



## **FIPFA Classification Rulebook**

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## CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE of CLASSIFICATION and SCOPE of these CLASSIFICATION RULES

1. Adoption
  - 1.1 These Classification Rules have been prepared by the **Federation Internationale de Powerchair Football Association**, hereby referred to as **FIPFA**, to implement the requirements of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards.
  - 1.2 The Classification Rules have been adopted by FIPFA on **November 9, 2025** and will be effective from **January 1, 2026** (**Effective Date**).
  - 1.3 The Classification Rules form part of FIPFA's rules and regulations, and may be amended by FIPFA from time to time.
  - 1.4 The Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices, which are an integral part of the Classification Rules.
  - 1.5 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist in Classification. These forms are available from FIPFA and may be amended by FIPFA from time to time.
2. The purpose of Classification
  - 2.1 The purpose of Classification is to enable athletes with Eligible Impairments to participate in competitive Para sport with a pathway to sporting excellence, the pinnacle of which is the Paralympic Games.
  - 2.2 Classification establishes a unique framework that promotes fair and meaningful competition by minimising the impact of athletes' impairments on the outcome of competition so that the outcome is determined by factors other than impairment. Classification is therefore essential to the Paralympic Movement as Para sport cannot exist without Classification.
 

*[Comment to Article 2.2: The term 'impairment' refers to a loss or abnormality in body structure or physiological function (including mental functions). "Abnormality" here strictly refers to a significant variation from established statistical norms (i.e. as a deviation from a population mean within measured standard norms) and should be used only in this sense. Examples of impairments include loss of an arm or leg or loss of vision. In the case of an injury to the spine, an impairment would be the resulting paralysis.]*
  - 2.3 To achieve its purpose, Classification performs two critical functions:
    - 2.3.1 the determination of which athletes are eligible to compete in Powerchair Football; and

- 2.3.2 the grouping of eligible athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football.
  - 2.4 Classification is not designed to group athletes into classes based on their sport performance. Rather, the unit of Classification is an athlete's impairment, and impairments are classified based on the extent to which they impact an athlete's ability to perform the fundamental activities in Powerchair Football. An athlete who improves their sport performance will become more competitive within their allocated Sport Class, but improved performance does not of itself provide a basis for changing an athlete's Sport Class.
3. Scope and application of these Classification Rules
    - 3.1 These Classification Rules apply to the following competitions within:
      - 3.1.1 the Paralympic Games;
      - 3.1.2 World Cup;
      - 3.1.3 Zone Qualifying Events
      - 3.1.4 Any FIPFA-sanctioned event where Observation Assessment may take place as part of a Classification process.
    - 3.2 Subject to Article 3.1, these Classification Rules will be binding on:
      - 3.2.1 FIPFA and its representatives, including its board members, directors, officers and employees who are involved in any aspect of Classification;
      - 3.2.2 each of FIPFA's National Federations and all National Representatives;
      - 3.2.3 all Participants;
      - 3.2.4 all Classification Personnel;
      - 3.2.5 all persons participating in Evaluation Sessions (whether in person or virtually); and
      - 3.2.6 any other person who agrees in writing to be bound by the Classification Rules.
    - 3.3 Each of the above-mentioned Persons is deemed, as a condition of their participation or involvement in Powerchair Football, to have agreed to and be bound by these Classification Rules, and to have submitted to the authority of FIPFA to enforce these Classification Rules.
  4. Interpretation
    - 4.1 Defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in **Appendix 1**.

- 4.2 Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 4.3 These Classification Rules have been adopted pursuant to the provisions of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, and are to be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with those documents. Aimed at implementing a global and harmonised approach to Classification, the Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of IPC Members, RIFs, or governments. When applying and interpreting the Classification Rules, all courts, arbitral tribunals and other adjudicating bodies should be aware of and respect the distinct nature of the Classification Rules, which implement the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, and the fact that the rules represent the consensus of a broad spectrum of stakeholders around the world as to what is necessary to protect and ensure fair and meaningful competition.
- 4.4 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of FIPFA, including but not limited to the sport technical rules. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules of FIPFA, these Classification Rules will take precedence.
- 4.5 Comments to these Classification Rules are deemed to be part of these Classification Rules and will be used to interpret these Classification Rules.
5. Use of the IPC's 'Para' mark
- 5.1 The word 'Para' is a registered trade mark of the IPC, which the IPC protects and registers for the benefit of the Paralympic Movement. Any use of the 'Para' mark must be in accordance with the IPC Constitution and the IPC's Intellectual Property Regulations.
- 5.2 The right to use the 'Para' mark is conferred on International Federations and RIFs that have agreed to comply with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards. However, International Federations and RIFs can only use the 'Para' mark in relation to those specific sports and disciplines for which the International Federation/RIF has agreed to comply with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards.
- 5.3 FIPFA has the right to use the 'Para' mark in relation to Powerchair Football.
- 5.4 Sports and federations that are not International Federations or RIFs are not permitted to use the 'Para' mark under any circumstances.

## CHAPTER 2: CLASSIFICATION

### PART I: Introduction

#### 6. Stages of Classification

6.1 Classification comprises four main assessment stages, each of which will be conducted by FIPFA (or its representatives):

<b>UHC Assessment</b>	<b>Stage 1:</b> an assessment to verify that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National Federation ( <b>UHC Assessment</b> ) (see Part IV.A).
<b>Evaluation Session</b>	<b>Stage 2:</b> an assessment to verify (i) that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) that there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s) ( <b>Eligible Impairment Assessment</b> ) (see Part IV.B.1).
	<b>Stage 3:</b> an assessment as to whether the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment ( <b>MIC Assessment</b> ) (see Part IV.B.2).
	<b>Stage 4:</b> the allocation to the Athlete of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) a Sport Class based on an assessment of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football (<b>Sport Class Assessment</b>); and</li> <li>(ii) a Sport Class Status to indicate whether and when the Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future (see Part IV.B.3).</li> </ul>

6.2 The UHC Assessment will always be performed first followed by the Eligible Impairment assessment, MIC assessment, and allocation of sport class, respectively. The decision-making process will follow the four stages sequentially in the order set out above.

## PART II: Bodies responsible for classifying Athletes

### 7. UHC Assessor

#### 7.1 FIPFA is responsible for conducting UHC Assessments, which it may do through any of the following persons or bodies (each referred to as a **UHC Assessor**):

- (1) The Head of Classification for FIPFA or one of the Zone Heads of Classification can serve as a UHC Assessor. These positions require expertise in, and knowledge of, UHCs that contribute to EIs. The appointed Chief of Classification may also serve as an UHC Assessor. This position also requires knowledge of HCs that contribute to EIs.
- (2) Powerchair Football is delimited to athletes with Physical Impairments; therefore, the Head of Classification or Chief of Classification have the responsibility for conducting UHC Assessments for all prospective athletes.
- (3) FIPFA's UHC Assessors are responsible for disseminating and receiving UHC documentation and verifying validity of submissions for all prospective event participants. UHC Assessors determine if the UHC contributes to an EI and for each player and then inform the Classification Panel of eligible participants. UHC Assessors are also responsible for communicating with NFs if additional documentation is warranted before making a decision.

#### 7.2 All persons acting as UHC Assessors must (i) have the skills and experience required to conduct UHC Assessments, and (ii) sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings.

### 8. Classification Panel

#### 8.1 FIPFA will appoint Classification Panels to conduct Evaluation Sessions in accordance with this Article 8.

#### 8.2 Except as provided in Article 8.3:

- 8.2.1 each Classification Panel must consist of a minimum of two Classifiers;
- 8.2.2 at least one member of the Classification Panel must be of a different nationality to the Athlete being assessed; and
- 8.2.3 where reasonably practicable, members of the Classification Panel must be of different nationalities to each other and the assigned athletes.

*[Comment to Article 8.2: These provisions are intended to help manage potential conflicts of interest, whether perceived or actual. Conflicts of interest are addressed more broadly in Chapter 6 Part III, with further examples. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to Article 43.2 regarding the composition of a Protest Panel, a Classification Panel may consist of Classifiers who conducted previous Evaluation Sessions of the Athlete being assessed. However, while not mandatory, where reasonably practicable, FIPFA will not appoint any Classifier who was involved in*

*any assessment or evaluation of the relevant Athlete for Classification purposes (whether at the national or international level) within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the anticipated Evaluation Session.]*

- 8.3 In exceptional circumstances, FIPFA may authorise a Classification Panel to consist of a sole Classifier and/or Classifiers who are each of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed, provided that:
- 8.3.1 any Sport Class issued to the Athlete must be accompanied by the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', with all resulting consequences; and
  - 8.3.2 any sole Classifier must be certified to conduct all of the assessments within the Evaluation Session.

*[Comment to Article 8.3: For example, 'exceptional circumstances' may arise if there are genuine and unavoidable operational difficulties at a Competition (such as travel delays, Classifier illness, or conflicts of interest) that result in an insufficient number of Classifiers being available to constitute Classification Panels with two or more persons, or of different nationalities to the Athlete being assessed.]*

- 8.4 All members of the Classification Panel must sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings.

### PART III: Eligible Impairments

9. Eligible Impairments
- 9.1 The Eligible Impairments that are catered for by FIPFA are set out in Appendix 2.
  - 9.2 Any impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Article 9.1 is a '**Non-Eligible Impairment**'.
  - 9.3 Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - 9.3.1 pain;
    - 9.3.2 hearing impairment;
    - 9.3.3 low muscle tone;
    - 9.3.4 hypermobility of joints;
    - 9.3.5 joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint or recurrent dislocation of a joint;
    - 9.3.6 impaired muscle endurance or stiffness;
    - 9.3.7 impaired motor reflex functions;

- 9.3.8 impaired cardiovascular functions;
  - 9.3.9 impaired respiratory functions;
  - 9.3.10 impaired metabolic functions;
  - 9.3.11 tics and mannerisms, motor stereotypies, and motor perseverations;
  - 9.3.12 vestibular impairment;
  - 9.3.13 impairments in muscle metabolism resulting in fatigue; and
  - 9.3.14 impairments stemming from psychological and/or psychosomatic causes.
- 9.4 An Athlete who has both an Eligible Impairment and a Non-Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of their Eligible Impairment, provided that their Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session (including Observation Assessment, if required) and allocate a Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 9.4: For example, an Athlete with osteoarthritis might have Impaired Passive Range of Movement (an Eligible Impairment) and pain (a Non-Eligible Impairment). If the presence of pain restricts a Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session the Athlete might not be allocated a Sport Class, notwithstanding that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.]*

#### PART IV: The Classification process

##### A. Stage 1: UHC Assessment

##### 10. Diagnostic Information

- 10.1 In order to begin the Classification process, an Athlete must provide their National Federation with all relevant Diagnostic Information required to enable FIPFA to assess the existence of an Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment.
- 10.2 The Athlete's National Federation is responsible for providing all relevant Diagnostic Information to FIPFA, and for ensuring that all Diagnostic Information is complete, accurate, authentic, and relevant, and that FIPFA is informed of any changes to that information.
- 10.3 FIPFA (including the UHC Assessor) may request from the Athlete's National Federation any additional information that it deems necessary to carry out the Classification process, including Diagnostic Information.
- 10.4 Unless FIPFA specifies otherwise, Diagnostic Information must be provided in its original format (i.e., the original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language).

11. Conducting the UHC Assessment
  - 11.1 The UHC Assessor will conduct the UHC Assessment for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to verify that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition.
  - 11.2 The UHC Assessor will conduct the UHC Assessment based only on the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National Federation.
  - 11.3 At any stage the UHC Assessor may, with the agreement of FIPFA, seek the assistance of such other medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific experts as it considers necessary for it to conduct the UHC Assessment.
  - 11.4 If the UHC Assessor consists of more than one member:
    - 11.4.1 the individual members of the UHC Assessor must initially review the Athlete's Diagnostic Information independently of each other; and
    - 11.4.2 if the members are unable to reach a unanimous decision, the UHC Assessor must make its decision by majority.
  - 11.5 If the UHC Assessor is satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:
    - 11.5.1 the UHC Assessor must notify FIPFA of the outcome of its assessment in writing;
    - 11.5.2 FIPFA will provide the Diagnostic Information and the UHC Assessor's written outcome to the Classification Panel and will then proceed with scheduling an Evaluation Session;
    - 11.5.3 unless the Athlete already has a relevant Sport Class and Sport Class Status, the Athlete will automatically be allocated the designation 'New (N)'; and
    - 11.5.4 an Athlete with the designation 'New (N)' must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at a Covered Competition, unless FIPFA specifies otherwise (in which case FIPFA may assign an entry Sport Class to the Athlete). **[NOTE:** It is recommended that all Athletes with the designation 'New (N)' are required to attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at a Covered Competition.
  - 11.6 If the UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:
    - 11.6.1 The UHC Assessor must notify FIPFA of the outcome of its assessment and provide a written explanation for the decision.
    - 11.6.2 FIPFA will:
      - 11.6.2.1 provide a copy of the UHC Assessor's written explanation to the Athlete's National Federation;

- 11.6.2.2 designate the Athlete as ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)’ with the resulting consequences specified in Article 12; and
  - 11.6.2.3 arrange for a second UHC Assessor to repeat the UHC Assessment as soon as reasonably practicable in accordance with Article 11.7.
- 11.7 If a second UHC Assessor is required pursuant to Article 11.6.2:
- 11.7.1 The second UHC Assessor may comprise one or more members. Any member of the first UHC Assessor cannot serve as a member of the second UHC Assessor.
  - 11.7.2 The second UHC Assessor must review all of the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete’s National Federation. Before reaching a final decision, the second UHC Assessor must also review the written explanation of the first UHC Assessor.
  - 11.7.3 If the second UHC Assessor is satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, Article 11.5 applies.
  - 11.7.4 If the second UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:
    - 1.1.1.1 The second UHC Assessor must notify FIPFA of the outcome and provide a written explanation for the decision.
    - 1.1.1.2 FIPFA will provide a copy of the second UHC Assessor’s written explanation to the Athlete’s National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable.
    - 1.1.1.3 The Athlete must be designated as ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’, and the consequences in Article 12 will continue to apply.
12. Designation of ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’
- 12.1 Subject to Medical Reviews (Article 36) and changes to Classification systems (Article 59.3), an Athlete designated as ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’:
    - 12.1.1 is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions in Powerchair Football; and
    - 12.1.2 must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in Powerchair Football or in another sport). Such designation may be automatically recognised by other International Federations in their respective sports, in their absolute discretion.

*[Comment to Article 12.1: If an Athlete who has been designated ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’ subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in Covered Competitions, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.]*

*If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability, but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Powerchair Football.]*

- 12.2 Subject to Article 11.7, the designation of an Athlete as ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’ is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.
- 12.3 FIPFA will include all Athletes designated as ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’ on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 35.

*[Comment to Article 12.3: This requirement applies regardless of whether the Athlete is currently licensed by FIPFA.]*

## **B. Evaluation Session**

### B.1 Stage 2: Eligible Impairment Assessment

13. Conducting the Eligible Impairment Assessment
- 13.1 The Eligible Impairment Assessment will be conducted for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to verify that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s).
- 13.2 As a preliminary step, the Classification Panel must review the documentation relating to the UHC Assessment, namely the Athlete’s Diagnostic Information and the written outcome of the UHC Assessor.
- 13.3 **Appendix 3** sets out how a Classification Panel will evaluate whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, including the criteria to be assessed for each Eligible Impairment and the full details of any impairment-based testing and/or other clinically recognised testing that will be used as part of the Eligible Impairment Assessment, and how the results of such testing will be evaluated.
- 13.4 The Eligible Impairment Assessment must take place in person.

- 13.5 When conducting the Eligible Impairment Assessment, if the Classification Panel considers that there are any inconsistencies with the Underlying Health Condition(s) reported in the UHC Assessment, the Classification Panel will:
- 13.5.1 designate the Athlete as ‘Classification Not Completed (CNC)’;
  - 13.5.2 prepare a written explanation identifying the inconsistencies and noting any additional information that is required, a copy of which must be provided to FIPFA and the Athlete’s National Federation;
  - 13.5.3 if it considers it appropriate, specify a deadline by which such additional information must be provided by the Athlete’s National Federation; such information must be provided in its original format (i.e. the original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language), unless FIPFA specifies otherwise; and
  - 13.5.4 if the additional information is not provided by the specified deadline or does not otherwise satisfy the Classification Panel, or if the Classification Panel does not require any additional information, refer the matter back to the UHC Assessor (which, if possible, should be the same UHC Assessor as before) for reconsideration in accordance with Part IV.A above, along with the written explanation and any additional information provided.
- 13.6 The Eligible Impairment Assessment will continue (either by the same or a new Classification Panel) only once that Classification Panel is satisfied by the additional information provided and/or the UHC Assessor completes the reassessment.
- 13.7 Upon completion of the Eligible Impairment Assessment:
- 13.7.1 If the Classification Panel is satisfied that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s), it will proceed to the MIC Assessment.
  - 13.7.2 If the Classification Panel is not satisfied as in Article 13.7.1, the Athlete must be designated as ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)’, with the resulting consequences specified in Article 14.  
  
*[Comment to Article 13.7.2: When designating an Athlete as ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’, the Classification Panel must record the Eligible Impairment(s) for which the Athlete was assessed, for example, ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’ for Impaired Muscle Power and Impaired Passive Range of Movement.]*
- 13.8 The Classification Panel must notify FIPFA of the outcome of the Eligible Impairment Assessment and provide a written explanation for the decision. FIPFA will provide a copy of the Classification Panel’s written explanation to the Athlete’s National Federation.

