

## CLASSIFICATION

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# The FIPFA Classification Rulebook.

# **FIPFA Classification**

*In accordance with the principles of the International Paralympic Committee, FIPFA classification seeks to ensure accountability, fair play and competition, while protecting the rights of all officials, players and athletes.*

## **1. THE PURPOSE OF CLASSIFICATION**

The purpose of the FIPFA Classification System is to minimise the impact of impairment on the outcome of competition, therefore the athletes who succeed in competition do so on the basis of their sporting ability. To achieve this purpose, athletes are evaluated and put into sport classes according to the extent of activity limitation resulting from their impairment.

Athletes in FIPFA should not succeed simply because they have an impairment that causes less difficulty in athletic performance. Athletes should succeed because they have the most favourable combination of physiological and psychological attributes and have enhanced these to best effect by legitimate means such as training, nutrition, technique and legal technical aids (such as strapping and equipment design).

The FIPFA classification system intends to place athletes into sport classes according to how much their impairment affects core determinants of performance in Powerchair Football. Overall, the classification system is intended to provide a framework for competition and to ensure that the strategies, skills and talents of athletes and teams determine competitive success.

More specifically, this System has a dual purpose:

- (1) Determine Eligibility to Compete; and
- (2) Group Athletes for Competition. \*<sup>1</sup>

### **1.1 Eligibility**

FIPFA provides sport opportunities for individuals with the following impairment types:

- Neurological impairment including spastic hypertonia, dystonia, athetosis and ataxia
- Myopathies including muscular dystrophy
- Spinal cord lesions
- Orthopaedic impairments

These eligible impairment types must be permanent and verifiable (for example, will not resolve in the foreseeable future regardless of physical training, rehabilitation or other therapeutic interventions) and cause a permanent and verifiable activity limitation that causes difficulty in sport performance.

### ***Eligibility Criteria***

*Powerchair Football is played only by those with a diagnosed, severe physical impairment that leads to a verifiable, permanent \* activity limitation, as a consequence the athlete needs the use of powered mobility in order to play a sport.*

*The FIPFA eligibility criterion does not question the presence of a genuine impairment; it refers only to the eligibility of the athlete to competitively play Powerchair Football. Those who meet the eligibility criteria need to be classified according to the FIPFA sport class detailed below;*

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<sup>1</sup> IPC Classification Code section 2.1.2.

*\* Some variable, fluctuating impairments may imply classification at every competition, (for example, multiple sclerosis)*

In circumstances where the determination of eligibility involves evaluation by a Classification Panel at a competition, and a sport class of ineligible to compete is allocated, the Athlete will be examined by a second classification panel. If the second classification panel confirms that the athlete is ineligible to compete, the athlete will not be permitted to compete, and will have no further protest options.

## **1.2 Group Athletes for Competition**

To minimise the impact that impairment has on the outcome of athletic competition, athletes should be placed into sport classes according to how much their impairment affects their athletic performance. The classification system groups athletes to allow for competition against others with similar degrees of impairment and activity limitation.

Levels of fitness, age, cognition, gender or skill, are not factors in classification. The assessment needs to focus on the functional performance of the presenting athlete in relation to Powerchair Football, and their ability to play the sport safely.

The sport classes for Powerchair Football have been maintained in 2 categories. This is in acknowledgement of the need to have clear understandable boundaries within the sport to help coaches and referees control the playing situation and allow rolling substitutions without confusion about the validity of players.

*Powerchair Football can include athletes with:*

- **Neurological conditions** such as; Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain injury, Stroke, Frederic's Ataxia, progressive neurological conditions.
- **Orthopaedic Disorders** such as; Arthritis – all four extremities, Atrhrogryphosis, some types of Dwarfism, brittle bone disease (Osteogenesis-Imperfecta).

- **Amputations**, congenital or acquired, where there is 3 or 4 limb involvement above the knee and elbow, or double upper limb amputation above the elbow.
- **Myopathies** such as; Muscular Dystrophies, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Amyotonia Congenita.
- **Spinal cord injury** such as; Polio, Guillame-Barre, Tetrapelgia.

### **1.3 Readiness to participate**

The athlete must be in good health, warmed up and ready to perform physical activities.

If an Athlete has a health condition causing pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation the athlete will not be evaluated at that time. (See 7.2, Non-cooperation during evaluation).

## **2. Sport Classes**

Every athlete eligible to take part in a Competition must be allocated a Sport Class (and Sport Class Status – see section 10), in accordance with the rules of FIPFA or they cannot compete.

### **2.1. PF 1:**

This denotes a player who has highly significant levels of physical difficulty which affects their overall performance. The areas of assessment include;

- Postural control.
- Head control.
- Driving skills, where particular attention is given to ;
  - Reflex activity.

- Fine motor control.
- Gross motor movement pattern.
- Fluency of motor skill movements.

These criteria can combine to affect the performance of a player so that they are not as functionally effective as athletes in the category of PF2.

## **2.2. PF2:**

This denotes a player who has moderate to mild levels of physical difficulty which affects their overall performance. The areas of assessment include;

- Postural control.
- Head control.
- Driving skills, where particular attention is given to ;
  - Reflex activity.
  - Fine motor control.
  - Gross motor movement pattern.
  - Fluency of motor skill movements.

These criteria can combine to affect the performance of a player but it is evident that they are more functionally effective as athletes in the category of PF1.

**Should a candidate for classification display functional levels of skills relating to ambulation or manual wheelchair**

**mobility, then Powerchair Football would not be an appropriate sport for them to participate in.**

### **3. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

The following personnel have key roles.

#### **3.1 Head of Classification**

The Head of Classification (HOC) is a Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for FIPFA.

#### **3.2 Chief Classifier**

The Chief Classifier (CC) is a Classifier responsible for all direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters at a specific competition.

#### **3.3 Classifier**

A Classifier is a person authorised as an official by FIPFA to evaluate athletes for international competition while serving as a member of a Classification Panel.

#### **3.4 Classification Panels**

A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers, appointed for a specific competition by the Head of Classification, to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with their classification rules. The panel will consist of a combination of medical and technical classifiers.

During a competition members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities that are not in connection with Classification.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> IPC Classification code section 3.3.3

## **4. Classification Administration Procedures**

Classifications will be managed following the procedures outlined below:

### **4.1 Classification Master List**

FIPFA maintains a Classification master list of all Athletes which details such matters as Athlete's name, nationality sport class and sport class status. This will be available to all members on the FIPFA website.

### **4.2 National Classification**

All athletes eligible to participate in FIPFA must receive an initial sport class from their own National Federation (NOPF).<sup>3</sup> Classification should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the FIPFA Classification Rules, National Classifiers should be trained according to the FIPFA approved standards.

### **4.3 International Classification at Sanctioned Competitions**

International Classification refers to the process of classification that is conducted at, or before, a FIPFA sanctioned international event. It is required before an athlete may compete at such an event.

Classification at sanctioned international competitions must be carried out by a FIPFA certified and appointed multidisciplinary classification panel comprised of 3 classifiers to include a sports technician and medical classifier.

Each competition requires a Chief Classifier and a minimum of two Classification Panels in order to conduct both athlete evaluations and protests.

### **4.4 Classification – Preparation and Scheduling**

Adequate time must be allocated for preparation, scheduling and conducting classification at a competition. This requires cooperation

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<sup>3</sup> IPC Classification Code Section 2.8



between the IF, classification personnel and the local organising committee (LOC).

#### **4.5 Appointment of Classification Personnel**

The Head of Classification (HoC) should appoint a Chief Classifier (CC) for the competition a minimum of 3 months <sup>4</sup>prior to the competition.

