



U.S. Paralympics

National
Classification
Policies & Procedures

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Specific standards for executing National classification are divided into a series of sub-documents:

- Classifier Training & Education Manual
- Information for Local Organizing Committees (LOCs)
- Sport Policies & Procedures

Introduction

In November, 2007, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) General Assembly passed the IPC Classification Code (Code), a universal code for classification that implements policies and procedures applicable across all sports within the Paralympic movement. The intent of the Code is to bring consistency to certain aspects of the classification process across all Paralympic sports.

It is incumbent upon each National Paralympic Committee (NPC) that is a signatory of the Code to ensure that national classification policies and procedures are in compliance with the Code.

The responsibilities of the NPC as per the Code include:

- Ensuring that classification rules conform with the Code;
- Developing and implementing a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code;
- Promoting the development of a national classification strategy that includes education;
- Recommending to National Federations that individual National Federation Classification Rules should be in compliance with the Code.

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) is the NPC and a signatory of the Code. All National classification policies and procedures will be implemented through the USOC's Paralympic Division (U.S. Paralympics).

International and National Standards for Classification

Article 2.3 of the Code illustrates specific standards for executing classification. These standards are divided into three main sub documents as part of the Code:

- International Standard: Athlete Evaluation
- International Standard: Protests and Appeals
- International Standard: Classifier Training and Certification

Each set of standards must be followed for international and national classification in the way that the Code specifies. There will be slight variations as to how these elements will be implemented on a national level and these variations are described in this document.

Upholding the Code

U.S. Paralympics has developed the National Classification Policies & Procedures to uphold the Code, while creating a fair and equitable process for resolving situations where non-compliance with the Code has been raised.

Classification Overview

Classification is the structure for competition within Paralympic sport. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an athlete's disability is relevant to sport performance and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes.

Traditionally there are five disability groups in the Paralympic Movement: amputee, cerebral palsy, visual impairment, spinal cord injuries, and Les Autres, which includes all those that do not fit into the aforementioned groups.

Athletes are grouped in classes within each sport, and these classes are characterized by the degree of function presented by the disability. The classes are defined by each sport and form part of the sport rules.

Athlete classification(s) are determined by a variety of processes that may include a physical and technical assessment and observation in and out of competition.

National Classification Governance

As the NPC for the United States, and a signatory of the Code, U.S. Paralympics shall assume all governance for national classification.

Any classification conducted outside the scope of the National Classification Policies & Procedures will neither be recognized nor upheld in any official proceedings.

Organizations conducting classification in the USA outside of the scope of the National Classification Policies & Procedures may be sanctioned for non-compliance with the Code.

Classifiers / Classification Panel

A classifier is a person authorized as an official by the IPC/IF (international) and/or U.S. Paralympics (national) to evaluate athletes while serving as a member of a classification panel. The duties and responsibilities of a classifier are defined in the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification (international) and the U.S. Paralympics Classifier Training & Education Manual (national).

A classification panel is a group of classifiers appointed for a particular competition to determine sport class and sport class status. This is done in accordance with the Classification Rules of the respective IF.

National classification panels are defined on a sport by sport basis in the sport specific documents that append this manual.

International classification panels are defined by the sport IF and must include a minimum of two (2) classifiers.

An IF shall establish the following positions (international):

Head of Classification (HoC): The Classifier responsible for the administration, direction, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for the IF.

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

U.S. Paralympics shall establish the following positions (national):

Head Domestic Classifier (HDC): A classifier who has international authorization (Level 2) for the respective sport and who will work at the direction of U.S. Paralympics to facilitate Code compliance for the sport within the United States. Specific roles and responsibilities of the HDC are outlined in the U.S. Paralympics Classifier Training & Education Manual.