- 13.9 If the Athlete is designated as ‘Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)’, the Athlete is entitled to undergo a second Eligible Impairment Assessment by a second Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable:
- 13.9.1 Any member of the first Classification Panel cannot serve as a member of the second Classification Panel.
  - 13.9.2 Before reaching a final decision, the second Classification Panel must also review the written explanation of the first Classification Panel.
  - 13.9.3 If the second Classification Panel is satisfied that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s), it will proceed to the MIC Assessment.
  - 13.9.4 If the second Classification Panel is not satisfied as in Article 13.9.3, the Athlete must be designated as ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’, and the consequences in Article 14 will continue to apply.
  - 13.9.5 The Athlete’s right to a second Eligible Impairment Assessment may be waived by the Athlete if they do not wish to undergo a second assessment (in which case Article 13.9.4 will be deemed to apply).
14. Designation of ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’
- 14.1 Subject to Medical Reviews (Article 36) and changes to Classification systems (Article 59.3), an Athlete designated as ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’:
- 14.1.1 is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions based on such Eligible Impairment(s) in Powerchair Football; and
  - 14.1.2 must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in Powerchair Football or in another sport). Such designation may be automatically recognised by other International Federations in their respective sports, in their absolute discretion.

*[Comment to Article 14.1: If an Athlete who has been designated ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment’ subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in Covered Competitions, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.]*

*If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability, but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Powerchair Football]*

- 14.2 Subject to Article 13.9, the designation of an Athlete as ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’ is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.
- 14.3 FIPFA will include all Athletes designated as ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’ on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 35.

*[Comment to Article 14.3: This requirement applies regardless of whether the Athlete is currently licensed by FIPFA.]*

## B.2 Stage 3: MIC Assessment

### 15. Conducting the MIC Assessment

- 15.1 The MIC Assessment will be conducted for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to assess whether the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment.
- 15.2 The MIC Assessment will be determined based solely on an evaluation of the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment (i.e. impairment-based testing and/or other clinically recognised testing) and not based on an assessment of tasks or activities performed in the sport, nor any other aspect of the Athlete’s sport performance.
- 15.3 **Appendix 4** sets out how a Classification Panel will assess whether an Athlete’s Eligible Impairment meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria.
- 15.4 The MIC Assessment must take place in person.
- 15.5 Upon completion of the MIC Assessment:
- 15.5.1 If the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, it will proceed to the Sport Class Assessment.
  - 15.5.2 If the Classification Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be designated as ‘Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)’, with the resulting consequences specified in Article 16.
- 15.6 The Classification Panel must notify FIPFA of the outcome of the MIC Assessment and provide a written explanation for the decision. FIPFA will provide a copy of the Classification Panel’s written explanation to the Athlete’s National Federation.
- 15.7 If an Athlete is designated as ‘Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)’, the Athlete is entitled to undergo a second MIC Assessment by a second Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable:

- 15.7.1 Any member of the first Classification Panel cannot serve as a member of the second Classification Panel.
- 15.7.2 Before reaching a final decision, the second Classification Panel must also review the written explanation of the first Classification Panel.
- 15.7.3 If the second Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, it will proceed to the Sport Class Assessment.
- 15.7.4 If the second Classification Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', and the consequences in Article 16 will continue to apply.
- 15.7.5 The Athlete's right to a second MIC Assessment may be waived by the Athlete if they do not wish to undergo a second assessment (in which case Article 15.7.4 will be deemed to apply).

16. Designation of 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria'

- 16.1 Subject to Medical Reviews (Article 36) and changes to Classification systems (Article 59.3), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria':
  - 16.1.1 is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions based on the same Eligible Impairment(s) in Powerchair Football; and
  - 16.1.2 must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in Powerchair Football or in another sport).

*[Comment to Article 16.1: If an Athlete who has been designated 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in Covered Competitions based on such Eligible Impairment(s) in that sport, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.]*

*If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability, but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Powerchair Football.]*

- 16.2 However, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in Covered Competitions:
- 16.2.1 in Powerchair Football based on a different Eligible Impairment if they meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment; and/or
  - 16.2.2 in a different sport based on the same Eligible Impairment(s) if: (i) the other sport caters for the Eligible Impairment(s); and (ii) the Athlete meets the other sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria for the Eligible Impairment(s).
- 16.3 Subject to Article 15.7, the designation of an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.
- 16.4 FIPFA will include all Athletes designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 35.

*[Comment to Article 16.4: This requirement applies regardless of whether the Athlete is currently licensed by FIPFA.]*

### B.3 Stage 4: Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation

#### B.3.1 Sport Class

17. Conducting the Sport Class Assessment
- 17.1 Subject to the suspension or termination of an Evaluation Session (Article 29) and the failure to attend an Evaluation Session (Article 30), if an Athlete has been assessed to have an Eligible Impairment that meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class.
  - 17.2 The Sport Class Assessment will be conducted for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to assess the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football.
  - 17.3 **Appendix 5** sets out the assessment methodology and assessment criteria that the Classification Panel will use in evaluating which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete. Athletes may demonstrate a combination of sport class characteristics across assessments with the primary sport specific limitations dictating Sport Class.
  - 17.4 When assessing which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete, the Classification Panel must:
    - 17.4.1 base its assessment solely on the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football; and

*[Comment to Article 17.4.1: The Classification Panel must therefore distinguish factors such as fitness level and/or technical proficiency in order to ensure that these do not affect the Sport Class allocated. For this purpose, it may be helpful for the Classification Panel to consider an Athlete's training history and age.]*

- 17.4.2 with the exception of the Observation Assessment, conduct all parts of the Sport Class Assessment in a controlled non-competitive environment, meaning an environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities. **Appendix 6** outlines the typical assessment algorithm during the Sport Class Assessment.
- 17.5 The Sport Class Assessment must take place in person.
- 17.6 Use of Adaptive Equipment:
- 17.6.1 When conducting the Sport Class Assessment, the Classification Panel must evaluate the Athlete when they are using the Adaptive Equipment that they will use in competition (if any). The use of Adaptive Equipment permitted by FIPFA's rules (whether mandatory or optional) is an integral component of the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by Powerchair Football. Therefore, the Sport Class Assessment must take into account the optimal use of such equipment (such as strapping or gloves) during competition, whether an Athlete chooses to use it or not.
- [Comment to Article 17.6.1: For example, if the rules of the sport permit Athletes competing in a wheelchair to use abdominal strapping, and an Athlete opts not to use such strapping which leads to poor sitting balance, the Athlete should not be allocated a different Sport Class (reserved for Athletes with impairments that have a different impact on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport) on the basis of their decision not to use an optional piece of Adaptive Equipment.]*
- 17.6.2 FIPFA, whether through the Classification Panel or otherwise, may assess whether any Adaptive Equipment proposed to be used by the Athlete in competition complies with these Classification Rules and/or other FIPFA rules on the use of Adaptive Equipment. If the Athlete's equipment does not comply with such rules, the Athlete will not be permitted to use that equipment as part of the Sport Class Assessment, and the Classification Panel will not take use of that equipment into consideration when making its determination as to the Athlete's Sport Class.
- 17.7 Following completion of the initial stages of the Sport Class Assessment set out above, the Classification Panel will:
- 17.7.1 allocate the Athlete a provisional Sport Class that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment in accordance with Article 17.8 below, using the tracking code 'OA' for 'Observation Assessment.'

## 17.8 Observation Assessment:

17.8.1 The purpose of an Observation Assessment is to observe and evaluate the Athlete in a competitive environment in order to ensure that what is observed in competition is consistent with what was observed in the previous stages of Classification.

17.8.2 Details of the Observation Assessment process are set out in **Appendix 7**.

17.8.3 An Observation Assessment is required with the following considerations:

17.8.3.1 Except in exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel that conducted the preceding stages of the Athlete's Evaluation Session must also conduct the Observation Assessment.

17.8.3.2 The Observation Assessment must be conducted in person at the Covered Competition where the Athlete competes in their provisional Sport Class for the first time (**First Appearance**). The Athlete may compete at First Appearance and throughout Pool Play with their provisional Sport Class.

17.8.3.3 First Appearance applies to participation in all events within the same provisional Sport Class. The Classification Panel may require the Athlete to be observed at one or more events during their First Appearance.

(a) *[Comment to Article 17.8.3.3: For example, Athletes are not required to participate in every Pool Play match. If an Athlete participates in multiple Pool Play matches, Observation can occur at any, and all, matches to confirm the provisionally allocated Sport Class.]*

17.8.3.4 FIPFA mandates that the Observation Assessment must be conducted during Pool Play matches.

17.8.4 Following an Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel may:

17.8.4.1 allocate the Athlete a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status; or

17.8.4.2 require the Athlete to redo any prior stages of the Evaluation Session and/or undergo a further Observation Assessment.

## 17.9 If an Athlete with a provisional Sport Class is ultimately allocated a different final Sport Class:

17.9.1 Such change must be implemented immediately, and the Athlete may not participate further in the competition or in any other Covered Competition until the change has been implemented; and

17.9.2 Athletes may participate in the remaining competition at the correctly allocated Sport Class.

17.10 Athletes may only compete in the Sport Class allocated to them.

18. Eligibility for multiple Sport Classes

18.1 In Powerchair Football, Athletes may only be allocated one Sport Class. It is not possible for an Athlete to be allocated multiple sport classes.

### B.3.2 Sport Class Status

19. Sport Class Statuses

19.1 A Sport Class Status indicates whether and when an Athlete will be required to undergo Classification in the future.

19.2 The available Sport Class Statuses are as follows:

19.2.1 Confirmed (C);

19.2.2 Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R–NAO);

19.2.3 Review with a Fixed Review Date (R–FRD); or

19.2.4 Expired (E).

20. Allocation of Sport Class Statuses

20.1 Sport Class Statuses must be allocated in accordance with the below:

20.1.1 **‘Confirmed (C)’**: A Classification Panel may allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status ‘Confirmed (C)’ if it is satisfied that the Athlete’s Sport Class is unlikely to change given the nature of the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment and the extent to which the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football.

20.1.2 **‘Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R–NAO)’**:

20.1.2.1 An Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status ‘Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R–NAO)’ where:

(a) their Classification Panel consisted of: (i) a sole Classifier; and/or (ii) Classifiers who were each of the same nationality as the Athlete (see Article 8.3.1);

(b) FIPFA has accepted a Medical Review request (see Article 36.9); and/or

- (c) a National Federation Protest has been accepted or an International Federation Protest has been made (see Article 43.1.1).

20.1.2.2 A Classification Panel may also decide to allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status ‘Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R–NAO)’ if:

- (a) the Athlete is ‘borderline’ (i.e. they narrowly meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria or they are on the boundary of two Sport Classes); and/or

- (b) the Classification Panel believes that a further Evaluation Session will be required at the Next Available Opportunity within the current competition period.

- (i) *[Comment to Article 20.1.2.2: A further Evaluation Session might be required for a number of reasons, including where the Athlete has only recently started competing in Covered Competitions, has one or more fluctuating and/or progressive or regressive impairment(s), and/or has not reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.]*

20.1.2.3 FIPFA may also change an Athlete’s Sport Class Status to ‘Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R–NAO)’ where it has identified that changes to its Classification Rules may affect the Athlete’s (in)eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status (see Article 59.3.2).

#### 20.1.3 ‘Review with a Fixed Review Date (R–FRD)’:

20.1.3.1 A Classification Panel may allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status ‘Review with a Fixed Review Date (R–FRD)’ where it believes that a further Evaluation Session will be required, but not within the current competition cycle. The Classification Panel must set a date (no earlier than the end of the current competition period) after which the Athlete must attend a new Evaluation Session at the Next Available Opportunity (the **Fixed Review Date**).

20.1.3.2 FIPFA may also change an Athlete’s Sport Class Status to ‘Review with a Fixed Review Date (R–FRD)’ where it has identified that changes to its Classification Rules may affect the Athlete’s (in)eligibility, Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status (see Article 59.3.2). In such circumstances, FIPFA will set an appropriate Fixed Review Date.

20.1.3.3 The Fixed Review Date will typically be no more than four years after the Athlete’s previous Evaluation Session took place.

#### 20.1.4 ‘Expired (E)’:

- 20.1.4.1 An Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' when they retire, in accordance with FIPFA's rules (as outlined in Rules of the Game).
- 20.1.4.2 FIPFA may also assign the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' where the Athlete does not complete an R-FRD Evaluation Session within the specified time period.
  - (a) An Athlete with Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' if they have not completed a further Evaluation Session within the designated time period.

## 21. Impact of Sport Class Status on participation in Covered Competitions

- 21.1 An Athlete allocated the Sport Class Status 'Confirmed' is not required to undergo any further Classification, except if their Sport Class Status is subsequently changed as a result of: (i) an International Federation Protest, accepted National Federation Protest, or successful Appeal; (ii) an accepted Medical Review request; and/or (iii) changes to FIPFA's Classification system under Article 59.3.
- 21.2 Unless FIPFA specifies otherwise, if an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status:
  - 21.2.1 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', the Athlete must complete an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any Covered Competition.
  - 21.2.2 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)', the Athlete may compete in Covered Competitions up until the Fixed Review Date, but thereafter must complete an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any further Covered Competitions.
- 21.3 If an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)', the Athlete cannot compete at any Covered Competition unless and until the Athlete completes a new Evaluation Session and is allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

## B.4 General provisions applicable to all Evaluation Sessions

## 22. General requirements for FIPFA

- 22.1 FIPFA will provide National Federations with reasonable notice of Classification opportunities, including the location, dates, and the sports and impairment types that will be assessed.
- 22.2 FIPFA will provide the Classification Panel with any information that becomes available to it that might be relevant to the Classification Panel conducting an Evaluation Session.

- 22.3 FIPFA will retain copies of any forms, reports, or other written records from UHC Assessors and Classification Panels, which may be provided by FIPFA to future UHC Assessors and Classification Panels that evaluate the Athlete.

### 23. Attendance at Evaluation Sessions

- 23.1 In addition to the Athlete and the members of the Classification Panel, the following individuals may attend Evaluation Sessions:

23.1.1 the Athlete's accompanying National Representative and (if required) interpreter, subject to the requirements in Article 24.2;

23.1.2 Trainee Classifiers and any other authorised persons involved in the training of such Trainee Classifiers, as determined by FIPFA (or the Chief Classifier, acting on behalf of FIPFA);

*[Comment to Article 23.1.2: FIPFA will be respectful of Athletes when determining the number of Trainee Classifiers/trainers participating in an Evaluation Session.]*

23.1.3 observers appointed by the IPC as part of the IPC's monitoring of Compliance with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards; and

23.1.4 any person from whom the Classification Panel seeks medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific advice in accordance with Article 27.

- 23.2 Except if specified otherwise in these Classification Rules, the Athlete and the members of the Classification Panel must attend Evaluation Sessions in person.

- 23.3 Any other person entitled to attend an Evaluation Session pursuant to Article 23.1 may attend the Evaluation Session in person. Alternatively, they may attend the Evaluation Session virtually, whether by telephone or video (or other virtual technology), provided that they can do so without adverse impact on the Evaluation Session, and provided that they comply with all of the same requirements as those attending in person.

*[Comment to Article 23.3: An Evaluation Session would be adversely impacted if, for example, the internet connection of the person attending the Evaluation Session virtually was so weak or intermittent that the Evaluation Session was continually interrupted.]*

### 24. Responsibilities of National Federations and Athletes in relation to Evaluation Sessions

- 24.1 An Athlete's National Federation is responsible for ensuring that the Athlete complies with the responsibilities applicable to them in relation to Evaluation Sessions.

- 24.2 Athletes may be accompanied during the Evaluation Session by a maximum of:

- 24.2.1 one National Representative whose role is to support the Athlete and facilitate their Classification process (Athletes who are Minors or lack legal capacity in accordance with the laws applicable in their country of residence must be accompanied by such a National Representative); and
- 24.2.2 if required, one interpreter (to be arranged and paid for by the Athlete's National Federation, and who will be deemed a National Representative).
- 24.3 The Athlete and any accompanying National Representative(s) (including any interpreter) must sign the FIPFA evaluation consent form.
- 24.4 The Athlete and any accompanying National Representative(s) (including any interpreter) must prove their identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel (for example, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card, and/or event accreditation).
- 24.5 An Athlete must give their best efforts during an Evaluation Session and must comply with all reasonable instructions given to them by a Classification Panel.
- 24.6 The Athlete must (i) attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire and Adaptive Equipment permitted under FIPFA's rules that they intend to use in any Covered Competition; and (ii) disclose their intended use of such attire and Adaptive Equipment to the Classification Panel.
- 24.7 Medication, medical devices/implants, and procedures:
- 24.7.1 an Athlete must disclose to the Classification Panel the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant (including any audio aids and/or refractive or optical correction such as eyeglasses or corrective lenses) and any medical procedure that may affect the Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session; and
- [Comment to Article 24.7.1: For the avoidance of doubt, the Athlete's obligation to disclose their use of any medication, medical device/implant, and medical procedure under this Article is entirely separate to their obligations under any applicable anti-doping rules, including but not limited to in respect of therapeutic use exemptions and disclosures on a doping control form. Any such disclosure by an Athlete to the Classification Panel in no way equates to a disclosure or application for the purposes of such separate anti-doping rules, and vice versa.]*
- 24.7.2 an Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session (i) with all disclosed medical devices/implants; and (ii) with any or all disclosed medication(s) and/or related medical prescription(s).

## 25. **Responsibilities of the Classification Panel in relation to Evaluation Sessions**

- 25.1 Classification Panels are responsible for conducting Evaluation Sessions.

- 25.2 Except as provided in Article 13.6, or in other exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel must conduct all of the stages of an Evaluation Session in relation to an Athlete.

*[Comment to Article 25.2: For example, 'exceptional circumstances' may arise if there are genuine and unavoidable operational difficulties (such as Classifier illness) that mean the same Classification Panel is not available to conduct all aspects of the Evaluation Session.]*

- 25.3 Unless FIPFA specifies otherwise, the Classification Panel must conduct Evaluation Sessions in English.
- 25.4 The Classification Panel must inform the Athlete of the names and roles of all persons attending the Evaluation Session on behalf of FIPFA (whether they are attending in person or virtually).
- 25.5 When conducting an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel may only consider the information provided to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation, or FIPFA, and any additional information obtained under Article 27 below.
- 25.6 The Classification Panel must record their assessments at each stage of Classification in writing and provide a copy of such records to FIPFA.

