



# Para Triathlon Classification Rules

## **World Triathlon Para Classification Rules**

### **(Appendix G of the World Triathlon Competition Rules)**

Approved by the World Triathlon Executive Board on January 18th, 2025

Green highlight – modified as of December 2024

Red highlight – removed as of December 2024

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# PART ONE: GENERAL PROVISION

## 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 Triathlon to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards (Effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017).
- 1.2 These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.3 These Classification Rules are the Appendix G of the World Triathlon Competition Rules.
- 1.4 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from World Triathlon and can be amended by World Triathlon from time to time.

### Classification

- 1.5 The term "Classification" refers to a structure for competition, the aim of which is to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that athletes compete equitably with each other.
- 1.6 The purpose of classification is to minimize the impact of eligible impairment types on the outcome of competition, so that athletes who succeed in competition are those with best anthropometry, physiology and psychology, and who have enhanced them to best effect.
- 1.7 Classification is undertaken to:
  - 1.7.1 Define who is eligible to compete in Para sport and consequently who can reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete;
  - 1.7.2 Group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete is ultimately victorious.

### Application

- 1.8 These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with World Triathlon and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by World Triathlon.
- 1.9 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of World Triathlon including, but not limited to, the World Triathlon Competition Rules. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the IPC Classification Code shall take precedence.
- 1.10 These Classification Rules include provisions related to:
  - 1.10.1 Eligible Impairments and Minimum Impairment Criteria (in accordance with the International Standard (IS) for Eligible Impairments);

- 1.10.2 Athlete Evaluation, Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation (in accordance with the IS for Athlete Evaluation);
- 1.10.3 Protests and Appeals (in accordance with the IS for Protests and Appeals);
- 1.10.4 Classifier Personnel and Training (in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training);
- 1.10.5 Data Protection (in accordance with the IS for Classification Data Protection).

## **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.
- 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 Triathlon 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.

## **International Classification**

- 1.16 World Triathlon 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.
- 1.17 World Triathlon 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 Triathlon). World Triathlon will advise its membership in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).
- 1.18 An athlete will only be permitted to undergo international classification if he or she is registered according to World Triathlon Competition Rules, and has been entered in a World Triathlon event or competition recognized by World Triathlon where international classification is taking place or has entered a recognized classification opportunity by World Triathlon.

## 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:
- 2.2.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.2.2 participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
  - 2.2.3 ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to World Triathlon;
  - 2.2.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules;
  - 2.2.5 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:
- 2.3.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.3.2 use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - 2.3.3 assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems;
  - 2.3.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

### **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

- 2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:
- 2.4.1 have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - 2.4.2 use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
  - 2.4.3 assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research;
  - 2.4.4 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 Triathlon will appoint the Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for World Triathlon.

#### **Head of Classification and Deputy Head of Classification**

- 3.2 World Triathlon will appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for World Triathlon in conjunction with the Classification Advisory Group (CAG) and the World Triathlon Sport Department.
- 3.3 The Deputy Head of Classification (DHoC) is a classifier that may be appointed to assume the roles and responsibilities of the Head of Classification.
- 3.4 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, World Triathlon 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.
- 3.5 The Head of Classification, or representative, may delegate specific responsibilities or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by World Triathlon.
- 3.6 The Head of Classification may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

#### **Process to appoint Head of Classification, Deputy Head of Classification or Equivalent Representative Group of Persons**

- 3.7 After the election of a Para triathlon Committee, World Triathlon will request National Federations to make nominations for the positions of Head of Classification and Deputy Head of Classification from the World Triathlon Level 2 senior classifiers. The Para triathlon Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Board for a formal appointment of each position.
- 3.8 Each of the Head of Classification and Deputy Head of Classification positions will have, once appointed, the same term duration as the active Para triathlon Committee.
- 3.9 The Classification Advisory Group will be a working group that will make formal recommendations to the Para triathlon Committee on all Classification related matters and also work with the World Triathlon Sports Department.
- 3.10 The Classification Advisory Group will comprise 5 individuals, including the HoC and Deputy HoC. The HoC will be the chairperson of the Classification Advisory Group. The other 3 individuals will be proposed by the World Triathlon Sports Department together with the HoC and DHoC and appointed by the Executive Board.
- 3.11 The World Triathlon Executive Board may replace these appointed individuals before the end of the term.



## **Chief Classifiers**

- 3.12 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 Triathlon in particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by World Triathlon to do the following:
- 3.12.1 identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;
  - 3.12.2 supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
  - 3.12.3 manage Protests in consultation with World Triathlon;
  - 3.12.4 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.
- 3.13 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified World Triathlon officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

## **Classifiers**

- 3.14 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by World Triathlon, or the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

## **Classification Panel**

- 3.15 Classification Panels for each season will be appointed by the Head of Classification in collaboration with Sport Department to determine the eligibility, the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of the athletes competing in that event under World Triathlon Competition Rules.
- 3.16 Classification panels should include a minimum of two classifiers.
- 3.17 In exceptional circumstances, a panel may be set up with only one (1) medical classifier. In this case, the athletes can only be allocated a Review sport class status.
- 3.18 Host National Federations may request to have up to two (2) observers for classification procedures. Trainee classifiers will have priority and the presence of observers will depend on the approval by the athletes and World Triathlon.
- 3.19 Two (2) classification panels are required in order to follow the procedure of a submitted protest. The Chief Classifier may be a member of one of the panels.

## **Trainee Classifiers**

- 3.20 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by World Triathlon.
- 3.21 World Triathlon 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.

- 3.22 National Federations may nominate World Triathlon certified national classifiers as trainees in order to follow the pathway to become international classifiers.

## 4. Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1 All provisions related to training and certification for classifiers are captured under:  
[https://triathlon.org/development/technical\\_officials/certification](https://triathlon.org/development/technical_officials/certification)

## 5. Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in World Triathlon depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. World Triathlon has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct', which is based on the IPC Code of Ethics.

- 5.2 All classifiers must adhere to the IPC Classification Code of Ethics,  
[http://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/141113161026885\\_2014\\_10\\_08+Sec+II+chapter+1\\_1\\_IPC+Code+of+Ethics.pdf](http://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/141113161026885_2014_10_08+Sec+II+chapter+1_1_IPC+Code+of+Ethics.pdf)  
<https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/IPC%20Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf>  
in order to:

- 5.2.1 Act as neutral evaluators in determining Sport Class and Sport Class Status for all athletes;
  - 5.2.2 Perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes and their support personnel;
  - 5.2.3 Have respect for the World Triathlon Competition Rules;
  - 5.2.4 Have respect for their colleagues;
  - 5.2.5 Understand the consequence of non-compliance with the World Triathlon Competition rules;
  - 5.2.6 Maintain confidentiality of Athlete Evaluation information in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection;
  - 5.2.7 Declare any actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest; and
  - 5.2.8 Must not assume any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a competition and avoid taking on any other roles and responsibilities at competitions where they are acting as classifiers. For example, a classifier must not act as a competition technical official, such as a judge or have any other role with their National Federation or International Federation.
- 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 Triathlon.
- 5.4 If World Triathlon receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, will take disciplinary measures against the reported classifier which can include a temporary suspension from classifier duties or even revoking the classifier's certification.
- 5.5 World Triathlon has discretion to determine whether a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

## PART THREE: ATHLETE EVALUATION

### 6. General Provisions

- 6.1 World Triathlon 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 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 Para triathlon governed by World Triathlon must have an underlying Health Condition that has a pathological cause which leads to a permanent Eligible Impairment.
- 7.2 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have to compete in Para triathlon governed by World Triathlon. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One or Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Three includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

#### Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.3 World Triathlon must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is permanent.
- 7.4 So that World Triathlon can be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, World Triathlon will require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Three lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
- 7.5 So that World Triathlon can determine that an athlete has an Eligible Impairment, an Athlete must supply World Triathlon with Medical Diagnostic Information by the following means:
- 7.5.1 The relevant National Federation must submit the Medical Diagnostics Form, for either Visual or Physical Impairment, to World Triathlon **upon completing** **or** before registration for the respective event, and no later than 8 weeks prior to the event where classification will be conducted.
  - 7.5.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in a single, clearly legible vertical oriented PDF format file, written in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional.