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

National classifiers, approved by U.S. Paralympics to conduct national classification within the United States, shall be designated with the following levels of education/certification:

USA Trainee

- An individual who is in process of classification training and education nationally by U.S. Paralympics
- May be appointed to a national classification panel and allocate a national sport class

IF/IPC Trainee

- An individual who is in process of formal training by the IF
- May not be appointed to an international classification panel or allocate an international sport class
- May be appointed to a national classification panel and allocate a national sport class
- May be appointed as a national Chief Classifier for a national classification panel

Level 1 (international)

- An individual who has successfully completed the formal training of the IF
- May be appointed to an international classification panel or allocate an international sport class with minimum supervision of more experienced classifiers
- May be appointed to a national classification panel and allocate a national sport class
- May be appointed as a national Chief Classifier for a national classification panel

Level 2 (international)

- An individual who has successfully completed the formal training of the IF
- May be appointed to an international classification panel or allocate an international sport class
- May be appointed to a national classification panel and allocate a national sport class
- May be appointed as a national or international Chief Classifier for a national or international classification panel

The current lists of national classifiers will be maintained on a sport-by-sport basis by U.S. Paralympics and are included in the sport specific documents that append this manual.

Sport Class

The Code specifies sport class in accordance with the Classification Rules of the International Federation (IF) for the respective sport.

As stated in the Code:

“Sport Class is a category defined by each International Federation in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an activity limitation resulting from impairment. Ineligibility for competition is a Sport Class. Each IF must stipulate eligibility criteria in their Classification Rules.”

National sport classes will strictly adhere to the guidelines set out by each respective IF. There will be no variation from the IPC Sport Class system and the respective Sport Class designations in the national classification process.

Athlete Evaluation

Each IF will have specific evaluation criteria that will be used to assess athletes for classification. The process by which the evaluation will be conducted will be implemented by the International Standard: Athlete Evaluation document. Changes to sport evaluation criteria will be made by the IF. Communication of any sport evaluation criteria changes, along with any changes to the International Standard: Athlete Evaluation will be disseminated to relevant parties in the USA [i.e. classifiers, NGBs] by U.S. Paralympics.

The specific process of athlete evaluation must follow the Code as specified by the International Standard: Athlete Evaluation.

Sport Class Status

The Code specifies sport class status in accordance with the Classification Rules of the IF for the respective sport.

As stated by the Code:

“Sport Class Status is allocated to an Athlete to indicate Athlete Evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities. The designation of a Sport Class Status assists in identifying Athletes who:

- Have not previously been classified*
- Require a review of their sport class*
- Do not require Athlete Evaluation for a specific Competition.”*

The following [International] Sport Class Status types shall be used by all IFs:

NEW (N)

- “Sport Class Status N is assigned to an Athlete that has not been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport Class verified by the IF
- Sports Class Status N Athletes include Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their National Federation for entry purposes
- Sports Class Status N Athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at international Competitions.”

REVIEW (R)

- “Sport Class Status R is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel, but for reasons as determined by the IF requires a review of their Sport Class
- The Athlete’s current Sport Class is valid, but the Athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during competition
- Sports Class Status R Athletes include but are not limited to:
 - Requiring further observation during Competition to confirm their Sport Class
 - Fluctuating impairments
- Sports Class is still subject to protest in accord with the International Federations First Appearance requirements (see Article 9.1 of the Code)
- Sports Class Status R Athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at International Competitions.”

CONFIRMED (C)

- “Sport Class Status C is assigned to an Athlete if he/she has been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel and the Panel has determined that the Athlete’s Sport Class will not change
- The IF recognizes that the Athlete’s assigned Sport Class is valid and will not be altered before or during competition, except in the case of a Protest lodged under exceptional circumstances (see International Standard on Protests & Appeals)
- Sports Class Status C Athletes are not required to complete evaluation prior to competing at International Competitions, with the exception of re-evaluations due to Protests lodged under exceptional circumstances (see International Standard on Protests & Appeals).”

National Sport Class Status

The following sport class status designations will be used for national classification. All nationally classified athletes, regardless of their National Sport Class Status, may be considered new athletes (N) for purposes of international classification when being evaluated by a national panel.

The following National Sport Class Status types shall be used by U.S. Paralympics:

National Classified (NN): The athlete has been evaluated at ONE appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics. All NN status athletes are adequately classified for national competition within the USA and will be included into the national sport classification database. *The athlete may be classified internationally by the SPORT IF.*

National Review (NR / NR*): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of one appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics. An athlete may be designated for Review status due to any of the circumstances outlined below:

- Degenerative disability / condition
- Fluctuating disability / condition
- Request for Review due to change in medical condition – must be requested by athlete/coach/parent on the (national) Request for Classification Review form and include relevant medical documentation outlining the change in condition.
- Age – an NN or NC athlete may be designated for classification review at a particular age (i.e. following puberty once growth has ceased) as determined by the classification panel in accordance with sport-specific athlete evaluation standards. The athlete will be converted to NR status in the national sport classification database at the designated age/in the designated year. Once the review panel is conducted by an appointed U.S. Paralympics national classification panel the athlete's status will revert to its previous state (NN or NC).