## 26. **Consideration of prior Evaluation Sessions**

- 26.1 If the Classification Panel is evaluating an Athlete who has previously undergone one or more Evaluation Sessions:
- 26.1.1 before reaching a final decision, the Classification Panel must review the applicable forms, reports, or other records from previous Classification Panel(s); and
- 26.1.2 in relation to the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must not consult with any of the members of previous Classification Panels regarding their prior evaluation of the Athlete. For the avoidance of doubt, the Classification Panel may seek expert assistance in accordance with Article 27, including from any persons who provided equivalent assistance to previous Classification Panels.

*[Comment to Article 26.1.2: For the avoidance of doubt, subject to Article 43.2 regarding the composition of a Protest Panel, a Classification Panel may consist of Classifiers who conducted previous Evaluation Sessions of the Athlete. In those circumstances, such Classifiers should not discuss their previous evaluation of the Athlete with the new Classification Panel (beyond reviewing the documentation referred to in Article 26.1.1).]*

**27. Classification Panel requests for additional information or expertise**

- 27.1 At any stage the Classification Panel may request that an Athlete's National Federation provide any additional information (including Diagnostic Information) that the Classification Panel believes is necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session. If the Athlete's National Federation provides such information within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session may continue. If the Athlete's National Federation is unable or fails to provide such information within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may suspend the Evaluation Session in accordance with Article 29.
- 27.2 At any stage the Classification Panel may, with the agreement of FIPFA, seek the assistance of such other medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific experts as it considers necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session.

**28. Requirement to redo prior stages of the Evaluation Session**

- 28.1 The Classification Panel may at any time require the Athlete to redo any prior stages of the Evaluation Session if it considers it necessary to do so.

**29. Suspension or termination of an Evaluation Session**

- 29.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with FIPFA (or the Chief Classifier, acting on behalf of FIPFA), may suspend an Evaluation Session if it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session for any reason, including in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 29.1.1 failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
  - 29.1.2 failure on the part of the Athlete or the Athlete's National Federation to provide any information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 29.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that any use (or non-use) of any medication or medical device/implant or any medical procedure disclosed by the Athlete may interfere with the Classification of the Athlete;
  - 29.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition or impairment that limits or prevents them from complying with the requests of the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules;
  - 29.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel, even in the presence of an interpreter;
  - 29.1.6 in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel, the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;

- 29.1.7 the Classification Panel believes that the Athlete is not giving their best efforts, or the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by the Classification Panel;
  - 29.1.8 the Athlete or their accompanying National Representative or interpreter (or any other person associated with the Athlete or the Athlete's National Federation) is found to be photographing or recording the Evaluation Session;
  - 29.1.9 there are more people attending the Evaluation Session than permitted under these Classification Rules, or the identity of someone attending is not clear;
  - 29.1.10 the Classification Panel believes that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is inconsistent (i.e., is subject to significant fluctuation) such that it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session and allocate the Athlete with an appropriate Sport Class; and/or
  - 29.1.11 the Athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with other information available to the Classification Panel.
- 29.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel must designate the Athlete as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'. Subject to Article 13.5, the following steps must be taken:
- 29.2.1 the Classification Panel must prepare a written explanation (i) explaining why the 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' designation has been applied (including, where applicable, identifying any observed inconsistencies in the Athlete's representation of their abilities), and (ii) if applicable, specifying the details of any remedial action that is required for the Evaluation Session to be resumed, a copy of which must be provided to FIPFA and the Athlete's National Federation;
  - 29.2.2 the Classification Panel must separately record any concerns regarding potential Intentional Misrepresentation, if applicable; and
  - 29.2.3 if an Athlete completes any specified remedial action to the satisfaction of FIPFA (or the Chief Classifier, acting on behalf of FIPFA), an Evaluation Session will be rescheduled as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 29.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel and cannot (for any reason) be resumed and completed at the same Classification opportunity by the same Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session must be terminated and the Athlete will remain designated as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'.
- 30. Failure to attend an Evaluation Session**
- 30.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending all stages of their Evaluation Session(s). Without limiting the Athlete's personal responsibility, an Athlete's National Federation must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends their Evaluation Session(s).

- 30.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session as required, the Classification Panel will report the failure to FIPFA as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 30.2.1 If the Athlete is able to provide FIPFA with a reasonable explanation for their failure to attend the Evaluation Session, FIPFA may reschedule the Evaluation Session to a revised date and time at the same Classification opportunity.
- 30.2.2 If the Athlete is unable to provide FIPFA with a reasonable explanation for their failure to attend the Evaluation Session, the Athlete will be designated as ‘Classification Not Completed (CNC)’.

*[Comment to Article 30.2: FIPFA is under no obligation to provide unlimited opportunities for an Athlete to attend an Evaluation Session.]*

**31. Designation of ‘Classification Not Completed (CNC)’**

- 31.1 An Athlete designated as ‘Classification Not Completed (CNC)’ may not compete in Covered Competitions until they complete an Evaluation Session (except for purposes of completing an Observation Assessment as part of such Evaluation Session).
- 31.2 A designation of ‘Classification Not Completed (CNC)’ is not subject to review or Protest or Appeal.

**32. Location of Evaluation Sessions**

- 32.1** Evaluation Sessions will only occur during Covered Competition.
- 32.2 All Evaluations Sessions must be conducted in a manner that complies with these Classification Rules. In particular, the venue at which the Evaluation Session takes place must be properly equipped to conduct all necessary aspects of the Evaluation Session.

**33. Photographs and audio-visual technology**

- 33.1 The Classification Panel may make, create, and/or use photographs and/or audio-visual technology, including but not limited to during any Observation Assessment. Copies of any such materials must be provided to the Athlete or their National Federation on request.
- 33.2 Subject to Article 33.1, no photography or audio or video recording of the Evaluation Session is permitted. For the avoidance of doubt, this prohibition applies to all persons, regardless of whether they attend the Evaluation Session in person or virtually.

## PART V: Notification and publication

### 34. **Notification of Classification outcome**

- 34.1 FIPFA will notify the outcome of Classification to the Athlete concerned and/or their National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of Classification. This notification typically takes place after the Classification Panel determines the Sport Class before the Athlete leaves the evaluation session.
- 34.2 In the context of a Competition, a Chief Classifier must notify all relevant FIPFA technical delegates and event organising committee representatives of the Sport Class (including any provisional Sport Class) and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete. If an Observation Assessment takes place, further notification must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable following completion of the Observation Assessment.
- 34.3 FIPFA will make available the following information to participants at the venue for a Covered Competition:
- 34.3.1 any provisional Sport Class (that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment) allocated to an Athlete entered in the Covered Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable after it is allocated; and
  - 34.3.2 the final Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete entered in the Covered Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of their Classification.

### 35. **Classification Master List**

- 35.1 FIPFA will maintain, publish, and keep up-to-date a '**Classification Master List**', which will include (at a minimum) the following information regarding: (i) each Athlete; and (ii) any Participant currently suspended by FIPFA for Intentional Misrepresentation:
- 35.1.1 name;
  - 35.1.2 gender;
  - 35.1.3 year of birth;
  - 35.1.4 nationality;
  - 35.1.5 Sport Class and Sport Class Status;
  - 35.1.6 any designations (including 'New (N)', 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', and 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'), any 're-evaluation' status attached to a designation, and tracking codes (such as 'OA' for Observation Assessment); and

- 35.1.7 any current designation for Intentional Misrepresentation ('IM'), together with the duration and commencement date of the period of ineligibility.
- 35.2 The Classification Master List is viewable on the FIPFA website.
- 35.3 FIPFA will update the Classification Master List as soon as reasonably practicable following any change to the information.

## PART VI: Change in circumstances

### 36. Medical Review

- 36.1 A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment might mean that a reassessment is required to ensure that the outcome of the Athlete's previous Classification remains correct (for example, to ensure that an Athlete remains eligible or that the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete remains correct, or to reassess an Athlete previously found to be not eligible). This is known as a '**Medical Review**'.

*[Comment to Article 36.1: For example, a Medical Review request would be appropriate where the effect of surgery, a new medication or device, or some other medical procedure has resulted in changes to an Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities relevant to Powerchair Football. A request may also be appropriate where an Athlete has a new Underlying Health Condition.]*

- 36.2 A Medical Review request must be made by a National Federation on behalf of an Athlete.
- 36.3 A Medical Review **must** be requested by a National Federation if there is a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
- 36.4 A Medical Review request must:
- 36.4.1 explain in detail why the request is being made (including how and to what extent the Athlete's Eligible Impairment has changed, and whether and why it is believed that the outcome of the Athlete's previous Classification is no longer correct); and
- 36.4.2 be accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation, including updated Diagnostic Information in accordance with Article 10.

*[Comment to Article 36.4: Ordinarily, any Medical Review request will need to be accompanied by detailed medical records.]*

- 36.5 As set out in Article 10, FIPFA may request from the Athlete's National Federation any additional information that it deems necessary to assess the Medical Review request, including Diagnostic Information.
- 36.6 A Medical Review request will be accepted where FIPFA determines that the National Federation has complied with Articles 36.4 to 36.6, and FIPFA is satisfied that there is

a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) that may impact the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to age, levels of training, fitness, and technical proficiency. If this test is not met, the Medical Review request will be dismissed.

- 36.7 FIPFA will decide whether to accept a Medical Review request as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of a complete request.
- 36.8 If the Medical Review request is accepted by FIPFA, where applicable, the Athlete's Sport Class Status must be changed to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' with immediate effect.
- 36.9 If the Medical Review request is dismissed by FIPFA, FIPFA will notify the Athlete's National Federation of the decision and provide a written explanation setting out the basis upon which the Medical Review request is dismissed. FIPFA's decision is not subject to review or Protest or Appeal.
- 36.10 If an Athlete or other Participant becomes aware of changes in their/the Athlete's circumstances that would require a Medical Review but fails to draw those changes to FIPFA's attention, the Athlete and/or other Participant may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

#### PART VII: Competition formats

##### 37. **Combined Class Events**

- 37.1 FIPFA does not offer combined class events.

##### 38. **Performance Compensation Mechanisms**

- 38.1 FIPFA does not allow performance compensation mechanisms

## CHAPTER 3: PROTESTS AND APPEALS

#### PART I: Protests

##### 39. **Scope of Protests**

- 39.1 A '**Protest**' is a challenge filed against the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete.
- 39.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a Protest cannot be made in respect of (i) an Athlete's Sport Class Status, (ii) any designation of 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' (as in those cases the Athlete already receives an automatic

second assessment), (iii) any designation of ‘Classification Not Completed (CNC)’, or (iv) any other matter where Protests are expressly excluded under the IPC Classification Code.

#### 40. **Parties permitted to make a Protest**

40.1 A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:

40.1.1 a National Federation; or

40.1.2 FIPFA.

40.2 For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete cannot make a Protest themselves. A Protest may only be made on behalf of the Athlete by one of the bodies listed under Article 40.1.

#### 41. **National Federation Protest**

41.1 A National Federation may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. In particular, it cannot make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated to an Athlete from another National Federation. However, it can raise any such concerns about the Sport Class allocated to such Athletes with FIPFA, so that FIPFA can consider if it wishes to make an International Federation Protest.

*[Comment to Article 41.1: This approach is intended to strike a balance between the rights of the various stakeholders (FIPFA, National Federations, Athletes, and others), and forms part of a number of carefully balanced mechanisms in these Classification Rules that provide appropriate tools aimed at ensuring that Athletes are allocated the correct Sport Class.]*

41.2 A National Federation Protest may be made where there is a reasonable basis to believe that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

41.3 National Federation Protests will be upheld where FIPFA determines that the National Federation has complied with the requirements of Article 40.6 and FIPFA is satisfied that there is a reasonable basis to believe that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class. If this test is not met, the National Federation Protest will be dismissed.

41.4 A National Federation Protest must be submitted in connection with an Evaluation Session and by the deadline specified by FIPFA in Article 40.6.2 below.

41.5 If an Athlete is allocated a provisional Sport Class that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment, the National Federation may:

41.5.1 make a Protest only prior to the Observation Assessment.

41.6 To submit a Protest, a National Federation must:

- 41.6.1 complete a Protest form in the format prescribed by FIPFA, including the following information:
  - 1.1.1.4 the name and sport of the protested Athlete;
  - 1.1.1.5 the details of and/or a copy of the protested decision; and
  - 1.1.1.6 a detailed explanation of the basis for the National Federation's belief that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class, including (where applicable) (i) reference to any specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached or misapplied, and (ii) any supporting evidence for that belief;
- 41.6.2 submit the completed Protest form by no later than 60 minutes following the Evaluation Session; and
- 41.6.3 pay the applicable Protest fee.
- 41.7 Upon receipt of the Protest form, FIPFA will conduct a review of the Protest in accordance with Article 41.3. If a Chief Classifier was a member of the Classification Panel whose decision is being protested, that Chief Classifier cannot have any involvement in FIPFA's review of the Protest.
- 41.8 FIPFA will notify the National Federation of the outcome of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable, and (if the Protest is dismissed) will also provide a written explanation for the dismissal.

## 42. **International Federation Protest**

- 42.1 International Federation Protests may be made where FIPFA considers that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 42.1: As indicated in Article 41.1 above, if a National Federation (or any other third party) has concerns that an Athlete from another National Federation has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class, it can raise such concerns with FIPFA so that FIPFA can consider if it wishes to make an International Federation Protest.]*

- 42.2 FIPFA may make a Protest at any time.
- 42.3 If FIPFA submits a Protest, it will:
  - 42.3.1 notify the relevant National Federation of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable; and
  - 42.3.2 provide a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made.

### 43. **Protest Panel procedures**

- 43.1 If a National Federation Protest is accepted or if an International Federation Protest is made:
- 43.1.1 the protested Athlete's Sport Class will remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, and their Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', unless that is already their Sport Class Status (in which case it will remain unchanged);
  - 43.1.2 if an Athlete is required to undergo Observation Assessment and a National Federation Protest is accepted before the Athlete's First Appearance, the Athlete cannot compete at that Competition until the National Federation Protest has been resolved;
  - 43.1.3 FIPFA will appoint a Protest Panel in accordance with Article 43.2 to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as reasonably practicable, and notify all relevant parties of the time and date that the new Evaluation Session will be conducted.
- 43.2 FIPFA will appoint a Protest Panel in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in Article 8. A Protest Panel must not include any Classifier who:
- 43.2.1 was a member of the Classification Panel that made the protested decision;
  - 43.2.2 in the case of a National Federation Protest, was involved in FIPFA's review of that Protest;
  - 43.2.3 in the case of an International Federation Protest, was involved in FIPFA's decision to make such a Protest; or
  - 43.2.4 was involved in any assessment or evaluation of the protested Athlete for Classification purposes (whether at the national or international level) within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the protested decision, except where both the National Federation and FIPFA agree to this.
- 43.3 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with Chapter 2 Part IV.B. For these purposes, any reference to the Classification Panel in Chapter 2 Part IV.B will be deemed to include the Protest Panel. Before reaching a final decision, the Protest Panel must review the protested decision and any document submitted as part of the Protest.
- 43.4 All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's final decision as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 43.5 Subject to Articles 43.6 and 43.7, the decision of a Protest Panel is final, and not subject to further Protest by the National Federation or FIPFA. However, the decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed by the National Federation if the requirements in Article 45 are satisfied.

- 43.6 If FIPFA makes a Protest after the expiry of the deadline for National Federation Protests to be made (as per Article 41.6.2 above), the decision of a Protest Panel in relation to the Protest is not final and may be subject to further Protest by the National Federation or FIPFA. In these circumstances, the decision of a Protest Panel will be treated as if it were a decision of a first instance Classification Panel. The decision of a Protest Panel may also be Appealed by the National Federation if the requirements in Article 45 are satisfied.
- 43.7 If a Protest Panel designates an Athlete as ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’ or ‘Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria’ the Athlete will be entitled to undergo a further Eligible Impairment Assessment in accordance with Article 13.9, or a further MIC Assessment in accordance with Article 15.7 (as applicable) by a new Classification Panel. In such circumstances the decision of the Protest Panel will be treated as if it were a decision of a first instance Classification Panel and ‘(Re-evaluation)’ will be added to the Athlete’s designation.
- 43.8 If an Athlete’s Sport Class is changed following a Protest, the Athlete will be immediately eligible to participate in Competition at the new Class and the corresponding Observation Assessment will occur based on the new Class designation.

#### 44. **Circumstances where a Protest Panel is not available**

- 44.1 If a Protest is made In-Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
- 44.1.1 the protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in that Competition with the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest (subject to any other eligibility criteria for that Competition), pending resolution of the Protest; and
- 44.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved as soon as reasonably practicable after that Competition.

*[Comment to Article 44.1: This Article reflects the reality that it might not be possible to resolve a Protest made In-Competition at that same Competition. For example, this might happen where there are a limited number of Classifiers or Evaluation Session slots available, or the Classifiers who are available are precluded from participating in a Protest Panel due to a conflict of interest.]*

## PART II: Appeals

### 45. **Scope of Appeals**

- 45.1 An ‘**Appeal**’ is a challenge to any aspect of a Classification process on the grounds that:
- 45.1.1 there was a breach of FIPFA’s rules during the Classification process; and

45.1.2 that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’, ‘Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment’, ‘Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria’, or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

45.2 An Appeal will be upheld if a National Federation establishes that the grounds in Article 45.1 are met.

*[Comment to Article 45.2: The limited scope of review available to the Appeal Body is a fundamental aspect of an Appeal. The allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status or designation as not eligible is a specialist sport decision and must be made by persons who are authorised and certified by FIPFA to do so. Those decisions must not be changed except by other persons who are similarly authorised and certified. In particular, the right to submit an Appeal must not be seen as an opportunity to simply dispute the opinion of the relevant experts. The Appeal Body will only review the process by which the decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been conducted in accordance with FIPFA’s rules.]*

#### 46. **Making an Appeal**

46.1 An Appeal cannot be submitted whilst a Protest is ongoing. However, for the avoidance of doubt, in order to submit an Appeal it is not necessary for the National Federation to have first made a Protest.

*[Comment to Article 46.1: As stated, it is not necessary for a National Federation to have first made a Protest in order to submit an Appeal. This reflects the fact that Protests and Appeals are distinct concepts, with different tests.]*

46.2 An Appeal may only be submitted by a National Federation in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete cannot submit an Appeal themselves; rather, an Appeal may only be submitted on behalf of the Athlete by their National Federation.

