the strategic and core aspects of your Classification System.

The questionnaire and any attachments (including any continuation sheets) may be submitted to the IPC in electronic form to: james.lancaster@paralympic.org

We ask for your response by 4 July 2022.

If meeting this date will be a challenge – or if you would like to speak with us at any stage regarding this survey – then please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can arrange an agreeable time for a call.

Name of organisation:

Name of person(s) submitting:

Role of person(s) submitting:

Contact email address:

Date of submission:

A. CLASSIFICATION RULES

The purpose of this section is to obtain up to date record of each Para sport's Classification Rules, and information on the rules' approval process and anticipated rule changes.

Article 11.2 of the Code stipulates that the IPC must be notified of Classification Rules changes and also any change that may impact Sport Class allocation. In the past years, we recognised the need to improve and form a better, more sustainable mechanism to engage and be kept up to date on Classification Rules changes. It is important that the IPC is informed on these matters in good time, so that together we can ensure the rules are introduced in a Code compliant manner. Therefore, we encourage all IFs to maintain dialogue with us and communicate when future changes are being considered.

A.1. Please attach a copy of your current Classification Rules.

A.2. When were these Classification Rules published?

A.3. Please explain your process for approving new Classification Rules. Who must give approval? Do you have internal timeframes for when this can take place? Please describe the consultation process.

A.4. Are you in the process of making changes to your Classification Rules or system for this Paralympic cycle (2021-2024 for summer sports and 2022-2026 for the next winter sports cycle)? If yes, please give details including the rationale for change, timescales and information on consultation with your Athletes and membership.
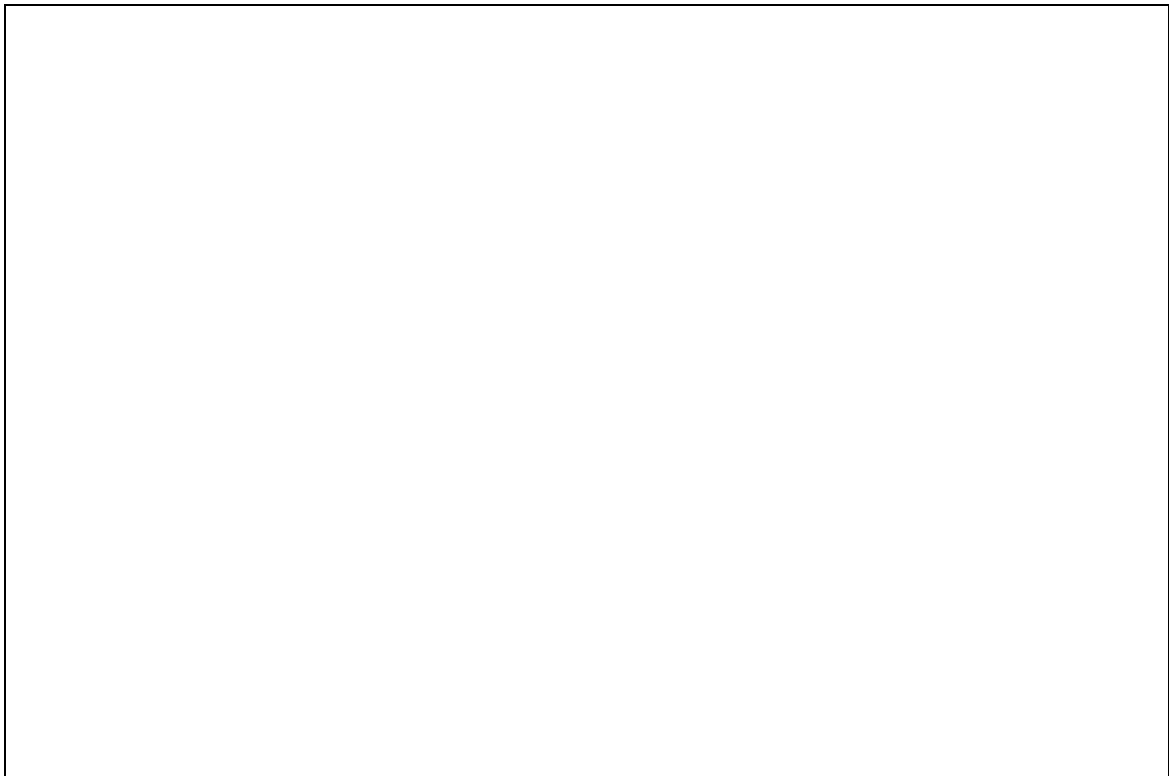
B. CLASSIFICATION RESEARCH