Athletes with an NR designation may only be protested ONE time *relative to the designated Sport Class they are assigned*. If an athlete is reviewed by a protest panel and reassigned an NR status, they will be designated by an asterisk (*) in the national sport classification database noting that they cannot be subject to additional protests. *The athlete may be classified internationally by the SPORT IF.*

National Confirmed (NC): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of TWO appearances by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics. Athletes with NC status may not be classified again nationally. *The athlete may be classified internationally by the SPORT IF.* The NC athlete may request a National Review if there has been a medically documented change in their condition or disability.

National sport class status pertains to national classifications only. Athletes wishing to obtain an international classification must follow the respective sport IF rules and be classified by an international panel [there is no transfer of **national** sport class and sport class status to **international** sport class and sport class status].

Sport Class Status Allocation

All national classifications shall follow a consistent and uniform status allocation process. Please reference the chart below for an overview of sport class status allocation.

Classifier(s)	NATIONAL Status	INTERNATIONAL Status
USA National Classification Panel – 1 st appearance	NN	N
USA National Classification Panel	NR *	N
USA National Classification Panel – 2 nd appearance	NC	N
USA Protest Panel (as defined by SPORT)	NC	N
International Panel – Level 1 / 2 Classifier(s)	--	R or C ^

* USA national panel may designate review status for degenerative / changing disabilities and age considerations.

^ International R / C sport class will be allocated in conjunction with the rules of the respective sport IF.

National Reviews, Protests & Appeals

A review is the procedure by which a subsequent athlete evaluation is undertaken according to the classification rules of the IF for that sport.

A protest is the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's sport class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

An appeal is the process to resolve procedural disputes concerning classification.

Each IF will have specific criteria for the conduct of [international] reviews, protests and appeals. The USA National Classification system protests and appeals will follow the USA Classification Policies and Procedures manual, with sport specific needs being addressed in the sport appendices section of the Policies and Procedures manual. Any changes made by the sport IF to protest and appeal processes will be communicated by U.S. Paralympics and appropriate amendments will be made to the sport appendix of the USA Classification Policies and Procedures.

National Review Requests

Requests for national classification review shall be submitted on the USA Request for Classification Review form. The request for review must be submitted a minimum of 45 days

prior to the competition at which the athlete is requesting to be reviewed. All requests for review must include copies of pertinent medical documentation [if applicable] outlining the change in condition or disability.

National Protests

National classification protests shall be submitted on the USA Classification Protest form. The protest must be submitted a minimum of 60 days prior to the competition where the individual submitting the protest is requesting that the protest classification panel be conducted. If the requested competition does not have an appropriate national classification panel available / assigned that meets the protest panel requirements for the respective sport, accepted protests will be carried over to the next available competition with a classification panel that meets protest requirements.

There is no provision or opportunity for in-competition protests within the U.S. Paralympics National Classification system.

The national protest fee shall be \$100. This fee is non-refundable and must be submitted along with the protest form to U.S. Paralympics.

Reasons for the protest must be clearly outlined on the protest form.

The following grid explains the eligibility process for the submission of protests and who is eligible to file them:

<i>Athlete Sport Class Status</i>	May be Protested by the Athlete/Coach/Club and/or other Athlete/Coach/Club	May be Protested by Head Domestic Classifier
NC (National Confirmed)	NO#	YES**
NR / NR* (National Review)	YES / NO	YES / YES**
NN (National Classified)	YES	YES
R (Review)	NO	NO
C (Confirmed)	NO	NO

Athlete may submit a request for National Review

** Protest may be lodged under exceptional circumstances

National Appeals

National classification appeals shall follow the USOC Complaint Procedures for U.S. Paralympic National Teams and U.S. Paralympic Programs. These procedures are included as Appendix D to this manual.