- 7.6 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with the requested supportive Diagnostic Information. This could include, but should not be limited to:
- 7.6.1 medical letters and reports detailing medical history, results of radiological examinations;
  - 7.6.2 other diagnostic tests relevant to the athlete's medical condition;
  - 7.6.3 Athletes who have multiple Sclerosis must include an MRI that is not older than a year.
- 7.7 If no Medical Diagnostic Form is submitted for an athlete, the athlete runs the risk of not being classified at the nominated event.
- 7.8 World Triathlon may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with more specific and supportive Diagnostic Information) if World Triathlon at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.9 If World Triathlon requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Panel to do so.
- 7.10 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Panel is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.10.1 The Head of Classification/Classification Advisory Group will notify the National Federation 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.
  - 7.10.2 The Head of Classification/Classification Advisory Group will set timelines for the submission of the Medical Diagnosis Information.
  - 7.10.3 The Classification Advisory Group will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Panel. The Eligibility Assessment Panel must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications, from the Level 2 Senior Classifiers. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Panel must sign confidentiality undertakings.
  - 7.10.4 If the Head of Classification or any member of the Classification Advisory Group believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Panel.
  - 7.10.5 Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Panel. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Panel will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.10.6 If the Eligibility Assessment Panel concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.

- 7.10.7 If the Eligibility Assessment Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Head of Classification, or representative, will inform the relevant National Federation and provide a decision to this effect in writing. The National Federation will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Panel for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, World Triathlon will inform the National Federation.
- 7.10.8 If the decision is not changed, World Triathlon will issue a final decision letter to the National Federation informing them that the athlete is Not Eligible with a Confirmed Status and the athlete will not be permitted to complete Athlete evaluation with a classification panel.
- 7.10.9 The Eligibility Assessment Panel may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Panel, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.11 World Triathlon may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.
- 7.12 If during the process of determining whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment World Triathlon 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 Triathlon will explain the basis of its designation to the National Federation.

## 8. Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 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 Triathlon 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 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to the different sport classes 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 A Classification Panel must assess whether 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 World Triathlon that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.
- 8.5 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE-MIC) for that sport.

- 8.6 An athlete who is allocated a Sports Class NE-MIC by a Classification panel is entitled to a second Classification from another Classification panel at the earliest possibility. If the athlete wished to undertake a second classification their Sports Class and Sports class Status will be NE-MIC R (Review).

## 9. Sport Class

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by World Triathlon 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 (NE-E) or does not meet ~~the comply with~~ the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para triathlon (NE-MIC) must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE-E or NE-MIC) in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of these Rules.
- 9.1.2 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para triathlon must be allocated a Sport Class.
- 9.1.3 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE-MIC) by World Triathlon (in accordance with Article 22.1), 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 Appendices One, Two and Three 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 Complete (CNC)

- 10.1 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation World Triathlon 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 Complete (CNC).
- 10.2 The designation Classification Not Complete (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Complete (CNC) will however be recorded for the World Triathlon Classification Master List.
- 10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Complete (CNC) may not compete in the sport of Para triathlon.
- 10.4 An athlete's classification will be suspended and will be considered not completed if the process of classification cannot be completed for one of, but not limited to, the following:
- 10.4.1 A failure on the part of the athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;
- 10.4.2 A failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
- 10.4.3 Insufficient medical information to give evidence of an athlete's impairment eligibility;

- 10.4.4 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 Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
  - 10.4.5 The athlete has a health condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner, for example pain;
  - 10.4.6 If an athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 10.4.7 If in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel the athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
  - 10.4.8 The athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner;
  - 10.4.9 The athlete failed to attend one or more components of the classification evaluation;
  - 10.4.10 Force majeure circumstances.
- 10.5 An athlete whose class cannot be completed will not be permitted to compete at that event or until classification has been completed.
- 10.6 If Athlete Evaluation is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 10.6.1 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 Federation;
- 10.7 If an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, Athlete Evaluation will be resumed.
- 10.8 If the athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within any timeframe specified, Athlete Evaluation will be terminated, and the athlete must be precluded from competing at any competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed.



## PART FOUR: ATHLETE EVALUATION PROCESS AND THE CLASSIFICATION PANEL

### 11. Athlete Evaluation

#### Definition

- 11.1 Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an athlete is assessed by a classification panel for the athlete to be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 11.2 The allocation of a Sport Class must be based on an evaluation by a classification panel of the extent to which the athlete's impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 11.3 A Sport Class must be allocated based solely on the impact that Eligible Impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.

### 12. The Classification Panel

- 12.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by World Triathlon to conduct the components of Athlete Evaluation as part of an Evaluation Session.

#### General Provisions

- 12.2 Classification panels should include a minimum of two classifiers, in which at least one medical classifier must be physically present. The other classifier may assist, if necessary, through an online connection in order to complete the assessment as a full panel.
- 12.3 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.

#### Classification Panel Responsibilities

- 12.4 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
  - 12.4.1 Confirm the athlete has an eligible impairment type;
  - 12.4.2 Assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for World Triathlon;
  - 12.4.3 Assess the extent to which an Athlete can execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and
  - 12.4.4 Conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.
- 12.5 Following the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).



- 12.6 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by World Triathlon unless World Triathlon requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.7 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

### 13. Pre-competition Evaluation Process

- 13.1 The Sport Department in conjunction with the Chief Classifier, the Technical Delegate and the Local Organising Committee will coordinate and develop a classification schedule ensuring that all classifications will take place before the athletes' race briefing. A period shall be set aside for possible Classification Protests.
- 13.2 As soon as a National Federation has registered an athlete to an event, the World Triathlon Sport Department will confirm the athletes' class and status based on the World Triathlon Classification Master List. All those with New (N) or Review (R) or Provisional Classification Status (PCS) or those protested shall be assigned a classification appointment. World Triathlon Sport Department will communicate the classification appointment (venue, assigned times) to the athletes' National Federation, the Head of Classification, the assigned Chief Classifier, the Local Organising Committee and the assigned Technical Delegate.
- 13.3 An average of sixty (60) minute periods shall be designated for each appointment (with adequate meal times and breaks scheduled for the classifiers).

### 14. Evaluation Responsibilities

- 14.1 The Athlete's National Federation is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.

#### **Athlete responsibilities**

- 14.2 Athletes who undergo classification will need to report to the classification panel at their designated time.
- 14.3 Failure to report for classification at the designated time, without reasonable explanation to the chief classifier, will result in the athlete not being classified and not being able to compete at the Para triathlon event.
- 14.4 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's National Federation when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has cognitive/understanding challenges.
- 14.5 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.
- 14.6 The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by World Triathlon and sign accordingly.
- 14.7 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 Triathlon license card or event accreditation.