The HoC and/or CC should appoint Classification Panels for competitions a minimum of two months prior to the competition.

The HoC may also act as the Chief Classifier at a competition.<sup>5</sup>

#### **4.6 Preparation with Local Organising Committee**

The HOC and/or CC should work with the local organising committee (LOC) to:

- Ensure adequate preparation for classification is undertaken prior to the competition and requirements agreed upon with the LOC are provided.  
[For example, the Chief Classifier will work with the LOC to coordinate classifier travel, local transportation, accommodation, meals and per diems (if the IF requires per diems. Other examples may include facilities and venue for classification evaluation, facilities and venue for classification administration, equipment needs, technology support and support personnel.]
- Collect athlete entries and prepare athlete lists.

#### **4.7 Classification Evaluation Schedule**

The CC will prepare a classification evaluation period schedule in cooperation with the LOC, including times and venues for athlete evaluation that should be distributed in writing to all relevant parties prior to arrival at the competition.

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<sup>4</sup> International Standard :Athlete Evaluation section 5.2.1

<sup>5</sup> International Standard: Classifier Training and Certification section 5.3

Adequate time must be allocated at the beginning of the competition for athlete evaluation. In major events, a maximum of **two full** days is recommended for the evaluation period, depending on the number of athletes to be classified.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> International Standard :Athlete Evaluation section 5.5.4

# Athlete Evaluation section

## **5. ATHLETE EVALUATION**

Athlete evaluation is the process by which an athlete is assessed to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

Athlete evaluation is an ongoing process whereby all athletes are under regular observation by classifiers to ensure consistency and fairness for all athletes.

### **5.1 Consent Form**

Athletes must consent to the evaluation by signing the classification consent form to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement and ability to provide full effort and cooperation throughout the classification process. (See Appendix 1).

## **6. ATHLETE EVALUATION PROCESS**

The athlete evaluation process may include, but is not limited to:

Physical Assessment

Technical Assessment

Observation of Performance Assessment

### **6.1. Physical Assessment**

The Classification Panel should conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete using the methods of assessment in the FIPFA Classification Rules.

### **6.2. Technical Assessment**

The Classification Panel should conduct a technical assessment of the Athlete using the methods of assessment in the FIPFA Rules.

The technical assessment may include, but is not limited to, evaluation in a non-competitive environment of the specific tasks and activities that are part of Powerchair Football.

Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the Athlete to observe how the Athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions.

The classifiers must be convinced that the Athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the technical assessment and may request greater effort to ensure optimal observation.

### **6.3. Observation of Performance**

The Classification Panel will observe the Athlete performing the specific activities that are part of the sport during training and/or practice sessions and/or during the actual competition.

## **7. Incorrect Presentation for Evaluation**

There are three possible ways an athlete may present for evaluation incorrectly.

### **7.1 Failure to Attend Evaluation**

If the athlete does not attend the evaluation at the specified time or place, with the appropriate documentation, equipment/clothing and/or, accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that FIPFA competition, according to Article 9 of the IPC Classification Code, Failure to Attend Evaluation.

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the evaluation; an athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend evaluation and may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation. However, ultimately if the athlete does not have a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status, the athlete will not be permitted to compete at this competition.

Failure to attend evaluation includes:

- Not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place
- Not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation.
- Support Personnel

## **7.2 Non Co-operation During Evaluation**<sup>7</sup>

An athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in Athlete Evaluation shall be considered Non Co-operative during evaluation.

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation; an athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.

If the athlete fails to co-operate during Athlete Evaluation, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at the FIPFA competition.

Any athlete found to have been non co-operative during an evaluation will not be permitted to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of **twelve months** starting from the date upon which the athlete failed to co-operate.

## **7.3 Intentional Misrepresentation of Skills and / or Abilities**<sup>8</sup>

An Athlete, who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skill and/or abilities, shall be considered in violation of the FIPFA Classification Rules. The athlete will not be allocated a sport class or sport class status and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition.

If an athlete is found to be intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities:

- The Athlete *will not be allowed* to undergo any further evaluation for Powerchair Football for a minimum of two years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities.
- The Chief Classifier will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the athlete from the FIPFA Classification Master List.

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<sup>7</sup> IPC Classification Code section 10

<sup>8</sup> IPC Classification Code section 11

- The athlete will be designated as IM (intentional misrepresentation) in the FIPFA Classification Master List and on the FIPFA web list.
- The athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for FIPFA or for any sport within FIPFA for a period of two years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities.

## **8. CONSEQUENCES FOR INCORRECT PRESENTATION FOR EVALUATION**

### **8.1 Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel**

FIPFA shall enforce sanctions on athlete support personnel who assist or encourage an athlete to fail to attend athlete evaluation; to fail to cooperate; to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

An Athlete, who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, will receive a lifetime ban from and other sanctions deemed appropriate by FIPFA.

### **8.2. Consequences for Teams**

If an athlete is deemed not eligible to compete in violation of incorrect presentation for Athlete Evaluation of FIPFA Classification Rules that athlete position on the team may not be filled with a substitute. The rules of the sport shall apply to teams that are short one or more players.

### **8.3. Publication of Penalties**<sup>9</sup>

FIPFA will disclose details of penalties imposed upon athletes and athlete support personnel.

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<sup>9</sup> IPC Classification Code Section 13

## **9. Athlete Presentation**

All athletes must be prepared to be fully assessed by the classification panel and be present at the evaluation location at the assigned time, in the appropriate uniform as if ready to begin a match, and with all documentation, equipment and devices as required by the FIPFA Classification Rules.

The athlete may be accompanied by an interpreter, and not more than one representative of the Athlete's NPC/National Federation.<sup>10</sup>

### **9.1 Readiness to participate**

The athlete must be in good health, warmed up and ready to perform physical activities.

If an Athlete has a health condition causing pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation the athlete will not be evaluated at that time. The athlete is subject to Article 10 of the IPC Classification Code, Non-cooperation during evaluation.

## **10. Athletes Assessment**

Prospective players are required to supply a completed medical form and undertake an evaluation to demonstrate their functional capabilities, and to identify whether they meet the entry level requirements.

### **10.1. Medical form:**

A FIPFA Medical Form completed by the participant's NOPF or medical practitioner prior to the classification event must be provided. The form will include the following issues:

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<sup>10</sup> International Standard: Athlete Evaluation section 6.1.3



- Diagnosis of any medical conditions.
- A list of medications routinely taken.
- Risk factors (such as evidence of epilepsy, episodic pain related symptoms or postural movements during assessment that might cause harm).
- Evidence of mitigating hidden disabilities, (such as visual perceptual difficulties, or lack of sensation in certain areas of the body).

It must be clearly understood that it is the participant's responsibility to ensure that the information given is accurate and that there is no wilful misrepresentation of medically related information nor of skills and capabilities

### **11. The Functional features that affect a classification assessment.**

When an athlete presents for Classification assessment within the context of powerchair team sports it is important to identify the key ingredients necessary to allow participation, these are as follows:

- Postural control.
- Drive skills.
- Head control.
- Reflex responses and coordination.
- Stamina and endurance.
- Communication.

Each of the key factors for playing Powerchair Football is assessed in order to ascertain the player's suitability to participate in the sport.

The five main areas for review should not be seen to have equal importance, for each has a significant but variable influence on the performance of a player using a powered wheelchair. The overall assessment should piece the details from each of the sections together in order to define whether the overall performance fits within the entry level requirements and if so which of the subsequent 'classification categories' is appropriate for the player to be placed in. This will guide the classification panel to an initial decision however it is expected that observation of the players matchplay performance will confirm the classification status.