46.3 An Appeal must be submitted within 15 calendar days of notification of the decision from which the appeal arises.

#### 47. **Appeal Body**

47.1 FIPFA will identify an appeal body [e.g., Board of Appeal of Classification (**BAC**)] as a specialist dispute resolution body to hear and determine Appeals. The appeal body will hear and determine Appeals in accordance with the BAC’s procedural rules.

47.2 The parties to an Appeal must be provided with, at a minimum, a fair hearing (whether conducted orally or in writing) within a reasonable time by the Appeal Body.

47.3 An Appeal will be heard by a panel of either one or three members of the Appeal Body (where three members are appointed, one member will act as chair of the hearing panel). Members of the Appeal Body may not sit on a particular hearing panel

if: (i) they are currently a Classifier for FIPFA; and/or (ii) they have had any prior involvement with the matter or any facts arising in the proceedings; and/or (iii) their impartiality or independence could otherwise be reasonably questioned.

47.4 National Federations are required to pay an Appeal fee which is not refunded, regardless of decision outcome.

#### 48. **Appeal decision**

48.1 The Appeal Body must either affirm or set aside the decision under Appeal. The Appeal Body does not have the power to modify, alter, or otherwise change any Athlete Classification, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status decision (for example by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status).

48.2 The Appeal Body must issue a written reasoned decision after the hearing as soon as reasonably practicable and ordinarily within 42 calendar days after the hearing). The written decision must set out the reasons for the Appeal Body's decision and the actions that are required as a result. If the decision appealed against is set aside, the written decision must also specify the breach committed and how that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

48.3 The decision of the Appeal Body is provided to the appellant and the respondent.

48.4 The decision of the Appeal Body is final and not subject to any further appeal or challenge.

### **CHAPTER 4: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION**

#### 49. **General provisions**

49.1 Intentional Misrepresentation presents a major threat to the integrity of Classification and Para sport. It is a very serious offence because it constitutes an attempt to: (i) mislead FIPFA (and/or its representatives) in relation to any aspect of Classification; and/or (ii) achieve an unfair advantage that undermines fair and meaningful competition. Consequently, potential incidents of Intentional Misrepresentation will be properly investigated, and if evidence indicates that Intentional Misrepresentation has occurred, disciplinary action must be taken.

49.2 The processes set out in this Chapter are, and must remain, distinct from the process of Classification. In other words, the rules and procedures set out in this Chapter are not concerned with verifying (and if necessary, correcting) the Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete, but with preventing (and, if necessary, sanctioning) instances of the specific disciplinary offence of Intentional Misrepresentation.

## 50. **Intentional Misrepresentation**

50.1 The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation:

- 50.1.1 a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead FIPFA or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or
- 50.1.2 a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of:  
(i) Article 50.1.1 above; or (ii) a period of ineligibility imposed on another Participant pursuant to Article 55.3.3.

50.2 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 50.1.1 include (without limitation) a Participant:

- 50.2.1 submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence, nature, and/or degree of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment that the Athlete does not have;
- 50.2.2 deliberately underperforming during an Evaluation Session;
- 50.2.3 deliberately tiring themselves out (in the case of Athletes) or deliberately tiring the Athlete out (in the case of other Participants) prior to an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
- 50.2.4 unless expressly provided otherwise in FIPFA's rules, intentionally undergoing an Evaluation Session without the sports attire or Adaptive Equipment that the Athlete intends to use in competition and/or intentionally failing to disclose the intended use of such sports attire and Adaptive Equipment to the Classification Panel;
- 50.2.5 intentionally failing to disclose the Athlete's use of any medication and/or medical device/implant (including any audio aids and/or refractive or optical correction such as eyeglasses or corrective lenses) and/or any medical procedure to the Classification Panel;
- 50.2.6 otherwise misrepresenting the Athlete's skills, abilities, and/or the existence, nature, and/or degree of the Athlete's impairment before, during, or after an Evaluation Session;
- 50.2.7 disrupting an Evaluation Session, or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
- 50.2.8 not providing accurate information as to the Athlete's identity or having another person attend an Evaluation Session in the Athlete's place; and/or
- 50.2.9 deliberately failing to notify FIPFA of any relevant Classification-related information, including that the Athlete has previously undergone Classification (for example, on an earlier occasion, or in the context of another Para sport) and/or that there has been a change in the nature or

degree of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment that may necessitate a Medical Review.

50.3 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 50.1.2 include (without limitation):

50.3.1 where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, Intentional Misrepresentation;

50.3.2 where, having discovered that a Participant has committed or intends to commit Intentional Misrepresentation, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist FIPFA in the investigation or prosecution of that offence;

50.3.3 where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant for that other Participant to violate, or attempt to violate, any period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to Article 55.3.3; and/or

50.3.4 where, having discovered that another Participant has violated or intends to violate any period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to Article 55.3.3, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist FIPFA in the investigation or prosecution of that offence.

50.4 For the avoidance of doubt:

50.4.1 A Participant does not need to know that their conduct will constitute a violation of Article 50.1 for their conduct to be intentional.

50.4.2 A Participant can commit Intentional Misrepresentation irrespective of any designation, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete.

## 51. **Obligations to report and cooperate**

51.1 Each Participant, and each National Federation, must:

51.1.1 report to FIPFA promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith any information they possess that a reasonable person would consider might evidence or otherwise reflect:

1.1.1.7 any approach or invitation by any Participant (including themselves) to engage in conduct that might constitute Intentional Misrepresentation; and/or

1.1.1.8 any incident, fact, or matter that might indicate the planning or commission of Intentional Misrepresentation by any Participant (including themselves);

51.1.2 cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with all investigations carried out by FIPFA and/or by the IPC, including by

answering any questions and providing access to any information, data, and/or documentation requested as part of that investigation;

- 51.1.3 cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with any proceedings brought by FIPFA against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation; and
  - 51.1.4 not do anything (by act or omission) that has the object or effect of obstructing, preventing, delaying, or otherwise interfering with or frustrating any such investigation or proceeding.
- 51.2 On request, FIPFA will provide the IPC with information on the following, in the form requested by the IPC: (i) all credible reports or other intelligence that FIPFA has received which indicate potential Intentional Misrepresentation; (ii) the actions taken in relation to such reports; and (iii) updates in relation to all of its ongoing and completed investigations and proceedings relating to Intentional Misrepresentation.

## 52. **Investigations**

- 52.1 Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a Participant might have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, FIPFA will initiate an investigation in a timely manner. Grounds do not need to be given to a Participant for the initiation of an investigation, and the decision to initiate an investigation cannot be contested.
- 52.2 Where a Participant is affiliated with FIPFA and one or more other International Federations, FIPFA may also assist those other International Federations in relation to any investigation(s) they initiate into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation by the Participant (including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations conducted by those other International Federations).
- 52.3 The IPC may, in its absolute discretion:
  - 52.3.1 offer assistance to FIPFA in conducting investigations into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations;
  - 52.3.2 direct FIPFA to conduct an investigation in relation to suspected Intentional Misrepresentation that has come to the attention of the IPC (including, but not limited to in circumstances where a Participant is affiliated to FIPFA and one or more other International Federations, and a dispute has arisen as to which International Federation has the responsibility to investigate the suspected Intentional Misrepresentation); and/or
  - 52.3.3 conduct its own investigations into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation, whether on its own initiative and/or as requested by FIPFA or another International Federation or otherwise. In such circumstances, references to FIPFA in the remainder of this Article 52 will, where the context requires, be interpreted as a reference to the IPC.
- 52.4 The objective for each investigation will be to gather information necessary to determine: (i) whether a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional

Misrepresentation; and, if so (ii) whether any other Participant has a case to answer for intentional complicity in that Intentional Misrepresentation. This will include gathering and recording all relevant information, developing that information into evidence, and identifying and pursuing further lines of enquiry that might lead to the discovery of such evidence.

- 52.5 FIPFA will conduct each investigation fairly, objectively, and impartially. It will be open to and consider all possible outcomes at each key stage of the investigation and will seek to gather not only any available evidence of Intentional Misrepresentation but also any available evidence indicating that there is no case to answer.
- 52.6 Except in exceptional circumstances, FIPFA will notify the Participant of the investigation and give the Participant an opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation. FIPFA will decide when this notification should be made.

*[Comment to Article 52.6: Exceptional circumstances may arise if (for example) FIPFA is concerned about the risk of information relating to the investigation leaking, or if FIPFA's investigation is subject to any time pressure. Irrespective of whether the Participant is given the opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation, they will nevertheless be able to do so following any Notice of Charge, as per Article 53.5.3 below.]*

- 52.7 FIPFA may make requests of any Participant, and of any National Federation, to assist an investigation by producing documents, information, and/or other material, including by answering questions.
- 52.8 Where during the course of any investigation FIPFA identifies any additional Participants who might also have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the investigation may be expanded to cover such additional Participants or (alternatively) a separate investigation may be commenced.

*[Comment to Article 52.8: For example, in the context of Team Sports, where FIPFA suspects that one member of a team has committed Intentional Misrepresentation, it may expand its investigation to cover: (i) any or all other members of the same team; and/or (ii) any additional Participants connected to that team; or (alternatively) separate investigations may be commenced into each team member/other Participant connected to the team.]*

### 53. **Proceedings**

- 53.1 Subject to Article 53.4, if FIPFA determines that a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation, FIPFA will bring disciplinary proceedings against the Participant unless there are specific and extenuating circumstances that are notified to and accepted by the IPC. Such proceedings will be governed by an entity to be chosen by FIPFA.
- 53.2 Disciplinary proceedings brought by FIPFA for alleged Intentional Misrepresentation will be heard before an independent body.

- 53.3 Where disciplinary proceedings are brought, the hearing panel will be comprised of either one or three members of the first instance body (where three members are appointed, one member will act as chair of the hearing panel). Members of the first instance body may not sit on a particular hearing panel if: (i) they are currently a Classifier for FIPFA; and/or (ii) they have had any prior involvement with the matter or any facts arising in the proceedings; and/or (iii) their impartiality or independence could otherwise be reasonably questioned.
- 53.4 Disciplinary proceedings may not be commenced against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation unless such disciplinary proceedings are commenced within either: (i) ten years from the date that the Intentional Misrepresentation allegedly occurred; or (ii) two years after the discovery of such alleged Intentional Misrepresentation by FIPFA, whichever is later.

### *Notice of Charge*

- 53.5 Where FIPFA brings disciplinary proceedings against a Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation, FIPFA will prepare and send a Notice of Charge to the Participant, copying: (i) the Participant's National Federation; and (ii) the IPC, which will contain (at a minimum) the following information:
- 53.5.1 the facts alleged in support of the charge and any other relevant information;
- 53.5.2 the sanction(s) that FIPFA says should be imposed if the charge is upheld;
- 53.5.3 the Participant's right:
- 53.5.3.1 to admit the charge and to accept the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge;
- 53.5.3.2 to admit the charge but dispute (or seek to mitigate) the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge, and to have the matter of sanctions determined by FIPFA's first instance body if not agreed between the parties; or
- 53.5.3.3 to dispute the charge and to have the charge determined (along with any sanctions, if a charge is upheld) by FIPFA's first instance body; and
- 53.5.4 the deadline for the Participant to provide a response to the charge (which must be no fewer than 14 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Charge by the Participant).
- 53.6 Subsequent to sending a Notice of Charge to the Participant, FIPFA may adduce further facts and/or other relevant information in support of the charge, provided that the Participant is given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the new facts/information.
- 53.7 Once the Notice of Charge has been sent to a Participant, FIPFA may publicly disclose the identity of the Participant and the nature of the alleged Intentional Misrepresentation.

***Resolution of charges without a hearing***

53.8 Where the Participant:

53.8.1 admits the charge and accepts the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge (or accepts other sanctions proposed by FIPFA); or

53.8.2 fails to respond by the deadline specified in the Notice of Charge (which failure will be deemed to amount to: (i) a waiver of the Participant's right to have the charge and/or sanctions determined by FIPFA's first instance body, (ii) an admission of the charge, and (iii) acceptance of the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge),

a hearing before FIPFA's first instance body will not be required and FIPFA will proceed to issue a decision in the case in accordance with Article 56.4.

53.9 At any time prior to a final decision by the first instance body, FIPFA may decide to withdraw a Notice of Charge for good cause. FIPFA will inform the Participant, the National Federation to which the Participant is affiliated, and the IPC of the withdrawal of the charge and the reasons for that withdrawal. FIPFA will not publish the decision.

53.10 The IPC may:

53.10.1 within 15 days of receipt of the decision to withdraw a Notice of Charge, request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language); and

53.10.2 within 21 days of receipt of the full case file (and all necessary translations), appeal the decision to withdraw a Notice of Charge. Any such appeal must be made to FIPFA's designated appeal body (see Article 57 below).

***Hearing***

53.11 If the Participant disputes the charge and/or the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge, they must set out (in summary form) the basis for their position within their response to the Notice of Charge.

53.12 If the Participant wishes to have a hearing to resolve the dispute, they must provide a written request for a hearing to FIPFA that is received by FIPFA within 14 days of the Participant's receipt of the Notice of Charge (or such longer period as may be specified in the Notice of Charge or agreed by FIPFA).

53.13 FIPFA may also refer any disputed matter to its first instance body at any time, and at its sole discretion.

53.14 FIPFA's first instance body will hear and determine Intentional Misrepresentation cases involving any Participant under its jurisdiction in accordance with its procedural rules.

53.14.1 where a party (or any of its witnesses) refuses or fails to appear at a hearing to answer questions (or otherwise appears but refuses or fails to answer questions), the first instance body may infer that the answer(s) would be adverse to that party;

53.14.2 the first instance body will have the power to decide on the admissibility and relevance of and the weight to be given to any evidence (including the testimony of any fact or expert witness) and will not be bound by any judicial or evidential rules in relation to such matters;

53.14.3 facts may be established by any reliable means; and

53.14.4 the burden of proof will be on the party asserting the claim or fact in issue, and the standard of proof to be met will be the balance of probabilities.]

#### 54. **Confidentiality**

54.1 Subject to Articles 54.2, 56, and 58, all proceedings brought by FIPFA against a Participant in respect of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation will be confidential, including all documents, evidence, submissions, and other information relating to the proceedings. Except as provided for in these Classification Rules, neither the parties to the proceedings, nor any third party witness, expert, observer, or other participant in the proceedings or recipient of the first instance body's decision or appeal body's decision will publicly comment on the specific facts of any case (as opposed to general descriptions of the process), except that FIPFA may make or issue such comments as it considers necessary in response to any public comments attributed to, or based on information provided by, the Participant who is the subject of the proceedings (or their entourage or representatives).

54.2 At any stage FIPFA may, in its discretion (exercised subject to all relevant data protection requirements, including those set out in the Classification Rules, and other applicable laws), decide that information should be shared with any Person or Persons on a confidential and need-to-know basis in order to assist in the discharge of FIPFA's functions (including in the investigation and prosecution of any offences under this Chapter) and/or to protect its integrity and reputation, or that of the Paralympic Movement or Para sport. Such Persons would include appropriate personnel within FIPFA, other International Federations, and the IPC, as well as other bodies with an investigatory or regulatory function.

#### 55. **Sanctions**

55.1 A Participant who is found by FIPFA to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation will be subject to the sanctions set out in this Article 55.

55.2 If another International Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against a Participant in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation that results in consequences being imposed on that Participant, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by FIPFA.

55.3 Sanctions for individual Participants

### ***Disqualification of results***

- 55.3.1 If a Participant is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, that automatically leads to disqualification of the individual results obtained by the Participant in that Competition with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes.
- 55.3.2 Any other competitive individual results of the Participant obtained from the date the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred may be disqualified (in whole or part) with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes. Factors that might be relevant in deciding whether to disqualify any such results include, for example, whether the results were likely to have been affected by the Intentional Misrepresentation, and the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation.

### ***Period of ineligibility***

- 55.3.3 A default period of ineligibility of four years, which may be:
- 55.3.3.1 increased depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of any aggravating circumstances up to a period of ineligibility of a lifetime; and/or
  - 55.3.3.2 reduced depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of any mitigating circumstances, except that the resulting period of ineligibility imposed must not be less than 12 months (subject to any further reduction or suspension under Articles 55.5.1, 55.5.2, and/or 55.5.3).
- 55.3.4 Aggravating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:
- 55.3.4.1 the age and experience of the Participant, and in particular their experience in relation to the Classification process;
  - 55.3.4.2 a lack of remorse on the part of the Participant;
  - 55.3.4.3 a finding that the Participant received or expected to receive a significant benefit as a result of their Intentional Misrepresentation;
  - 55.3.4.4 a finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation affected or had the potential to affect the outcome of a Covered Competition;
  - 55.3.4.5 a finding that the Participant committed Intentional Misrepresentation on multiple occasions and/or over an extended period of time;
  - 55.3.4.6 a finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation was part of a wider scheme involving other Participants; and/or

55.3.4.7 a finding that the Participant engaged in deceptive or obstructive conduct to avoid the detection or adjudication of Intentional Misrepresentation.

*[Comment to Article 55.3.4: The examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive and other similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of a longer period of ineligibility.]*

55.3.5 Mitigating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

55.3.5.1 the youth or inexperience of the Participant, especially in relation to the Classification process;

55.3.5.2 the Participant's good disciplinary record;

55.3.5.3 genuine remorse on the part of the Participant; and/or

55.3.5.4 a finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation was not committed with an intent to influence the outcome of a Covered Competition.

55.3.5.5 For the avoidance of doubt, mitigating circumstances do not include any voluntary admissions made or the provision of any Substantial Assistance, which are dealt with separately in Article 55.5.

*[Comment to Article 55.3.5: The examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive and other similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of a reduced period of ineligibility.]*

55.3.6 The period of ineligibility will start on the date of the relevant decision or such other date as specified by FIPFA (in an agreed case) or the first instance body (in a contested case), and must be recognised, respected, and enforced by all IPC Members and RIFs.