Classification is an ever-evolving area, and we encourage Para sports to actively pursue multidisciplinary research to improve and develop their Classification Systems. As per Article 10.2 of the Code, this research must include Athlete input and be evidence-based focusing on the relationship between impairment and key performance determinants. The purpose of this section is to gather information about your organisation's classification system and any past, current or anticipated research projects.
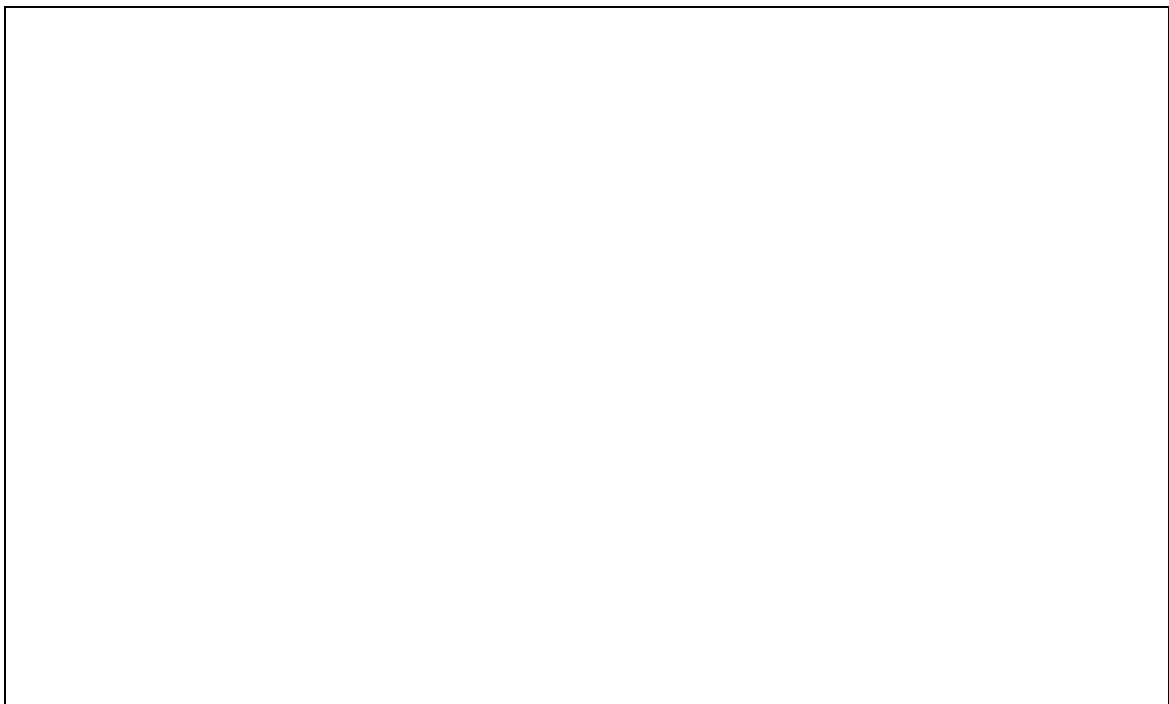
B.1. On what basis was your current Classification System developed and when?

For example, this could be expert opinion, quantitative/qualitative research, or a combination of different approaches.