- 14.8 A passport sized photo must be submitted.
- 14.9 Although already submitted to World Triathlon, 8 weeks in advance of classification, it is mandatory for athletes to bring with them to Classification Evaluation, a copy of the World Triathlon Physical Impairment (PI) Medical Diagnostic Form, completed by their medical doctor, and previously submitted to World Triathlon, or the World Triathlon Visual impairment (VI) Medical Diagnostic Form, completed by an ophthalmologist.
- 14.10 Failure to provide the required medical documentation during classification may result in the athlete being allocated a status of “CNC” (Classification Not Complete) and not be able to compete in that event.
- 14.11 Athletes must dress appropriately in sports clothes and bring all adaptive equipment (prosthesis, orthoses, slings, crutches etc.) with which they compete to the classification appointment, and their bike, or hand bike and racing wheelchair.
- 14.12 English is the official language for the classification assessments. Athletes must be accompanied by an interpreter (if English is not their first or commonly spoken language).
- 14.13 All athletes must present a true and accurate medical and sporting history and must cooperate fully in the examination process and observation phase of classification. Non-cooperation may lead to sanctions, as explained in Part Seven of these Rules.
- 14.14 An athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the classification panel and be currently taking, at time of classification, all medication that will be used during competition.

#### **Classification Panel Responsibilities:**

- 14.15 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 for it to allocate a Sport Class.
- 14.16 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by World Triathlon. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete’s National Federation will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the Athlete support person.
- 14.17 In addition to any opinion(s) sought, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation, National Paralympic Committee and World Triathlon (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.

### **15. Athlete evaluation process**

- 15.1 The Athlete Evaluation process consists of the following:
- 15.1.1 An assessment of whether the athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport;
  - 15.1.2 An assessment of whether an athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport which involves an assessment and evaluation of the severity of the impairment and the extent to which the athlete can execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;

- 15.1.3 **Physical Assessment:** The classification panel will conduct a physical assessment of the athlete, to establish whether the athlete's health condition presents as an eligible physical or visual impairment type and meets the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria;
- 15.1.4 **Technical Assessment:** The Classification Panel will conduct a Technical Assessment of the athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the athlete's physical ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, specific tasks and activities that are part of triathlon. Athletes must wear all adaptive equipment with which they intend to compete at races;
- 15.1.5 **Observation in Competition Assessment** may be conducted to ensure that the outcome of the athlete's physical and technical assessments is reflected in the athlete's ability to perform in the competition:
- 15.1.5.1 The observation in competition period begins upon arrival at the competition venue on race day and until the end of competition;
- 15.1.5.2 If changes to an Athlete Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition Assessment, the changes are effective immediately. World Triathlon must consider the impact any such changes on results and prizes;
- 15.1.6 The allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status:
- 15.1.6.1 A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or the Chief Classifier. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order that it can allocate a Sport Class or solve athlete evaluation related queries;
- 15.1.6.2 Video footage, photography or other multimedia material may be utilized by the Classification Panel/s during the evaluation period for all classification purposes connected to the competition. The evaluation period is from the start of classification assessment to the end of competition and the allocation of Sports Class and Sports Class Status.

## 16. Observation in Competition

- 16.1 Observation in Competition Assessment may be required by a classification panel before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 16.2 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are explained in section 3.16 of Appendix I.
- 16.3 The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the internal 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.

## 17. Remote Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 17.1 If an athlete is attending an event where no classification is offered, he/she will be able to obtain a Provisional Classification Status (PCS) from World Triathlon and will need to provide the required Provisional Classification Form and Medical Diagnosis Form no later than eight (8) weeks' prior the competition. If the athlete has a health condition that presents as a permanent eligible impairment type, the athlete will receive a PCS status.
- 17.2 For the athlete to preserve the results and ranking points achieved in the current season, he/she must attend a World Triathlon classification opportunity within a year of receiving the PCS sport class status.
- 17.3 An athlete with a Provisional Classification Status will have no protest opportunities.

## 18. Changes in Sport Class before and after First Appearance

### 18.1 Before Competition

SCENARIO	OUTCOME
a) Athlete undergoes classification Athlete changes Sport Class	Chief Classifier notifies Athlete/National Federation, Technical Delegate and Race Referee immediately after change of Sport class identified. Sports Class outcome is posted at the race briefing. Start list is updated from athletes old to new sports class. Bib number is reassigned accordingly by the Technical Delegate.
b) Athlete undergoes classification Athlete is declared non-eligible (NE) by first assessment panel	<p>Sport Class NE-MIC Review status is assigned and athlete is given the opportunity to be seen by a second panel at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>2nd Panel not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athlete remains NE-MIC Sports class with R sports class status and cannot compete at the event or other events until the protest is resolved. Athlete is removed from the start list. Does not appear on the results.</li> </ul> <p>2nd Panel available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an athlete is declared NE-MIC by second panel, an NE-MIC Sports Class becomes a confirmed Sports class Status (C) Athlete cannot compete at the event. Athlete is removed from the start list and does not appear in the results. Athlete must be informed by the classifiers that he/she can register for the AG race if the timing of races allows for it.</li> <li>If athlete is eligible, athlete should remain on the start list with the designated sport class allocated by the second panel.</li> </ul>

### 18.2 After Competition (includes observations during competition)

SCENARIO	OUTCOME
a) Athlete Sport Class is modified during observation in competition as part of	<p>Chief Classifier notifies Athlete/National Federation through final classification results posting and informs Race Referee and Technical Delegate.</p> <p>Race Referee decides if the change is applicable for the given event results and notifies Timing so athlete is correctly ranked in new category.</p>

the evaluation (during First Appearance)	Past results/rankings may be revisited.
b) Athlete's Sport Class is protested	<p>Review status is assigned and the athlete is given the chance to be seen by a second panel at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>2nd panel not available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Results and sport class stand as they are and a Note should be added in the official results indicating the athlete has been protested and is pending resolution. Athlete is made Review Sport Class Status.</li> </ul> <p>2nd panel available; the following scenarios can occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirms the decision of the first panel, results and sport class stand as they are.</li> <li>Changes the decision of the 1st panel, the subsequent procedures are described in 18.2 a)</li> <li>If the athlete is declared non-eligible for MIC, Sport Class Status becomes NE-MIC Review. Athlete is shown with no ranking after the DSQ and DNF IRM codes with an NE-MIC Review as total time.</li> </ul>

## 19. Sport Class Status

19.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

19.2 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel after an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:

- Confirmed (C)
- Review (R)
- Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

## Sport Class Status New

- 19.3 An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by World Triathlon 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 Triathlon specifies otherwise. The athlete's Sports Class is still subject to protest according to World Triathlon Para triathlon first appearance (in competition) requirements.
- 19.4 Sports Class Status N includes athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their National Federation for entry purposes.

## Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 19.5 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.
- 19.5.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (except in relation to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests, Medical Review and changes to Sport Class criteria).
- 19.5.2 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

## Sport Class Status Review

- 19.6 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
- 19.7 The athlete's Sports Class is still subject to protest, according to World Triathlon Para triathlon first appearance requirements. This includes athletes who are protested, but for whom no second panel is available at the competition, or athletes who have been reassessed after protest, but who have not been observed in competition by a second panel (PR).
- 19.8 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:
- 19.8.1 Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by World Triathlon and is new to the sport;
- 19.8.2 Athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable;
- 19.8.3 and/or Athlete has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity;
- 19.8.4 Athlete has had a medical review request approved (MR);
- 19.8.4.1 Athletes with Sport Class NE-MIC remain non-eligible with a Review status until a second classification panel is able to examine the athlete (NE-MIC R);
- 19.9 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).

- 19.10 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition, unless World Triathlon specifies otherwise.