### ***Other sanctions***

55.3.7 Such other sanctions as FIPFA (in an agreed case) or the first instance body (in a contested case) considers appropriate and proportionate in all the circumstances of the case.

## **55.4 Multiple violations**

55.4.1 The period of ineligibility that will be imposed on a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation:

55.4.1.1 for a second time, will be twice the period of ineligibility that would otherwise be applicable to the second violation; and

55.4.1.2 for a third or subsequent time, will be a lifetime period of ineligibility.

55.4.2 An Intentional Misrepresentation violation will only be considered a second Intentional Misrepresentation violation if FIPFA can establish that the Participant committed the additional Intentional Misrepresentation violation after receiving the Notice of Charge pursuant to Article 53.5 or after FIPFA made reasonable efforts to draw the Notice of Charge to the Participant's attention. If FIPFA cannot establish this, the violations will be considered together as one single violation, and the sanction imposed will be based on the violation that carries the more severe sanction, including the application of aggravating circumstances. Results in all Competitions dating back to the earlier Intentional Misrepresentation violation will be disqualified as provided in Articles 55.3.1 and 55.3.2.

*[Comment to Article 55.4.2: The same rule applies where, after the imposition of a sanction, FIPFA discovers facts involving an Intentional Misrepresentation violation that occurred prior to notification for a first Intentional Misrepresentation violation – e.g., FIPFA will impose a sanction based on the sanction that could have been imposed if the two violations had been adjudicated at the same time, including the application of aggravating circumstances.]*

55.4.3 If FIPFA establishes that a Participant has committed a second or third Intentional Misrepresentation violation during a period of ineligibility imposed for a previous Intentional Misrepresentation violation, the periods of ineligibility for the multiple violations will run consecutively rather than concurrently.

55.5 Possible reductions or suspensions to the period of ineligibility

#### ***Voluntary admission***

55.5.1 If a Participant voluntarily admits the commission of Intentional Misrepresentation before being notified by FIPFA of its investigation into that Participant, and that admission is the only reliable evidence of the Intentional Misrepresentation at the time of admission, the period of ineligibility may be reduced, by a maximum of one half of the period of ineligibility otherwise applicable (i.e., after any adjustment based on aggravating or mitigating factors).

55.5.2 If a Participant voluntarily admits the commission of Intentional Misrepresentation within a reasonable period of time after being notified by FIPFA of its investigation into that Participant, the period of ineligibility may be reduced by a maximum of a quarter of the period of ineligibility otherwise applicable (i.e., after any adjustment based on aggravating or mitigating factors).

#### ***Substantial Assistance***

55.5.3 A part of the period of ineligibility imposed on a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation may be suspended, at the discretion of FIPFA, where the Participant has provided Substantial

Assistance which results in an International Federation bringing forward a case of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation against another Participant. FIPFA will promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of any decision made under this Article 55.5.3, and that decision may be appealed by the Participant and/or by the IPC to FIPFA's designated appeal body (see Article 57 below) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC has not previously received a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language), it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of that case file (including any translations). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all necessary translations) to file an appeal.

- 55.5.3.1 For the purposes of Article 55.5.3, a Participant providing '**Substantial Assistance**' must: (i) fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information they possess in relation to Intentional Misrepresentation by another Participant; and (ii) fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to that information, including, for example, providing testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by an International Federation or hearing panel. Further, the information provided must be credible and must comprise an important part of any case or proceeding that is initiated.
- (a) [*Comment to Article 55.5.3.1: The Substantial Assistance provided may relate to Intentional Misrepresentation alleged to have been committed by a Participant in another Para sport.*]
- (b) The extent to which the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility may be suspended will be based on the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation committed by the Participant and the significance of the Substantial Assistance provided by the Participant to the effort to combat Intentional Misrepresentation. No more than three-quarters of the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility (i.e., after any adjustment based on: (i) aggravating or mitigating factors; and (ii) any voluntary admission) may be suspended. If the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility is a lifetime, the non-suspended period of ineligibility under this Article must be no less than eight years.
- 55.5.3.2 If so requested by a Participant who seeks to provide Substantial Assistance, FIPFA will allow the Participant to provide the information to it subject to a Without Prejudice Agreement.
- 55.5.3.3 If the Participant fails to continue to cooperate and to provide the complete and credible Substantial Assistance upon which a suspension of a period of ineligibility was based, FIPFA will reinstate the original period of ineligibility. If FIPFA decides to reinstate a suspended period of ineligibility or decides not to

reinstate a suspended period of ineligibility, that decision must be promptly notified to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC and may be appealed by the Participant and/or the IPC to FIPFA's designated appeal body (see Article 57 below) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC has not previously received a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language), it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of that case file (including any translations). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all relevant translations) to file an appeal.

## 55.6 Status during ineligibility

55.6.1 During a period of ineligibility a Participant is prohibited from participating in any capacity in:

55.6.1.1 Classification;

- (a) any Competition, event, programme, or other activity (other than authorised education programmes) organised, authorised, or recognised by: (a) the IPC; (b) any International Federation or RIF, or any of their respective members; (c) any club or other member of a member of an International Federation or RIF; and/or (d) any professional Para sport league or international or national level Para sport Competition organisation; and
- (b) any elite or national-level Para sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.

*[Comment to Article 55.6.1: For example, in addition to the prohibition on participating in Classification and all Competitions covered by this Article, subject to Article 55.6.3 below, ineligible Participants are not permitted to participate in a training camp, exhibition, or practice organised by their National Federation. The term "activity" also includes, for example, administrative activities, such as serving as an official, director, officer, employee, or volunteer of their National Federation. Ineligibility imposed by one International Federation or RIF will also be recognised by all other International Federations and RIFs (see Article 55.3.6). A Participant serving a period of ineligibility is prohibited from coaching or serving as an Athlete Support Person in any other capacity at any time during the period of ineligibility. Any performance standard accomplished during a period of ineligibility will not be recognised for any purpose.]*

55.6.2 A Participant will remain subject to all relevant anti-doping requirements throughout any period of ineligibility.

- 55.6.3 As an exception to Article 55.6.1.2, an Athlete may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a National Federation or any organisation listed in Article 55.6.1.2(c) during the shorter of: (i) the last two months of their period of ineligibility; or (ii) the last one-quarter of the period of ineligibility imposed.
- 55.6.4 Subject to Article 55.6.3, where a Participant violates any period of ineligibility imposed upon them, any results achieved during that period will be disqualified, and a new period of ineligibility equal in length to the original period of ineligibility (subject to adjustment at the discretion of FIPFA based on the Participant's degree of fault and other circumstances of the case) will be added to the end of the original period of ineligibility. In such circumstances, FIPFA will promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of its decision. The Participant and/or the IPC will have the right to appeal such decision to FIPFA's designated appeal body (see Article 57 below) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC was not a party to the proceedings before the first instance body, it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all relevant translations) to file an appeal.

## 55.7 Consequences for Teams

### 55.7.1 Consequences for Powerchair Football Teams

- 55.7.1.1 If any Participant who is a member of a Powerchair Football team is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, FIPFA may impose an appropriate sanction(s) on the team (e.g., loss of points, disqualification from Competition(s), or other sanction(s)) in addition to any consequences imposed on the individual Participant committing the Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 55.7.1.2 If two or more Participants who are members of a Powerchair Football Team are found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, FIPFA will impose an appropriate sanction(s) on the team (e.g., loss of points, disqualification from Competition(s), or other sanction(s)) in addition to any consequences imposed on the individual Participants committing the Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 55.7.1.3 Factors that might be relevant in deciding what sanction(s) (if any) are appropriate in such cases include, for example, whether the results of any Competition(s) were likely to have been affected by the Intentional Misrepresentation, the nature and extent of the role played by the Participant(s) in the team within

the context of the Intentional Misrepresentation, and the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation.

## 55.8 Consequences for National Federations

### 55.8.1 Consequences for Powerchair Football Teams

55.8.1.1 If any Participant who is a member of a National Federation Powerchair Football team is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, FIPFA may impose an appropriate sanction(s) on the NF (e.g., disqualification from Competition(s), or other sanction(s)) in addition to any consequences imposed on the individual Participant committing the Intentional Misrepresentation.

55.8.1.2 If two or more Participants who are members of a National Federation Powerchair Football Team are found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, FIPFA will impose an appropriate sanction(s) on the team (e.g., disqualification from Competition(s), or other sanction(s)) in addition to any consequences imposed on the individual Participants committing the Intentional Misrepresentation.

55.8.1.3 Factors that might be relevant in deciding what sanction(s) (if any) are appropriate in such cases include, for example, whether the results of any Competition(s) were likely to have been affected by the Intentional Misrepresentation, the nature and extent of the role played by the Participant(s) in the team within the context of the Intentional Misrepresentation, and the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation.

## 56. Decisions

56.1 The first instance body must notify its decision to the parties in a written reasoned decision, in accordance with its procedural rules. The decision must address and determine, at a minimum, the following issues:

56.1.1 whether the Participant committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the factual basis for such determination, and the specific provisions of FIPFA's rules found to have been violated; and

56.1.2 the applicable sanctions imposed by the first instance body.

56.2 FIPFA will disclose the first instance body's decision to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC.

- 56.3 Where FIPFA is aware that the Participant who is the subject of the decision is a Participant in any other Para sport, FIPFA will also send the decision to the relevant International Federation or RIF (including where that decision is appealed pursuant to Article 57).
- 56.4 In a case where Article 53.8 applies, FIPFA will produce a written reasoned decision covering the issues referred to in Article 56.1, which it will provide as a minimum to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, the IPC, and any organisation referred to in Article 56.3, which will take effect as if it were a final decision of the first instance body. Alternatively, where it sees fit, FIPFA may refer the matter to the first instance body to determine the sanction(s) to be imposed.

## 57. Appeals

- 57.1 The IPC, FIPFA, and the Participant each have the right to appeal decisions of the first instance body to the Appeal Body within 21 days from the date of receipt of the first instance body's decision by the appealing party, except that if the IPC was not a party to the proceedings before the first instance body, it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all relevant translations) to file an appeal.
- 57.2 The parties to an appeal must be provided with, at a minimum, a fair hearing (whether conducted orally or in writing) within a reasonable time.
- 57.3 The appeal will be heard by a panel of either one or three members of the appeal body (where three members are appointed, one member will act as chair of the hearing panel). Members of the appeal body may not sit on a particular hearing panel if: (i) they are currently a Classifier for FIPFA; and/or (ii) they have had any prior involvement with the matter or any facts arising in the proceedings; and/or (iii) their impartiality or independence could otherwise be reasonably questioned.
- 57.4 The appeal body will hear and determine any appeal in accordance with its procedural rules.

## 58. Public Disclosure

- 58.1 No later than 20 days after it has been determined in an appellate decision under Article 57.1, or such appeal has been waived, or a hearing in accordance with Article 53.11 has been waived, or the assertion of Intentional Misrepresentation has not otherwise been timely challenged, or the matter has been resolved under Article 53.8, or a new period of ineligibility, or reprimand, has been imposed under Article 55.6.4, FIPFA will:
- 58.1.1 Publicly Disclose the disposition of the matter, including the identity of the Participant, the nature of the Intentional Misrepresentation involved, and the consequences imposed; and

- 58.1.2 publish an updated version of its Classification Master List to include the details required by Article 35, including the Participant's Intentional Misrepresentation designation, together with the duration and date of commencement of their period of ineligibility.

*[Comment to Article 58.1: Where Public Disclosure as required by this Article would result in a proven breach of other applicable laws, FIPFA's failure to make the Public Disclosure will not result in a determination of non-compliance with the IPC Classification Code, the International Standard on Intentional Misrepresentation, or these Classification Rules.]*

- 58.2 Where FIPFA is subject to disclosure obligations under Article 58.1 above, it may also decide to make public the written reasons for the determination or decision (subject to any redactions FIPFA deems necessary and appropriate) and may comment publicly on the matter.
- 58.3 In any case where it is determined, after a hearing or appeal, that the Participant did not commit Intentional Misrepresentation, the fact that the decision has been appealed may be Publicly Disclosed. However, the decision itself and the underlying facts may not be Publicly Disclosed except with the consent of the Participant who is the subject of the decision. FIPFA will use reasonable efforts to obtain such consent, and if consent is obtained, will Publicly Disclose the decision in its entirety or in such redacted form as the Participant may approve.
- 58.4 The mandatory Public Disclosure required in Article 58.1 will not be required where the Participant who has been found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation is a Minor at the time the decision is issued. Any optional Public Disclosure in a case involving a Minor will be proportionate to the facts and circumstances of the case.

## **CHAPTER 5: Changes to classification systems**

### **59. Changes to Classification systems**

- 59.1 Before making any substantive changes to its Classification systems and/or Classification processes, FIPFA will:

- 59.1.1 carry out an appropriate assessment of what impact any changes will have on Athletes, National Federations, and NPCs, including consideration of the Paralympic Games cycle, Powerchair Football's competition cycle, and the qualification periods for the Paralympic Games;

*[Comment to Article 59.1.1: In particular, FIPFA will as part of its impact assessment carefully consider the appropriate timing for any changes that may affect the (in)eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status of Athletes (for example, changes to the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or to the assessment methodology). Ordinarily, such changes will not be made during FIPFA's qualification period for the Paralympic Games.]*

- 59.1.2 provide National Federations (with a copy to the IPC) with:
  - 59.1.2.1 appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, an explanation of which Athletes or groups of Athletes (if any) may need to be reassessed, the proposed timelines for implementation, and (if applicable) any proposed transition rules; and
  - 59.1.2.2 an opportunity to submit feedback before such changes are adopted; and
- 59.1.3 provide the IPC with:
  - 59.1.3.1 appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, the proposed timelines for implementation, any proposed transition rules (if applicable), a copy of FIPFA's impact assessment, and an overview of the consultation undertaken as part of the review process; and
  - 59.1.3.2 an opportunity to submit feedback before such changes are adopted.
- 59.2 If FIPFA notifies a National Federation of anticipated changes pursuant to Article 59.1.2, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are (i) notified about such changes, and (ii) invited to provide feedback. If FIPFA then notifies a National Federation that changes will be implemented, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are notified about such changes.
- 59.3 If FIPFA makes changes to its Classification Rules that may affect the (in)eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status of Athletes (for example, changes to the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or to its assessment methodology), it will:
  - 59.3.1 take reasonable steps to identify such Athletes and notify them (through their National Federation) that they are entitled to be reassessed; and
  - 59.3.2 where applicable, change each such Athlete's Sport Class Status to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' or 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)', as deemed appropriate by FIPFA.
- 59.4 If a National Federation considers that changes to these Classification Rules may affect the Classification of any Athlete under its jurisdiction who was previously found to be not eligible, it must notify FIPFA accordingly.
- 59.5 For the avoidance of doubt, if: (i) FIPFA makes substantive changes to its Classification systems, Classification processes, and/or these Classification Rules, without first following the processes set out in this Chapter; and/or (ii) a National Federation fails to meet its obligations under this Chapter, that fact alone will not render the amended Classification systems, Classification processes, and/or Classification Rules (or any Classification decision made in accordance with those amended systems, processes, and/or rules) invalid, and the amended systems,

processes, and rules (and any Classification decision made under them) will continue to bind all those persons listed in Article 3.2 above.

## **CHAPTER 6: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL AND TRAINING**

### **PART I: Classification Personnel roles and competencies**

#### **60. Classification Personnel**

60.1 FIPFA will appoint the Classification Personnel specified below.

60.2 All Classification Personnel must sign confidentiality undertakings.

#### **60.3 Head of Classification**

60.3.1 The Head of Classification is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for FIPFA.

60.3.1.1 *Comment to Article 60.3.1: If FIPFA is unable to appoint a Head of Classification for a period of time, FIPFA may temporarily appoint a person or persons to perform the role of Head of Classification on an interim basis.*

60.3.2 FIPFA may appoint more than one person to share the role and duties of the Head of Classification. If this occurs, FIPFA will communicate this information to its membership and the IPC.

60.3.3 The Head of Classification will, as a minimum, be responsible for performing and/or overseeing the following activities:

60.3.3.1 recruiting and appointing Classifiers;

60.3.3.2 organising and conducting Classifier education, training, Certification, Re-Certification, and development according to FIPFA's Classifier pathway;

60.3.3.3 managing, maintaining, and updating a database to track Classifier activity, Certification, and Re-Certification;

- 60.3.3.4 identifying Classification Research needs and being aware of, supporting and, where appropriate, providing input in relation to the Classification Research on which FIPFA's Classification systems are based;
  - 60.3.3.5 ensuring that FIPFA's Classification Rules and implementation comply with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, for example, by planning, designing, executing, and reviewing programmes and policies;
  - 60.3.3.6 collecting feedback and inputting on Classification-related issues that affect FIPFA's rules, for example, the Classification Rules and sport technical rules;
  - 60.3.3.7 monitoring and evaluating the status of Classification within FIPFA on a regular basis;
    - (a) *[Comment to Article 60.3.3.7: This may include, for example, the Head of Classification attending (or instructing other Classification Personnel to attend) Covered Competitions where no Classification is due to take place, in order to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of FIPFA's Classification systems.]*
  - 60.3.3.8 informing Classifiers of any changes to these Classification Rules;
  - 60.3.3.9 managing, maintaining, and updating the Classification Master List to ensure that FIPFA's Classification records are accurate;
  - 60.3.3.10 engaging with FIPFA's relevant bodies and committees on Classification matters; and
  - 60.3.3.11 communicating with all relevant external parties (including the IPC) in relation to Classification matters.
- 60.3.4 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities to other Classification Personnel within FIPFA, and/or to appointed persons in the organising committee of a competition or Classification opportunity.
- 60.3.5 The Head of Classification may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier. For the avoidance of doubt, in this situation Article 41.7 of these Classification Rules will apply with equal effect to the Head of Classification.

