



world Para fencing

WHEELCHAIR FENCING

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION RULES FOR COMPETITION

BOOK 4: CLASSIFICATION RULES

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Part One: General Provisions

1 Scope and Application

Adoption

- 1.1 These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by World Para Fencing (WPF) to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2 The current version of the Classification Rules has been adopted by World Para Fencing Executive Committee on 15/04/2023. World AbilitySport retains the right to update and amend these rules as and when necessary.
- 1.3 These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.4 These Classification Rules form part of the World Para Fencing Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from WPF and can be amended by WPF from time to time.

Classification

- 1.6 Classification is undertaken to:
 - a) define who is eligible to compete in a WPF competition and consequently who has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; and
 - b) group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious.

Application

- 1.7 These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with WPF and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by WPF.
- 1.8 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of WPF including, but not limited to the Technical Rules, the Material Rules and the Organisational Rules of WPF. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

International Classification

- 1.9 World Para Fencing will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.10 World Para Fencing will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions (or other such locations as defined by World Para Fencing). World Para Fencing will advise Athletes, National Bodies and National Paralympic Committees in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).

Interpretation and Relationship to Code

- 1.11 References to an 'Article' mean an Article of these Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to these Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these Classification Rules.
- 1.12 References to a 'sport' in these Classification Rules refer to both a sport and an individual discipline within a sport for example Men's Epee, Women's Foil etc.
- 1.13 The Appendices to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules both of which may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by World Para Fencing from time to time.
- 1.14 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.
- 1.15 These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner, that is consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.

Athlete Responsibilities

- 2.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
- b) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - c) participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;

- d) ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to World Para Fencing.
- e) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and
- f) actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities

2.3 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:

- a) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel Responsibilities

2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:

- a) have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Part Two: Classification Personnel

3 Classification Personnel

- 3.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. World Para Fencing will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation, and administration of Classification for World Para Fencing Head of Classification.
- 3.2 World Para Fencing must appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for World Para Fencing.
- 3.3 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, World Para Fencing may appoint another person, or group of persons collectively (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification.
- 3.4 The Head of Classification must be a registered Physician or Physiotherapist with certified Classifier knowledge.
- 3.5 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or the transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by World Para Fencing
- 3.6 Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

Classifiers

- 3.7 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the World Para Fencing to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

Chief Classifiers

- 3.8 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by World Para Fencing. In particular a Chief Classifier may be required by World Para Fencing to do the following:
 - 3.8.1 identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;
 - 3.8.2 supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
 - 3.8.3 manage Protests in consultation with World Para Fencing; and
 - 3.8.4 liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation, and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.

- 3.9 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified World Para Fencing officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

Trainee Classifiers

- 3.10 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by World Para Fencing.
- 3.11 World Para Fencing may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.
- 3.12 A trainee classifier cannot be included on a panel as a substitute for any of the designated accredited international classifiers appointed by World Para Fencing to each panel in a classification event.
- 3.13 One classification panel at an International classification can work with a maximum of two designated trainee classifiers.

4 Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified World Para Fencing as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 World Para Fencing must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3 World Para Fencing must specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The Classifier Competencies must include that a Classifier has:
- 4.3.1 a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;
 - 4.3.2 an understanding of the sport(s) for which they seek certification to act as a Classifier, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport(s);
 - 4.3.3 an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and
 - 4.3.4 a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for World Para Fencing.
 - 4.3.5 These include that Classifiers must either;
 - a) be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which World Para Fencing at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist, or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment, and having a license to practice in their own country, or;
 - b) have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the sport of wheelchair fencing; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical, and sport-specific expertise, which World Para Fencing at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

c) Current active/competing athletes may not train to become classifiers. Retired or former athletes with the appropriate qualifications listed in part or may attend classification Training Seminars or train to become classifiers.

d All trainee classifiers must have a good working knowledge of both written and spoken English and be fluent in the English language.

- 4.4 World Para Fencing must establish a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process must include:
- 4.4.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
 - 4.4.2 quality assessment for the period of certification;
 - 4.4.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
 - 4.4.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.5 World Para Fencing must specify Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. World Para Fencing will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
- 4.6 World Para Fencing must provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.7 World Para Fencing may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
- 4.7.1 a limitation on the Impairment type for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.7.2 a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;
 - 4.7.3 a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.7.4 the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;
 - 4.7.5 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
 - 4.7.6 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if World Para Fencing is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
 - 4.7.7 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if World Para Fencing is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.
- 4.8 Any decision regarding changes in a classifiers' status must be fully explained, put in writing, and will need ratification of the HOC and World AbilitySport Governing Board agreement.
- 4.9 Further information regarding the World Para Fencing Classification Certification Training Programme can be found here:

<http://www.iwasf.com/iwasf/index.cfm/sports/iwas-wheelchair-fencing/classification1/>

5 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in World Para Fencing depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. World Para Fencing has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to World Para Fencing.
- 5.4 If World Para Fencing receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures. Disciplinary measures may include any sanction up to and including the removal of a classifier's certification to classify athletes at future competitions.
- 5.5 World Para Fencing has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

6 General Provisions

- 6.1 World Para Fencing has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2 Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps, and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
 - 6.2.1 an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport.
 - 6.2.2 an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport; and
 - 6.2.3 the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

7 Eligible Impairment

- 7.1 Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by World Para Fencing must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2 Appendices Appendix One, and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in a sport governed by World Para Fencing.
- 7.3 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One or Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Two includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.4 World Para Fencing must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
 - 7.4.1 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, World Para Fencing may require any Athlete to demonstrate that they have an Underlying Health Condition. The responsibility is on the Athlete to prove on the balance of probabilities that they have an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
 - 7.4.2 The means by which World Para Fencing determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of World Para Fencing.

- 7.4.3 If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment World Para Fencing becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances World Para Fencing will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee.
- 7.5 An Athlete must supply World Para Fencing with Diagnostic Information that fully describe the athlete's underlying health condition or impairment and the effect of said health condition/impairment.
- The following must be provided:
- 7.5.1 The relevant National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to World Para Fencing, upon completing the registration of an Athlete. This must be submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the classification.
- 7.5.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English (must be typed rather than handwritten), dated and signed by a certified health care professional who has knowledge of the athlete's condition and any associated medical history, and is licensed in the jurisdiction where the athlete resides.
- 7.5.3 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by World Para Fencing. IWAS may publish policies from time to time specifying the types of medical test results it requires athletes to provide prior to competing at a competition.
- 7.6 World Para Fencing may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if the World Para Fencing at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7 If World Para Fencing requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so.
- 7.8 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.8.1 The Head of Classification will notify the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
- 7.8.2 The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.
- 7.8.3 The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality undertaking.
- 7.8.4 If the Head of Classification believes that the athlete does not hold the necessary

competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, they will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.

- 7.8.5 Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
 - 7.8.6 Whenever possible, members of the Eligibility Committee may not participate in decisions regarding athletes from their own Nationality if that Nationality is known. Members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee may not participate on decision of athletes where they have been involved in that athletes upcoming or prior classification.
 - 7.8.7 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
 - 7.8.8 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Head of Classification will either; provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant National body or National Paralympic committee, or; will inform the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee about the lack of impairments and may ask more detailed documentation about the impairment.
 - 7.8.9 The National Body or National Paralympic Committee will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review.
 - 7.8.10 If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.
 - 7.8.11 If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.
 - 7.8.12 The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, they may veto any decision if they do not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.9 World Para Fencing may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

8 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

- 8.1 An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2 World Para Fencing has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 8.3 Appendix One, of these Classification Rules specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to the sport of wheelchair fencing and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel

as part of an Evaluation Session.

- 8.4 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- 8.5 A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy the World Para Fencing that they have an Eligible Impairment.
- 8.6 In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, World Para Fencing has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:
 - 8.6.1 for Eligible Impairments the Minimum Impairment Criteria must *not* consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

9 Sport Class

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by World Para Fencing in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to a sport.
 - 9.1.1 An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of these Classification Rules.
 - 9.1.2 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
 - 9.1.3 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by World Para Fencing (in accordance with Article 17.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be based solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 9.2 Appendix One, of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

10 Classification Not Completed

- 10.1 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation World Para Fencing or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the relevant Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 10.2 The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will however be recorded for the

purpose of the World Para Fencing Classification Master List.