Roles & Responsibilities

U.S. Paralympics

- To ensure that national classification rules, policies and procedures conform with the Code
- To implement and enforce the national classification rules, policies and procedures and communicate all relevant classification rules, policies and procedures to NGBs, PSOs and other key constituents
- To monitor compliance with national classification rules, policies and procedures with NGBs, PSOs, LOCs, and classifiers
 - To recommend to NGBs/PSOs that individual sport rules should be in compliance with the Code
- To promote and support national classifier education, including a sport-by-sport strategy for classifier identification and development
 - To understand that national classifiers are volunteers and to provide support during national classification assignments to include a per diem of \$50 USD/day

NGBs / PSOs

- To understand and implement the respective sport IF classification rules and eligibility criteria
- To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and the national classification rules, policies and procedures

Local Organizing Committees

- To conform to national classification rules, policies and procedures and the Code for all competitions at which international or national classification is being conducted

Classifiers

- To work as a member of a national classification panel to allocate athlete's sport class and sport class status according to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the IF rules
- To work as a member of a national review and/or protest panel as requested in accordance with the standards outlined in the National Reviews, Protests and Appeals section of this document
- To attend classification meetings at competitions or as requested by U.S. Paralympics
- To assist in national classifier training and mentoring
- To abide by the U.S. Paralympics Code of Conduct (included in the Classifier Training & Education Manual)
- To maintain confidentiality in regard to all classification information and proceedings

Athletes

- To attend classification evaluation [as scheduled] at a specific time or place
- To attend classification evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation
- To co-operate during the classification evaluation
- To represent skills and/or abilities during the classification to the best of their abilities

Competitions

Competition Approval/Sanctioning

For all international competitions hosted by U.S. Paralympics and/or an NGB/PSO in the United States, the relevant IPC/IF approvals and sanctions shall be requested by and managed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the relevant NGB/PSO.

For all national, regional and local competitions in the United States at which national classification is requested (see the Information for Local Organizing Committees sub-document); the competition must be sanctioned/approved by the relevant sport NGB/PSO.

International Classification and International Classifier Training at US Competitions

All international classification panels or international classifier training seminars at competitions hosted in the US shall be requested by and managed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the relevant sport NGB/PSO.

National Classification and National Classifier Training at US Competitions

All national classification panels or national classifier training seminars at national, regional and local competitions in the United States shall be requested by the Local Organizing Committee (and endorsed by the NGB/PSO) or requested by the relevant sport NGB/PSO.

International and national classifier training seminars shall not be conducted [for the same sport] at the same competition. If a competition is multi-sport, international training may be conducted in a sport(s) while national training is conducted for different sport(s).

Paralympic Games

All co-ordination and administration of classification related matters [for Team USA] prior to or during the Paralympic Games shall be managed by U.S Paralympics. This includes sport master lists, protests, appeals and all communication with the relevant parties involved in the matter (i.e. IPC, OCOG).

Non-Compliance with Classification Code

All signatories who accept the Code are responsible for compliance an implementation of the Code.

The consequences for the NPC as a signatory of the Code include:

- Provide explanations of non-compliance

- If non-compliant, submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for compliance (subject to the approval of the IPC Governing Board)

Non-compliance with the Code shall result in sanctions that may include

- Exclusion from the Paralympic Games and any other IPC Sanctioned event(s)
- Suspension of membership

Instances of national non-compliance with the U.S. Paralympics National Classification Policies and Procedures (by athletes, coaches, teams, LOCs, NGBs/PSOs, or any other relevant party) shall follow the USOC Complaint Procedures for U.S. Paralympic National Teams and U.S. Paralympic Programs. These procedures are included as Appendix D to this manual.

Appendix A – Glossary

Activity Limitation: Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities

Appeal: The process to resolve procedural disputes concerning classification

Athlete Evaluation: The process by which an athlete is assessed in accordance with the classification rules of the IF

Chief Classifier (CC): The internationally certified classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for a specific competition

Classification: A structure for competition to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes

Classification Master List: The list, maintained and made available by the respective IF, that identifies athletes that have undergone international classification

Classification Panel: A group of classifiers, appointed by the IF to determine sport class and sport class status in accordance with the classification rules

Classifier: A person authorized as an official by an IF to evaluate athletes as a member of a classification panel.