## 60.4 Chief Classifier(s)

- 60.4.1 The Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, coordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Classification opportunity according to the Classification Rules.
- 60.4.2 In that context, a Chief Classifier may be required by FIPFA to do the following, among other things:
- 60.4.2.1 identify Athletes who require Classification at a specific Classification opportunity;
  - 60.4.2.2 supervise Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers to ensure that the Classification Rules are properly applied and to monitor their level of competencies and proficiencies;
  - 60.4.2.3 manage Protests in consultation with FIPFA;
  - 60.4.2.4 liaise with the relevant organiser to ensure that all travel, accommodation, and other logistics are arranged so that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Classification opportunity;
  - 60.4.2.5 communicate with and educate Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel regarding the Classification process;
  - 60.4.2.6 provide a clear explanation of all stages of the Classification process to Classifiers, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, including the following matters: (i) any findings made by a UHC Assessor, Classification Panel, Protest Panel, or Appeal Body; (ii) the procedures of the Evaluation Session (including eligibility requirements and Minimum Impairment Criteria), Protest procedures, and the procedure following any designation or tracking code being assigned to an Athlete; and (iii) matters concerning Intentional Misrepresentation, including the behaviours that may constitute that offence, and how potential violations will be investigated and prosecuted;
  - 60.4.2.7 manage the Classification Master List during a particular Classification opportunity;

- 60.4.2.8 analyse and review the Classification processes during a Classification opportunity and recommend improvements to the Head of Classification; and
  - 60.4.2.9 report all relevant issues at a particular Classification opportunity to the Head of Classification.
  - 60.4.3 The Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities to other Classification Personnel within FIPFA, and/or to appointed persons in the organising committee of a competition or Classification opportunity.
  - 60.4.4 A Chief Classifier can also be appointed to act as a Classifier at that same Classification opportunity, unless FIPFA has provided for this possibility in its rules.
- 60.5 Classifiers
- 60.5.1 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and Certified by FIPFA to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.
  - 60.5.2 In order to be Certified by FIPFA, Classifiers must demonstrate the minimum Classifier competencies set out in Article 61.2.
  - 60.5.3 FIPFA differentiates training and Certification processes between Classifiers with specialist medical expertise (Medical Classifiers) and Classifiers with technical/sport experience (Technical Classifiers). As a result, Medical Classifiers have primary responsibility among the Classification Panel members for conducting Stages 2 and 3 of the Evaluation Session (respectively, Eligible Impairment Assessment and Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment) whereas Technical Classifiers have primary responsibility among Classification Panel members for conducting Stage 4, sport specific session.
  - 60.5.4 All Classifiers must apply the assessment methods established by the Classification Rules properly and consistently.
  - 60.5.5 For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the rules of each National Federation, there is nothing to prevent Classifiers from also becoming National Classifiers and conducting classification at the national level.
- 60.6 Trainee Classifiers

- 60.6.1 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training to become a Classifier. A Trainee Classifier is designated as an individual who has completed the virtual training module and has been approved to participate in-person at a Competition training.
  - 60.6.2 FIPFA appoints an educator/mentor for Trainee Classifiers, usually the Head of Classification or Chief Classifier.
  - 60.6.3 FIPFA may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Classification provided that such participation is under the supervision of a Classification Panel.
  - 60.6.4 A Trainee Classifier cannot be appointed as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 60.7 UHC Assessors
- 60.7.1 As set out in the Classification Rules, FIPFA is responsible for conducting UHC Assessments, to be carried out by UHC Assessors.
- 60.8 Other Classification Personnel
- 60.8.1 National Classifiers
    - 60.8.1.1 A National Classifier is a person authorised by a National Federation to conduct some or all aspects of classification at a national level. Unless also Certified as a Classifier by FIPFA, a National Classifier cannot under any circumstances conduct international level Classification.

## 61. **Classification Personnel competencies**

61.1 UHC Assessor competencies include, as a minimum, that a UHC Assessor has:

61.1.1 a thorough understanding of:

61.1.1.1 Powerchair Football and its applicable rules, including the Classification Rules;

61.1.1.2 the IPC Classification Code and International Standards; and

- 61.1.1.3 the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct and, in particular, the management of potential, perceived and/or actual conflicts of interest;
- 61.1.1.4 relevant qualifications to conduct the assessment of the Diagnostic Information (including the review of the medical documents and interpreting diagnostic tests);
- 61.1.1.5 expertise in the relevant Health Conditions and their impact on physical and/or intellectual and/or vision abilities;
- 61.1.1.6 ability to evaluate complex medical information;
- 61.1.1.7 ability to identify the medical documentation required to verify the Underlying Health Condition(s) that may lead to an Eligible Impairment, and other information relevant for conducting the Classification process;
- 61.1.1.8 ability to assess and communicate the need to seek the opinion of another UHC Assessor, for example, when additional expertise is required; and
- 61.1.1.9 the relevant skillset to provide written reports about the outcomes of the UHC Assessment.

61.2 Classifier competencies include, as a minimum, that a Classifier has:

- 61.2.1 a thorough understanding of:
  - 61.2.1.1 Powerchair Football and its applicable rules, including the Classification Rules;
  - 61.2.1.2 the IPC Classification Code and International Standards; and
  - 61.2.1.3 the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct and, in particular, the management of potential, perceived and/or actual conflicts of interest;
  - 61.2.1.4 an appropriate level of English to conduct the Classification process;

61.2.1.5 effective interpersonal and teamwork skills; and

61.2.1.6 effective decision-making skills.

61.3 The Classifier competencies to be a Medical Classifier also include that the Classifier has:

61.3.1 An experienced health care provider (such as a physiotherapist or occupational therapist), with experience of Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to Eligible Impairments catered for by the sport; or

61.3.2 Other related provider with qualifications and experiences sufficient to understand the clinical manifestations of the Eligible Impairments catered for by the sport.

61.4 The Classifier competencies to be a Technical Classifier also include that the Classifier has:

61.4.1 at least a basic knowledge of the ways in which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) can affect their ability to execute specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;

61.4.2 an extensive Para sport background (as determined by FIPFA); or

61.4.3 a minimum number of years' coaching experience (as determined by FIPFA) or other relevant qualification in Para sport training, physical education, sport sciences, biomechanics, kinesiology, or other reputable academic qualification with a working knowledge of the sport.

61.5 In addition to the Classifier competencies, a Chief Classifier must have the following additional minimum competencies:

61.5.1 Two years' experience as a Classifier in Powerchair Football;

61.5.2 knowledge and experience of each stage of the Classification process;

61.5.3 effective communication skills in English, including the ability to provide a clear explanation of all stages of the Classification process to Classifiers, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel;

61.5.4 the mentorship skills to provide training or mentoring to Classifiers;

61.5.5 effective management skills; and

61.5.6 effective organisation skills.

- 61.6 In addition to the Classifier competencies, the Head of Classification must have the following additional minimum competencies:
- 61.6.1 Five years' experience as a Classifier in Powerchair Football However, if more than one person is appointed as the Head of Classification, only one such person must meet this requirement;
  - 61.6.2 the competencies described in Articles 60.4 and 60.5 above;
  - 61.6.3 demonstrable leadership skills in matters related to Classification, for example: administration and management of Classification; rules, policy, and procedure development or revision; Classification Research; Classification education and training; and Classifier mentorship; and
  - 61.6.4 experience and continuing participation in training and Certification of Classifiers, for example, teaching and supervising/mentoring instructors at workshops and other similar activities.

**PART II: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION**

**62. Recruitment and retention of Classification Personnel**

- 62.1 To ensure the required quality and quantity of Classification Personnel, FIPFA will:
- 62.1.1 identify prospective Trainee Classifiers through active recruitment through National Federations on an annual basis;
  - 62.1.2 appoint its Classification Personnel following content and In Competition training. Assignments are based on event proximity and a bi-annual rotation to ensure classifiers remain active. The Head of Classification is responsible for the rotation of classifiers and continued professional development relative to rules and evidence-based classification. The Chief Classifiers are appointed based on zone proximity;
  - 62.1.3 retain existing Classification Personnel through consistent assignments and local organizing committee support, when available;
  - 62.1.4 manage Classifier wellbeing, including protecting Classifiers from abuse, harassment, and bullying through required Code of Conduct requirements for coaches, officials, and National Federations; and
  - 62.1.5 re-engage non-active Classification Personnel through ongoing contact and recruitment for future events.

### 63. **Classification Personnel training and development**

- 63.1 FIPFA is committed to the ongoing professional development of Classification Personnel through appropriate training and education that ensures that they can (i) obtain and/or maintain the competencies required of them by FIPFA; (ii) achieve and/or maintain Certification; and (iii) otherwise develop and enhance their skills and experience in Classification so that any limitations placed on their Certification can be removed and/or they may progress to more senior Classification Personnel roles.
- 63.2 Where reasonably practicable, FIPFA will look to support National Federations and National Paralympic Committees in training and developing National Classifiers. In particular:
- 63.2.1 where appropriate, FIPFA will make materials used to train and educate Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers available to National Federations and National Paralympic Committees for the purpose of training National Classifiers;
  - 63.2.2 FIPFA will engage with National Federations and National Paralympic Committees to cooperate and support a pathway to enable National Classifiers to become international Classifiers; and
  - 63.2.3 FIPFA will make available to National Federations a schedule of Classifier and Trainee Classifier education sessions with sufficient notice and frequency to enable National Federations to identify and apply for Trainee Classifiers to attend such education sessions.

### 64. **Classifier Certification**

- 64.1 Classifier Certification is the process by which FIPFA assesses and confirms that a Classifier has met the Classifier competencies.
- 64.1.1 the requirements and processes for Classifier Certification and Re-Certification, including details on how the Classifier competencies (and any additional competencies required in order to remove any applicable limitations on Certification) will be assessed as part of the Certification and Re-Certification processes; and
  - 64.1.2 a process for monitoring performance and identifying and handling performance concerns, including procedures for the withdrawal of Certification as further described in **Article 64.5** below.

- 64.1.3 a Classifier's Certification must be reviewed every 5 years to ensure that the Classifier has retained the relevant competencies;
- 64.1.4 a Classifier may have their Certification removed if, without limitation, (i) FIPFA is no longer satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier competencies; and/or (ii) the Classifier breaches the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct; and
- 64.1.5 a Classifier whose Certification was removed pursuant to **Article 64.5.2(i)** may regain their Certification if they subsequently satisfy the FIPFA requirements that they have re-attained the required Classifier competencies.

### PART III: Conflicts of interest and Code of Conduct

#### **65. Identifying and managing conflicts of interest**

- 65.1 FIPFA will identify, actively manage, record, and keep updated a register of actual, perceived and potential Classification Personnel conflicts of interest. In this context, all Classification Personnel must promptly, accurately, and fully disclose to FIPFA all past and current personal and professional role(s), office(s) and relationship(s) that may affect their ability to make an objective decision or assessment when fulfilling their Classification Personnel role, or may create the perception of such. This duty of disclosure on Classification Personnel is an ongoing duty, to allow FIPFA to keep its register updated.
- 65.2 FIPFA will consider whether any disclosures by Classification Personnel represent an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest that requires active management. Examples of where an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest may arise (and will need to be actively managed) include where Classification Personnel are also acting as an office-holder, member of staff of, or otherwise representing and/or working on behalf of a National Federation. Other roles, whether paid or voluntary, with National Federations or National Paralympic Committees may also lead to actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
- 65.3 FIPFA has the right not to appoint Classification Personnel (or to withdraw appointments of Classification Personnel) who, in the view of FIPFA, have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest.
- 65.4 In order to manage actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest, it is not permitted for the following persons to (i) commence practical training to become a Classifier (i.e., they cannot participate in any Evaluation Sessions e.g., as a Trainee Classifier); (ii) receive or keep their Certification as a Classifier; or (iii) act as a Head of Classification:

- 65.4.1 an international athlete who is currently competing in any Para sport, or who has retired from Powerchair Football less than four years ago;
- 65.4.2 a national team coach or national team assistant coach involved in Powerchair Football, or who has retired from Powerchair Football less than four years ago; or
- 65.4.3 other Athlete Support Personnel in Powerchair Football with direct involvement with the national team or international athletes, or who have retired from such involvement in Powerchair Football less than two years ago (including but not limited to a team physiotherapist, medical doctor, psychologist, massage therapist).
- 65.4.3.1 *[Comment to Article 65.4: There is a high risk of an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest arising in circumstances where Classification Personnel have (or have recently had) a close association or role with a national sport team. The above restrictions are intended to help manage such risks. For example:*
- 65.4.3.2 An international athlete in Powerchair Football cannot become a Classifier in any Para sport while they hold such role. However, once they have retired from such role they can immediately become a Classifier in other Para sports (but not Powerchair Football), and can become a Classifier in Powerchair Football once they have been retired for four years.
- 65.4.3.3 *A national team coach or national team physiotherapist in Powerchair Football may become a Classifier in any Para sport except Powerchair Football. Once they have retired from such role they can also become a Classifier in Powerchair Football after being retired for, respectively, four years or two years.]*
- 65.4.3.4 For the avoidance of doubt, Article 65.4.3.3 does not prevent persons covered by that provision from training or acting as National Classifiers.
- 65.4.4 Classifiers must also not take on any other roles and responsibilities at Covered Competitions and Classification opportunities where they are acting as Classifiers that would impact their ability to carry out the Classification process/their responsibilities. FIPFA may assign other roles and responsibilities to Classifiers provided that they can be managed without interfering with the Classifier roles and responsibilities.

**66. Classification Personnel Code of Conduct**

- 66.1 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct.
- 66.2 FIPFA requires Classification Personnel to:
- 66.2.1 comply with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, and FIPFA's Classification rules;
  - 66.2.2 comply with FIPFA's Code of Conduct;
  - 66.2.3 act as neutral evaluators throughout all stages of the Classification process;
  - 66.2.4 have high regard for the dignity of all Athletes;
  - 66.2.5 have high regard for the physical and mental welfare of all Athletes;
  - 66.2.6 perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently, and objectively for all Athletes;
  - 66.2.7 respect all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel and strive to uphold a courteous environment during the Classification process;
  - 66.2.8 ensure that they are fit to perform the role and physical duties reasonably expected of Classification Personnel, and notify FIPFA if this ceases to be the case;
  - 66.2.9 maintain excellent hygiene and sanitation during the Classification process;
  - 66.2.10 not abuse their position to obtain advantage or benefit for themselves or third parties;
  - 66.2.11 maintain confidentiality of Athlete information in accordance with FIPFA's Classification rules; and
  - 66.2.12 comply with FIPFA's safeguarding rules.

- 66.3 Any perceived non-compliance with Code of Conduct standards are reported to the Head of Classification. In conjunction with the President and/or Tournament Panel, the Head of Classification investigates complaints of non-compliance and is authorized to take action against Classification Personnel including up to, and including, dismissal from a Tournament and/or Personnel Roster. The Head of Classification is responsible for notifying FIPFA and the relevant Classification Personnel as to the findings of the investigation and corresponding actions.

## **Chapter 7: Roles and Responsibilities**

### **67. FIPFA**

- 67.1 The roles and responsibilities of FIPFA under these Classification Rules include to:
- 67.1.1 increase awareness of the purpose, principles, and scientific rationale behind Classification amongst relevant stakeholders in Powerchair Football;
  - 67.1.2 develop, implement, and regularly review and publish Classification rules in Compliance with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards;
  - 67.1.3 require, as a condition of membership, that its National Federations and other members comply with these Classification Rules, and to take appropriate action to ensure such compliance;
  - 67.1.4 develop and deliver (where appropriate with the involvement of Athletes) Classification education and awareness programmes for National Federations, Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classifiers which must, at a minimum, explain these Classification Rules and that the rules must comply with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards;
  - 67.1.5 promote, initiate, and/or review Classification Research;
  - 67.1.6 develop, implement, and maintain a clear Classifier recruitment, training, and development pathway; and
  - 67.1.7 cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with the IPC in connection with any investigations conducted by the IPC in relation to potential Intentional Misrepresentation or Compliance matters.

### **68. Participants**

- 68.1 It is the personal responsibility of all Participants to:
- 68.1.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with these Classification Rules, and all applicable regulations, policies, rules, and processes adopted pursuant to these Classification Rules;

- 68.1.2 participate in, and cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any Classification process and/or related procedure; and
- 68.1.3 cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

## 69. **Athletes**

- 69.1 In addition to the general responsibilities listed in Article 67.1 above, all Athletes must:
  - 69.1.1 ensure that FIPFA is provided (through their National Federation) with all relevant Diagnostic Information required to enable FIPFA to assess the existence of an Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment, and ensure that all such information is complete, accurate, authentic, and relevant, and that FIPFA is informed of any changes to that information;
  - 69.1.2 as set out in Article 24.5, give their best efforts during an Evaluation Session and comply with all reasonable instructions given to them by a Classification Panel; and
  - 69.1.3 support and facilitate Classification education and research, and the development and implementation of Classification systems.

## 70. **Athlete Support Personnel**

- 70.1 In addition to the general responsibilities listed in Article 68.1 above, all Athlete Support Personnel must:
  - 70.1.1 use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative attitude regarding the Classification process and those involved in the Classification of Athletes (e.g. Classifiers); and
  - 70.1.2 facilitate and encourage Athletes to participate in Classification education and research, and the development and implementation of FIPFA's Classification systems.

## **Chapter 8: Best Practice Classification, AND research**

### 71. **Best Practice Classification**

- 71.1 FIPFA will ensure that it has a sport-specific Classification system that reflects **Best Practice Classification**. Best Practice Classification means that the Classification system:
  - 71.1.1 adopts the four stages of Classification set out in Article 6.1 and describes the methods used in each of the four stages;

- 71.1.2 uses the best available evidence at each stage of Classification, in particular by:
- 71.1.2.1 focusing on the relationship between the impairment and key performance determinants, where the impairment is the unit of classification and impairments are classified based on the extent to which they impact the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to their specific sport;
  - 71.1.2.2 drawing on reliable assessment results from a range of domains (for example, Athlete training history, impairment(s), performance of novel and practised motor tasks, and sport-specific/sports technical performance);
  - 71.1.2.3 using assessments that are, as a minimum, evidence-informed (i.e., scientific evidence indicates that the individual assessments that make up the Classification system will provide information that is accurate and reliable); and
  - 71.1.2.4 relying on as few assumptions as possible (and, where assumptions are relied on, ensuring that those assumptions are defensible);
- 71.1.3 applies principles of clinical reasoning and critical thinking to enable balanced consideration of the assessments conducted at each stage of Classification;
- 71.1.4 is consistent with established principles of human movement science, low vision science, cognitive science, and sports performance; and
- 71.1.5 is consistent with current knowledge of (i) each Eligible Impairment, and (ii) the Underlying Health Conditions that are consistent with those Eligible Impairments.