- 10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in the sport of World Para Fencing.

Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

11 The Classification Panel

- 11.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by World Para Fencing to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

General Provisions

- 11.2 A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least two certified Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a medical qualification.
- 11.3 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers and may participate in Athlete Evaluation under supervision of the Classification Panel.

12 Classification Panel Responsibilities

- 12.1 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
- 12.1.1 assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
 - 12.1.2 assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and
 - 12.1.3 conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.
- 12.2 Following the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 12.3 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by World Para Fencing Eligibility Assessment Committee, unless World Para Fencing requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.4 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 12.4.1 Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.
- 12.5 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the

Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Sport Class.

- 12.6 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One.

13 Evaluation Sessions

- 13.1 This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 13.2 The Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 13.3 In respect of Athletes:
- 13.3.1 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's National Body (or National Paralympic Committee) or the athlete's IWAS Member Organisation, when attending an Evaluation Session
- 13.3.2 The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has an Intellectual Impairment.
- 13.3.3 The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
- 13.3.4 The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by World Para Fencing and sign the consent form before evaluation.
- 13.3.5 The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card, World Para Fencing license card or event accreditation.
- 13.3.6 The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Sport Class. E.g. Fencing wheelchair, weapons, straps, gloves, etc...
- 13.3.7 The athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with their original MDF signed by their physician, and any associated detailed medical reports from their physicians ~~etc.~~ These must be in English or have approved English translations. The medical documentation should be updated within the last 12 month before the date of the appointed classification.
- 13.3.8 The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device (e.g. orthosis / prothesis/implant to the Classification Panel.
- 13.3.9 The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.
- 13.4 In respect of the Classification Panel:
- 13.4.1 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.
- 13.4.2 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by World Para Fencing. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the person referred to in Article 13.3.1 above.
- 13.4.3 The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical, or scientific

opinion(s), with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion(s) is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class. This information will be disclosed to the athlete when informing him/her about the decision. If such information is sought by the panel, the request for such information must be made as soon as practical after the panel determines that additional information is required.

- 13.4.4 In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.3, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Body, National Paralympic Committee and World Para Fencing (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- 13.4.5 The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

14 Observation in Competition

- 14.1 A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 14.2 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One.
- 14.3 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 14.4 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 14.5 Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:
 - 14.5.1 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
 - 14.5.2 First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Sport Class.
 - 14.5.3 An Athlete who competes in a Team Sport must make First Appearance during the preliminary rounds of a Competition. First Appearance must not take place in the elimination rounds of a Competition.
- 14.6 If an Athlete is:
 - a) subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and
 - b) the second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and
 - c) pursuant to the second Evaluation Session the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition,Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code

Observation Assessment (OA).

- 14.6.1 The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.
- 14.7 The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results is detailed in the World Para Fencing Rules and Regulations.

15 Sport Class Status

- 15.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 15.2 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:
- New(N)
 - Confirmed (C)
 - Review (R)
 - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

Sport Class Status New

- 15.3 An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by World Para Fencing prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition unless World Para Fencing specifies otherwise.

Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 15.4 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are and will remain stable
- 15.4.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 18), Medical Review (Article 30) and changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 15.7)).
- 15.4.2 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

Sport Class Status Review

- 15.5 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.

- 15.5.1 A Classification Panel may base its belief that further Evaluation Sessions will be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by World Para Fencing; has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.
- 15.5.2 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition, unless World Para Fencing specifies otherwise.

Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date

- 15.6 An Athlete may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.
 - 15.6.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date.
 - 15.6.2 An Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date, except when agreed for the purpose of a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
 - 15.6.3 In the event that the IPC creates a zero-classification policy for an upcoming IPC sanctioned event, IWAS may permit athletes with a fixed review date to be classified earlier provided that there are no classification opportunities scheduled to take place in the year of the competition covered by the zero classification policy requirements.
 - 15.6.4 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

Changes to Sport Class Criteria

- 15.7 If World Para Fencing changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
 - 15.7.1 World Para Fencing may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
 - 15.7.2 World Para Fencing may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
 - 15.7.3 in both instances the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee shall be informed as soon as it is practicable and at least 6 weeks prior to the competition where the Athlete can be reassessed.

16 Notification

- 16.1 The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the Athlete and/or National Body ~~or National Paralympic Committee and published as soon as practically possible after~~ WPF Rules for competition. Book 4 – Classification Rules. Version: February 2023 20

completion of Athlete Evaluation.

- 16.2 World Para Fencing must publish the outcome of Athlete Evaluation at the Competition following Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the Classification Master List at World Para Fencing website.

Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible

17 Sport Class Not Eligible

General Provisions

- 17.1 If World Para Fencing determines that an Athlete:
- 17.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
 - 17.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition,
- World Para Fencing must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 17.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

Absence of Eligible Impairment

- 17.3 If World Para Fencing determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:
- 17.3.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
 - 17.3.2 will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by World Para Fencing.
- 17.4 If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment World Para Fencing may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.
- 17.5 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by World Para Fencing or a Classification Panel (if delegated by [World Para Fencing]) because that Athlete has:
- 17.5.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
 - 17.5.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;

has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any sport.

Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 17.6 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.
- 17.6.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 17.6.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

- 17.7 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 17.8 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 17.9 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of World Para Fencing.

Part Six: Protests

Protests

18 Scope of a Protest

- 18.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 18.2 A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

19 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

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

- 19.1 a National Body (see Articles 20-21); or
- 19.2 a National Paralympic Committee (see Articles 20-21); or
- 19.3 World Para Fencing (see Articles 22-23).

20 National Protests

- 20.1 A National Body or a National Paralympic Committee may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.
- 20.2 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 16 of these Classification Rules) a National Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition a National Protest must be submitted within fifteen (15) minutes of that outcome being published, except when the publication of the results is after 9 PM, then the protest time ends at 9 AM the following morning.
- 20.3 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

21 National Protest Procedure

- 21.1 To submit a National Protest, a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by World Para Fencing at the Competition and via World Para Fencing website, and must include the following:

- 21.1.1 the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;

- 21.1.2 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
 - 21.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Body or National Paralympic Committee believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - 21.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
 - 21.1.5 the Protest Fee set by World Para Fencing.
- 21.2 The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the time frames specified by World Para Fencing. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with World Para Fencing, of which there are two possible outcomes:
- 21.2.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this Article 21; or
 - 21.2.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in this Article 21.
- 21.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Body or National Paralympic Committee as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 21.4 If the Protest is accepted:
- 21.4.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R);
 - 21.4.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and
 - 21.4.3 World Para Fencing must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

22 World Para Fencing Protests

- 22.1 World Para Fencing may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- 22.1.1 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or
 - 22.1.2 a National Body or National Paralympic Committee makes a documented request to World Para Fencing. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of World Para Fencing

23 World Para Fencing Protest Procedure

- 23.1 If World Para Fencing decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.

- 23.2 The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it is justified.
- 23.3 If World Para Fencing makes a Protest:
- 23.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
 - 23.3.2 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
 - 23.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

24 Protest Panel

- 24.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article 24, if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 24.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 24.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
- 24.3.1 made the Protested Decision; or
 - 24.3.2 conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the National Body, National Paralympic Committee or World Para Fencing (whichever is relevant).
- 24.4 The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.

- 24.5 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 24.6 The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.
- 24.7 The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an World Para Fencing Protest is final. A National Body, National Paralympic Committee or World Para Fencing may not make another Protest at the relevant Competition.