### **Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date**

- 19.11 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.
- 19.11.1 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.
- 19.11.2 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 if related to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

### **Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

- 19.12 If World Triathlon changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
- 19.12.1 World Triathlon 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
- 19.12.2 World Triathlon may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 19.12.3 in both instances, the relevant National Federation shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

## **20. Multiple Sport Classes**

- 20.1 This Article applies to Athletes who are potentially eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class.

### **Multiple Eligible Impairments**

- 20.2 An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment, may be eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class in relation to those Eligible Impairments. In such instances:
- 20.2.1 the Athlete's National Federation must notify World Triathlon as to the Athlete's Eligible Impairments and the Athlete's eligibility to be allocated more than one Sport Class in respect of those Impairment types, and provide all necessary medical diagnostic information as required;
- 20.2.2 the Athlete must be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each Sport Class relevant to his or her multiple Impairments, either at the relevant Competition or the subsequent Competition;



20.2.3 after the Evaluation Sessions referred to in Article 15.1 the Athlete must choose the Sport Class that he or she wishes to compete in (the preferred Sport Class). If the allocation of any Sport Class is subject to Observation in Competition the Athlete must select the preferred Sport Class before making any First Appearance;

20.2.4 the selection of Sport Class will be subject to all applicable World Triathlon Rules and Regulations and;

20.2.5 the Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Sport Class and details of the Athlete's preferred Sport Class will be published.

## Changing Sport Class

20.3 An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment, may request to change his or her preferred Sport Class:

20.3.1 at the end of the season when the Athlete's first Evaluation Session was completed; or

20.3.2 after the close of the Paralympic Games, and before the start of the next season thereafter.

20.4 A request to change a preferred Sport Class must be sent to World Triathlon by the Athlete's National Federation. The application must be submitted to World Triathlon in accordance with the time frame identified under Article 20.3.

20.5 Nothing prohibits an Athlete from making a Medical Review Request at any time in respect of any Sport Class.

## 21. Notification

21.1 The Chief Classifier has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of the outcomes of Athlete Evaluation after each of the classification sessions.

21.2 Once the Classification Panel has allocated the Sport Class, verbal notification of the athlete's Sports Class is provided to the athlete. If the athlete decides not to sign the form, it is considered that the athlete has been informed in person about the outcome of classification.

21.3 The Chief Classifier must liaise with the Race Referee to ensure start lists are updated accordingly after each of the classification sessions.

21.4 A list with the complete classification outcomes must be posted and available to all National Federations at the Para triathlon briefing.

21.5 After the race, final classification outcomes will be posted in the area the Technical Delegate has designated at the briefing. It is the National Federations and athlete's responsibility to check and refer to these results in case they are potentially involved in further completion of their assessment or a protest.

21.6 The completed Classification Evaluation Card will be filed in a protected database and maintained by World Triathlon. National Federations may request from World Triathlon a copy of an athlete's classification evaluation after the competition.



- 21.7 Official confirmation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status will be sent to the relevant National Federation in the form of a Classification Certification, upon written request to World Triathlon.
- 21.8 The World Triathlon Para triathlon Master List will be updated after each event within 7 days where classification takes place.  
[www.triathlon.org/about/downloads\\_category/paratriathlon](http://www.triathlon.org/about/downloads_category/paratriathlon)
- 21.9 An official report must be submitted after the event from the Chief Classifier to the World Triathlon Technical Delegate to be included in the events' post-race report.

## PART FIVE: SPORT CLASS ~~NON-ELIGIBILITY~~ T-ELIGIBLE

### 22. ~~Non-Eligibility~~ Not-Eligible

#### General Provisions

World Triathlon must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible **(NE-EI)**.

#### Absence of Eligible Impairment

- 22.1 If World Triathlon determines that an Athlete:
- 22.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - 22.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition;
- 22.2 If World Triathlon determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:
- 22.2.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
  - 22.2.2 will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible **(NE-EI)** and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by World Triathlon.
- 22.3 If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible **(NE-EI)** because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, World Triathlon may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.
- 22.4 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible **(NE-EI)** by World Triathlon or a Classification Panel (if delegated by World Triathlon), will not be permitted to participate in any sport but may appeal this decision to the IPC BAC. ~~will not have the right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and, if that Athlete has:~~
- ~~22.4.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or~~
  - ~~22.4.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;~~

#### Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria **(MIC)**

- 22.5 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-MIC)** for that sport.
- 22.6 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible **(NE-MIC)** 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:
- 22.6.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible **(NE-MIC)** and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.

22.6.2 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-MIC) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

22.7 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE-MIC) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE-MIC) 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-MIC) made by the Protest Panel.

22.8 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE-MIC) 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.

22.9 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE-MIC), 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 Triathlon.

## PART SIX: MISCONDUCT DURING EVALUATION SESSION

### 23. Failure to Attend Evaluation Session

- 23.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 23.2 An Athlete's National Federation must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.
- 23.3 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.
- 23.4 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.

## PART SEVEN: MEDICAL REVIEW

### 24. Medical Review

- 24.1 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).
- 24.2 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.
- 24.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's National Federation (together with a USD\$100.00 non-refundable fee 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.
- 24.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by World Triathlon as soon as reasonably practicable and no less than six weeks prior to the next classification opportunity.
- 24.5 The Head of Classification, or representative, must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 24.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of changes that could improve an athlete's abilities and skills, but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Federation or World Triathlon, may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 24.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.
- 24.8 If the Medical Review Request is denied, the applicant may appeal this decision to the World Triathlon Executive Board.

## PART EIGHT: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

### 25. Intentional Misrepresentation

- 25.1 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'.
- 25.2 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.
- 25.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation:
- 25.3.1 A formal report by the involved classification panel together with evidence will be submitted to the World Triathlon Sport Department who will follow up with the panel to determine the actions to be followed.
  - 25.3.2 If it is an external body from World Triathlon presenting the allegation, a formal report with evidence must be submitted to the World Triathlon Sport Department who will follow up with the HoC in order to determine the actions to be followed.
  - 25.3.3 In any case, World Triathlon may deem a hearing necessary to be conducted in order to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 25.4 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:
- 25.4.1 Warning to the athlete on the consequences of intentional misrepresentation.
  - 25.4.2 not be allowed to compete at the event in which the athlete presented for classification evaluation. being allocated a Sport Class of Not Eligible (NE) and Sport Class Status of Fixed Review Date and being suspended for a period ranging from 12 to 48 months should the athlete be found to be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.
  - 25.4.3 Publication of their names and suspension period on the World Triathlon Classification Master List.
- 25.5 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 from four years to life.
- 25.6 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 from four years to life.

- 25.7 If another International Sports Federation in the Paralympic Movement 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 Triathlon.
- 25.8 Any consequences to be applied to an Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel or Athlete delegation member who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of World Triathlon.
- 25.9 Any disciplinary action taken by World Triathlon pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.

## PART NINE: PROTESTS

### 26. Scope of a Protest

- 26.1 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.
- 26.2 A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

### 27. Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

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

- 27.1 a National Federation; or
- 27.2 a National Paralympic Committee; or
- 27.3 World Triathlon.

### 28. National Protests

- 28.1 A National Federation 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, not an athlete who is not under their jurisdiction.
- 28.2 A National Federation or a National Paralympic Committee may only make a Protest within the set timelines as outlined by World Triathlon:
  - 28.2.1 Before the race:
    - 28.2.1.1 This period starts once the athlete and/or National Federation have been informed of the athlete's Sport Class or once the classification outcome has been posted;
    - 28.2.1.2 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorized to receive Classification Protests on behalf of World Triathlon at that event;
    - 28.2.1.3 Classification Protests must be submitted to the Chief Classifier within sixty (60) minutes of the end of the athlete's classification assessment or within sixty (60) minutes after the official publication of the classification results at the athlete's briefing.
  - 28.2.2 During/after the race:
    - 28.2.2.1 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorized to receive Classification Protests on behalf of World Triathlon at that event.