#### 11.1. Postural Control

The range of movement the athlete can safely demonstrate sitting in the powerchair should be assessed with consideration given to the potential to lose postural control in an impact situation.

No matter the physical presentation it is essential that any player involved in a powered mobility contact pads, profile cushions, headrests etc should have these reviewed to ensure that they do not cause a safety hazard. For those who have poor postural control it is essential that they have securely fitted attachments to their wheelchair that facilitate their sitting position and allow them to reach their performance potential.

It should be noted that certain physical conditions may require a high level of sitting restraint to be applied which can inhibit unwanted movements within the confines of the chair, however this is not a valid factor in the decision to disallow the player access to the sport.

Assessment of a player's trunk mobility both with and without restraint support is needed to find the true status of their independent postural skills, then to what level they rely on restraints and seating accessories to enable them to play effectively.

### 11.2. Drive Skills.

The athlete should perform a range of driving skills that should include:

- Straight line control in forward and reverse.
- Left and right spins.
- Ball striking.
- Interception.
- Ball control skills, including dribbling and reverse spin kicking.

Failure to complete all of these listed driving skills successfully does not preclude players from participating but rather would indicate the difficulties that they experience, and would need to compensate for during matchplay situations.

There is no restriction on the type of control unit used by neither the player on their powerchair nor which part of their body is required to manipulate the control. The quality of the directional control of the powerchair is a matter for the relevant team selectors to evaluate.

Players with limited directional control would be at a disadvantage on the field of play, and if it can be proven that they are using equipment appropriate to their level of physical involvement they

should be considered eligible to play provided there is no endangerment to others.

A thorough assessment of the upper limb/s should be completed to gain an understanding of a player's functional potential, influential factors include issues such as joystick grip, and ability to grasp and release with ease and demonstrate the level of coordination in the drive skill movements. This then needs to be followed by observation on the field of play to identify whether there is more fine motor ability present in a dynamic activity rather than in the assessment situation.

### 11.3. Head control Assessment.

The degree of head control and rotation as well as the visual range of awareness are strong influential factors on the quality of a player's performance potential. A player who can rotate the head through an arc of less than 90° would need to turn their chair to see the field of play to the right/left & behind. The ability to visually track a ball through a wide range of movement is distinct advantage over players who have limitations in the visual range.

### 11.4. Reflex responses.

Another factor that can adversely affect performance is a player's susceptibility to sudden motivators (visual or auditory shock) where the reflex response is over exaggerated and subsequently the ability to react to a situation is delayed.

Similarly if co-ordination skills are impaired, there is difficulty experienced in producing intentional cohesive movements that achieve a purposeful action. Hence players may experience a

significant delay before they can respond to a perceived need, and the quality of the resultant movement may be reduced.

A player's ability to react promptly with their chair under control is an important factor in ball striking or tackling situations. Players who exhibit a startle reflex or a delay in the implementation of motor movement to a visual stimulus will be at a clear disadvantage. This element of performance should not be underrated as the reactive delay or reduced powerchair control may be the cause of unintentional contact with other chairs, accidental ball strikes in dead ball situations or difficulties intercepting the ball as it moves.

#### 11.5. Stamina and Endurance.

Difficulties with stamina and endurance will affect a player's performance over time. Should this issue be raised as a relevant factor symptomatic of a diagnosed medical condition, the eventual determination of the classification outcome would need to be determined after an evaluation of the player's performance in a matchplay situation.

Stamina and endurance could be a significant issue during a minimal entry classification where the player is considered borderline for eligibility. It is important for the classification panel to record that they have taken this into consideration after observing the player's performance in matchplay. Similarly a player may present at the beginning of the game as having postural control skills of a red classification, but increasing muscle tone and strong startle reflexes may force the assessment team to consider a blue classification if this is more appropriate after five minutes of matchplay.

#### 11.6. Communication.

Verbal communication on the field of play can be an influential factor in clarifying tactical information and turn taking, and therefore players with limited oral communication skills would be at a disadvantage. This is a relatively less important area of assessment but nevertheless one that needs to be borne in mind particularly in situations where the classification status is difficult to ascertain.

#### 11.7. Observation of Overall Matchplay Performance.

Initial findings by the classification panel can be confirmed by subsequent observation of a player in a training or matchplay situation.

A FIPFA classification can only be altered if an observational assessment by a FIPA appointed classification team in a game-play or training situation determines that the functional assessment outcomes do not accurately reflect the on-field performance.

The important issues to be aware of are; that there may be a contrast in observations in the test /assessment situation as opposed to the competitive situation this is particularly relevant for:

- Sitting stability when turning at speed, or when tackled by an opposing player.
- The ability to use proprioceptive and co-ordination skills to understand position and space.
- Sharp re-active powerchair driving using a joystick or other device.

These factors could be misconstrued as errors in classification. It must be established that a classification assessment is based on the principle that sporting skills, fitness, good training techniques and effective mechanical

and safety equipment should not influence the outcome of the functional abilities of the player.

## **12. CHANGES IN SPORT CLASS FOLLOWING OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT**

If any changes to an Athlete's sport class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of observation during competition, all relevant parties should be informed as soon as is logistically possible.

- A member of the classification panel shall inform the athlete, national team representative and the LOC and/or TD of the panel's decision as soon as is logistically possible.
- The Chief Classifier must convey the outcomes of the assigned Sports Class and updated Sports Class Statuses to the LOC and/or CCTP so that they can prepare start lists and make associated event management arrangements.
- Results and/or start lists may need to be adjusted by the LOC and/or CCTP in accordance with the Sport and/or classification rules of the IF
- The LOC and/or CCTP must advise other teams/nations and any other relevant parties of any changes as soon as possible

Written notification of any changes resulting from Observation Assessment during the classification competition period must be provided to the Athlete through the NOPF Representative, on the FIPFA standardised form.

## **13. ASSIGNMENT OF ENTRY SPORTS CLASS AND SPORT CLASS STATUS\*<sup>11</sup>**

First Appearance in Powerchair Football is defined as the first time an Athlete has meaningful playing time (as determined by the Chief Classifier) during preliminary rounds or pools

The Athlete is assigned an entry Sport Class and Sport Class Status after their initial classification assessment and depending on the outcome will be allocated a Sport class status of;

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<sup>11</sup> International Standard: Athlete Evaluation Section 8

- New (N) Status; (for unclassified players attending for classification for the first time).
- Review (R) Status; (for athletes who require a further confirmative assessment at another event, or whose impairment has the potential for change in the near future).
- Confirmed (C) Status; (this is applied to players who have been allocated a sports class and whose impairment is unlikely to change, these players do not need to be seen again, unless there is a change in presentation)
- Ineligible to Compete ( this status is applied to athletes who are assessed as not meeting the eligibility criteria, and who may seek a second classification assessment, see Protest & Appeals section).).

### **13.1 Initial Sport Class Designation**

Once the Classification Panel has made a decision on the Athlete's Sport Class, the Athlete shall be informed of the panel's decision by a member of the panel. This will occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made.

### **13.2. Confirmation of Sport Class Designation**

An Observation Assessment is required to confirm the Athlete's Sport Class. Once the panel confirms the sport class, the Athlete shall be informed of this decision as soon as possible.

### **13.3. Notification to Athletes**

Written notification will be provided to the Athlete or the Athlete's national representative, recorded in writing on the FIPFA classification certificate which includes the following information:

- Athlete's assigned Sport Class
- Athlete's updated Sport Class Status
- Protest options and procedures



### **13.4. Notification to Third Parties**

At the end of each session during the athlete evaluation period, the Chief Classifier must provide details of assigned Sport Classes and updated Sport Class Statuses for the LOC and the Competition Commission Tournament Panel (CCTP).