25 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 25.1 If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
- 25.1.1 the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and
 - 25.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

26 Special Provisions

World Para Fencing may make arrangements for some or all the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, World Para Fencing must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

Application during Major Competitions

27 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

- 27.1 The IPC and/or World Para Fencing may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

Part Seven: Misconduct during Evaluation Session Failure

28 to Attend Evaluation Session

- 28.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 28.2 An Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.
- 28.3 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities at a Competition, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 28.4 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated, and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

29 Suspension of Evaluation Session

- 29.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 29.1.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
 - 29.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - 29.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct its determination in a fair manner;
 - 29.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
 - 29.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
 - 29.1.6 the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
 - 29.1.7 the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

- 29.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 29.2.1 an explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee;
 - 29.2.2 if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
 - 29.2.3 if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the determination is completed.
- 29.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules.
- 29.4 A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

Part Eight: Medical Review

30 Medical Review

- 30.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).
- 30.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 30.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee (together with a non-refundable fee, specified on the Medical Review Request Form, and any supporting documentation). The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport has changed.
- 30.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by World Para Fencing as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 30.5 The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 30.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 30.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Body, National Paralympic Committee or World Para Fencing may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 30.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.

Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation

31 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 31.1 It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 31.2 It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.
- 31.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation a hearing will be convened by World Para Fencing to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 31.4 The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:
- 31.4.1 disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
 - 31.4.2 being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;
 - 31.4.3 suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
 - 31.4.4 publication of their names and suspension period.
- 31.5 Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.
- 31.6 Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period of time from four years to life.

- 31.7 If another International Sports Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by World Para Fencing.
- 31.8 Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of World Para Fencing.
- 31.9 Any disciplinary action taken by World Para Fencing pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.

Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

32 Classification Data

- 32.1 World Para Fencing may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 32.2 All Classification Data Processed by World Para Fencing must be accurate, complete, and kept up to date.

33 Consent and Processing

- 33.1 Subject to Article 33.3, World Para Fencing may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 33.2 If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 33.3 World Para Fencing may only Process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

34 Classification Research

- 34.1 World Para Fencing may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 34.2 The use by World Para Fencing of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 34.3 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to World Para Fencing solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 34.4 World Para Fencing may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If World Para Fencing wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

35 Notification to Athletes

- 35.1 World Para Fencing must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

- 35.1.1 that fact that World Para Fencing is collecting the Classification Data; and
- 35.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
- 35.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

36 Classification Data Security

- 36.1 World Para Fencing must:
 - 36.1.1 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
 - 36.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

37 Disclosures of Classification Data

- 37.1 World Para Fencing must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.
- 37.2 World Para Fencing may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

38 Retaining Classification Data

- 38.1 World Para Fencing must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.
- 38.2 World Para Fencing must publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.
- 38.3 World Para Fencing must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

39 Access Rights to Classification Data

- 39.1 Athletes may request from World Para Fencing:
- 39.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that World Para Fencing Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
 - 39.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by World Para Fencing; and/or
 - 39.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by World Para Fencing.
- 39.2 A request may be made by an Athlete or a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

40 Classification Master Lists

- 40.1 World Para Fencing must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 40.2 World Para Fencing must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Bodies on the World Para Fencing website.

Part Eleven: Appeals

41 Appeal

- 41.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

42 Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

- 42.1 An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- 42.1.1 a National Body; or
 - 42.1.2 a National Paralympic Committee.

43 Appeals

- 43.1 If a National Body or National Paralympic Committee considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been

allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal.

- 43.2 The Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) will act as the hearing body for the resolution of appeals.
- 43.3 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable BAC Bylaws.

44 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

- 44.1 The IPC and/or World Para Fencing may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

Part Twelve: Glossary

Adaptive Equipment: Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

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

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by World Para Fencing) or national level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

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

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

BAC: The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

Chief Classifier: A classifier appointed by World Para Fencing to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

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

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

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

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

Classification Not Completed: the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of World Para Fencing.

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

Classification Panel: A group of Classifiers, appointed by World Para Fencing, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

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

Classification Rules: Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols, and descriptions adopted by World Para Fencing in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

Classification System: The framework used by World Para Fencing to develop and designate Sport Classes within a World Para Fencing.

Classifier: A person authorised as an official by World Para Fencing to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

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

Classifier Competencies: The qualifications and abilities that World Para Fencing deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by World Para Fencing.

Classifier Code of Conduct: The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by World Para Fencing.

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

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

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

Continuing Education: The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by World Para Fencing to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

Diagnostic Information: Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables World Para Fencing to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition

Eligible Impairment: An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in World Para Fencing, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

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

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

Entry-level Education: the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by World Para Fencing to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

Evaluation Session: the session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport; and allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to that sport. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

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

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

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

Head of Classification: A person appointed by World Para Fencing to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for World Para Fencing.

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

Impairment: A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

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

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

International Competitions: A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

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

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

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

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

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

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

Medical Review: The process by which World Para Fencing identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

Medical Review Request: A request made by a National Body or National Paralympic Committee for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Observation in Competition: The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination.

as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Protested Decision: The Sport Class decision being challenged.

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

Protest Fee: The fee prescribed by World Para Fencing, payable by the National Body or National Paralympic Committee when submitting a Protest.

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

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

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

Re-certification: The process by which World Para Fencing must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

Recognised Competition: A Competition that is sanctioned or approved by World Para Fencing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix One

Wheelchair Fencing Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment

This appendix is intended to outline the process by which an athlete will be classified and allocated to which ever wheelchair Fencing Sport Class they are eligible.

This appendix is divided into three sections:

1. Eligible Impairment Types
2. Minimum Impairment Criteria
3. Methods of assessment
4. Sports Classes

1. Eligible and Non-Eligible Impairment Types for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing

1.1 Eligible Impairment Types

*For further information on ICF codes, including how to obtain a copy of the ICF, visit the website at <http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>.

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health conditions	*Relevant ICF Impairment code
Impaired Muscle Power Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.	B730
Impaired Passive Range of Movement Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.	B7100-7102

<p>Limb Deficiency and Limb Length Difference</p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference have an Underlying Health Condition resulting from trauma, illness, or congenital causes affecting the bones or joints which leads to a total or partial absence of a limb or anatomically irregular dimensions.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency, and Limb Length Difference include: traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).</p>	<p>S740 S750</p>
<p>Hypertonia</p> <p>Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>	<p>B735</p>

<p>Ataxia</p> <p>Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include; cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.</p>	<p>B760</p>
<p>Athetosis</p> <p>Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>	<p>B7650</p>

1.2 Non-Eligible Impairments

The following Impairment types are examples of non-eligible Impairments for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing:

- Mental functions (v140-189), including impairments of psychomotor control (b1470), quality of psychomotor functions (b1471), visuospatial perception (b1565), higher- level cognitive functions required for organization and planning movement (b1641); mental functions required for sequencing and coordinating complex, purposeful movements (b176)
- Hearing functions (b230-249)
- Pain (b280-0289)
- Joint instability (b715), including unstable shoulder joint and joint dislocation.
- Muscle endurance functions (b740)
- Motor reflex functions (b750)
- Involuntary movement reaction functions (b755)
- Tics and mannerism (b7652)
- Stereotypes and motor perseveration (b7653)
- Cardiovascular functions (b410-429)
- Respiratory functions (b440-449)
- Functions related to metabolism and the endocrine system (b540-559)
- Short Stature (s730.343, s750.343, s760.349)
- Visual impairment (b201)
(ICF Codes)

1.3 Athletes, who are affected by an Eligible Impairment in combination with any of the non-eligible impairments listed in Article 1.2 of this Appendix, will be assessed against the extent of Activity Limitation resulting from the Eligible Impairment only.

1.4 The Eligible Impairment is identified by means of the Medical Diagnostics Form and attached medical documentation that must be made available to the Classification Panel before Athlete Evaluation begins.

2. Minimum Impairment Criteria

In order to be eligible to compete in Wheelchair Fencing, the Athlete's Eligible Impairment as defined in Article 1.1 of this Appendix must meet one of the Minimum Impairment Criteria described below. The minimum Impairment criteria (MIC) must be demonstrated by the athlete either prior to or as part of the Athlete Assessment.

2.1 Impaired Muscle Power (b730)

The Athlete's Eligible Impairment **considering the lower limb impairment** must meet as follows:

Decrease in muscle power of at least 20 points in one lower limb, or a decrease of at least 25 points in both lower limbs across: Hip flexors and extensors, hip adductors and abductors, knee flexors and extensors, ankle dorsiflexors and plantar flexors and ankle inversion and eversion.
(max.100 points in both lower limbs)

2.2 Impaired Passive Range of Movement (b7100-7102)

Complete ankylosis in one ankle joint, or Impaired range of movement that results in a functional deficit in the lower limbs comparable to the loss of muscle strength described in 2.2.