Code: The [International] Classification Code

Code of Conduct: A set of rules to outline responsibilities, to guide behavior, and to identify best practice [in regard to classification]

Competition: A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body

Head Domestic Classifier (HDC): A classifier who has an international authorization (Level 2) for the respective sport and who will work at the direction of U.S. Paralympics to facilitate Code compliance for the sport within the United States [specific roles and responsibilities of the HDC are outlined in the U.S. Paralympics Classifier Training & Education Manual]

Head of Classification (HOC): A classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for the IF

Ineligibility: Consequence of not meeting the [sport] eligibility criteria

International Competition: A competition where an international sport organization (IPC, IF, etc.) is the sanctioning and/or governing body for the competition

International Federation (IF): A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic sport by the IPC

IPC: International Paralympic Committee

Local Organizing Committee (LOC): A group, team, or entity that is the organizing body for a [specific] competition and responsible for the management, administration, co-ordination and implementation of that competition

National Classification List: The list, maintained and made available by U.S. Paralympics, that identifies all USA athletes that have undergone national and/or international classification

National Competition: A competition where a national sport organization (NPC, NF, etc.) is the sanctioning and/or governing body for the competition

National Federation (NF): The organization recognized by the IF as the sole national governing body (NGB) for its sport

National Paralympic Committee (NPC): A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative for athletes with a disability in that country or territory to the IPC; additionally the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF

NGB: National Governing Body

Protest: The procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's sport class and/or sport class status is submitted and subsequently resolved

Protest Panel: A panel consisting of at minimum an equal number of Classifiers as the Classification Panel, with equal or greater level of Classification expertise to assess an athlete evaluation after a protest has been submitted

PSO: Paralympic Sport Organization

Sport Class: A category defined by each IF which athletes are categorized by reference to an activity limitation resulting from impairment

Sport Class Status: A category allocated to each athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and protest opportunities

Appendix B – International Paralympic Sport Governance

As of 20 April 2010

SPORT	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
Alpine Skiing	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Archery	Federation International de Tir a l Arc (FITA)
Athletics	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Boccia	Cerebral Palsy International Sport & Recreation Association (CP-ISRA)
Cycling	Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)
Equestrian	International Equestrian Federation (FEI)
Football 5-a-Side	International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)
Football 7-a-Side	Cerebral Palsy International Sport & Recreation Association (CP-ISRA)
Goalball	International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)
Ice Sledge Hockey	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Judo	International Blind Sport Association (IBSA)
Nordic Skiing / Biathlon	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Powerlifting	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Rowing	International Rowing Federation (FISA)
Sailing	International Foundation for Disabled Sailing (IFDS)
Shooting	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Swimming	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Table Tennis	International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)
Volleyball (Sitting)	World Organization for Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD)
Wheelchair Basketball	International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)
Wheelchair Curling	World Curling Federation (WCF)
Wheelchair Dance Sport *	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Wheelchair Fencing	International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)
Wheelchair Rugby	International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)
Wheelchair Tennis	International Tennis Federation (ITF)

* Sport is NOT on the program of the Paralympic Games

Appendix C – National Paralympic Sport Governance / Management

As of 1 April 2010

SPORT	Governance	Management – HP Program
Alpine Skiing	USOC	USSA
Archery	USOC	USA Archery
Athletics	USOC	USOC
Boccia	USOC	TBD
Cycling	USOC	USOC
Equestrian	USEF	USEF
Football 5-a-Side	USOC	US Soccer Federation
Football 7-a-Side	n/a	n/a
Goalball	USOC	USABA
Ice Sledge Hockey	USOC	USA Hockey
Judo	USOC	USA Judo
Nordic Skiing / Biathlon	USOC	USSA / US Biathlon Assn
Powerlifting	USOC	UCO
Rowing	USOC	US Rowing
Sailing	US Sailing	US Sailing
Shooting	USOC	USA Shooting
Swimming	USOC	USOC
Table Tennis	USOC	USA Table Tennis
Volleyball (Sitting)	USOC	USA Volleyball
Wheelchair Basketball	USOC	NWBA
Wheelchair Curling	USA Curling	USA Curling
Wheelchair Dance Sport *	n/a	n/a
Wheelchair Fencing	US Fencing Assn	US Fencing
Wheelchair Rugby	USOC	Lakeshore Foundation
Wheelchair Tennis	USTA	USTA

** Sport is NOT on the program of the Paralympic Games*

Appendix D – Grievance Procedures

**UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES
FOR
U.S. PARALYMPIC NATIONAL TEAMS
AND
U.S. PARALYMPIC PROGRAMS
March 3, 2006**

Section 1. Jurisdiction.