B.2. Please briefly summarise your latest or current Classification research project. If helpful, please attach any relevant research papers (if access to a particular journal is restricted then please share the reference).

B.3. Please briefly summarise your future research plans or any future Classification research projects or strategy around it.

C. CLASSIFICATION AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

Article 10.2 of the Code stresses the importance of implementing Classification education and awareness programmes for Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other stakeholders. The purpose of this section is to obtain information on what activities is your organisation providing in this space.

C.1. Please give a summary of any Classification education and awareness initiatives your membership and particularly Athletes have access to regarding Classification. Where possible, please attach any supporting materials and/or links to this information on your website.

C.2. Please describe the channels through which Athletes and other stakeholders can provide feedback about your Para Sport's Classification System.

C.3. Please attach any supporting material you have to explain your Para sport's Classification System and the Athlete Journey through this process (I.e., athlete evaluation process). This can include flowcharts, presentations, or any guides you have prepared for your membership and Athletes to understand Classification and their responsibilities.
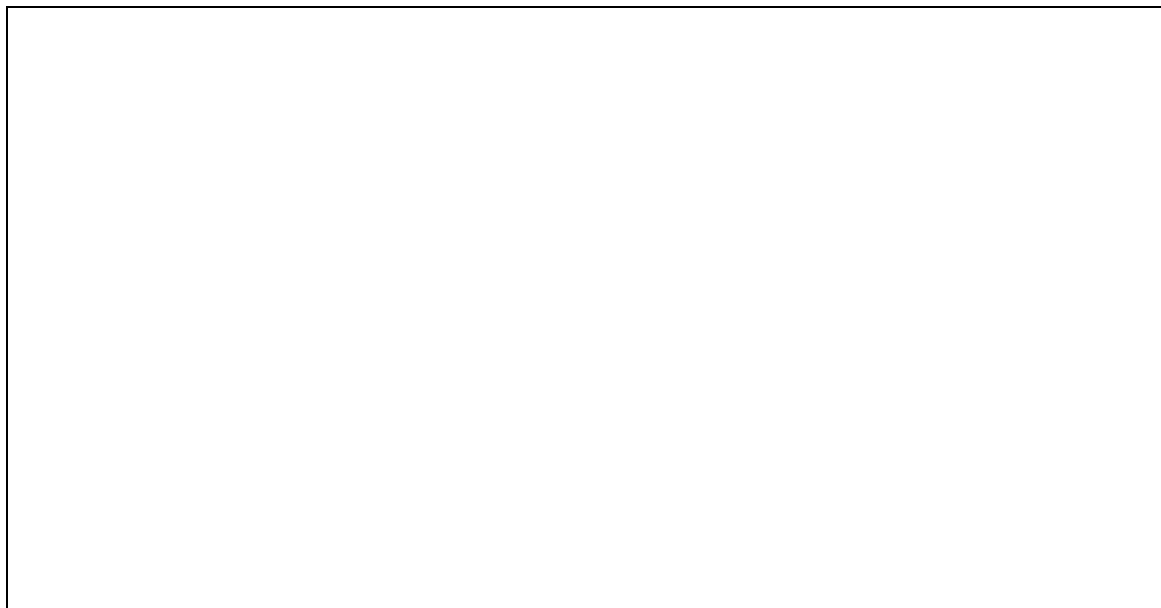
D. ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION JOURNEY

Article 2 of the Code details the purpose of Classification and how IFs are to achieve that purpose. In this section, we are interested in understanding how you describe the Classification process in your Para Sport. We are interested in hearing what happens at each stage and who is involved.

Establishing Eligible Impairment and Underlying Health Condition

D.1. In accordance with Article 5 of the International Standard for Eligible Impairments, what is the process for the assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for your sport?