The Athlete's Eligible Impairment **considering the lower limb impairment** must meet as follows:

Decrease in the ROM of at least 20 points in one lower limb, or at least 25 points in both lower limbs across: Hip flexors and extensors, hip adductors and abductors, knee flexors and extensors, ankle dorsiflexors and plantar flexors and ankle inversion and eversion.

2.3 Limb Deficiency and Limb Length Difference (S720-750)

The athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria if they comply with the following criteria:

2.3.1 Limb Deficiency

Unilateral complete amputation through of the ankle articulation tarsi transversa.

2.3.2 Limb Length Difference

Leg length difference or Dysmelia resulting in the absence of one full ankle joint.

Difference in length between right and left legs of 7 cm or greater, as measured from the anterior superior iliac spine to the medial malleolus, with the athlete lying supine.

2.4 Hypertonia

Hypertonia is defined as increased muscle tone which is caused by central nervous system impairment and which can result in increased rigidity in muscle and increased resistance to passive lengthening of the muscle.

For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or rigidity the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS) can be used, or points are awarded for each controlled action from the Range of Motion Dysfunction Score Chart.

Athletes with Hypertonia must demonstrate Grade 1 on the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS) or 4 points on the ROM dysfunction Score, and must show a functional deficit in at least one lower limb (Hip flexors and extensors, hip adductors and abductors, knee flexors and extensors, ankle dorsiflexors and plantar flexors) or restricting at least one joint movement, with ASAS Grade 4 hypertonia.

In the assessment, both the Range of Movement with Hypertonia and Muscle Strength are considered. The resulting MIC would be 20 points in one lower limb or 25 points in both lower limbs.

2.5 Ataxia

Ataxia is a term for a group of disorders that affect coordination, balance and speech.

Eligible Ataxias must result from motor nervous system dysfunction. Ataxia symptoms may develop as the result of trauma, a stroke, multiple sclerosis, a brain tumour, nutritional deficiencies, or other problems that damage the brain or nervous system, and are often associated with hypotonia.

For athletes affected by ataxia, where balance, walking and coordination are affected, the ataxic movement must be clearly evident to the classification panel during the assessment. Tests that may be useful for determining this include but are not limited to:

- Finger - chase test
- Nose - Finger test
- Fast alternating hand movements
- Heel shin slide
- Gait test
- Stance

Ataxia is to be assessed using the Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia (SARA) (Schmitz-Hübisch et al, 2006).

The SARA is a tool for assessing ataxia. It has eight categories, of which six apply to wheelchair fencing. When completing the outcome measure each category is assessed and scored accordingly. Scores for the six items range as follows:

An athlete meets MIC if they comply with the following criteria:

A minimum score of 2 on the SARA in each of

1. Finger chase test (0-4 points) -assessments are performed bilaterally, and the mean values are used to obtain the total score

2. Nose-finger test (0-4 points) - assessments are performed bilaterally, and the mean values are used to obtain the total score
3. Fast alternating hand movements (0-4 points) - assessments are performed bilaterally, and the mean values are used to obtain the total score
4. Heel-shin slide (0-4 points) - assessments are performed bilaterally, and the mean values are used to obtain the total score
5. Gait (0-8 points)
6. Stance (0-6 points)

When considering the lower limbs for the Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete must reach at least 6 points in test 4, 5, 6 altogether.

2.6 Athetosis

Athetosis is a symptom characterised by unwanted posturing and slow, involuntary convoluted writhing movements of the fingers, hands. Feet and in some cases arms and legs and neck. It is caused by damage to the motor control centres of the brain. When evaluating an athlete, classifiers must satisfy themselves that athetosis is clearly evident and that at least one of the following should be observed and assessed:

1. Involuntary movement of the fingers or upper extremities despite the person trying to remain still.
2. Involuntary movement of the toes of lower extremities despite the person trying to remain still.
3. Inability to hold the body still, swaying of the body. Swaying should not be due to other neurological deficits and should not be made worse by closing of the eyes.

Athetosis is to be assessed using the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale (Monbaliu E. et al. (2012), *Development Medicine and Child Neurology*, 54: 278-283). The DIS assesses the duration and amplitude of the athetoid movements.

The athlete will not be eligible if athetoid movements of the face are the sole impairment.

When assessing the lower extremities, an athlete should have a minimal of 1 (one) point (for at least one leg) in the DIS (5) scale on the duration and amplitude factor. In the assessment, both the Range of Movement and Muscle Strength are considered. The resulting MIC would be 20 points in one lower limb or 25 points in both lower limbs.

Where Athetosis is the only eligible impairment, the athlete should have a minimum of 2 points for at least one leg in the DIS scale in duration and amplitude factor for the MIC.

1. standing (proximal leg) and/or
2. heel/toe raising (distal leg), to be eligible.

3. Methods of Assessment

Wheelchair Fencing Classification is based upon a combination of physical and technical assessment. Muscle power, range of motion and co-ordination will all be assessed including the trunk stability and muscle power in the fencing arm.

The following methods of assessment will be used during the Athlete technical and physical assessment.

- 3.1 Manual Muscle testing is conducted following Kendall, F.P., McCreary, E.K., Provance, P.G., McIntyre Rodgers, M., & Romani, W.A. (2005). *Muscles: Testing and function with posture and pain*. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- 3.2 The neurological and functional assessment of athletes with loss of muscle power will be conducted in accordance with the ASIA Classification and will be taken into consideration when provided by a medical practitioner. (Maynard (1997): *International Standards for Neurological and Functional Classification of Spinal Cord Injury*).
- 3.3 Coordination-related impairments are evaluated by means of the–Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS) The Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS) is used to assess spasticity in the muscle groups of the upper limbs and lower limbs in Athletes who present with a Neurological impairment affecting the Central Nervous System for example those Athletes who present with Spastic Hypertonia.

For range of motion dysfunction; co-ordination is the principal parameter to evaluate cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions. For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or athetosis, points are awarded for each controlled action. This is used in conjunction with the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS), when appropriate.

- 3.4 Limitations in active and passive range of movement are assessed from anatomical reference points as identified in Berryman Reese, N., & Bandy, W.D. (2002). *Joint Range of Motion and Muscle Length Testing*. W.B. Saunders Company.

The range of motion in the case of injury being of orthopaedic origin, and may have problems of ankylosis of latent pathology in a reduction of range of movement, the point score (from 0 to 5)

- 3.5 Loss of limb is assessed by means of measurement of the anatomical reference points as identified in Berryman Reese, N., & Bandy, W.D. (2002). *Joint Range of Motion and Muscle Length Testing*. W.B. Saunders Company.
- 3.6 Muscle power and range of movement are assessed over the functional range for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing as described in the Table below.

The muscle power will be assessed according to the point score based upon the Daniels and Worthingham (D & W) scale published in 2002. Daniels L, Worthingham K: *Muscle Testing – Techniques of Manual Examination*, 7th Edition. Philadelphia, PA: W.B Saunders Co.; 2002

- 3.7 The assessment of trunk stability for the purpose of identifying the level of balance and recovery is performed using the bench test and wheelchair functional tests in the Table below. Balance tests can be performed in order to appreciate standing balance deficits for athletes who can stand. Tests is the mini-Best test.

- 3.8 Ataxia is assessed according to the following: 1. Schmitz-Hübsch T, Tezenas du Montcel S, Baliko L, Berciano J, Boesch S et al. Scale for the assessment and rating of ataxia: development of a new clinical scale. *Neurology* 2006;66:1717-1720. And 2. Weyer A, Abele M, Schmitz-Hübsch T, Schoch B, Frings M et al. Reliability and validity of the Scale for the WPF Rules for competition. Book 4 – Classification Rules.

Assessment and Rating of Ataxia: A Study of 64 ataxia patients. *Mov Disord* 2007;22:1633-1636
Swaine, B. R., Desrosiers, J, Bourbonnais D, & Laroche, JL. Norms for 15- to 34-year-olds for different versions of the finger-to-nose test. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, 2005;86:1665-1669.

3.9 Athetosis is to be assessed using the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale (Monbaliu E. et al. (2012), *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, 54: 278-283).