The LOC shall provide all relevant information that teams may require for viewing athletes who enter a competition with a 'New' or 'Review' sport class status.

### **13.5. Post-Competition Notification.**

The Chief Classifier for the competition must confirm each Sport Class and Sport Class Status assigned by the classification panels before the end of each competition. A complete list of all athletes and their sport class and sport class status will be given to teams at the end of the event and posted on FIPFA website within four weeks of end the event.

The results from Classification at each competition will be posted on the FIPFA website for all nations who attended including the names of athletes, their Sports Class and Sports Class status.

## **14. Assessment Guidelines**

The following charts outline the types of impairment that potential athletes can present with and an outline description of the levels of function that would be expected within each sport class.

<b><i>Neurological Conditions:</i></b> Athletes with neurological difficulties may have their movements influenced by strong reflexes.		
	<b><i>PF2 (most able)</i></b>	<b><i>PF1 (most impaired)</i></b>
<i>Trunk Control</i>	<i>Athletes at this level play will be able to recover from forward lateral and</i>	<i>Moderate to poor trunk control:</i>

	<p><i>rotational movement but will do it with a delayed or affected sequence.</i></p> <p><i>Sequencing and timing will be delayed but can accomplish the task without assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Some Cp will demonstrate reflex patterns throughout the movements.</i></p>	<p><i>Athletes at this level play will have more difficulty or fail to recover from forward lateral and rotational movement.</i></p> <p><i>Sequencing and timing will be delayed and can't accomplish the task without assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Reflexes are stronger than movements</i></p>
<i>Head control</i>	<p><i>Head control will be fair and able to sustain impact without losing control. Will be able to use the head to visually scan</i></p>	<p><i>Head control will be difficult to maintain during impact. Will have reduced ability to visually scan</i></p>
<i>Drive control</i>	<p><i>Should be able to demonstrate fluent drive skills in all direction with the ability to grasp release and maintain joystick control with no delay time lag. A delay in transitional movements may be apparent but will not affect the quality of the driving. (tend be delayed in response time when driving and therefore may slightly inhibit their directional control)</i></p>	<p><i>Difficulty with fluent drive skills and the ability to maintain grasp and joystick control. May have a delay in transitional movements that do effect the quality of the driving(tend be delayed in response time when driving and therefore will inhibit their directional control)</i></p>
<i>Secondary factors</i>	<p><i>There may be an increase in tone overall on effort over time and with exertion.</i></p> <p><i>Will generally be able to</i></p>	<p><i>There may be an increase in tone overall on effort over time and with exertion.</i></p> <p><i>May not be able to</i></p>

	<i>communicate</i>	<i>communicate well</i>
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<b><u>Orthopedic involvement</u></b>		
	<b><u>PF2</u></b>	<b><u>PF1</u></b>
<i>Trunk control</i>	<i>Will have stable sitting balance but will have difficulty in rotation, some may have a fixed posture Static posture will be stable but dynamic posture will be limited/restricted. Movement out of the centre of gravity may be limited but able to function within that limited movement. Trunk movements may be limited within range but the ability to recover is present. Range of movement available is functional for the requirements of the sport.</i>	<i>Severely limited trunk movement affecting rotation, forward, backward and lateral flexion, the ability to recover position may be limited.</i>
<i>Head control</i>	<i>Fair head control – ability to rotate – good range of head movement, ability to take impact, wide visual field maintain. Will compensate for the lack of trunk movement by using the head more.</i>	<i>None to poor head control. Cannot rotate within the range. Head position may be lost during Impact. Limited visual field</i>
<i>Driving</i>	<i>Has full control over the drive</i>	<i>Can drive effectively but may</i>

<i>Control</i>	<i>mechanism with the ability to recover and maintain grasp, demonstrating a smooth flowing driving action.</i>	<i>have difficulty in maintaining grasp.</i>
<i>Secondary factors</i>	<i>Endurance and communications skills are not a factor in this group.</i>	<i>Endurance and communication may or may not be a factor.</i>

***Amputees - Acquired and/or Congenital (3 or 4 limb involvement)***

	<b><u>PF2</u></b>	<b><u>PF1</u></b>
<i>Trunk control</i>	<i>Usually good to normal trunk control. Sitting posture may be affected – non ambulatory athletes</i>	<i>Usually have stable trunk control (with a few exceptions). Sitting posture may be affected particularly on impact. Non ambulatory athletes</i>
<i>Head control</i>	<i>Typically minimal involvement</i>	<i>If using a head array, sip and puff or chin control, visual field is limited</i>
<i>Driving Control</i>	<i>Should be able to demonstrate smooth controlled driving although joystick grip and control may be slightly affected.</i>	<i>Must use head-array, sip and puff or chin control</i>
<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Endurance, reflex responses and communication are not</i>	<i>Endurance may be an issue if using a mouth control</i>

<i>factors</i>	<i>significant factors.</i>	<i>system. Should a player need to control a chair with an affected limb on the dominant side the fluency of driving may be compromised by rotational trunk movements.</i>
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<b><i>Myopathies, Muscular Dystrophies, etc...</i></b>		
	<b><u>PF2</u></b>	<b><u>PF1</u></b>
<i>Trunk control</i>	<i>Sitting control good upright static control with limited ability to recover position back to midline. Forward back left right and rotational movement would be limited or affected. Reduced range of independent postural movement available to them. This can range from minimal to moderate involvement. May use the head movement to correct back to midline.</i>	<i>Very limited independent sitting balance, and would be reliant on the postural support system to maintain their upright position</i>
<i>Head control</i>	<i>Has a good range of head control and visual range of movement. There may be some asymmetric neck postures. Weakness is present but able to see the court.</i>	<i>No to poor head control and as a consequence have limitation in their visual range.</i>
<i>Driving Control</i>	<i>With the arm stable they should be able to demonstrate a full range of drive skills with the ability to recover the joystick back to midline but</i>	<i>Smooth control driving is possible but the player is dependent on secure positioning. Player would demonstrate restricted range</i>

	<i>there might be a significant delay in recovering joystick control if the joystick is released. Recovery of hand position can be independent but may be delayed/affected. Athletes might need support for something to stabilize the arm</i>	<i>of movements while using the joystick</i>
<i>Secondary factors</i>	<i>Reflex responses and communications are not significant factors in the group however quality of postural control could be affected when fatigued.</i>	<i>Reflex responses are not significant factors; however quality of postural control and communication will be affected when fatigued.</i>

<b><u>Spinal cord injury</u></b>		
	<b><u>PF2</u></b>	<b><u>PF1</u></b>
<i>Trunk control</i>	<i>Limited trunk control and limited arm function below the shoulder. Trunk control is managed by the seating system in place.</i>	<i>Very limited arm/hand function. Breathing may be affected on effort.</i>
<i>Head control</i>	<i>Stable head control but with some limited rotational skills affecting the visual range</i>	<i>Reliant on headrest for head control therefore strong reduction in visual range of movement.</i>
<i>Driving</i>	<i>smooth control of driving skills,</i>	<i>Smooth control of driving</i>

<i>Control</i>	<i>limitation on functional range of movement, but able to re-engage if hand released from control mechanism</i>	<i>skills but would have difficulty regaining grip if the arm disengages from the control. May use alternative driving technique such as mouth or chin controls.</i>
<i>Secondary factors</i>	<i>Reflex responses and communication may not be a significant factor but endurance may be affected. The volume of the voice may be affected due to chest restrictions.</i>	<i>Communication may be an influential factor due to limited volume in voice production.</i>

# Protest & Appeals section



## **14. PROTESTS PROCEDURES**

### **14.1. Protests**

The term "protest" refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's sport class is made and subsequently resolved. Protests should only be submitted by the;

- Designated representative of a national organisation for Powerchair Football (NOPF).
- Chief Classifier under exceptional circumstances.