*[Comment to Article 71.1: Best Practice Classification represents the full utilisation of the scientific evidence available today, where evidence-informed assessments are used along with clinical reasoning to draw conclusions from assessment results from a range of domains. Best Practice Classification will evolve over time, with the goal for it to reach the standard of evidence-based Classification, as referred to in Article 72.2.]*

## 72. **Classification Research**

- 72.1 FIPFA will conduct multidisciplinary Classification Research to:
- 72.1.1 ensure that its Classification system meets (and continues to meet) the requirements for Best Practice Classification; and
  - 72.1.2 monitor the quality of its assessment systems and improve its evidence base.
- 72.2 FIPFA will continue investing in Classification Research that is designed to assist in

developing an evidence-based Classification system (i.e., system that is supported by scientific evidence that indicates that the methods used for assigning Athletes a Sport Class will result in Sport Classes that each comprise Athletes who have Eligible Impairments causing approximately the same degree of activity limitation in that sport). Evidence-based Classification is the gold standard, to which all Classification systems should aspire.

- 72.3 FIPFA will ensure that, where appropriate, stakeholders (including Athletes and Classifiers) have an opportunity to provide input as part of FIPFA's plans to conduct Classification Research.
- 72.4 All Classification Research will comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.

## **CHAPTER 9: DATA**

### **73. General provision**

- 73.1 The Classification Rules require FIPFA to Process Classification Data relating to Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, Classification Personnel, and other individuals involved in Powerchair Football.

- 73.1.1 This Chapter sets out the data protection and privacy standards that FIPFA will apply when Processing Classification Data.

### **74. Principles for Processing Classification Data**

- 74.1 FIPFA will only Process Classification Data in connection with Classification, or other purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code, and/or International Standards, including (without limitation) UHC Assessments, Eligible Impairment Assessments, MIC Assessments, Sport Class Assessments, Evaluation Sessions, conducting disciplinary procedures, resolving Protests and Appeals, using or sharing Classification-related intelligence, and for education and awareness.

- 74.2 FIPFA will only collect Classification Data that it reasonably requires to achieve the above purposes, and will take steps to delete, destroy, or anonymise Classification Data once it is no longer required for such purposes.

- 74.3 FIPFA will use reasonable efforts to ensure Classification Data is:

- 74.3.1 accurate, complete, and up-to-date;

- 74.3.2 Processed fairly and lawfully, and in a manner that is clear to the relevant individual, such as through the use of written or oral notices;

74.3.3 Processed for specified and legitimate purposes in connection with Classification, or other purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards, and not further Processed for unrelated or incompatible purposes unless those purposes are expressly permitted by law; and

74.3.4 adequate, relevant, and limited to what FIPFA reasonably requires in connection with Classification, or other purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

74.3.4.1 [*Comment to Article 73.3: FIPFA will abide by certain common principles of data protection when Processing Classification Data. This includes taking reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that Classification Data remains correct and accurate, is not Processed for additional, unrelated purposes except where applicable laws expressly permit, and is promptly deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymised as soon as possible. It also includes taking reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that relevant individuals are informed, for instance through the use of specific or general informational notices, regarding the Processing of their Classification Data.*]

## 75. Lawful grounds for Processing Classification Data

75.1 FIPFA will ensure that each Processing operation it performs upon Classification Data has a valid legal basis to support it, and that the Processing is otherwise permitted under applicable Data Protection Laws.

75.2 Lawful grounds for Processing Classification Data include where the relevant Processing (i) furthers FIPFA's legitimate interests, and those interests outweigh the interests of the relevant individual; (ii) takes place with the individual's informed and voluntary consent; (iii) is required or necessary under applicable law to fulfil contractual obligations owed to the individual or to perform tasks carried out in the public interest; or (iv) complies with other legal grounds available to FIPFA under applicable Data Protection Laws.

75.2.1 [*Comment to Article 75.2: FIPFA is likely to rely on more than one legal basis to perform the various Processing operations required under the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards. The appropriate ground may depend on a range of factors, such as whether the Classification Data includes Sensitive Personal Information; whether data protection, sport, or other local laws expressly set forth such grounds (in which case, the data may be considered necessary to comply with such laws or necessary to fulfil legitimate interests related to sport); and other circumstances relating to the Processing.*]

75.3 Where FIPFA relies upon consent to justify its Processing of certain Classification Data, and the relevant individual is not competent by virtue of their age or other factors to provide informed and voluntary consent, a duly authorised representative may provide consent on the individual's behalf.

75.3.1 *[Comment to Article 75.3: In situations where an Athlete is a minor, as determined under applicable law, and so incapable of furnishing consent, their authorised representative, which may include a parent, guardian, or other representative, such as a member of the Athlete's delegation where the Athlete's parent or guardian has expressly agreed to this, may provide consent on the Athlete's behalf.]*

## 76. Processing for Classification Research

76.1 FIPFA may Process Classification Data to engage in Classification Research, and in these circumstances, FIPFA will ensure that a valid legal basis exists to permit such Processing, which may be the Athlete's informed and voluntary consent or other legal grounds available to FIPFA under applicable Data Protection Laws.

76.1.1 *[Comment to Article 76.1: Classification Research is vital for the development of Classification in sport and Athletes are often asked to provide Classification Data to Classification Organisations, including FIPFA, for this purpose. In addition to reliance upon consent, Data Protection Laws applicable to FIPFA may permit the Processing of Personal Information, including Sensitive Personal Information, on grounds other than consent, provided certain conditions related to the Classification Research are satisfied. In all of these circumstances, FIPFA will ensure that its Classification Research is transparent to the relevant Athletes.]*

76.2 Where FIPFA Processes Classification Data for Research Purposes it will comply with all applicable ethical use and research requirements. Whenever possible, FIPFA will conduct Classification Research using Anonymised Data in lieu of Personal Information, in order to best protect the privacy of the relevant Athlete(s).

76.3 Personal Information (including Sensitive Personal Information) provided for Research Purposes will not be used to engage in individual Classification and the allocation of a Sport Class to that individual.

76.4 In the event that FIPFA publishes any Classification Data Processed for Research Purposes, it will seek to ensure that the publication contains only Anonymised Data and does not identify Athletes. If the publication will contain any Personal Information, FIPFA will obtain the informed and voluntary written consent of the relevant Athlete(s) prior to such publication.

## 77. Notification to Athletes and others

- 77.1 FIPFA will notify Athletes and others whose Classification Data it Processes about the following, along with any other disclosures required by applicable Data Protection Laws:
- 77.1.1 to the extent that FIPFA is not the Classification Organisation responsible for collecting the Classification Data, the identity of that other Classification Organisation;
  - 77.1.2 an appropriate contact point for handling any enquiries within FIPFA and/or any other relevant Classification Organisation responsible for collecting the Classification Data;
  - 77.1.3 the types of Classification Data collected and Processed, and the purpose(s) for which the Classification Data may be Processed, which must be sufficiently comprehensive in scope to cover all purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards;
  - 77.1.4 the types of third parties, such as other Classification Organisations, and national or international sports federations, to whom Classification Data may be disclosed;
  - 77.1.5 the individual's rights with respect to the Classification Data under Article 81; and
  - 77.1.6 the expected period of time that the Classification Data will be retained by FIPFA, as documented in accordance with Article 80.2.
- 77.2 FIPFA will furnish the information listed in Article 76.1 at the time that it collects Classification Data from an individual or at an otherwise appropriate time in accordance with applicable Data Protection Laws, in a format and manner that the individual can reasonably comprehend, using clear and plain language that can be readily understood.
- 77.3 Where FIPFA receives Classification Data from third parties it will communicate the information in Article 77.1 as soon as reasonably practicable, unless the Athlete or other individual is already in possession of it, such as where it has been furnished by another Classification Organisation.

## 78. **Classification data security**

### 78.1 FIPFA will:

78.1.1 protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical, and other measures to prevent the loss, theft, or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure of Classification Data; and

78.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party that it provides Classification Data to for Processing does so in a manner consistent with this Chapter. Where FIPFA engages third parties to Process Classification Data on its behalf or under its instructions, it will subject such third parties to appropriate contractual controls.

*[Comment to Article 78.1.2: FIPFA bears ultimate responsibility when outsourcing any Processing to third parties and should only rely upon reputable parties to Process Classification Data. FIPFA will ensure that such third parties only Process Classification Data on FIPFA's instructions, apply appropriate security measures to the Classification Data, promptly provide notice of any security compromise impacting the Classification Data, and apply other suitable safeguards.]*

## 79. **Disclosure of Classification Data**

79.1 FIPFA may disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations (including the IPC), provided that such disclosure reasonably relates to Processing activities contemplated under the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards, and/or the disclosure is in accordance with applicable Data Protection Laws.

79.1.1 *[Comment to Article 79.1: FIPFA may wish to disclose Classification Data to another Classification Organisation (including the IPC), such as in connection with Competitions, to ensure the integrity of the Classification process (including in respect of instances or suspected instances of Intentional Misrepresentation), and to otherwise assist in the process of Classification.]*

79.2 FIPFA may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is permitted by applicable Data Protection Laws and fulfils purposes relating to the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

- 79.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing, FIPFA may share Classification Data with law enforcement or other government authorities if required to do so under applicable law.

*[Comment to Article 79.3: In cases where FIPFA is compelled by law to disclose Classification Data, it may do so consistent with this Chapter.]*

## 80. **Retaining Classification Data**

- 80.1 FIPFA will ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is reasonably required by FIPFA to fulfil purposes relating to the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards, and/or the retention of the Classification Data is otherwise required by applicable law. Where the above conditions are not met, Classification Data will be deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymised.

80.1.1 *[Comment to Article 80.1: FIPFA may retain Classification Data as long as it is still useful or necessary to fulfil a purpose relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.]*

- 80.2 FIPFA will develop guidelines for establishing reasonable and appropriate retention times that reflect the different categories and purposes served of the Classification Data that it Processes.

80.2.1 *[Comment to Article 80.2: FIPFA will develop guidelines, which may be reflected in internal policies or procedures, to enable it to allocate suitable retention times for the various types of Classification Data it Processes. In relation to retired or former Athletes, the continued retention of certain categories of Classification Data following an Athlete's retirement may be justified for a certain period of time (for example, where FIPFA reasonably believes that the Athlete may return to active competition, or if the Classification Data may reasonably be needed for investigatory or disciplinary purposes). In relation to individual Classifiers, FIPFA will make sure that Classifiers do not retain any of the Classification Data that Classifiers Process in that capacity once the Classification Data is no longer necessary to Classification of the relevant Athlete. This includes any notes, comments, video recordings, or records written or captured electronically (e.g., on personal laptops or other storage devices), generated, or compiled by Classifiers during Classification.]*

## 81. **Rights relating to Classification Data**

- 81.1 Individuals may request from FIPFA:

- 81.1.1 confirmation of whether or not FIPFA Processes Classification Data relating to them and the informational disclosures set forth in Article 77.1;
  - 81.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by FIPFA relating to them in an accessible format; and/or
  - 81.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data relating to them held by FIPFA.
    - 81.1.3.1 [*Comment to Article 81.1: FIPFA will provide Athletes with information about the Classification Data it Processes in relation to them, and will respond to requests seeking access to, or correction or deletion of such Classification Data.*]
  - 81.1.4 FIPFA will respond to such requests and should do so within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the effort required to comply with the request, and in accordance with applicable Data Protection Laws, which may set forth specific timeframes for responding.
- 81.2 Notwithstanding the above, FIPFA may refuse to grant such requests where it would interfere with efforts to maintain the integrity of the Classification process, prevent FIPFA from complying with the IPC Classification Code, or refusing the request is otherwise permitted under applicable Data Protection Laws.
- 81.2.1 [*Comment to Article 81.2: In certain contexts, FIPFA may refuse a request seeking access to, or correction or deletion of, Classification Data, such as where the request would undermine efforts to ensure the integrity of Para sport, such as investigations and intelligence gathering relating to Intentional Misrepresentation by an Athlete or conducting disciplinary proceedings. Under certain data protection laws, it may be possible to refuse a request, such as where the request is manifestly unfounded, repetitive, or abusive in nature.*]
- 81.3 Data Protection Laws may provide for additional individual rights, besides those arising under Article 81.1, and FIPFA will honour such rights where they exist in law.

## CHAPTER 10: TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

### 82. Transitional provisions

- 82.1 Any period prior to the Effective Date will be governed by the substantive rules in effect at the time. However, procedural rules will apply retroactively unless specified otherwise.
- 82.2 Any charge for breach of FIPFA's previous classification rules that: (i) was pending as of the Effective Date; or (ii) is brought after the Effective Date, will be governed by the substantive rules in effect at the time the alleged breach occurred, and not by the substantive rules set out in these Classification Rules, unless FIPFA or the body hearing the case determines that the principle of "lex mitior" appropriately applies under the circumstances of the case (i.e., FIPFA or the hearing body determines that: (i) the new substantive rules in these Classification Rules are more lenient than those in force at the time of the breach; and (ii) it would be reasonable and proportionate in all the circumstances to apply the new substantive rules).
- 82.3 FIPFA will promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of any decision made to apply the principle of "lex mitior" under Article 82.2.
- 82.3.1 That decision may be appealed by the IPC to FIPFA's designated appeal body (see Article 57) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC has not previously received a copy of the full case file pertaining to the alleged breach of FIPFA's previous classification rules (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language), it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to apply the principle of "lex mitior" to request a copy of that case file (including any translations).
- 82.3.2 In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all necessary translations) to file an appeal.
- 82.4 The limitation period set out in Article 82.2 is a procedural rule not a substantive rule, and should be applied retroactively along with all of the other procedural rules in these Classification Rules (provided, however, that Article 53.4 will only be applied retroactively if the limitation period has not already expired as at the Effective Date).

## APPENDIX 1: DEFINITIONS

Terms used in the Classification Rules that begin with capital letters have the meanings set out below. Defined terms from the IPC Constitution are shown in underline. In the event of any inconsistency between a definition in underline below and a definition in the IPC Constitution, the version in the IPC Constitution will prevail.

**Adaptive Equipment** means any implement, apparatus, and/or technical aid adapted to the special needs of an Athlete to reduce the impact of their impairment(s) and that is permitted by FIPFA's rules, except that refractive or optical correction (such as eyeglasses or corrective lenses) are not considered to be Adaptive Equipment.

**Anonymised Data** means data rendered in such a way that makes it impossible to identify the individual to whom the data relates, whether by the Classification Organisation Processing the data or by any other party.

**Appeal** has the meaning given to that term in Article 45.1.

**Appeal Body** means the group identified by FIPFA to hear appeals on procedural missteps in Article 45.1.

**Athlete** means any athlete who has participated in any way in the Classification process, who has taken any step to engage in that process (for example by providing Diagnostic Information to their National Federation for the purposes of undergoing Classification), and/or who has entered or participated in any Covered Competition.

**Athlete Support Person** means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent, or any other person working with, treating, and/or assisting an Athlete.

**BAC** means the Board of Appeal of Classification, defined below.

**Best Practice Classification** has the meaning given to that term in Article 71.

**Board of Appeal of Classification** means the body established by the IPC to hear and determine classification appeals.

**Certification** has the meaning given to it in Article 64.1, i.e., the process by which FIPFA assesses and confirms that a Classifier has met the Classifier competencies. The words 'Certify' and 'Certified' will be interpreted accordingly.

**Chief Classifier** means a Classifier appointed by FIPFA to direct, administer, co-ordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Classification opportunity according to the Classification Rules.

**Classification** means (i) the determination of which athletes are eligible to compete in Powerchair Football; and (ii) the grouping of eligible athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the relevant sport, further to the process set out in Part IV of Chapter 2.

**Classification Data** means Personal Information, including Sensitive Personal Information, relating to an Athlete, Athlete Support Person, other Participant, Classification Personnel, and others involved in Powerchair Football or Classification Processed in connection with Classification, or other purposes related to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

**Classification Master List** has the meaning given to that term in Article 35.1.

**Classification Organisation** means any organisation (including, for the avoidance of doubt, FIPFA and the IPC) that is responsible for any aspect of Classification and/or holds Classification Data pursuant to the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

**Classification Panel** means a specified number of Classifiers, appointed by FIPFA to conduct Evaluation Sessions and determine an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules.

**Classification Personnel** means Persons acting with the authority of FIPFA in relation to Classification, for example Classifiers and administrative officers.

**Classification Personnel Code of Conduct** means the behavioural and ethical standards for Classification Personnel specified by FIPFA, as further detailed in Article 66.

**Classification Research** means any systematic scientific evaluation, analysis, or investigation, which aims to enhance or understand a Para sport classification system or systems.

**Classification Rules** means these Classification rules, as may be amended from time to time.

**Classifier** means a person authorised as an official and certified by FIPFA to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

**Competition** means a series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

**Compliance** means the implementation of rules, regulations, policies, and processes that adhere to the text, spirit, and intent of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards.

**Coordination Impairment** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Covered Competition** has the meaning given to that term in Article 3.1.

**Data Protection Laws** means all data protection and privacy laws and regulations applicable to FIPFA.

**Diagnostic Information** means medical records and/or any other documentation that enables FIPFA to assess the existence or otherwise of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment.

**Dyskinesia** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Effective Date** has the meaning given to that term in Article 1.2.

**Eligible Impairment** means an impairment that is Permanent and that falls within one of the categories catered for by FIPFA, as set out in Appendix 2.

**Eligible Impairment Assessment** means stage 2 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1.

**Evaluation Session** means stages 2, 3 and 4 of the Classification process, i.e., the Eligible Impairment Assessment, MIC Assessment, and allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status, as further defined in Article 6.1.

**First Appearance** has the meaning given to that term in Article 17.8.3.2.

**Fixed Review Date** has the meaning given to that term in Article 20.1.3.

**Head of Classification** has the meaning given to it in Article 60.3.1, i.e., a person appointed by FIPFA who is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for FIPFA.