3.10 During the Technical Assessment the Athlete will be asked to perform or simulate one or more functional fencing moves, which includes but is not limited to: en garde positioning, lunge, recovery and backward lean. Such assessment should typically take place during official training and may be confirmed by the observation in competition.

3.1 Assessments Regarding the use of Adaptive Equipment:

3.1.2 Besides allocating a Sport Class, the Classification Panel must also determine if, and to what extent, the Athlete may use any adaptive equipment in competition.

3.1.2 The Athlete may only use adaptive equipment, i.e., strapping, or individualised weapon handles for grip in those with impaired hand/arm function, if permitted by the Classification Panel and indicated on the Classification card. In case the Athlete would like to use further adaptive equipment, and the Athlete has a Sport Class Status Confirmed or Review with Fixed Review Date, the athlete shall request for a re-assessment pursuant to the Medical Review procedures defined in these Rules.

3.2 Assessment of the Muscle Power in the Fencing and non-Fencing Arm

3.2.1 Besides identifying the Sport Class, the Classification Panel will also assess muscle power in the fencing and non-fencing arm for athletes in Sport Class 1 for the purpose of identifying if the Athlete may use an adapted weapon grip or strapping to hold the weapon in place.

3.2.2 The assessment of muscle power in the fencing and non-fencing arm includes:

- Assessment of Pronation/supination in the forearm
- Assessment of wrist flexion/extension
- Assessment of finger flexion
- Assessment of thumb and finger opposition

3.3 Observation in Competition

If a Classification Panel requires an athlete to complete observation in competition this will take place during the first appearance, unless this is part of a Review.

All members of the Classification panel will observe the athlete, during any part of the competition or competitive fencing. This is to confirm when necessary, the activities demonstrated during the physical and technical assessment involving the Wheelchair fencing tests, co-ordination, range of motion and demonstrated muscle strength.

During competitive fencing the classifiers will observe the repeated sports specific activities such as lunge and recovery, at varying speeds and direction. Fine coordination skills with the weapon and reactions including range of motion used will be

observed.

3.3.1. Observation Assessment

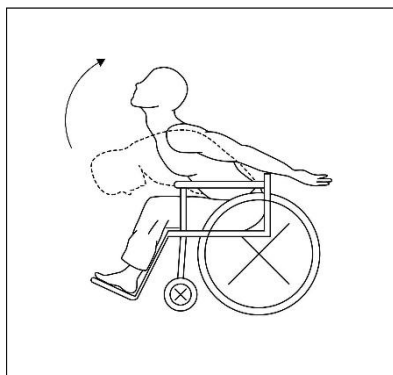
Athletes will be observed during competitive fencing and may also be observed during training. The Athletes will be observed by the classification Panel during the preliminary rounds of the competition and will have sport specific and functional activities assessed.

Classifiers will observe the activities of the lunge, recovery, range of motion of the trunk, accuracy and coordination. They will observe speeds, direction, duration and reaction times in order to evaluate the functionality of the athlete. The Assessment will be marked on a separate Observation Card and each item scored from 0-3. This will be compared to the bench test and functional assessments made during the physical assessment. The final classification status will be given depending on the results of these two assessments.

The final results of the assessments will be recorded on the Athlete's Classification Card

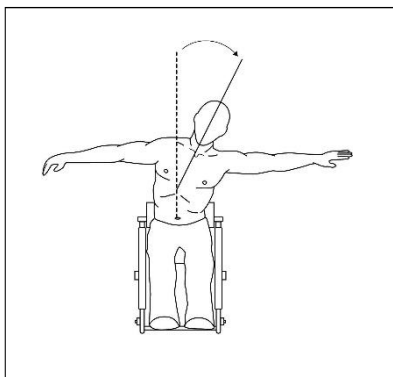
3.4 Wheelchair Fencing Functional Tests

Test N° 1: Upper Extension



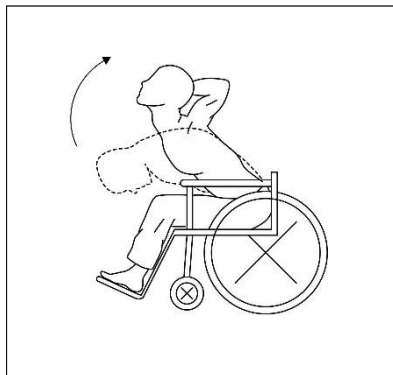
Consists of an evaluation of the extension of dorsal musculature: the subject, seated in the wheelchair, from a forward position of the trunk, tries to return to an upright position, contracting the dorsal muscles and maintaining the upper limbs retroflexed.

Test N° 2: Side Balance



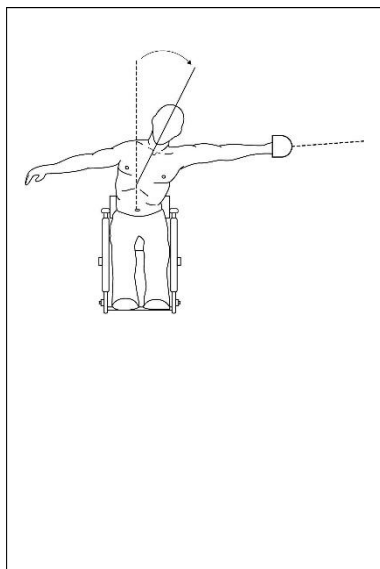
Is an evaluation of lateral balance with abducted upper limbs: the athlete has to move his own centre of gravity laterally to the **right** and **left** to the point where he would lose balance, thereby the lateral muscle function of the trunk and of the oblique abdominal can be evaluated as well as the lumbar muscle.

Test N° 3: Lumbar Extension



(Similar to test no 1) Evaluates the extension of the trunk, but more specifically the lumbar muscles. The exercise is executed with the hands on the back of the neck, thus excluding both the inertial component of upper limb movement (violently retroflexive in test no 1) and the aid of the upper dorsal muscles of the trunk. Hold the angle at 45 degrees for between 3-5 seconds.

Test N° 4: Side Balance with Weapon



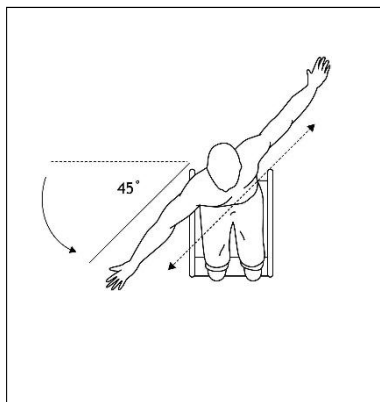
Similar to test no 2, but presents more difficulties, since it must be executed holding the weapon, the weight of which significantly reduces the possibility of lateral inclination of the trunk without losing balance.

The execution of tests No 2 and 4 will be performed firstly with the limb on the opposite side (on the side towards which the athlete does not move), not holding either the wheelchair, nor the hand rim, nor the arm rest in order not to discredit the validity of the exercise.

And secondly with the opposing limb holding onto the wheelchair, arm rest or rim.

The athlete will be requested to hit a target during this test.

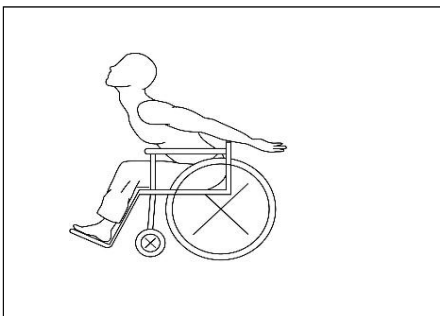
Test N° 5: 45degree Rotated Extension



Evaluates a trunk movement directed half the way between test 1 / 3 and 2 / 4 ; the exercise is executed holding; firstly without holding onto the chair, arm rest or rim, and

Secondly with the opposing limb holding the wheelchair, arm rest or rim. Fencers of class 2 normally cannot lean forward in this direction without helping themselves pushing the fencing arm against their leg.

Test N°6: 45 Degree Hold



Similar to test no 1; evaluates the extension of the trunk, lumbar and dorsal muscles, the exercise is executed holding the position leaning forward at 45°. The position is held for at least 3 to 5 seconds.