### **14.2. General Principles for Handling Protests**

14.2.1 - An athlete's sport class should only be protested once, with the exception of protests submitted in exceptional circumstances.

14.2.2. - A protest of a sport class allocated by FIPFA should only be resolved by FIPFA, and should be resolved in a manner that minimises the impact on competition. Medal presentations should not occur until protests have been finalised.

14.2.3. - A protest should not be resolved by the classification panel that allocated the sport class being protested, except if a protest is submitted 18 months or more after the most recent allocation of the sport class. In that case, the classifiers involved with the original allocation may be part of the protest panel. This rule will come in to affect post 2011.

14.2.4 - The protest panel should include classifiers of an equal or greater level of certification than the classification panel which allocated the athlete's sport class being protested.

### **14.3. Protest Opportunities**

14.3.1. - A NOPF may protest the sport class of an athlete from their own or another nation.

14.3.2. - Sport class status indicates the protest opportunities that are available. Sport class status also indicates who may submit a protest.

14.3.3. - The Chief Classifier of FIPFA may protest any athlete's sport class.

14.3.4. - Athletes with sport class status New (N) may be protested by NPC, NF or Chief Classifier of FIPFA following completion of athlete evaluation and allocation of sport class status Review (R). Following the resolution of the protest, the athlete shall be designated:

- Review (R) Status
- Confirmed (C) Status
- Ineligible to Compete

14.3.5. - Athletes with sport class status Review (R) may be protested by any NOPF or the Chief Classifier of FIPFA following athlete evaluation and allocation of sport class. Following the resolution of the protest, the athlete shall retain review status or be designated:

- Confirmed (C) Status; or
- Ineligible to Compete

14.3.6. - Athletes with sport class status C (Confirmed) may only be protested by Chief Classifier of FIPFA under exceptional circumstances (IS Protest and Appeals Article 5).

14.3.7. - The regulations with regard to athletes with sport class status 'Ineligibility' are outlined in IS Athlete Evaluation Article 3.2.2.

14.3.8. - Exceptional circumstances arise when a Chief Classifier believes an athlete with a confirmed (C) sport class status demonstrates significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition, which does not reflect the athlete's current sport class.

Exceptional circumstances may occur as a result of:

- A change in the degree of impairment of an athlete;
- Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition which does not reflect the athlete's current sport class;
- An error made by a classification panel which has led to the athlete being allocated a sport class which is not in keeping with the athlete's ability; or
- Sport class allocation criteria having changed since the athlete's most recent evaluation.

A protest made in exceptional circumstances shall follow the same process detailed in the following article.

#### **14.4. PROTEST PROCEDURES DURING COMPETITIONS**

14.4.1. - Protests may be submitted by:

- A NOPF representative authorised to submit protests (for example, Chef de Mission or Team Manager); and/or FIPFA Chief Classifier or a person designated for that event.
- The Chief Classifier, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorised to receive protests on behalf of FIPFA at that event.

14.4.2. - An athlete's sport class may be protested by their country's representative within 60 MINUTES after the athlete has completed evaluation.

14.4.3. - Protests must be submitted written in English on FIPFA protest form that is available from the Chief Classifier or their designee, and accompanied by 100 EUROS The information and documentation to be submitted with the protest form should include the following:

- The name, nation and sport of the athlete whose sport class is being protested;
- The reason for the protest;
- Details of the decision being protested;
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the protest;
- The signature of the NF representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable; and
- A fee of 100 EUROS unless there is a different amount specified for that competition.

#### **14.5. Validation of protest**

14.5.1. - Upon receipt of the protest form, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine if there are grounds for a protest and if all necessary information is included.

14.5.2. - If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier shall dismiss the protest and notify all relevant parties. If the protest is declined the Chief Classifier shall state why the protest is not accepted. THE PROTEST FEE WILL BE RETURNED.

14.5.3. - If the protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall notify all relevant parties of the time and date for any subsequent protest evaluation.

#### **14.6. Protest Panel During Competition**

14.6.1. - The Chief Classifier shall appoint a protest panel to conduct an evaluation of the athlete. The protest panel shall consist of 3 (three) classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification, as those involved in the most recent allocation of the athlete's sport class.

14.6.2. - Members of the protest panel should have no direct involvement in the allocation of the athlete's sport class being protested, unless this evaluation took place more than 18 (eighteen) months prior to the protest being submitted. This will take effect after 2011

14.6.3. - All documentation submitted with the protest form shall be provided to the protest panel. Protest panels should conduct the protest evaluation without reference to the classification panel which allocated the athlete's most recent sport class.

14.6.4. - If needed, the protest panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an athlete's sport class including the written findings of the initial panel.

14.6.5. - All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision. Written notification must be provided to the athlete on the standardised protest form.

Table 1: Protests opportunities during competitions

Athlete sport class status	Can be protested by athlete's NOPF and/or other NOPF	Can be protested by Chief Classifier
New (N)	YES	YES
Review (R)	YES	YES
Confirmed (C)	NO*	NO**

\*An Athlete may be protested after first appearance, but may only be protested once.

\*\*An Athlete may be protested under exceptional circumstances.

### **14.7. PROCEDURES FOR PROTESTS SUBMITTED OUT OF COMPETITION**

14.7.1. - Protests may be accepted within 30 days of the last day of a competition in which the athlete has competed or 30 days prior to a competition when the athlete will compete.

14.7.2. - Protest must be submitted on the standardised protest form to the FIPFA Head of Classification or his/her designee, and accompanied by 100 EUROS for protests submitted out of competition.

14.7.3. - Upon receipt of the protest form **and** the protest fee the Head of Classification or his/her designee shall conduct a review to determine whether all relevant rules concerning the submission of a protest have been complied with, and accept or dismiss the protest.

14.7.4. - If the relevant rules have not been complied with or there are no substantial grounds for a protest, the Head of Classification shall

dismiss the protest and return the protest form with a written explanation for dismissal. THE FEE WILL BE RETAINED.

14.7.5. - As an example, protests may be rejected due to the following reasons:

- The athlete has been protested previously and a final decision was made.
- The protest submission was not completed within the timeframe.
- The protest form was not signed by the representative of the NOPF.

14.7.6. - The Head of Classification shall notify all parties within 28 (twenty eight) calendar days of the time and date for the protest evaluation, which, following consultation with all relevant parties, may take place at an agreed competition. (This needs to be held at a designated competition so that all aspects of classification may take place – assessment, technical skills and observation on the field of play)

14.7.7. - Protests out of competition may only be resolved at an international sanctioned competition by a protest panel that fits the same description as outlined in X.4.3.