In particular, please indicate who makes this assessment? Is the assessment carried out by a Classification Panel or is it done beforehand by an Eligibility Assessment Committee? Please specify which Article(s) of your Classification Rules apply. Please supply any forms you may be using to collect the Athlete's Diagnostic Information.

Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)
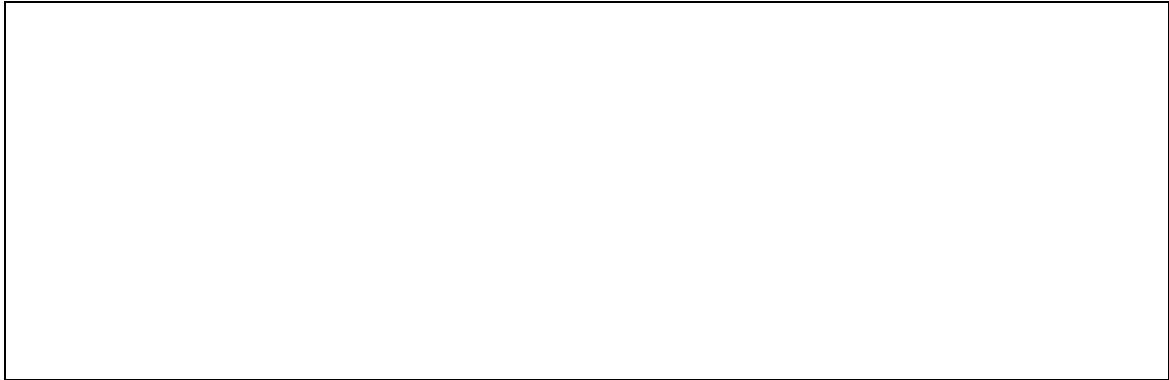
D.2. For each Eligible Impairment for your sport, please explain how the MIC is assessed. Who is involved and what is the process? Please reference the Article(s) of your Classification Rules that apply.

Sport Class and Sport Class Status

D.3. Please explain how an Athlete is allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. Who is involved and what is the process? Do you utilise Observation in Competition and if so, please provide details. Please reference the Article(s) of your Classification Rules that apply.

D.4. Is the use of multiple Sport Classes permitted in your Para sport? If yes, please explain and reference the Article(s) of your Classification Rules that apply.

E. ATHLETE EVALUATION, PROTESTS AND APPEALS

To help us better understand your Classification System, processes and capacity, we would be grateful if you can supply the following information.

E.1. Please supply/attach the latest copy of your Master List. Please also provide a link where this can be found.

E.2. How many Classification opportunities took place in each year since 1 January 2017?

Year	Classification opportunities
2017	
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	
Total	

E.3. How many Athletes were evaluated in each year since 1 January 2017?

	Athletes Evaluated			
Year	Physical Impairment	Intellectual Impairment	Vision Impairment	Combined total
2017				
2018				
2019				
2020				
2021				
Total				

E.4. For each year, please give a numerical breakdown of Classification outcomes.

Year	Not Eligible	Classification Not Completed
2017		
2018		
2019		
2020		
2021		
Total		

Protests:

E.5. How many Protests did you have in each year since 1 January 2017? In accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals, for each year, please specify how many Protests were accepted and how many resulted in a Sport Class change?

Year	Total number of Protests	Number of accepted Protests	Number of Protests resulting in Sport Class change
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
Total			

Appeals:

E.5. How many Appeals did you have in each year since 1 January 2017? For each year, please specify how many Appeals were successful?

Year	Total number of Appeals	Upheld Appeals	Number of cases when Sport Class changed on re-assessment
2017			
2018			
2019			
2020			
2021			
Total			

E.6. Please indicate who acts as your organisation's Appeal Body and supply any relevant documents describing the Appeal process.