- 28.2.2.2 The intent to issue a classification protest must be communicated to the Chief Classifier within 5 minutes after the classification outcomes have been posted in the finish area or 5 minutes from the moment the athlete involved in a protest crosses the finish line, whichever occurs last. Once the intention to protest is initiated, the time limit will be extended by 15 minutes at which time all protest documents need to be submitted.
- 28.2.2.3 Race results can only become official after this process is completed.

28.3 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Federation 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.

## 29. National Protest Procedure

- 29.1 To submit a National Protest, a National Federation 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 Triathlon at the Competition and via World Triathlon website, and must include the following:
- 29.1.1 the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
  - 29.1.2 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
  - 29.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Federation believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
  - 29.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
  - 29.1.5 the Protest Fee set by World Triathlon.
- 29.2 The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified by World Triathlon. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with World Triathlon of which there are two possible outcomes:
- 29.2.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements, or
  - 29.2.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements.
- 29.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Federation as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 29.4 If the Protest is accepted:
- 29.4.1 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);

- 29.4.2 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
- 29.4.3 World Triathlon must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

## 30. World Triathlon Protests

- 30.1 World Triathlon may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- 30.1.1 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or
  - 30.1.2 a National Federation makes a documented request to World Triathlon. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of World Triathlon.

## 31. World Triathlon Protest Procedure

- 31.1 If World Triathlon decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the relevant National Federation of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 31.2 The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Federation 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.
- 31.3 If World Triathlon makes a Protest:
- 31.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
  - 31.3.2 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
  - 31.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

## 32. Protest Panel

- 32.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 32.2 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.
- 32.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
- 32.3.1 made the Protested Decision; or
  - 32.3.2 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 Federation, National Paralympic Committee or World Triathlon (whichever is relevant).

- 32.4 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.
- 32.5 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.
- 32.6 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.
- 32.7 The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and a World Triathlon Protest is final. A National Federation, National Paralympic Committee or World Triathlon may not make another Protest.

### 33. Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 33.1 If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
- 33.1.1 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
  - 33.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

### 34. Special Provisions

- 34.1 World Triathlon may plan (subject to the approval of the IPC) for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, World Triathlon must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

### 35. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

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

## PART TEN: APPEALS

### 36. Appeal

- 36.1 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.

### 37. Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

- 37.1 An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- 37.1.1a National Federation; or
  - 37.1.2a National Paralympic Committee.

### 38. Appeal Process

- 38.1 If a National Federation considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and therefore an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal;
- 38.2 No Classification Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of Sport Class or Sport Class Status. Under no circumstances shall the Classification Appeal Body modify a classification decision by allocating a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status to an athlete;

~~38.3 The Classification Appeal Body shall hear classification appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to classification protest procedures, have been exhausted.~~

### 39. Classification Appeal Body and Hearing Procedures

- 39.1 The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) will act as the hearing Classification Appeal Body for the resolution of Appeals;

o <https://www.paralympic.org/classification-board-of-appeal-of-classification>

- 39.2 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable IPC BAC Bylaws:

o <https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/Board%20of%20Appeal%20of%20Classification%20%28BAC%29%20Bylaws.pdf>

## **Timeline for Appeal Submission**

- 39.3 Classification appeals may be submitted and commenced no later than 30 days after the classification process took place, by submitting a Notice of Classification Appeal to the World Triathlon Secretary General. World Triathlon shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Classification Appeal to all parties involved.
- 39.4 Only a National Federation (or National Paralympic Committee at the Paralympic Games) has the right to submit a Notice of Classification Appeal in English by using the World Triathlon Classification Appeal Form under [http://www.triathlon.org/about/downloads\\_category/paratriathlon](http://www.triathlon.org/about/downloads_category/paratriathlon).
- 39.5 A refundable deposit of 150 USD (or equivalent) must accompany all appeals. The deposit will be retained by World Triathlon if the appeal is denied.
- 39.6 Upon receipt of a Notice of Classification Appeal, World Triathlon shall conduct a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the Classification Appeal. If not, World Triathlon shall issue a written dismissal of the Classification Appeal.
- 39.7 Upon receipt of a Notice of Classification Appeal, World Triathlon shall conduct a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the Classification Appeal. If not, World Triathlon shall issue a written dismissal of the Classification Appeal.

## **Classification Appeal Procedures**

- 39.8 If all other available remedies have been exhausted, World Triathlon shall:
- 39.8.1 Advise all relevant parties that the appeal will be deferred to the IPC BAC; a Classification Appeal Body will be constituted for the purposes of hearing the classification appeal;
  - 39.8.2 Send a copy of the Notice of Classification Appeal, and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to all parties involved; advise the parties involved that they must, within the 28th day after the Notice of Classification Appeal has been received, submit a list of all documents to the IPC BAC Classification Appeal Body, evidence and expert witnesses to be offered by the opposing party in relation to the classification appeal;
  - 39.8.3 Set a location for the hearing and date; The IPC BAC Classification Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a hearing; either live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

## **Classification Appeal Body and Hearing Procedures**

- 39.9 The IPC BAC Classification Appeal Body should include no less than three (3) individuals, who have at no time been involved with, or informed of, the dispute brought before the Classification Appeal Body.
- 39.10 Classification Appeal Body members will be nominated by the World Triathlon Secretary General; Parties will have the right to recuse an Appeal Body panel member(s) when it may be perceived that he/she, his/her National Federation or National Paralympic Committee has a conflict of interest in the issue under dispute or when his/her independence may be compromised. This recuse must be done within the first 24h from the communication of the Appeal Body composition.

39.11 World Triathlon may request the IPC the formation of an Appeal Body to deal with a specific appeal.

39.12 The Classification Appeal Body may designate Counsel to assist it in the hearing.

39.13 World Triathlon and the applicable National Paralympic Committee or National Federation shall have the right to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to engage an interpreter approved by the Classification Appeal Body.

39.14 Not more than two representatives of any party, excluding the athlete and any interpreter, shall be entitled to participate in the hearing.

39.15 Subject to the Classification Appeal Body's discretion, each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and to call witnesses.

### **Classification Appeal Decision**

39.16 The Classification Appeal Body shall issue a written decision resolving any classification appeal after the hearing. The decision shall be provided to all parties.

39.17 The Classification Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision that has been appealed against or overrule the decision. If the decision is overruled, the Classification Appeal Body's written opinion shall specify the procedural error committed and shall direct the appropriate party to the decision in a manner consistent with Classification Appeal Body's instructions.

39.18 World Triathlon shall be responsible for ensuring that the Classification Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner.

39.19 Classification appeal decisions are final and are not subject to any further classification appeal within World Triathlon/IPC.

### **Confidentiality**

39.20 Classification Appeal Proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Classification Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the classification appeal:

39.20.1 Employees or agents of a party;

39.20.2 Witnesses whose testimony may be offered during the classification appeal;

39.20.3 Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the classification appeal.

39.21 At this sole discretion, the Classification Appeal Body may require all persons who attend a hearing to sign a confidentiality agreement. Any individual refusing to sign said agreement may be excluded from the hearing.

## **40. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals**

40.1 The IPC and/or World Triathlon may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

## PART ELEVEN: USE OF ATHLETE INFORMATION

### 41. Classification Data

- 41.1 World Triathlon may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 41.2 All Classification Data Processed by World Triathlon must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### 42. Consent and Processing

- 42.1 Subject to Article 40, World Triathlon may only process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 42.2 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.
- 42.3 World Triathlon may only process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

### 43. Classification Research

- 43.1 World Triathlon may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 43.2 The use by World Triathlon of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 43.3 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to World Triathlon solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 43.4 World Triathlon may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If World Triathlon 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.