Table 2: Protests submitted out of competitions

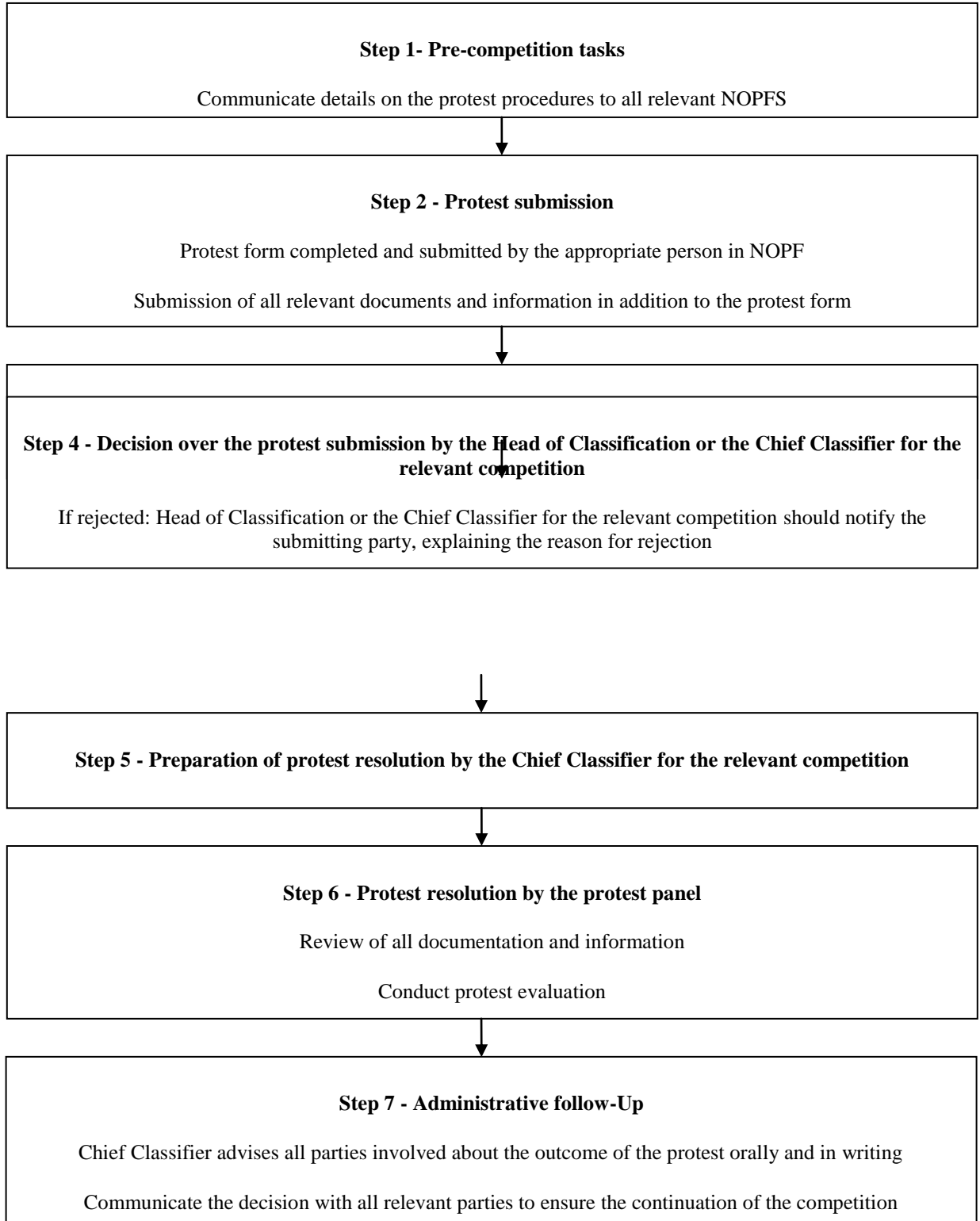
Athlete sport class status	Can be submitted by athlete’s NOPF and/or other NOPF	Can be submitted by Chief Classifier
New (N)	NO	NO
Review (R)	YES	YES
Confirmed (C)	YES*	YES**

\*An Athlete may be protested by another NOPF, but may only be protested once.

\*\*Exceptional circumstances only.

## **14.8. THE PROTEST PATHWAY**

The following sections describe the various stages of a protest procedure during or out of competition.



## **15. APPEAL PROCEDURES**

### **15.1. Appeals**

The term “appeal” refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is made and subsequently resolved.

### **15.2. General Principles for Handling Appeals**

FIPFA will designate people to be on the appeal body for FIPFA. The appeal procedures shall be consistent with International Paralympic Committee Board of Arbitration of Classification bylaws. For the current rules of the BAC please refer to the IPC website.

### **15.3. APPEAL JURISDICTION**

15.3.1. - The appeal body shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate sport class allocation procedures have been followed; and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate protest procedures have been followed.

15.3.2. - No appeal body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of sport class or sport class status. Under no circumstances shall the appeal body modify a decision by allocating an athlete a new sport class and/or sport class status.

15.3.3. - The appeal body shall hear appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to protest procedures, have been exhausted.

### **15.4. APPEAL SUBMISSION**

15.4.1. - Appeals may be commenced at any time, by submitting a notice of appeal FIPFA through the Secretariat to the Head of Classification and FIPFA shall promptly transmit a copy of the notice of appeal to the opposing party.

15.4.2. - Only a NOPF has the right to submit an appeal on a decision pertaining to its own athlete.

15.4.3. - A notice of appeal must:

- Specify the party who is requesting the appeal;



- Provide the name, nation and sport of the athlete whose sport class and/or sport class status is the subject of the appeal;
- Identify the decision being appealed, by attaching a copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;
- Specify the grounds for the appeal; and
- Identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the appeal.

15.4.4. - Appeals must be accompanied by 300 Euros. Proof of payment must be included in the notice of appeal.

15.4.5. - On receipt of a notice of appeal, FIPFA will inform the appeal body who shall conduct a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the appeal. If all other available remedies have not been exhausted, FIPFA shall issue a written decision dismissing the appeal.

## **15.5. APPEAL PROCEDURES**

15.5.1. - If all other available remedies have been exhausted, FIPFA shall:

- Advise all relevant parties that an appeal body will be constituted for the purposes of hearing the appeal.
- Send a copy of the notice of appeal, and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to the party named in the notice of appeal (“the opposing party”).
- Advise the opposing party that it must, within 28 calendar days of receiving a notice of appeal (or within such other period required by the FIPFA appeal body) submit to the appeal body a list of all documents, evidence and expert witnesses to be offered by the opposing party in relation to the appeal.
- Set a hearing location and date: the appeal body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a hearing live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

## **15.6. APPEAL HEARING**

15.6.1. - The appeal body, all of whose members shall comply with and have signed a conflict of interest agreement, will comprise of no less than three individuals who have at no stage been involved with or informed of the dispute brought before the appeal body.

15.6.2. - In order to ensure a level of independence of decisions, a majority of the members of the appeal body should not have any other official responsibility in FIPFA.

15.6.3. - The appeal body may designate counsel to assist it in the hearing.

15.6.4. - FIPFA and the applicable NOPF shall have the right to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to engage an interpreter approved by the appeal body.

13.6.5. - Not more than two (2) representatives of any party, excluding the athlete and any interpreter, shall be entitled to participate in the hearing

15.6.6. - Each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and (subject to the appeal body's discretion) to call witnesses.

## **15.7. APPEAL DECISION**

15.7.1. - The appeal body shall issue a written decision resolving any appeal after the hearing. The decision shall be provided to all parties, FIPFA and, in the case of appeals conducted in connection with a competition, to the Competition Organising Committee.

15.7.2. - The appeal body shall either affirm the decision appealed from or overrule the decision. If the decision is overruled, the appeal body's written opinion shall specify the procedural error committed and shall direct the appropriate party to reconsider the decision in a manner consistent with appeal body's instructions.

15.7.3. - FIPFA shall be responsible for ensuring that the appeal body's directives are followed in a timely manner.

15.7.4. - Appeal decisions are final and are not subject to any further appeal.