3.4.1 Assessment Score for Wheelchair Functional Tests

Functional tests, to be performed in the wheelchair, consist of an evaluation of the extension and lateral inclination ability of the chest in different positions, with or without the use of a weapon. The tested movements repeat specific technical moves, e.g., lunge, i.e. a sudden and improvised lateral inclination of the trunk with the weapon in the hand, with simultaneous extension of the elbow, or as many fast return movements of the chest into its original position (or inclination from the opposite side) as for a "point of measurement" (in order to avoid hits by the opponent). A point score as follows is attributed during the tests:

- 0 Point:** no function, movement cannot be put into effect
- 1 Point:** very weak execution, minimum movement; the fencer can begin but not complete the movements.
- 2 Points:** weak execution, fair movement; can complete the movement with difficulty.
- 3 Points:** normal execution.

Table for Wheelchair Fencing Functional test and Bench Tests

TRUNK	BENCH TEST (0-5)	Flexion upper	
		Flexion lower	
		Extension upper	
		Extension lower	
		Lateral flexion	
	TOTAL	OF 25	
	WHEELCHAIR FUNCTIONAL TEST (0-3)	1.Upper Extension	
		2. Side balance	
		3. Lumber extension	
		4. Side balance with weapon	
		5. 45° rotated extension	
		6. Hold 45° inclination	
	TOTAL	OF 18	
	TOTAL TRUNK	OF 43	

3.5 Table for - Wheelchair Fencing Bench Tests - Upper and Lower Limbs

	JOINT	MOVEMENT	FULL R.O.M	Muscle Test		ROM Dysfunction	
				Right	Left	Right	Left
Upper Limbs							
FENCING ARM AND NON FENCING ARM (Please specify which is fencing arm, on the table)	Shoulder	Flexion	170				
		Extension	40				
		Abduction	180				
		Adduction	40				
		Ext. rotation	70				
		Int. rotation	70				
	Elbow	Flexion	150				
		Extension	10				
		Pronation	90				
		Supination	90				
	Wrist	Flexion	50				
		Extension	60				
		Ulnar flexion	40				
		Radial flexion	30				
Fingers	Flexion	90					
	Extension	10					
	Opposition						
Lower Limbs							
LOWER LIMB	Hip	Flexion	130				
		Extension	10				
		Abduction	40				
		Adduction	30				
	Knee	Extension	5				
		Flexion	140				
	Ankle	Plantar Flexion	50				
		Dorsiflexion	30				
		Eversion /Pronation	30				
		Inversion /supination	50				

3.6 Assessments Scores for Upper and Lower Bench tests

3.6.1 Assessment of Muscle Strength

Muscle Strength of the upper limbs, trunk and lower limbs will be assessed against manual resistance using the Daniels and Worthingham Scale which is detailed below. Athletes transfer onto a plinth for assessment e.g., for Lower and Upper Limb testing. All relevant muscle groups are to be assessed against manual resistance in the available range.

Muscle Testing -Daniels and Worthingham Scale (Strength)

- 0 point** Total lack of voluntary contraction
- 1 point** Faint contraction without any movement of the limb (trace, flicker)
- 2 point** Contraction with very weak movement through a full range of motion when gravity is eliminated
- 3 point** Contraction with movement through the complete available joint range against gravity without resistance
- 4 point** Contraction with a full range of movement against gravity and some resistance
- 5 point** Contraction of normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance

3.6.2 Assessment of Range of Motion

The range of motion in the case of injury being of orthopaedic origin, and may have problems of ankylosis of latent pathology in a reduction of range of movement, the point score (from 0 to 5) is expressed as follows; Active and/or passive Range of motion at joints within the upper limbs or lower limbs will be assessed using goniometry to accurately record joint angles, where required.

- 0 point:** no range of movement
- 1 points:** less than 25% or minimal range of movement
- 2 points:** 25% of normal range movement
- 3points:** 50% of normal range of movement
- 4points:** 75% of normal range of movement
- 5points:** 100% normal range of movement

3.6.3 Assessments of Range of Motion Dysfunction combined with Muscle test.

0 point: zero- none of the available ROM gravity eliminated and there is no palpable or observable muscle contraction.

1 point: trace – none of the available ROM gravity eliminated and there is a palpable or observable flicker of muscle contraction

2 points: poor – the full available ROM gravity eliminated.

3 points: fair – the full available ROM against gravity

4 points: good- the full available ROM against moderate resistance

5 points: normal – the full available ROM against gravity against maximal resistance.

3.6.4 Assessments of Range of Motion Dysfunction combined with coordination

Co-ordination is the principal parameter to evaluate cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions.

For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or athetosis, points are awarded for each controlled action as follows:

1point: non-functional movement, motor co-ordination is minimal or non-existent. (or ASAS = 4)

2points: sequence of movement can only happen very slowly and with difficulty. If effected with rapid repetition, it will not exceed 25% of the normal range of movement. (Or ASAS = 3)

3 points: as above, up to 50% of full range of movement. (Or ASAS = 2)

4 points: slight non co-ordination of movements and / or not more than 75% of normal range of movement. (Or ASAS=1)

5 points: normal motor co-ordination. (Or ASAS =0)

Used in conjunction with the ASAS, below, when appropriate.

3.6.5 Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS):

0 point No catch on Rapid Passive Movement (RPM) [i.e., no Spasticity]

1 point Catch occurs on RPM followed by release. There is no resistance to RPM throughout the rest of the remaining range.

2 points Catch occurs in the second half of the available range (after halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range.

3 points Catch occurs in the first half of the available range (up to and including the halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range

4 points When attempting RPM, the body part appears fixed but moves on a slow passive movement

3.6.6 Assessment of Limb Deficiency and Limb Length Difference

Measurement of Limb Loss/Limb Deficiency must be taken in centimetres. All measurements must be recorded to the nearest millimetre. Measurements are taken from the measuring point on the nearest proximal joint to the distal point of the limb. Difference in length between right and left legs of 7 cm or greater, as measured from the anterior superior iliac spine to the medial malleolus, with the athlete lying supine.

To measure leg length difference, the athlete must lay supine with legs relaxed and fully extended.

If the difference in length between right and left legs of 7 cm or greater the Athlete meets the MIC requirements.

The leg length difference must be equal to the amputation through the ankle articulation tarsi transversa or Dysmelia resulting in the absence of a full ankle joint.

Difference in length between right and left legs of 7 cm or greater, as measured from the anterior superior iliac spine to the medial malleolus, with the athlete lying supine.

For all measurements of Limb Deficiency, and Limb Length Difference the average of two (2) measurements is taken. If the difference between these two (2) measurements is greater than 1%, one (1) additional measurement is taken, and the median (middle) measurement is recorded on the Classification sheet as the final measurement.

3.6.7 Assessment of Ataxia

Eligible Ataxias must result from motor nervous system dysfunction. Ataxia symptoms may develop as the result of trauma, a stroke, multiple sclerosis, a brain tumour, nutritional deficiencies or other problems that damage the brain or nervous system.

Ataxia is an unsteadiness, incoordination, or clumsiness of volitional movement, resulting from motor or sensory nervous system dysfunction. Motor ataxias most frequently result from malformation or damage to the cerebellum and are often associated with hypotonia. Motor ataxias are poorly compensated for by visual input.

Sensory ataxias most frequently result from lower motor neuron damage or spinal cord disease, affecting vestibular function or proprioceptive function. Visual input can help compensate for sensory ataxia and so sensory ataxias are often more evident when eyes are closed.

Ataxia is to be assessed using the Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia (SARA) (Schmitz-Hübsch et al, 2006).

For athletes affected by ataxia, where balance, walking and coordination are affected, the ataxic movement must be clearly evident to the classification panel during the assessment. Tests that may be useful for determining this include but are not limited to:

1. Finger chase test
2. Nose-finger test
3. Fast alternating hand movements
4. Heel shin slide
5. Gait test
6. Stance

The SARA is a tool for assessing ataxia. It has eight categories, of which six apply to wheelchair fencing. When completing the outcome measure each category is assessed and scored accordingly. Scores for the six items range as follows:

1.Finger chase

Rated separately for each side

The Athlete sits comfortably. If necessary, support of feet and trunk is allowed. Examiner sits in front of the Athlete and performs 5 consecutive sudden and fast pointing movements in unpredictable directions in a frontal plane, at about 50 % of the Athlete's reach. Movements have an amplitude of 30 cm and a frequency of 1 movement every 2 s. The Athlete is asked to follow the movements with his index finger, as fast and precisely as possible. Average performance of last 3 movements is rated.