**Health Condition** means a disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury, or trauma.

**Hypertonia** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Impaired Muscle Power** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Impaired Passive Range of Movement** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**In-Competition** means the period commencing from the day on which FIPFA offers Classification opportunities in relation to a Competition in which the Athlete is scheduled to compete through to the day such Competition ends.

**Intentional Misrepresentation** has the meaning given to that term in Article 50.1.

**International Federation** means an international sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a specific Para sport that is on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

**International Federation Protest** means a Protest made by FIPFA pursuant to Article 42.

**International Standard** means a document adopted by the IPC to supplement the IPC Classification Code, as amended from time to time.

**IPC** means the International Paralympic Committee.

**IPC Classification Code** means the 2025 IPC Classification Code, as amended from time to time.

**IPC Constitution** means the Constitution of the IPC, as amended from time to time.

**IPC Member** means the members of the IPC pursuant to Part II of the Constitution.

**Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Medical Classifier** means a Classifier with specialist medical expertise.

**Medical Review** has the meaning given to that term in Article 36.

**MIC Assessment** means stage 3 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1.

**Minimum Impairment Criteria** means the minimum level of impairment resulting from an Eligible Impairment that is required in order for an Athlete to be eligible to participate in Powerchair Football, as set out in the Classification Rules.

**Minor** means a natural Person who has not reached the age of eighteen years.

**Motor Ataxia** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**National Classifier** means a person authorised by a National Federation to carry out some or all aspects of national level classification.

**National Federation** means a national member of FIPFA.

**National Federation Protest** means a Protest made by a National Federation pursuant to Article 41.

**National Representative** means any person who is an office-holder or member of staff of, or who otherwise represents and/or works on behalf of a National Federation.

**Next Available Opportunity** means the next available opportunity at which the Athlete can attend a new Evaluation Session, as determined by FIPFA.

**Non-Eligible Impairment** has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.2.

**Observation Assessment** means the observation of an Athlete in Competition by a Classification Panel as part of the Sport Class Assessment so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination regarding the extent to which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football.

**Operational Independence (or Operationally Independent)** means that (a) board members, staff members, commission members, consultants, and officials of FIPFA, as well as any Person involved in the investigation and pre-adjudication of the matter, cannot be appointed as members and/or clerks (to the extent that such clerk is involved in the deliberation process and/or drafting of any decision) of the relevant body, and (b) the relevant body must be in a position to conduct the hearing and decision-making process without interference from FIPFA or any third party. The objective is to ensure that members of the relevant body, or individuals otherwise involved in the decision of the relevant body, are not involved in the investigation of, or decisions to proceed with, the case.

**Para athlete** means any athlete competing in a Para sport.

**Para sport** means any sport in which persons with a disability participate in accordance with classification rules that are compliant with the IPC Classification Code and the related International Standards.

**Paralympic Games** means the major international event owned and sanctioned by the IPC comprising summer and winter editions usually held in alternating biennial cycles where Para athletes compete in Para sports that are on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

**Paralympic Games Sport Programme** means the Para sports on the programme for the Paralympic Games.

**Paralympic Movement** has the meaning given to that term in Article 2.1 of the IPC Constitution: ‘The Paralympic Movement comprises the IPC, the IPC Members, the Recognised International Federations, and any other Persons that participate in Para sport or are involved in the promotion, organisation, and/or delivery of Para sport’.

**Participant** means:

- (i) Athletes;
- (ii) Athlete Support Personnel;
- (iii) National Representatives; and
- (iv) any other persons under the jurisdiction of FIPFA who participate in any aspect of Classification.

**Permanent** means an impairment that is unlikely to be resolved, meaning that the principal effects are lifelong.

**Person** means natural persons, corporate bodies, and unincorporated bodies (whether or not having separate legal personality), and also includes the legal personal representatives, successors, and permitted assigns of such person, as the context so requires. For the avoidance of doubt, the term Person does not include the IPC.

**Personal Information** means any information that relates to an identified or identifiable Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel, other Participant, Classification Personnel, or other individual involved in Powerchair Football.

**Physical Impairment** means the Eligible Impairments listed in Appendix 1.

**Process(ing)** means the collection, recording, storage, use, or disclosure of Personal Information.

**Protest** has the meaning given to that term in Article 39.1.

**Protest Panel** means a Classification Panel appointed by FIPFA to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

**Public Disclosure** means the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public at a minimum by placing the information on FIPFA's website and leaving the information up for the longer of one month or the duration of any period of ineligibility.

**Re-Certification** means the process by which FIPFA will assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier competencies.

**Recognised International Federation (RIF)** has the meaning given to that term in Article 20.1 of the Constitution: 'The IPC recognises the importance of creating a Paralympic family network of recognised international federations that are not eligible to become IPC Members but contribute to the development of the Paralympic Movement. Accordingly, the Governing Board may, in its absolute discretion, grant the status of 'Recognised International Federation' (RIF) to an international federation that is not part of the Paralympic Games Sport Programme and so is not eligible to become an IPC Member as an International Federation, but still contributes to the development of the Paralympic Movement. For the avoidance of doubt, RIFs are not IPC Members'.

**Research Purposes** means the general development and integrity of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including but not limited to Classification Research.

**Sensitive Personal Information** means Personal Information that relates to health or is otherwise deemed to be a sensitive or special category of Personal Information under applicable Data Protection Laws.

**Short Stature** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Spasticity** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Sport Class** means a category for competition in which Athletes are categorised by reference to the extent to which their Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Powerchair Football, as set out in the Classification Rules.

**Sport Class Assessment** has the meaning given to that term in Article 6.1.

**Sport Class Status** means a status applied to a Sport Class to indicate whether and when an Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future.

**Substantial Assistance** has the meaning given to it in Article 55.5.3.1.

**Team Sport** means a sport in which the substitution of players is permitted during a competition.

**Technical Classifier** means a Classifier with technical/sport experience.

**Trainee Classifier** means a person who is in the process of formal training to become a Classifier.

**UHC Assessment** means stage 1 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1.

**UHC Assessor** means any person or body responsible for conducting UHC Assessments in accordance with Article 7.1.

**Underlying Health Condition** means a verifiable Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by FIPFA.

**Without Prejudice Agreement** means a written agreement between FIPFA and a Participant that allows the Participant to provide information to FIPFA in a defined time-limited setting with the understanding that, if an agreement for Substantial Assistance is not finalised, the information provided by the Participant in this particular setting may not be used by FIPFA against the Participant (or any other Participant) in any Intentional Misrepresentation proceedings, and the information provided by FIPFA in this particular setting may not be used by the Participant against FIPFA in any Intentional Misrepresentation proceedings. However, and for the avoidance of doubt, such an agreement will not preclude FIPFA or the Participant from using any information or evidence gathered from any source other than during the specific time-limited setting described in the agreement.

**World Championships** means the highest-level international Competition(s) or event(s) owned or sanctioned by FIPFA.

## **APPENDIX 2: CLASSIFICATION OF ATHLETES WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS**

### **2. Eligible Impairments**

- 2.1. All Physical Impairments must be consistent with an Underlying Health Condition that (i) originates from the central or peripheral nervous system; or (ii) is musculoskeletal. The Physical Impairments catered for by FIPFA are:

<b>Eligible Impairment</b>	<b>Examples of Underlying Health Conditions</b>
<p><b>Impaired Muscle Power</b></p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a reduced (or no) ability to contract their muscles to generate force that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central or peripheral nervous system or the muscles (including the muscle origin and muscle insertion).</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete), spina bifida, plexus injuries, poly(neuropathies) or muscular dystrophies.</p>
<p><b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b></p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a reduced ability for a joint to be passively moved that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting a structure of bones, joints, connective tissue, or soft tissues.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogryposis and contractures resulting from joint dysplasia, rheumatoid diseases, or trauma resulting in anatomical changes and/or function of a joint.</p>
<p><b>Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference</b></p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference have a total or partial absence of a limb or anatomically irregular limb dimensions that are consistent with an Underlying Health Condition resulting from trauma, illness, or congenital causes affecting the bones and/or joints.</p> <p>This Eligible Impairment can be further divided into the following sub-categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) limb deficiency;</li> <li>(b) leg length difference; and/or</li> <li>(c) arm length difference.</li> </ul> <p>Only athletes with a limb deficiency are eligible for Powerchair Football.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Limb Deficiency include traumatic oncologic or vascular amputation, illness (for example amputation due to infectious disease) or congenital limb deficiency (longitudinal or transverse).</p> <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Limb Length Difference include congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth and/or its anatomy.</p>

<p><b>Short Stature</b></p> <p>Athletes with Short Stature have reduced total body length (including head, trunk, and legs) as a result of congenitally or developmentally reduced length of the bones of the upper and lower limbs (and may also have reduced trunk length) that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition. Athletes will not be considered to have Short Stature if their reduced total body length is the result of Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference only.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, or growth hormone dysfunction.</p>
<p><b>Coordination Impairments</b></p> <p>Athletes with a Coordination Impairment have one or more of the following three movement disorders that (i) adversely affects the ability to voluntarily produce a full range of skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately; and (ii) is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central nervous system:</p> <p>(a) <b>Hypertonia/Spasticity:</b> an increase in muscle tension that may be velocity-dependent and/or a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.</p> <p>(b) <b>Motor Ataxia:</b> limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.</p> <p>(c) <b>Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea):</b> involuntary movements that interfere with voluntary movements.</p> <p><i>[Comment to Coordination Impairments: Coordination is the ability to voluntarily produce skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately (Connick et al., 2015; Runciman &amp; Derman, 2018).]</i></p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to one or a combination of Coordination Impairments include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury or cerebrovascular disease.</p>

## APPENDIX 3: ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT ASSESSMENT

### 3. Eligible Impairment

- 3.1. Eligible impairments are the initial in-person assessments of classification. Medical classifiers assess an athlete to determine if there is sufficient impairment to prevent competitive participation in manual wheelchair sports.

<b>Eligible Impairment</b>	<b>Test</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Impaired Muscle Power</b>	<p>Assessments of Head Strength in Frontal, Sagittal, and Transverse Planes</p> <p>Assessments of Shoulder, Trunk, and Elbow Strength in Sagittal Plane</p> <p>Assessment of Grip Strength</p>	<p>MMT Score &lt; 5 on at least One Domain of Head Control, Trunk Control, Upper Limb Strength, or Drive Control</p> <p>Head Flexion, Extension, or Lateral Flexion Score Force &lt; 10 lbs</p> <p>Atypical MMT or Dynamometer Score on Grip Strength</p>
<b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b>	<p>Assessments of Head ROM via Goniometry and Lag Test</p> <p>Assessment of Trunk, Elbow, and Wrist ROM via Goniometry</p>	<p>Lag test &gt; 60 degree restriction of full visual field. Play is limited by the visual field.</p> <p>Drive Control is limited by ROM.</p>
<b>Limb Deficiency</b>	Observation	Congenital or acquired amputation with $\geq 3$ limb involvement

		<p>above the knee and elbow</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Double-upper limb amputation above the elbow</p>
<b>Short Stature</b>	<p>Assessments of Head Strength in Frontal, Sagittal, and Transverse Planes</p> <p>Assessments of Shoulder, Trunk, and Elbow Strength in Sagittal Plane</p> <p>Assessment of Grip Strength</p> <p>Assessment of Head ROM via Goniometry and Lag Test</p> <p>Assessment of Trunk, Elbow, and Wrist ROM via Goniometry</p>	<p>MMT Score &lt; 5 on at least One Domain of Head Control, Trunk Control, Upper Limb Strength, or Drive Control</p> <p>Head Flexion, Extension, or Lateral Flexion Score Force &lt; 10 lbs</p> <p>Atypical MMT or Dynamometer Score on Grip Strength</p> <p>Lag test &gt; 60 degree restriction of full visual field. Play is limited by the visual field</p> <p>Drive Control is limited by ROM.</p>
<b>Coordination Impairments</b>	<p>Modified Ashworth Scale Finger Tapping Test</p>	<p>Modified Ashworth Scale &gt; 0</p>

	Drive Control	Impaired drive control (yes)
	Adjustment to the Ball	Difficulty adjusting to moving ball (yes)

## APPENDIX 4: MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT ASSESSMENT

### 4. Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 4.1. Minimum impairment criteria are based on functional assessments during the medical classification session. An athlete must demonstrate impaired performance on at least one of the functional assessments. Medical classifiers assess an athlete to determine if there is sufficient impairment to qualify for the sport. Athletes who have an eligible impairment at a level that prevents competitive participation in manual wheelchair sports have the potential to compete in Powerchair Football.

Eligible Impairment	Test	Criteria
<b>Impaired Muscle Power</b>	Visual Lag	> 60 degrees limitation
	Cervical ROM	<100 degrees
	Head Force (Flexion, Extension, or Lat Flexion)	<10 lbs
	Grip Strength	< 20 lbs
	Pinch Grip	<5 lbs
	Trunk Extension	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Right	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Left	≤4 (MMT)
	Trunk Flexion	≤4 (MMT)
<b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b>	Visual Lag	> 60 degrees limitation
	Cervical ROM	<100 degrees

	Grip Strength	<10 lbs
	Trunk Extension	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Right	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Left	≤4 (MMT)
	Trunk Flexion	≤4 (MMT)
<b>Limb Deficiency</b>	Visual Lag	> 60 degrees limitation
	Cervical ROM	<100 degrees
	Head Force (Flexion, Extension, or Lat Flexion)	<10 lbs
	Grip Strength	< 20 lbs
	Pinch Grip	<5 lbs
	Trunk Extension	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Right	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Left	≤4 (MMT)
	Trunk Flexion	≤4 (MMT)
<b>Short Stature</b>	Visual Lag	> 60 degrees limitation
	Cervical ROM	<100 degrees
	Head Force (Flexion, Extension, or Lat	<10 lbs

	Flexion)	
	Grip Strength	< 20 lbs
	Pinch Grip	<5 lbs
	Trunk Extension	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Right	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Left	≤4 (MMT)
	Trunk Flexion	≤4 (MMT)
		≤4 (MMT)
<b>Coordination Impairments</b>	Modified Ashworth Scale	>0
	Visual Lag	> 60 degrees limitation
	Cervical ROM	<100 degrees
	Head Force (Flexion, Extension, or Lat Flexion)	<10 lbs
	Grip Strength	< 20 lbs
	Pinch Grip	<5 lbs
	Trunk Extension	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Right	≤4 (MMT)
	Lateral Flexion Left	≤4 (MMT)
	Trunk Flexion	≤4 (MMT)

## APPENDIX 5: SPORT CLASSES

### 5. Sport Class Criteria

5.1. Sport class is determined from a series of assessments to address functional (medical) and technical (sport-specific) movement. These assessments are used to measure and evaluate the key activities and underlying key determinants of Powerchair Football. FIPFA administers a series of medical and technical assessments, distributed by the Head of Classification, to correctly identify sport class. The top 10 predictor assessments, for most Athletes, and their criteria are outlined below.

### 5.2. Adaptive Equipment

5.2.1. Adaptive Equipment (as outlined in the Rules of the Game) may be used by Athletes within each Sport Class, and use of such Adaptive Equipment is optional within that Sport Class. Classification may require removal of adaptive equipment for medical assessments if necessary and safe for the Athlete.

5.2.2. An Athlete's choice to use (or not use) Adaptive Equipment does not affect their allocated Sport Class.

Medical	Description	Criteria	PF1	PF2
Visual Lag	Visual Field	Range (deg) Mean	>102 130	60-102 73
Grip	Grip Strength	Range Mean	<3.3 2.83	3.3-4.2 3.68
Trunk Extension	Trunk Force	Range Mean	<3.1 2.47	3.1-3.9 3.75
Side Flexion Right	Trunk Force	Range Mean	<2.6 1.9	2.6-3.3 3.30
Side Flexion Left	Trunk Force	Range Mean	<2.6 1.9	2.6-3.3 3.30
Trunk Flexion	Trunk Force	Range Mean	<2.7 2.0	2.7-3.5 3.25
<b>Technical</b>				
Range	Limited Visual Field	Yes No	92% 8%	31% 69%
Impact	Can sustain impact without disruption	Yes No	38% 62%	78% 22%
Ball Adjustment	Difficulty Adjusting to Ball	Yes No	54% 46%	12% 88%

Grip Affected	Grip disrupted during Gameplay	Yes No	50% 50%	20% 80%
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## APPENDIX 6: PRIMARY ASSESSMENT ALGORITHM

### 6. Primary Assessment Algorithm

6.1. Athletes typically demonstrate characteristics of PF1 and PF2 criteria. The general assessment factors and associated performance criteria by sport class are listed.

Assessment Step	PF1	PF2	PF3
Visual Field	Lag $\geq$ 02 deg	Lag 60-102 deg	Lag $\leq$ 60 deg
Impairment	Grip Strength $\leq$ 3.3 Trunk Ext $\leq$ 3.1	Grip Strength 3.3-4.2 Trunk Ext 3.1-3.9	Grip Strength $>$ 4.2 Trunk Ext $>$ 4.0
Sport Specific Performance	Range = Yes Ball Adjust = Yes	Range = Mixed Ball Adjust = Some Assistance Needed	Range = No Ball Adjust = No
Impact Performance	Impact = No Joy Grip = Yes	Impact = Yes Joy Grip Variable	Impact = Yes Joy Grip = No

## **APPENDIX 7: OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT**

### **7. Observation Assessment**

#### **7.1. FIPFA requires that:**

7.1.1. An Observation Assessment is required before an Athlete can be allocated a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status. Observation Assessments occur during Pool Play and are required for an Athlete to participate in competition rounds (i.e., quarterfinals and above).

7.1.2. A Classification Panel will observe Gameplay to confirm the provisional Sport Class. Following review of Gameplay performance, a Panel either confirms the provisional Sport Class allocated during medical/technical assessments or updates the Sport Class to the correct designation.

7.1.3. There is no required time limit for the Observation Assessment; the Panel observes Gameplay as long as necessary to identify the appropriate Sport Class.

7.2. The Observation Assessment is used to ensure the Sport Class is the correct reflection of how an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport, with or without Adaptive Equipment.