## **15.8. CONFIDENTIALITY**

15.8.1. - 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 or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the appeal:

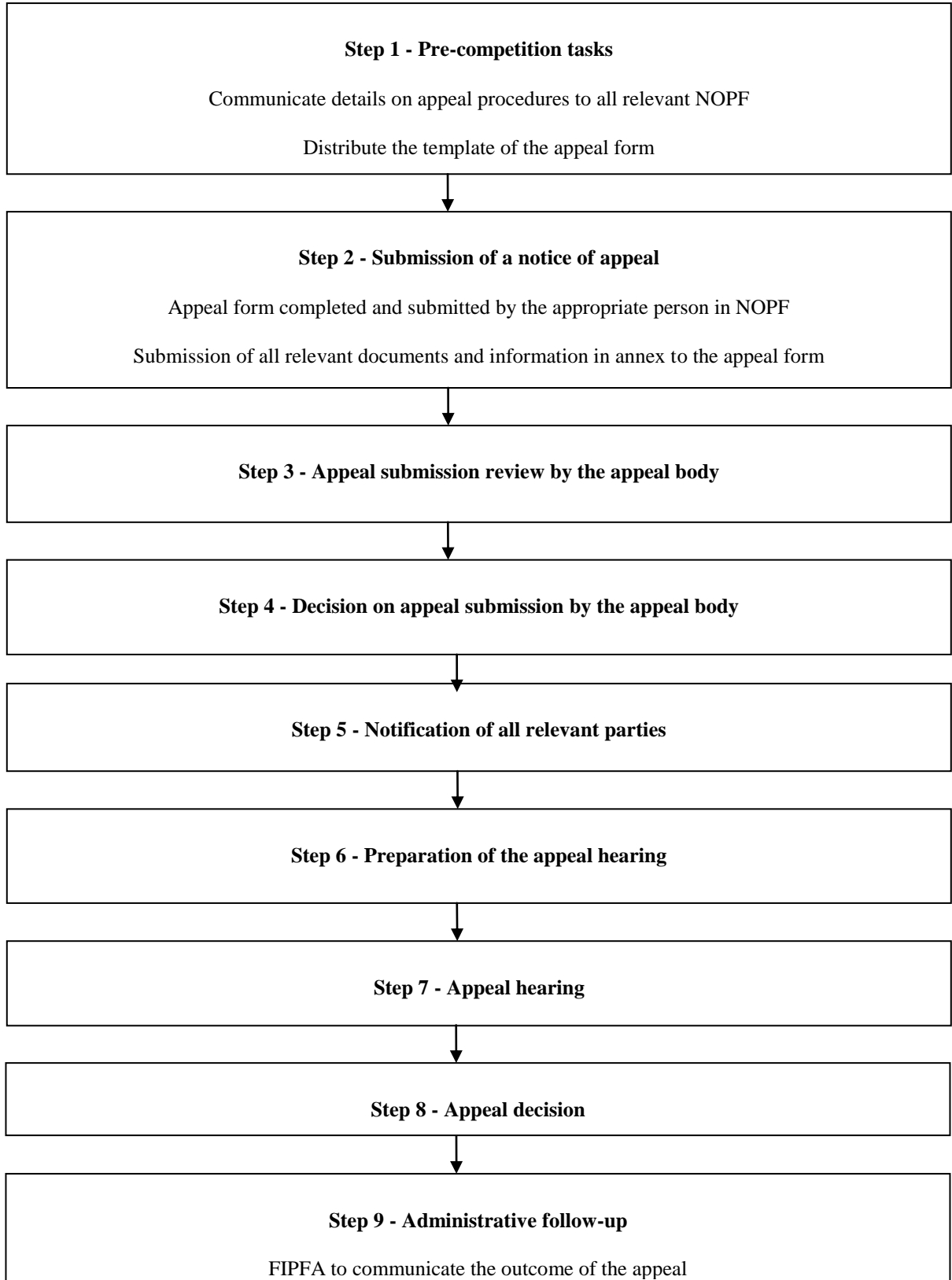
- Employees or agents of a party;

- Witnesses whose testimony may be offered on appeal; and
- Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the appeal.

15.8.2. - The appeal body may, in its sole discretion, require all persons who attend a hearing to sign a statement agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of facts or information disclosed during the hearing. Any individual refusing to sign such a statement may be excluded from the hearing.

## **15.9. THE APPEAL PATHWAY**

The following sections describe the various stages of an appeal conducted during or out of competition.



## **15.10 CLASSIFICATION APPEAL FORM**

### **Classification Release Form**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print athlete name) agree to undergo the FIPFA classification process and to abide by the Athlete's Code of Conduct. I understand the following:

- The classification process requires me to answer a series of questions including questions about my disability and my training. I agree to answer all questions fully, truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.
- I may be asked to carry out some activities and sports skills. I understand that the nature of these tests and the effort required to do them is similar to that required in training for athletics. I believe I am healthy enough to undertake such tests safely and that there is a small risk in doing them, approximately equal to the risk associated with completing an athletics training session. I agree that if I sustain an injury during the course of this classification process I hold IPC Athletics blameless.
- I must attempt all classification activities to the best of my ability and that failure to give my best effort is considered a form of cheating. If this occurs the classification session will be terminated, a classification will not be issued and I will be disqualified from competition.
- During the classification process I may be photographed or videotaped. I understand that these images will be used for the purposes of classification in order to substantiate decisions made or to educate others about the classification process. The images will not be used for any commercial gain or profit-making venture.

When I receive my class, I understand that my performances in competition will be observed by classifiers to confirm that I have given my best effort during pre-competition evaluation. If the classification team determines that my competitive performance is significantly different from my performance on the physical tests in classification, I understand that I may be disqualified.

*I understand that, as an athlete, I have the following rights during classification:*

- *The right to withdraw: My participation in the classification process is voluntary and I have the right to withdraw from the classification process at any time. Signing this form does not change my right to withdraw at any time. I understand that if I withdraw from the classification process I will not be able to be classified and will not be able to compete in FIPFA competitions;*

- The right to respect and confidentiality: Evaluations will be conducted respectfully and information obtained during the classification process will be treated confidentially;
- The right to challenge a classification decision: this should be done through the appropriate channels.

By signing this document I indicate that I understand the above information or that my parent/ guardian has read and understood it.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent / guardian

(if under 18 yrs) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# **Classifier training & Certification Section**

## **16. CLASSIFIER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

To be certified as a Classifier an individual has to complete FIPFA formal training, which includes theoretical and practical education, as well as practical training and mentorship.<sup>12</sup>

The current process will be one of mentorship using the current classification code to mentor new classifiers with appropriate backgrounds. At a later stage a classifier pathway of theory and practical training will be developed.

### **16.1 Classification Personnel**<sup>13</sup>

#### 16.1.1. Classifier

A Classifier is a person authorised as an official by FIPFA to evaluate athletes, while serving as a member of a Classification Panel.

A Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rulebook and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of the Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

1. Work as a member of a Classification Panel to allocate Sport Class and Sport Class Status, including Protest and Appeals.
2. Attend classification meetings at competitions.
3. Assist in Classifier Training and Certification.

#### 16.1.2. Head of Classification

The Head of Classification is the person that is responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for FIPFA

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<sup>12</sup> IF Classifier Training and Certification Section 3.1.

<sup>13</sup> IPC Classification Code Section 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and IS Classifier Training and Certification Section 1 and 5.