- 0 No dysmetria
- 1 Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target <5 cm
- 2 Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target < 15 cm
- 3 Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target > 15 cm
- 4 Unable to perform 5 pointing movements

The assessment should be conducted on both sides of the body with the scored for Left and right, added together and divided by 2.

The mean score will be used for the assessment outcome.

2.Nose-finger test

Rated separately for each side

The Athlete sits comfortably. If necessary, support of feet and trunk is allowed. The Athlete is asked to point repeatedly with his index finger from his nose to examiner's finger which is in front of the athlete at about 90 % of Athlete's reach. Movements are performed at moderate speed. Average performance of movements is rated according to the amplitude of the kinetic tremor.

- 0 No tremor
- 1 Tremor with an amplitude < 2 cm
- 2 Tremor with an amplitude < 5 cm

- 3 Tremor with an amplitude > 5 cm
- 4 Unable to perform 5 pointing movements

The assessment should be conducted on both sides of the body with the scored for Left and right, added together and divided by 2.

The mean score will be used for the assessment outcome.

3. Fast alternating hand movements

Rated separately for each side

Athlete sits comfortably. If necessary, support of feet and trunk is allowed. Athlete is asked to perform 10 cycles of repetitive alternation of pro- and supinations of the hand on his/her thigh as fast and as precise as possible. Movement is demonstrated by examiner at a speed of approx. 10 cycles within 7 s. Exact times for movement execution have to be taken.

- 0 Normal, no irregularities (performs <10s)
- 1 Slightly irregular (performs <10s)
- 2 Clearly irregular, single movements difficult to distinguish or relevant interruptions, but performs <10s
- 3 Very irregular, single movements difficult to distinguish or relevant interruptions, performs >10s
- 4 Unable to complete 10 cycles

The assessment should be conducted on both sides of the body with the scored for

Left and right added together and divided by 2.

The mean score will be used for the assessment outcome.

4. Heel and shin assessment

Rated separately for each side Athlete lies on examination bed, without sight of their legs, is asked to lift one leg, point with the heel to the opposite knee, slide down along the shin to the ankle, and lay the leg back on the examination bed.

The task is performed 3 times. Slide-down movements should be performed within 1 s. If the Athlete slides down without contact to shin in all three trials, rate 4.

- 0 Normal
- 1 Slightly abnormal, contact to shin maintained
- 2 Clearly abnormal, goes off shin up to 3 times during 3 cycles
- 3 Severely abnormal, goes off shin 4 or more times during 3 cycles
- 4 Unable to perform the task

The assessment should be conducted on both sides of the body with the scored for Left and right, added

together and divided by 2. The mean score will be used for the assessment outcome.

5.Gait assessment

Athlete is asked firstly to walk at a safe distance parallel to a wall including a half-turn (turn around to face the opposite direction of gait) and secondly, to walk in tandem (heels to toes) without support.

- 0 Normal, no difficulties in walking, turning and walking tandem (up to one misstep allowed)
- 1 Slight difficulties, only visible when walking 10 consecutive steps in tandem
- 2 Clearly abnormal, tandem walking >10 steps not possible
- 3 Considerable staggering, difficulties in half-turn, but without support
- 4 Marked staggering, intermittent support of the wall required
- 5 Severe staggering, permanent support of one stick or light support by one arm required
- 6 Walking > 10 m only with strong support (two special sticks or stroller or accompanying person)
- 7 Walking < 10 m only with strong support (two special sticks or stroller or accompanying person)
- 8 Unable to walk, even supported

6.Stance assessment

Athlete is asked to stand firstly in natural position, secondly with feet together in parallel (big toes touching each other) and thirdly in tandem (both feet on one line, no space between heel and toe). The Athlete does not wear shoes, eyes are open. For each condition, three trials are allowed. Best trial is rated.

- 0 Normal, able to stand in tandem for > 10 s
- 1 Able to stand with feet together without sway, but not in tandem for > 10 s
- 2 Able to stand with feet together for > 10 s, but only with sway
- 3 Able to stand for > 10 s without support in natural position, but not with feet together
- 4 Able to stand for >10 s in natural position only with intermittent support
- 5 Able to stand >10 s in natural position only with constant support of one arm
- 6 Unable to stand for >10 s even with constant support of one arm

3.6.8 Assessment of Athetosis

Athetosis is unwanted movement and posturing resulting from damage to the motor control centres of the brain. Athetoid movements may include the following:

- 1. Involuntary movement of the fingers or upper extremities despite the person trying to remain still.
- 2. Involuntary movement of the toes of lower extremities despite the person trying to remain still.
- 3. Inability to hold the body still, swaying of the body. Swaying should not be due to other neurological

deficits and should not be made worse by closing of the eyes.

Athetosis is to be assessed using the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale (Monbaliu E. et al. (2012), Development Medicine and Child Neurology, 54: 278-283).

The DIS assesses the duration and amplitude of the athetoid movements.

Duration factor	Amplitude factor
0 Athetosis	Athetosis is absent.
1 Athetosis is occasionally present (<10%of the time)	Athetosis present in small range of motion (<10% of ROM)
2 Athetosis is frequently present (10-49%of the time)	Athetosis present in moderate range of motion (10-49% of ROM)
3 Athetosis is mostly present (50-89%of the time)	Athetosis present in submaximal range of motion (50-89% of ROM)
4 Athetosis always present (≥90%of the time)	Athetosis present in maximal range of motion (≥90 of ROM)

Minimum Impairment Criteria:

1. Standing upright: The athlete stands upright for 15 seconds.

2. Alternate heel/toe tapping in sitting

Athlete performs alternate heel/toe tappings with left and right leg (five times each) Aim tap per second.

3.6.9. Mini-BESTest Balance Evaluation-System test

This test evaluates various aspects of balance (anticipatory, reactive, sensory orientation, dynamic, cognitive). All 14 items should be performed in order to achieve a score out of 28 points. Athletes should be tested with flat heeled shoes or shoes and socks off. If subject must use an assistive device for an item, score that item one category lower. If subject requires physical assistance to perform an item score the lowest category (0) for that item.

Mini-BESTest: Balance Evaluation Systems Test, 2005-2013 Oregon Health & Science University.

1. SIT TO STAND	Note the initiation of the movement, and the use of the subject's hands on the seat of the chair, the thighs, or the thrusting of the arms forward.
2. RISE TO TOES	Allow the subject two attempts. Score the best attempt. (If you suspect that subject is using less than full height, ask the subject to rise up while holding the examiners' hands.) Make sure the subject looks at a non-moving target 4-12 feet away.