### 44. Notification to Athletes

- 44.1 World Triathlon must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
  - 44.1.1 that fact that World Triathlon is collecting the Classification Data; and
  - 44.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
  - 44.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

### 45. Classification Data Security

- 45.1 World Triathlon must:



- 45.1.1 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
- 45.1.2 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.

## 46. Disclosures of Classification Data

- 46.1 World Triathlon 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.
- 46.2 World Triathlon may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

## 47. Retaining Classification Data

- 47.1 World Triathlon will only retain Classification data for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it will be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised 1 year after the data is considered not necessary.
- 47.2 World Triathlon Classifiers and Classification Personnel will 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.

## 48. Access Rights to Classification Data

- 48.1 Athletes may request from World Triathlon:
  - 48.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that World Triathlon processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
  - 48.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by World Triathlon; and/or
  - 48.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by World Triathlon.
- 48.2 A request may be made by an Athlete or a National Federation on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

## 49. Classification Master List

- 49.1 World Triathlon 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.
- 49.2 World Triathlon must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Bodies on World Triathlon website.



49.3 The World Triathlon Classification Master List will be available on World Triathlon website under [http://www.triathlon.org/about/downloads\\_category/paratriathlon](http://www.triathlon.org/about/downloads_category/paratriathlon)

## PART TWELVE: GLOSSARY

<b>Adaptive Equipment</b>	Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results
<b>Adaptive Equipment</b>	Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.
<b>Appeals</b>	The means by which a complaint that World Triathlon has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.
<b>Athlete</b>	For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by World Triathlon) 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.
<b>Athlete Evaluation</b>	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.
<b>Athlete Support Personnel</b>	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.
<b>BAC</b>	The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.
<b>Adaptive Equipment</b>	Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.
<b>Appeals</b>	The means by which a complaint that World Triathlon has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.
<b>Athlete</b>	For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by World Triathlon) 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.
<b>Athlete Evaluation</b>	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.
<b>Chief Classifier</b>	A classifier appointed by World Triathlon to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.
<b>Classification</b>	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.

<b>Classification Data</b>	Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Federation and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.
<b>Classification Intelligence</b>	Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.
<b>Classification Master List</b>	A list made available by World Triathlon that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.
<b>Classification Not Completed</b>	The designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of Para Sport.
<b>Classification Organisation</b>	Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.
<b>Classification Panel</b>	A group of Classifiers, appointed by World Triathlon to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
<b>Classification Personnel</b>	Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.
<b>Classification Rules</b>	Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by World Triathlon in connection with Athlete Evaluation.
<b>Classification System</b>	The framework used by World Triathlon to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Para sport.
<b>Classifier</b>	A person authorised as an official by World Triathlon to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.
<b>Classifier Certification</b>	The processes by which World Triathlon must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.
<b>Classifier Competencies</b>	The qualifications and abilities that World Triathlon deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by World Triathlon.
<b>Classifier Code of Conduct</b>	The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by World Triathlon.
<b>Code</b>	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.
<b>Competition</b>	A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.
<b>Compliance</b>	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.'
<b>Continuing Education</b>	The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by World Triathlon to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.
<b>Diagnostic Information</b>	Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables World Triathlon to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition.
<b>Eligible Impairment</b>	An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para sport, as detailed in these Classification Rules.
<b>Eligibility Assessment Panel</b>	An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.
<b>Entry Criteria</b>	Standards set by World Triathlon 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.
<b>Entry-level Education</b>	the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by World Triathlon to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.
<b>Evaluation Session</b>	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.
<b>Event</b>	A single race, match, game or singular sport contest.
<b>First Appearance</b>	The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
<b>Fixed Review Date</b>	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, except if related to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
<b>Head of Classification</b>	A person appointed by World Triathlon to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for World Triathlon.
<b>Health Condition</b>	A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.
<b>Impairment</b>	A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

<b>Intellectual Impairment</b>	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).
<b>Intentional Misrepresentation</b>	A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Federation as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para sport 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.
<b>International Competitions</b>	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.
<b>International Sport Federation</b>	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 Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.
<b>International Standards</b>	A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.
<b>IPC</b>	International Paralympic Committee.
<b>Maintaining Certification</b>	The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.
<b>Major Competition Organiser</b>	An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.
<b>Medical Diagnostics Form</b>	A form that a National Federation must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.
<b>Medical Review</b>	The process by which World Triathlon 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.
<b>Medical Review Request</b>	A request made by a National Federation for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.
<b>Models of Best Practice</b>	An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.
<b>National Federation</b>	Refers to the national member of World Triathlon.
<b>National Laws</b>	The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.

<b>National Paralympic Committee</b>	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.
<b>National Protest</b>	A Protest made by a National Federation or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.
<b>Non-Competition Venue</b>	Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by World Triathlon 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.
<b>Observation in Competition</b>	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.
<b>Paralympic Games</b>	Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.
<b>Permanent</b>	The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principle effects are lifelong.
<b>Personal Information</b>	Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.
<b>Physical Impairment</b>	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.
<b>Process/Processing</b>	The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.
<b>Protested Athlete</b>	An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.
<b>Protested Decision</b>	The Sport Class decision being challenged.
<b>Protest Documents</b>	The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.
<b>Protest Fee</b>	The fee prescribed by World Triathlon payable by the National Federation when submitting a Protest.
<b>Protest Form</b>	The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.
<b>Protest</b>	The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
<b>Protest Panel</b>	A Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.
<b>Re-certification</b>	The process by which World Triathlon must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

<b>Recognised Competition</b>	A Competition that is sanctioned or approved by World Triathlon.
<b>Research Purposes</b>	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.
<b>Signatories</b>	Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.
<b>Sport Class</b>	A category for Competition defined by World Triathlon by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.
<b>Sport Class Status</b>	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.
<b>Team Sport</b>	A sport in which substitution of players is permitted during a Competition.
<b>Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA)</b>	A designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.
<b>Underlying Health Condition</b>	A Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.
<b>Vision Impairment</b>	An Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete.

# APPENDIX ONE: ATHLETES WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

## 1 Impairment Eligibility Criteria

### To be eligible for the sport of Para triathlon:

- 1.1 Athlete must present with one of the Eligible Impairments listed below in Table 1 and this must be permanent and;
- 1.2 The impairment must result from a health condition that is pathological and documented by medical records (trauma, disease, dysgenesis).

TABLE 1

Impairment Type	Examples of Health Conditions that may cause such impairment
<b>Impaired Muscle Power</b> - 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.
<b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b> - 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 arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.
<b>Limb Deficiency</b> - Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints because of trauma.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).
<b>Hypertonia</b> - 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.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
<b>Ataxia</b> - Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.
<b>Athetosis</b> - Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.



## 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

### Athlete Evaluation Process

- 2.1 The athlete evaluation process for the World Triathlon Para triathlon Classification System has been developed with the clear purpose to minimize the impact that impairments have on the outcome of competition through the activity of Para triathlon.
- 2.2 To evaluate the level of impact eligible impairments have on the performance in Para triathlon, classifiers assess body functions through:
  - 2.2.1 physical assessment (muscle power or neurological assessment) and;
  - 2.2.2 technical assessment (functional abilities profile).
- 2.3 These processes will determine whether an athlete meets the Minimal Impairment Criteria (MIC) for Para triathlon.
- 2.4 World Triathlon uses a point system and a weighing factor for classification of athletes with a physical impairment for each discipline of the sport (swimming, cycling and running). The total score determines the athlete's sport class.