These Complaint Procedures are applicable to those Paralympic sports in which the USOC has not recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. Only matters concerning those Paralympic sports fall within the jurisdiction of these Complaint Procedures.

Section 2. Designation of Complaints.

The following kinds of complaints may be filed with the USOC:

- a. **Administrative Grievance.** The USOC or any aggrieved individual may file a complaint pertaining to any matter relating to the cognizance of the USOC, including but not limited to any alleged violation of or grievance concerning any USOC rule, regulation or code of conduct.
- b. **Right to Compete.** Any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official may file a complaint pertaining to any alleged denial, or alleged threat to deny, of that individual's opportunity to compete in a USOC sponsored competition.

Section 3. Manner of Filing.

The complainant shall file the complaint with the USOC Chief Executive Officer. The complaint shall set forth in clear and concise language, preferably in numbered paragraphs: (i) the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny and (ii) the remedy requested. The complainant shall sign the complaint.

Section 4. Statute of Limitations.

A complaint filed under these Complaint Procedures shall be filed within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the occurrence of the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny.

Section 5. Field of Play Decisions.

The final decision of a referee during a competition regarding a field of play decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be reviewable through the procedures for, or the subject of, Administrative Grievances or Right to Compete Complaints unless the decision is: (i) outside the authority of the referee to make or (ii) the product of

fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the referee. For purposes of this Section, the term “referee” shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions.

Section 6. Hearing Panel.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the USOC Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a hearing panel consisting of three (3) individuals to hear the complaint. The Chief Executive Officer shall also appoint a chair of the hearing panel from among the three individuals appointed. At least one member of the hearing panel shall be an athlete.

The Hearing Panel shall be responsible to ensure that all complaints are heard in a timely, fair and impartial manner.

Section 7. Administration.

The USOC General Counsel’s Office shall generally administer and oversee all administrative grievances and right to compete matters filed with the UOSC.

Section 8. Conduct of the Proceeding.

The hearing panel shall rule on all motions and other matters raised in the proceeding. If the complaint is not dismissed, the hearing panel shall hold a hearing on the complaint. The hearing panel shall set such timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary. The hearing shall be informal, except that testimony shall be taken under oath.

The hearing may be conducted by teleconference, if necessary or convenient to the parties. Each party shall have the right to appear personally or through a legal representative. All parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present and examine evidence, cross-examine witnesses and to present argument. Members of the hearing panel shall have the right to question witnesses or the parties to the proceeding at any time.

Any party may have a record made of the hearing. A court reporter may be present at the hearing at the request of a party. The court reporter shall be paid for by the party requesting the court reporter, or if mutually agreed, the cost may be equally divided. Any transcript shall be paid for by the party requesting the transcript.

Section 9. Expedited Procedures.

Upon the request of a party, and provided that it is necessary to expedite the proceeding in order to resolve a matter relating to a competition that is so scheduled that compliance with regular procedures would not be likely to produce a sufficiently early decision to do justice to the affected parties, the USOC Chief Executive Officer is authorized to order that the complaint be heard and decided within forty-eight (48) hours of the filing of the complaint. In such a case, the hearing panel is authorized to hear and decide the complaint pursuant to such procedures as are necessary, but fair to the parties involved.

Section 10. Complaints Involving Selection to Participate in a Competition.

Where a complaint is filed involving selection of an individual to participate in a competition, the complainant shall include with the complaint a list of all other individuals, together with their contact information, that may be adversely affected by a decision rendered on the complaint. The hearing panel shall determine which additional individuals must receive notice of the complaint. The complainant shall then be responsible for providing appropriate notice to these individuals. Any individual so notified then shall have the option to participate in the proceeding as a party. If an individual is notified of the complaint, then that individual shall be bound by the decision of the hearing panel even though the individual chose not to participate as a party.

Section 11. Decision.

A decision shall be determined by a majority of the hearing panel. The hearing panel's decision shall be in writing, shall state the reasons for the decision and shall be distributed to the parties.

Section 12. Arbitration.