3. STAND ON ONE LEG	Allow the subject two attempts and record the times. Record the number of seconds the subject can hold up to a maximum of 20 seconds. Stop timing when the subject moves hands off of hips or puts a foot down. Make sure the subject looks at a non-moving target 4-12 feet ahead. Repeat on other side.
4. COMPENSATORY STEPPING CORRECTION-FORWARD	Stand in front of the subject with one hand on each shoulder and ask the subject to lean forward (Make sure there is room for them to step forward). Require the subject to lean until the subject's shoulders and hips are in front of toes. After you feel the subject's body weight in your hands, very suddenly release your support. The test must elicit a step. NOTE: Be prepared to catch subject.
5. COMPENSATORY STEPPING CORRECTION - BACKWARD	Stand behind the subject with one hand on each scapula and ask the subject to lean backward (Make sure there is room for the subject to step backward.) Require the subject to lean until their shoulders and hips are in back of their heels. After you feel the subject's body weight in your hands, very suddenly release your support. Test must elicit a step. NOTE: Be prepared to catch subject.
6. COMPENSATORY STEPPING CORRECTION-LATERAL	Stand to the side of the subject, place one hand on the side of the subject's pelvis, and have the subject lean their whole body into your hands. Require the subject to lean until the midline of the pelvis is over the right (or left) foot and then suddenly release your hold. NOTE: Be prepared to catch subject.
7. STANCE (FEET TOGETHER); EYES OPEN, FIRM SURFACE	Record the time the subject was able to stand with feet together up to a maximum of 30 seconds. Make sure subject looks at a non-moving target 4-12 feet away.
8. STANCE (FEET TOGETHER); EYES CLOSED, FOAM SURFACE	Use medium density Temper® foam, 4 inches thick. Assist subject in stepping onto foam. Record the time the subject was able to stand in each condition to a maximum of 30 seconds. Have the subject step off of the foam between trials. Flip the foam over between each trial to ensure the foam has retained its shape.
9. INCLINE EYES CLOSED	Aid the subject onto the ramp. Once the subject closes eyes, begin timing and record time. Note if there is excessive sway.
10. CHANGE IN SPEED	Allow the subject to take 3-5 steps at normal speed, and then say "fast". After 3-5 fast steps, say "slow". Allow 3-5 slow steps before the subject stops walking.
11. WALK WITH HEAD TURNS- HORIZONTAL	Allow the subject to reach normal speed, and give the commands "right, left" every 3-5 steps. Score if you see a problem in either direction. If subject has severe cervical restrictions allow combined head and trunk movements.
12. WALK WITH PIVOT TURNS	Demonstrate a pivot turn. Once the subject is walking at normal speed, say "turn and stop." Count the number of steps from "turn" until the subject is stable. Imbalance may be indicated by wide stance, extra stepping, or trunk motion.
13. STEP OVER OBSTACLES	Place the box (9 inches or 23 cm height) 10 feet away from where the subject will begin walking. Two shoeboxes taped together works well to create this apparatus.

14. TIMED UP & GO WITH DUAL TASK	<p>Use the TUG time to determine the effects of dual tasking. The subject should walk a 3 meter distance. TUG: Have the subject sitting with the subject's back against the chair. The subject will be timed from the moment you say "Go" until the subject returns to sitting. Stop timing when the subject's buttocks hit the chair bottom and the subject's back is against the chair. The chair should be firm without arms. TUG With Dual Task: While sitting determine how fast and accurately the subject can count backwards by threes starting from a number between 100-90. Then, ask the subject to count from a different number and after a few numbers say "Go". Time the subject from the moment you say "Go" until the subject returns to the sitting position. Score dual task as affecting counting or walking if speed slows (>10%) from TUG and or new signs of imbalance.</p>
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Max score: 28 points

Subject Conditions: Athlete should be tested with flat-heeled shoes OR shoes and socks off.

Equipment: Temper® foam (also called T-foam™ 4 inches thick, medium density T41 firmness rating), chair without arm rests or wheels, incline ramp, stopwatch, a box (9" height) and a 3 meter distance measured out and marked on the floor with tape [from chair].

Scoring: The test has a maximum score of **28** points from **14 items** that are each scored from 0-2.

"0" indicates the lowest level of function and

"2" the highest level of function.

If an Athlete must use an assistive device for an item, score that item one category lower. If an Athlete requires physical assistance to perform an item, score "0" for that item.

For **Item 3** (stand on one leg) and **Item 6** (compensatory stepping-lateral) only include the score for one side (the worse score). For **Item 3** (stand on one leg) select the best time of the 2 trials [from a given side] for the score.

For **Item 14** (timed up & go with dual task) if a person's gait slows greater than 10% between the TUG without and with a dual task then the score should be decreased by a point.

The Mini Best test may be used by the classifier as a means to help confirm that the athlete has impairments with balance as part of any overall understanding of the athletes condition. Lack of balance on its own is not an eligible impairment.

4.Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status

Athletes, who are eligible to compete and have the minimum Impairment criteria are allocated a Sports Class. The Sport Class is allocated following the full athlete assessment taking into consideration the point scores for the range of movement, muscle power/strength and coordination testing, and the Wheelchair Function tests, and by confirmation by athlete observation during fencing in competition and training.

Athletes, who meet the Minimum Disability Criteria defined in Article 2 of this Appendix, will be allocated one of the below four Sport Classes:

Athletes, who are eligible to compete, are classified into the following Sport Classes.

4.1 Class 1A

Athletes with no sitting balance who have a handicapped playing arm. No efficient elbow extension against gravity and no residual function of the hand which makes it necessary to fix the weapon with a bandage. Such a class is comparable to the old ISMGF 1A, or tetraplegics with spinal lesions level C5/C6.

Functional test scores:

Test 1 and 2 combined total = less than 2 points

Test 3, 4, 5 and 6 combined total = maximum 1 point

Bench test scores:

Trunk and lower limb bench tests = 0

No efficient elbow extension ROM = 1 or 2

Finger and wrist Muscle strength = 0

ASAS= 2 or 3 or above for the fencing arm (For neurological conditions)

SARA= Tests 1, 2, and 3 score 9 or more points for fencing arm

DIS= score 7-8 points on the duration and amplitude factor for fencing arm

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.2 Class 1B

Athletes without sitting balance and affected fencing arm. Functional elbow extension but no functional finger flexion. The weapon has to be fixed with a bandage. Comparable to complete tetraplegics level C7/C8 or higher incomplete lesion.

Functional test scores:

Test 1 and 2 combined total = less than 4

Test 3, 4, 5 and 6 combined total = maximum of 4 points

Bench test scores:

Trunk and lower limb Bench Tests = 0

Fencing arm extension and Muscle strength = 4 to 5

Finger functional flexion = 0

Weapon has to be fixed to the hand.

ASAS= 2 or 3 or above for the fencing arm (For neurological conditions)

SARA= Tests 1, 2 and 3 score 6-9 points for fencing arm

DIS= score 5-6 on the duration and amplitude factor for fencing arm.

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.3 Class 2

Athletes with fair sitting balance and normal fencing arm. e.g. paraplegic type T1 - T9 or incomplete tetraplegics with minimally affected fencing arm and good sitting balance.

Functional Test Scores:

Test 1 and 2 total = not more than 4 points

Test 3, 4, 5 and 6 combined total = maximum of 6 points

Bench test scores:

Trunk and lower limb = below 3, not against gravity

Fencing Arm ROM = 4 or 5

Fencing arm muscle strength = minimum 4 or 5

ASAS= 1-2 or above for the fencing arm (For neurological conditions)

SARA= Test 1 and 2 and 3 score 3-6 points for fencing arm

DIS= score 3-4 points on the duration and amplitude factor for fencing arm

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.4 Class 3

Athletes with good Sitting balance, without support of legs and normal fencing arm, e.g. paraplegics from T10 to L2. Subjects with double above the knee amputation with short stumps, or incomplete lesions above T10 or comparable disabilities can be included in this class, provided that the legs can help in maintaining the sitting balance.

Functional Test Scores:

Test 1 = 3

Test 2 = 3 (or a minimum of 5 points for test 1 and 2 combined.)

Test 3, 4 and 5, total = a minimum of 6 points

Test 6 = 3

Bench test scores:

Muscle power tests = 4 or 5

Fencing arm Muscle strength = 4 to 5

Fencing arm ROM = 5

Lower limb muscle strength test to show a reduction of a maximum 20 points.

Trunk bench test, against gravity = 4 or 5

ASAS= 1 for the fencing arm. (For neurological conditions)

SARA= Test 1 and 2 and 3 score 0-3 points for fencing arm

DIS= score 1-2 points on the duration and amplitude factor for fencing arm

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.5 Class 4

Athletes with good sitting balance with the support of lower limbs and normal fencing arm, e.g., with lesion below L4 or comparable disability. e.g., single leg amputation

Functional tests scores:

Test 1 = 3 point

Test 2 = 3, point

Test 3, 4 and 5 having a minimum of 8 points. (Test 4 and 5 must be holding a weapon)

Bench test scores:

Trunk = 5

Hip Adduction = 4 or 5

Plantar Flexion = 4 or 5

Fencing arm scores = 5

All coordination Test scores = 5

ASAS= 0 for the fencing arm (For neurological conditions)

SARA= Test 1 and 2 and 3 score 0 points for the fencing arm

DIS= score 0 points on the duration and amplitude factor for fencing arm

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

CATEGORIES

Currently at official WPF competitions, the Sport Classes are combined into the following three categories for each event:

- Category A: Sport Classes 3 and 4.
- Category B: Sport Class 2
- Category C: Sport Classes 1A and 1