### The MIC for the Physical Impairment Sports Classes (PTS and PTWC)

- 2.5 **PTS2-PTS5 (Ambulant Athletes):** The maximum possible score that can be obtained through the assessment methodology would correspond to an athlete with full muscle power in the ambulant assessment and a full score in the ambulant Functional Abilities Profile (FAP). This is a value of 1280. The score of 1212 represents the minimal impairment criteria (MIC) in Para triathlon for all physical impairments from PTS2 to PTS5 sport classes, which is equivalent to an athlete with the complete loss of a hand or throughout the wrist amputation. All athletes with impairments from the ambulant classes need to score below that number to ensure they meet the MIC for these classes.
- 2.6 **PTWC1-PTWC2 (Wheelchair users):** The maximum possible score that can be obtained through the assessment methodology would correspond to an athlete with full muscle power in the wheelchair medical assessment and a full score in the wheelchair Functional Athlete Profile (FAP). This is a value of 667.15. The score of 640.0 represents the minimal impairment criteria in paratriathlon for all physical impairments that fall under the PTWC sport class which is equivalent to a high unilateral amputee with no prosthetic use capacity in competition. All athletes with impairments from the wheelchair classes need to score below that number to ensure they meet the MIC for these classes.

### 3 Assessment Methodology

#### Physical Assessment: muscle Power and Neurological Screening

- 3.1 Muscle Power assessment is based on the Daniels and Worthingham (D&W) scale published in 2014, version 9. The scale has 6 levels from 0-5. Plus, or minus grades can't be recorded. That is, an athlete will score a 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, not a 2.5 or 3.5 for example.
- 3.2 The athlete is passively taken through the anatomical range of the key movement to assess the available range of movement (ROM). The athlete then actively moves through their available range against gravity and subsequently with resistance provided through the available range by the assessor or with gravity eliminated to identify the muscle power level.
- 3.3 The overall values for each muscle group are factored according to the relevance of each of the three disciplines (Swim, Bike and Run – different values for the ambulant and wheelchair classes). Ultimately, the overall Swim, Bike and Run scores are weighed against proportionate mean values from each of the segments in Sprint distance triathlon;
- 3.4 Full Range of Movement (ROM) is measured as full available ROM;
- 3.5 Anatomical range is identified for all key movements. E.g. Neck Flexion: 0-40°;
- 3.6 Muscle Testing (Power scale):

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

(Daniels and Worthingham 2014)

- 3.7 The Muscle Power testing accounts for 70% of the total athlete's total assessment score;

#### Athletes with Neurological Impairments

- 3.8 All athletes with an underlying health condition which presents as a World Triathlon eligible neurological impairment type such as Ataxia, Athetosis or Hypertonia, will undergo a neuro-logical impairment screen assessment to ensure there are clear signs of such impairment(s).
- 3.9 Athletes with Multiple Sclerosis:
  - 3.9.1 In advance to the competition, these athletes should submit Electromyograms and/or MRI that show a permanent loss of power during activity.
  - 3.9.2 If possible, videos of the athlete swimming and running, taken from the back (legs and upper torso) and more important, from the side. Videos of 6-10 seconds duration are to be sent to World Triathlon, at time of submitting the athlete's medical diagnosis form within the timelines as outlined in Article 7.5 and 7.6.

### 3.10 Neurological Impairment Screen

- 3.10.1 There are a set of tests to verify the presence of Hypertonia, Ataxia or Ataxia as impairment types and verify if they have an impact on activity limitation as per Classification rules 11.2 and 11.3

### 3.11 Technical Assessment for Physical Impairments

- 3.11.1 Athletes will be questioned on and may be requested to perform sport specific and novel tests as part of the technical assessment. This is called the "Functional Abilities Profile" (FAP) assessment. Testing protocols have been identified through current research;
- 3.11.2 The Technical Tests account for 30% of the athlete's total score.

#### **FAP–technical assessment (PTS2-PTS5)**

- 3.12 Each of the 16 Tests are weighed using a scale of values 1-3. Total scores in each of the segments are weighed against proportionate mean values from each of the segments in Sprint distance triathlon;

<b>Swim</b>		<b>Factor</b>
1	Both arms or residual limb able to move through a functional range of motion	2
2	Both arms or residual limb able to move with continuous arm action	2
3	Able to catch water with a partial or full hand on both sides	2
4	Able to kick with both legs or residual below the knee limb(s)	1
5	Able to swim in prone/freestyle position	2
<b>Bike</b>		
6	Able to cycle with a symmetrical body position with a cadence at 70-90rpm	2
7	Athlete does not have significant loss of power on any lower limb when pedaling	3
8	Able to have a grip with both hands on the handlebar	1
9	Able to use the aerobars or have the potential to do so	1
10	Athlete does not require a bike adaptation to safely complete the bike segment	1
<b>Run</b>		
11	Able to run without the use of World Triathlon approved lower-limb assistive devices	3
12	Able to maintain a symmetrical running stride (also in length)	2
13	Able to run with a symmetrical body position	1
14	Able to perform a counter movement jump	2

Transition		
15	Able to exit the water without assistance of water exit handlers	1
16	Athlete does not need to change a prosthetic leg in pre-transition and/or transition(s)	2

### **FAP–technical assessment (PTWC1-PTWC2)**

3.13 There are 12 functional tests with no factoring nor weighting

1	Able to stand unaid and unsupported without the use of World Triathlon assistive devices	
2	When standing, able to shift weight from one leg to another to front and side, with or without the use of World Triathlon approved assistive devices	
3	Are you able to walk in transition without the use of World Triathlon approved devices	
4	Able to maintain a streamlined, horizontal body position in the swim without a World Triathlon supportive device (brace)	
5	Able to move both arms through a functional swimming ROM with continuous arm action with full or residual limb	
6	Able to catch the water with both hands in the swim	
7	Able to rotate trunk to breath to at least one side	
8	Able to initiate a propulsive kick with one or two legs	
9	Able to complete transition transfers without assistance	
10	Able to hand bike without the use of straps around the trunk	
11	Able to maintain a trunk to thigh position throughout the propulsive phase in racing wheelchair	
12	Able to sit unsupported in the racing wheelchair	

#### 4 Observation in Competition - Protocol

- 4.1 The purpose of observation in competition is to ratify the outcome obtained by the classification panel following medical and technical classification assessment and ensure that impairment severity is reflected in the athlete's ability to carry out the activities of Fin triathlon.
- 4.2 Key points to consider during Observation in Competition Assessment may include one or more of the tests outlined in articles 13.2 and 13.3.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:
- 4.5 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes after classification assessment.
  - 4.5.1 If an Athlete is subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition and there is a second evaluation conducted where it is determined that the athlete is still required to undergo Observation in Competition, this observation 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).
  - 4.5.2 To reduce the impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results; observation in competition should be avoided by ensuring any doubts around athlete presentation in activity is resolved before competition by introducing extra assessments and other novel tests during the classification assessment. Classifiers must exhaust all options to get the best understanding of the athlete's activity limitation during the classification assessment.

#### 5 Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class

##### 5.1 World Triathlon Scoring system:

World Triathlon uses a points scoring system to define the Minimal Impairment Criteria for Para triathlon; PTS5 is the least impaired ambulant class and an athlete must be below 1212 points to be Eligible into the ambulant Para triathlon classes and to define each of the ambulant sports classes PTS4-PTS2 and the Wheelchair classes PTWC1 and PTWC2.