NOTE: The IPC has established the Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) as an independent body that considers, and where deemed appropriate, conducts hearings regarding Classification Appeals. The primary purpose of the Board of Appeal of Classification is to hear Athlete Classification Appeals in various Para sports across the Paralympic Movement. For each specific Appeal three panel members are usually appointed from the pool of panel members, to act as a hearing panel. The chair of each hearing panel is responsible for writing a full and reasoned judgment in each case. The services of the BAC are available to all IFs and RIFS subject to a service agreement being established between both organisations. For more information, please visit BOARD OF APPEAL OF CLASSIFICATION (paralympic.org) or contact leen.coudenys@paralympic.org.

F. INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

Article 6 of the Code details provisions around Intentional Misrepresentation. We are interested to understand how your organisation currently approaches identifying, deterring and sanctioning Intentional Misrepresentation).

F.1. How many confirmed cases of Intentional Misrepresentation (IM) did you have in each year since 1 January 2017?

Year	Confirmed IM Cases
2017	
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	
Total	

F.2. For each case, please provide the Athlete's name, nationality and what sanction was applied.

F.3. How many allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation did you have in each year since 1 January 2017?

Year	IM Allegations
2017	
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	
Total	

F.4. What is your process for handling and assessing these allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation? Who is involved in these assessments?

G. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL & TRAINING

Article 3 of the Code and the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training detail requirements around Classification Personnel. We would like to gather a snapshot of your Classification workforce capacity and details surrounding processes to train and sustain the Classification Personnel. Attracting and retaining highly skilled Classifiers is an area to develop across the Movement and a topic which will no doubt receive attention in the Code review.

G.1. Who is your Head of Classification?

We kindly ask that you inform the IPC whenever there is a change in Head of Classification.

If you have more than one individual acting as Head of Classification, please explain the structure.

G.2. Who is responsible for your Classification portfolio and your Code Compliance?

Please also specify if this person is a volunteer / part-time staff / full-time staff

G.3. Do you have any advisory groups or committees within your IF to support Classification activities? If yes, please summarise.

G.4. Please describe the composition of your Classification Panels:

How many Classifiers form a panel? Are there specific requirements for a panel composition in relation to medical and technical classifiers? Does the nationality of a Classifier play a role in relation to assessing Athletes from the same nationality?

G.**5. Medical Classifiers:**

G.5.1. Current total number of medical Classifiers.

G.5.2. Please list the most common professional backgrounds they have (e.g., physiotherapist, orthopaedic surgeon, neurologist, etc.) and give a breakdown of their level of certification, if applicable (e.g., trainee, zonal, international).

G.5.3. By how much has the current total increased or decreased since 2017?

G.**6. Technical Classifiers:**

G.6.1. Current total number of technical Classifiers.

G.6.2. Please list the most common professional backgrounds they have (e.g., coach, biomechanist, physical education teacher, etc.) and give a breakdown of their level of certification, if applicable (e.g., trainee, zonal, international).

G.6.3. By how much has the current total number of active international Classifiers increased or decreased since 2017?

G.7. Please give a summary of how you approach Classifier Education and how many education sessions take place per year or cycle. If useful, please attach or provide a link to supplementary material for Classifier Education.

H. DATA PROTECTION

Data protection is crucial when dealing with sensitive Classification information. The requirements and guidance are contained in the International Standard for Classification Data Protection. We would be grateful if you can provide the following information.

H.1. Please describe the process under which Athletes grant consent for their Classification Data to be processed.

Please also supply a copy of your consent form.

H.2. Please describe how you store Classification Data and how you keep Classification Data secure. For example, do you use a Classification Database (similar to IPC's SDMS system)?

H.3. Please state how long you retain Classification Data for.

H.4. Please describe how you dispose of Classification Data.

H.5. How many data breaches have you had (if any) since 2017? Where possible, please provide a summary in each case.

I. OPTIONAL INFORMATION

I.1. Please use this space to inform us of anything else that you would like to bring to our attention in relation to Classification and Code Compliance.

Thank you in advance for your responses. We look forward to continuing the conversation surrounding Classification and Code Compliance.