Duties of the Head of Classification may include, but are not limited to:

1. Examine the status of the Classification system on a regular basis.
2. Lead the design, planning and recommendation of programs and policies for FIPFA to ensure that Classification Rules comply with the Classification Code and International Standards.
3. Administer and coordinate classification matters, including serving as a member of relevant committees (for example Executive Committee, Sport Standing Committee or Management Team).
4. Appoint Classifiers for Classification Panels, including appointment of Chief Classifiers.
5. Organize and conduct Classifier Training and Certification.
6. Maintain and update Classification and Classifier databases, and Classification Master List.
7. Inform Classifiers of changes in the Classification rules and consult for feedback on issues that affect the sport and classification rules.
8. Liaise with all relevant external parties.

#### 16.1.3. Chief Classifier

The Chief Classifier is a Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specific competition.

Duties of the Chief Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

1. Administer and coordinate classification matters related to a specific competition.
2. Liaise with Organising Committees and teams before the competition to identify and notify Athletes who require evaluation for Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

3. Liaise with Organising Committees before the competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for Classifiers.
4. Supervise Classifiers to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately.
5. Supervise Classifiers and Trainees in their duties as members of Classification Panels and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies.
6. Complete a competition report within 5 (FIVE) days of the competition and send to the Head of Classification.
7. Implement the Protest procedures as outlined in the section of Protest and Appeals.

## **16.2. LEVELS OF CLASSIFIER CERTIFICATION<sup>14</sup>**

### 16.2.1 Trainee

A Trainee is an individual who is in the process of formal training by FIPFA, but who is not yet certified as a Classifier. A Trainee may not be an appointed member of a Classification Panel at an international competition, and may not allocate an International Sport Class. A Trainee may not have any other roles at the competition in relation to their team or LOC.

A Trainee is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rulebook and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of the Trainee may include:

1. Active participation and observation to learn classification process, procedures and rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies for certification.
2. Attend classification meetings at events.

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<sup>14</sup> IS Classifier Training and Certification Section 2.4

### 16.2.2. Level 1

Level 1 Classifiers have completed the introductory formal training of FIPFA and have been certified to be a member of a Classification Panel at an international competition. Level 1 Classifiers may participate in the assignment of Sport Class and Sport Class Status under the supervision of more experienced classifiers.

### 16.2.3 Level 2

Level 2 Classifiers have completed the advanced formal training of FIPFA and have demonstrated the appropriate level of experience. Level 2 Classifiers may participate in the assignment of Sport Class and Sport Class Status with no supervision from more experienced classifiers.

## **16.3. MAINTAINING CLASSIFIER CERTIFICATION<sup>15</sup>**

Classifiers must maintain their certification and will be notified annually regarding the status of their certification and how to develop further competencies. Classifiers who fail to meet the maintaining criteria will lose their status until they have been able to upgrade their skills.

### 16.3.1. Level 1

1. Be active within country/region/zone, classify at least one competition or a minimum of 10 athletes a year.
2. Annual submit a classification log to the Head of Classification to indicate activity.
3. Attend workshops and seminars to maintain knowledge of current classification rules.
4. Classify at a minimum of one international competition per quadrennial.

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<sup>15</sup> IF Classifier Training and Certification Section 3.5, 3.6, 4.3, 4.4.

### 16.3.2. Level 2

1. Be active within country/region/zone, classify at least one competition or a minimum of 10 athletes a year.
2. Annually submit a classification log to the Head of Classification to indicate activity.
3. Classify at one World Championships or Paralympic games every three years and continuing demonstrating advanced skills.
4. Attends workshops and seminars to maintain knowledge of current classification rules.
5. Participates in classifier discussions and tasks keeping current with committee communications and directions.

## **17. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Classifiers have to comply with the Code of Conduct as described in the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification section 6<sup>16</sup>.

FIPFA may take disciplinary action against Classifiers if they violate the Classification Code of Conduct. Disciplinary action may include a variety of sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revoking the certification as a Classifier.

Non-compliance is to be reported to Head of Classification, which will investigate non-compliance and make a decision if any disciplinary actions are to be taken.

**Code of Conduct will be added to the Classifiers Training Manual**

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<sup>16</sup> IPC Classification Code Section 3.4

**CLASSIFICATION ASSESSMENT FORM (Version 2, June 08)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DoB: \_\_\_\_\_

Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport No \_\_\_\_\_

**History**

**How long have you been playing \_\_\_\_\_**

**How often do you train \_\_\_\_\_**

<b>Information</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>Diagnosis Form</b>		
<b>Medications Form</b>		
<b>Current Performance Influencing issues</b> e.g.: Epilepsy; Asthma; Severe Allergies; Surgery within last 12 months		

### ***Match play Powerchair Review***

Wheelchair Type	
Restraints	
Control method	

### ***Trunk Head Control***

<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>PF1/2</b>	<b>Evaluation of performance</b>
<b>Posture &amp; Sitting Stability</b>		
<b>Head Control</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stability</li><li>• Movement Range</li></ul>		

• Visual Field		
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***Drive Control***

<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>PF1/2</b>	<b>Evaluation of performance</b>
Weaving		
Reverse,		
L&R spin		
Ball Strike		
Interception		
Fluency Skills		

***Secondary Factors***

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>PF1/2</b>	<b>Evaluation of Performance</b>
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Reflex Responses		
Stamina/Endurance		
Communication		
Other		

**Sport Class and Sport Status:**

Sport Class    PF 1                      PF2                      Review                                      Confirmed

Panel Members: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:-----

**Matchplay observation**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ DoB:\_\_\_\_\_



Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b><i>Issues Reviewed</i></b>	<b><i>Outcomes of Observations</i></b>
Trunk Control	
Head Control	
Drive Control	
Secondary Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reflex responses</li><li>• Endurance</li><li>• Communication</li></ul>	

• Other	
Comments	
Outcomes	
Panel member/s	
Date	

## Classification Release Form

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print athlete name) agree to undergo the FIPFA classification process and to abide by the Athlete's Code of Conduct. I understand the following:

- The classification process requires me to answer a series of questions including questions about my disability and my training. I agree to answer all questions fully, truthfully and to the best of my knowledge.
- I may be asked to carry out some activities and sports skills. I understand that the nature of these tests and the effort required to do them is similar to that required in training for athletics. I believe I am healthy enough to undertake such tests safely and that there is a small risk in doing them, approximately equal to the risk associated with completing an athletic training session. I agree that if I sustain an injury during the course of this classification process I hold IPC Athletics blameless.
- I must attempt all classification activities to the best of my ability and that failure to give my best effort is considered a form of cheating. If this occurs the classification session will be terminated, a classification will not be issued and I will be disqualified from competition.
- During the classification process I may be photographed or videotaped. I understand that these images will be used for the purposes of classification in order to substantiate decisions made or to educate others about the classification process. The images will not be used for any commercial gain or to support any profit-making venture.

When I receive my class, I understand that my performances in competition will be observed by classifiers to confirm that I have given my best effort during pre-competition evaluation. If the classification team determines that my competitive performance is significantly different from my performance on the physical tests in classification, I understand that I may be disqualified.

*I understand that, as an athlete, I have the following rights during classification:*

- *The right to withdraw: My participation in the classification process is voluntary and I have the right to withdraw from the classification process at any time. Signing this form does not change my right to withdraw at any time. I understand that if I withdraw from the classification process I will not be able to be classified and will not be able to compete in FIPFA competitions;*

- *The right to respect and confidentiality: Evaluations will be conducted respectfully and information obtained during the classification process will be treated confidentially;*
- *The right to challenge a classification decision: this should be done through the appropriate channels.*

By signing this document I indicate that I understand the above information or that my parent/ guardian has read and understood it.

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Signature

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Date

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Signature of parent / guardian (if under 18 yrs)

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Date

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Witness

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Date