<b>PTS5</b>	This class includes athletes with a mild degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include athletes with below the elbow dysmelia, clubfoot, through the wrist amputation, mild spastic cerebral palsy, partial brachial-plexus on one arm, through the ankle amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices	From 1092,0 to 1211,9 points included
<b>PTS4</b>	This class includes athletes with a moderate degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle	From 980,0 to 1091,9 points included

	power or range of movement. Health conditions could include a moderate spastic cerebral palsy, complete brachial-plexus on one arm, through the shoulder amputation, unilateral below the knee amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	
<b>PTS3</b>	This class includes athletes with a significant degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include athletes with significant spastic hemiplegia, cerebral palsy, double below knee amputation, combined affected upper and lower limbs such as loss of muscle power in an arm and a unilateral below the knee amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	From 910,0 to 979,9 points
<b>PTS2</b>	This class includes athletes with a severe degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, limb deficiency, hypertonia, ataxia and or athetosis, impaired muscle power or range of movement. Health conditions could include severe cerebral palsy, congenital hemiplegia, above the knee amputation, etc. In both bike and run segments, amputee athletes may use approved prosthesis or other supportive devices.	Max 909,9 points
<b>PTWC2</b>	Athletes must use a recumbent handcycle on the bike segment and a racing wheelchair on the run segment; this class includes athletes with a significant degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency and spinal cord injuries such as unilateral above the knee amputation, partial paraplegia, etc.	Max 640 points
<b>PTWC1</b>	Athletes must use a recumbent hand bike on the bike segment and a racing wheelchair on the run segment. This class includes athletes with a severe degree of activity limitation resulting from impairments of, but not limited to, impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency such as double above the knee amputees, unilateral high level above the knee amputation, severe spinal cord injuries resulting in quadriplegia or paraplegia, etc.	463 Raw Muscle Power score

## 5.2 PTWC1 and PTWC2 Sport Class Allocation:

1. Once the Medical and Technical Assessments have been completed, classifiers should have a better picture of the athlete's functionality.

2. Classifiers should look at the RAW MP score in cell S18. The baseline reference score is 463 but when the athlete is scoring between 455 and 470 points, careful considerations should be followed.
3. Scores in the Hip and Trunk Flexion and Extension can also be checked in the chart under the RAW MP score.
4. The main premise is that for athletes who are scoring at least 3s in one or more of the hip values (mainly extensors and flexors), the trunk values should also be 3 or more.
5. If there are Hip scores, especially Extension that are 3 or more, and some trunk values are also 3 or more AND the score is over 463, the athlete clearly scores into the PTWC2 class.
6. If there are Hip scores that are a maximum score of 2, and trunk scores are also 3 or more, the raw MP score must be checked to see if it is at least 463 or not. The additional tests for trunk functionality must be checked on the athlete (please see protocols below).
7. If Hip scores are very low, 0 or max 1, regardless of what the trunk scores are, it is very unlikely the athlete will be over 463 points in raw score, and athlete should fall into the PTWC1 class.
8. In general, for cases that require further analysis, the athlete must perform the specific functional test described below:
  - A) Modified Functional Reach Test (for individuals who cannot stand)
    - Sitting in a chair Hips, knees and ankles positioned are at 90 degree of flexion, with feet positioned flat on the floor.
    - The initial reach is tested with the patient sitting against the back of the chair with the upper-extremity flexed to 90 degrees.
    - Consists of three conditions over three trials.
    - Sitting and stabilized, athlete should reach as far as possible leaning forward and return to initial position.
    - Sitting and stabilized, lean right with right arm extended as far as possible and recover initial position.
    - Sitting and stabilized, lean left with left arm extended as far as possible and recover initial position.
    - Instructions should include leaning as far as possible in each direction without rotation and without bracing in any way on the bench/chair.

## APPENDIX TWO: ATHLETES WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT

### 1 Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<b>Vision Impairment</b> Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

- 1.1 Refractive errors will no longer be considered an underlying health condition leading to vision impairment. This means that if a new athlete presents an MDF where ONLY a refractive error/s is/are listed, the athlete will be considered Non-Eligible for classification and cannot attend the athlete evaluation.
- 1.2 A secondary pathological condition needs to be present together with refractive errors causing loss of vision. The medical diagnosis should describe the specific changes causing loss of vision. If the pathological changes are confirmed on the basis of the medical evidence provided and the required vision tests, then the athlete should be considered to have an underlying health condition leading to an eligible impairment and can proceed to undergo athlete evaluation to determine if they meet the minimum impairment criteria for the sport.

### 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 2.1 Minimum Impairment Criteria for Athletes with a vision Impairment have been set based on the Athlete's corrected vision. (The difference in approach for Athletes with vision Impairment must be seen within the historical context of Classification for these Athletes, which is an assessment with 'best correction' as used in the context of medical diagnostics for visual acuity.)
- 2.2 To be eligible to compete in World Triathlon Para triathlon the athlete must meet both criteria below:
- 2.2.1 The athlete must have at least one of the following impairments:
- Impairment of eye structure;
  - Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways
  - Impairment of the visual cortex
- 2.2.2 The athlete's Vision Impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 1.0 or a visual field restricted to less than 40 degrees diameter.
- 2.3 It is the Athlete's NPC's responsibility to provide sufficient evidence of the Athlete's impairment. This must be done by way of submitting the VI Medical Diagnostic form completed by an ophthalmologist and submitted to World Triathlon, with all the requested supplementary medical information, by 6 weeks prior to the classification opportunity.



### 3 Assessment Methodology

- 3.1 All athlete evaluation and Sports class allocation will be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the eye with the best visual acuity when wearing the best optical correction.
- 3.2 Depending on the Athletes visual acuity, visual acuity is tested using the LogMAR chart for distance visual acuity testing with Illiterate “E” and/or the Berkeley Rudimentary Vision Test.
- 3.3 Athletes who compete using corrective devices (glasses, lenses) must attend the evaluation session with these devices and prescription.
- 3.4 Athletes must declare any changes in their optical correction to World Triathlon before any competition. If the athlete is a Sports class Review with Fixed Review Date or Confirmed the athletes sports class status will be made review and undergo evaluation at the next opportunity.
- 3.5 Athletes must declare any changes in their optical correction to World Triathlon before any competition. If the athlete is a Sports class Review with Fixed Review Date or Confirmed the athletes sports class status will be made review and undergo evaluation at the next opportunity.
- 3.6 No observation assessment is required as part of the evaluation process.
- 3.7 The complete reference of the assessment methodology can be found under:  
<https://ibsasport.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/182-1-IBSA-Classification-rules-2018.pdf>

### 4 Sports Classes

- 4.1 There are three visual impairment Sports classes for World Triathlon Para triathlon

<b>PTVI3</b>	Partial Visual Impairment: <b>Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.40 to 1 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees. This criteria is also the MIC criteria for the Visual Impairment classes.</b> One guide is mandatory throughout the race. Must ride a tandem during the bike segment.
<b>PTVI2</b>	Partial Visual Impairment: <b>Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees;</b> One guide is mandatory throughout the race. Must ride a tandem during the bike segment.
<b>PTVI1</b>	Total Visual Impairment: No light perception. <b>Visual acuity poorer than LogMAR 2.60</b> One guide is mandatory throughout the race. Must ride a tandem during the bike segment.

# APPENDIX THREE: NON-ELIGIBLE IMPAIREMENT AND HEALTH CONDITIONS

## 1 Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes (NE-EI)

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular and respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

## 2 Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes

- 2.1 A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in the above Appendices One and Two) but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.
- 2.2 Health Conditions that primarily cause pain; primarily cause fatigue; primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature do not lead to an Eligible Impairment.
- 2.3 Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.
- 2.4 An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.
- 2.5 An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.
- 2.6 Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder.



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