Any party may appeal a decision of the hearing panel to the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association shall have the authority to hear the matter anew or if requested by a party to render a decision on a more limited review. Either party may submit the decision of the hearing panel to the arbitrator for the arbitrator's consideration. The arbitrator may give whatever weight or authority to the hearing panel's decision as the arbitrator deems appropriate.



Appendix E

U.S. Paralympics National Classification Forms & Documents



U.S. Paralympics National Classification
20XX Event Report

Name: _____

Date of Report: _____

Event: _____

Dates of Event: _____

Position: Chief Classifier

CLASSIFICATION

▪

TRAVEL/LOGISTICS

▪

COMPETITION/EVENT/FIELD-OF-PLAY

▪

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

▪

U.S. PARALYMPICS

▪

OTHER COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

▪



REQUEST FOR CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

Individuals wishing to obtain copy of their classification information are required to fill in the data below.

Organization: _____

Name of individual requesting the copies: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Name(s) of athletes whose classification information is being requested:

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please submit request to:
U.S. Paralympics / United States Olympic Committee
One Olympic Plaza
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Fax 719 / 866-2029
Email: patty.sturm@usoc.org



U.S. CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM

Athlete family name: _____

Athlete given name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Sport: _____

Current NATIONAL sport class(es): _____

INTERNATIONAL sport class(es) YES NO

International Sport Class(es): _____

International Sport Class status: _____

*****If international sport class status is C-confirmed or R-review, no protest is possible at the National level*****

Reason for protest: _____

Name of individual submitting protest form: _____

Position / title: _____

Organization: _____

Date of Submission: _____

Protest fee submitted on (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Signature of individual submitting protest form: _____

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Protest received on (dd/mm/yyyy): _____ Time (00:00): _____

Protest received by (name and position): _____

Signature: _____

Protest fee amount received: _____

Protest fee received by (name and position): _____

Signature: _____

Protest Decision: ACCEPTED / DENIED

Name of Individual making protest determination: _____

Title / Position: _____

Date: _____

If denied, rationale: _____

If accepted, details for conducting the protest:

Classifier 1 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 2 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 3 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Competition where protest to be conducted: _____

Location / Venue: _____ Date: _____

EVENT NAME

Date(s)

Venue

City, State, USA



Request for Classification Appointment Form

Please type or print clearly. All correspondence about classification will be conducted via e-mail.

Name _____ Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY) _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Sport(s) for which classification is being requested: _____

Current **NATIONAL** sport class(es): (please leave BLANK if not yet classified)

SPORT _____ CLASS(ES) _____ STATUS (circle): NN NR NC

SPORT _____ CLASS(ES) _____ STATUS (circle): NN NR NC

SPORT _____ CLASS(ES) _____ STATUS (circle): NN NR NC

Why is the athlete requesting to be classified?

Has never been classified

Has an "NN" or "NR" classification status

Describe your disability and related medical conditions (attach additional pages/medical documentation if necessary):

Preferred appointment time (rank in order of preference, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.):

____ day, month, time block ____ day, month, time block

(i.e. Friday, May 15, 9:00 – 11:00)

____ day, month, time block ____ day, month, time block

____ day, month, time block ____ day, month, time block

____ day, month, time block ____ day, month, time block

Requests for classification must be received by **MONTH, DAY, YEAR**. Submit the *Request for Classification* form and any medical documentation to:

Organization / LOC

Attn: **NAME OF EVENT** Classification Request

E-mail:

Or by fax:



U.S. REQUEST FOR CLASSIFICATION REVIEW FORM

Athlete family name: _____

Athlete given name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Sport: _____

Current NATIONAL sport class(es): _____

INTERNATIONAL sport class(es) YES NO

International Sport Class(es): _____

International Sport Class status: _____

*****If international sport class status is C-confirmed or R-review, no review is possible at the National level*****

Reason for review (pertinent medical documentation must be attached): _____

Name of individual submitting request: _____

Position / title: _____

Organization: _____

Date of Submission: _____

Signature of individual submitting request: _____

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Request received on (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Request received by (name and position): _____

Signature: _____

Review Decision: **ACCEPTED / DENIED**

Name of Individual making review determination: _____

Title / Position: _____

Date: _____

If denied, rationale: _____

If accepted, details for conducting the review:

Classifier 1 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 2 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Classifier 3 Name: _____

Authorization: _____

Competition where review to be conducted: _____

Location / Venue: _____ Date: _____