

World Bowling

ParaBowling Classification Structure

Disability specific classification for ParaBowling must be developed in cooperation and approval by the IPC. Below listed is the complete guidelines for IPC Paraspport. These have been copied from the IPC Guidelines surrounding classification. I have attached the link to each specific code.

World Bowling will need to adopt baseline components of classification and minimum disability requirements for Parabolwing. See - <https://www.paralympic.org/classification>. ParaBowling's initial classification structure is listed herein.

It is extremely important when developing competition rules for each given discipline of each disability group that we have buy-in from the respective disciplines. However, there is some latitude regarding sport specific determinations. ParaBowling shall be the ultimate arbiter of eligible disabilities that can be contested. Although the IPC recognizes 10 eligible impairment types, ParaBowling will determine which to incorporate and which to consolidate into divisions for competition. For example, deaf competitors are not deemed as having a qualifying classification of disability which precludes their participation at an able-bodied level. They would be considered *Sport Class Not Eligible or NE*, per IPC classification regulations. (*Classification Model Rules for Para Sports, January 2017, Section 8 para 8.2- 8.4*). *Simply, their disability does not preclude their participation with other non-disabled competitors.*

ParaBowling will consolidate disability groupings to incorporate multiple classifications where practical to prevent dilution by too many groupings of too few competitors. For example, the Wheelchair Division (**W1**) will incorporate amputees. Thus, amputees will compete from a wheelchair much like W/C basketball and W/C tennis in IPC and world competition. ParaBowling will not look to develop a separate amputee (standing) division or classification. In the Visually Impaired division we will have only two classifications, Totally Blind and Partially Sighted. Last, disciplines will combine classifications of disability when not enough competitors exist to substantiate the development of a separate division or classification.

ParaBowling under World Bowling will follow IPC classification restrictions. However, ParaBowling shall maintain the right to determine which classification(s) will be incorporated and how many they wish to involve. ParaBowling will not establish a new division, or disciplines within a given classification, if the number of countries and competitors does not meet basic competition requirement for international competition (*i.e. a minimum of 32 countries and three IPC regions*). Last, ParaBowling will select a technical delegate to represent ParaBowling on the IPC Technical Committee for matters related to ParaBowling sport classification, rules, etc. There will be involvement in other IPC committees as well.

Ultimately, it is important that ParaBowling develop a classification structure that comports with IPC guidelines yet serves the varied needs of the disabled bowling community. Para Bowling will recruit or utilize IPC classifiers for the given disciplines we involve in. In specific, wheelchair, visually impaired and intellectually disabled. We will also develop a Sport Technical Committee to deal with classification, rules and other technical aspects of our disabled disciplines.

Per the IPC

Every International Federation has classification rules in place, which define:

- the classification system of their sport(s), including minimum disability criteria and sport classes.
- roles and responsibilities of classification personnel, the International Federation, National Paralympic Committees or National Federations, and athletes.
- athlete evaluation procedures, including administration of classification opportunities, timelines, sport class status allocation and suspension of athlete evaluation; and
- procedures to protest sport class allocations.

The classification rules of each International Federation must comply with the [IPC Classification Code](#).

IPC ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION CODE

The Code was never designed to be a document that stood still. As classification and the Paralympic Movement developed, so would the ideas that would form rules, regulations and policies in the future. Following the experience gained in the application of the 2007 Code, the IPC Governing Board initiated a consultation process in 2013 to review and revamp the Code. The review process was a fully collaborative process that involved all Paralympic stakeholders, all of whom sought an enhanced Code that would benefit athletes around the world.

Over three phases and the publication of several preliminary drafts, the revised Code was approved by the IPC Governing Board in June 2015, and brought

The review process for the revised Code has resulted in a stronger, more robust tool that will ensure athletes worldwide are provided with the greatest opportunity to achieve sporting excellence.

IPC ATHLETE CLASSIFICATION CODE

file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/IS72ON0L/170704160235698_2015_12_17+Classification+Code_FINAL2_0.pdf

ATHLETE REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE 2015 CODE

file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/QZP4FJZF/170221101756974_2017_01+Athletes+Reference+Guide_ENG.pdf

The 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code is a creation of the IPC. The IPC also owns the © in the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code, including all previous editions.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The 2015 Athlete Classification Code and International Standards continue with the objective to standardize policies and procedures for classification across sports, while allowing the International Federations to adapt these to the needs of their sport. However, the 2015 Athlete Classification Code and International Standards differ from the 2007 Classification Code and International Standards in:

- Creating objectives that are long-term, athlete-centered and visionary.
- Clearly defining the purpose and principles.
- Ensuring athlete data protection.
- Updating classification administration procedures.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

The revised 2015 Athlete Classification Code is supplemented by five International Standards for:

- [Eligible Impairments](file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/IS72ON0L/161004145727129_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Eligible_Impairments_1.pdf): identifies which impairments are eligible in Para sport
file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/IS72ON0L/161004145727129_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Eligible_Impairments_1.pdf
- [Athlete Evaluation](file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/BU27VYYQ/161004135918977_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Athlete_Evaluation.pdf): procedures for sport class and sport class status allocation
file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/BU27VYYQ/161004135918977_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Athlete_Evaluation.pdf
- [Protests and Appeals](file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/9KX6EBAO/180208102440730_2018_02_07_International+Standard+for+Protests+and+Appeals.pdf): procedures for the management of classification related protests and appeals
file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/9KX6EBAO/180208102440730_2018_02_07_International+Standard+for+Protests+and+Appeals.pdf
- [Classifier Personnel and Training](file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/IS72ON0L/161004150059712_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Classifier_Personnel_and_training_1.pdf): classifier recruitment, training and certification strategies
file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/IS72ON0L/161004150059712_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Classifier_Personnel_and_training_1.pdf
- [Classification Data Protection](file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/BU27VYYQ/161004144103299_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Classification_Data_Protection.pdf): ensures the proper use of athlete classification data
file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/BU27VYYQ/161004144103299_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Classification_Data_Protection.pdf

Compliance with these International Standards is required by all signatories of the Code.

Classification Model Rules

Classification Model Rules have been developed to assist the membership with the implementation of the 2015 Athlete Classification Code and are readily accessible for International Sport Federations to adopt them as their Classification Rules.

[Classification Model Rules for Para Sport](file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/9KX6EBAO/170217125550391_2017_01_18+Classification+Model+Rules+for+Para+Sports.pdf)

file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/9KX6EBAO/170217125550391_2017_01_18+Classification+Model+Rules+for+Para+Sports.pdf

Models of Best Practice

The revised 2015 Athlete Classification Code is supported by Models of Best Practice which offer examples of excellence related to Classification. Once Models of Best Practice have been developed under the 2015 Athlete Classification Code they will be published here.

[Model of Best Practice on National Classification](#)

file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/IS72ON0L/170216081042262_2017_02_16+Models+of+Best+Practice_National+Classification.pdf

Initial Classifications for Parabolwing under World Bowling

Disciplines:

Wheelchair Division (3) (Standard Rules and Modified Competition Rules apply)

Includes those with impaired muscle power (e.g. paraplegia and quadriplegia, muscular [dystrophy](#) - a group of inherited conditions affecting the muscles, gradually leading to disability., post-polio syndrome, [spina bifida](#) (malformation of the vertebrae in the spine that exposes the spinal column.), impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency (e.g. amputation or dysmelia), leg length difference, hypertonia, [ataxia](#). Loss of coordination of voluntary muscle movements, athetosis.

(W1) Para/Amputee Classification – incorporates all wheelchair classifications. Includes leg amputees, cerebral palsy (with functional hands), and *Les Autres* athletes with mobility disfunction. All must compete from a wheelchair and follow the rules of play and modified rules established for this discipline.

(W2) Quad Classification – All wheelchair users with quadriplegia, meaning disability and dysfunction in all four limbs, including both hands with manifest functional limitation.

(W3) Ramp Classification – (Dynamic-IKAN) A wheelchair user with severe limitations of all four limbs, unable to manually propel the ball. This discipline will require an assistant to place the ball on a ramp (design specifications required to meet established rule guidelines). The ball placement is directed by the bowler and it is released by a mouth stick or electronically. *The Ramp classification (W3) will be commingled with the quad division (W2) until such time as there are enough countries to warrant a separate division.*

Visually Impaired Division (2) (Standard Rules and Modified Competition Rules apply)

To ensure a fair competition between individuals and teams, (B1) players must wear eyeshades during competition. A guide person (Caddy) may aid the bowler approach the lane. A Caddy may communicate to the V1 for aiming but may not physically assist the bowler in their release of the ball. No assistance from a coach beyond that can be provided. Portable Guide Rails may be used for (B1) and partially sighted (B2) bowlers.

(B1) Totally Blind Classification - A “totally blind” individual is one whose vision is of no value in bowling in that the individual cannot see the bowling pins, the lane, the channels or “gutters” beside the lane, the foul line or the location marks on the approach to the lane. No light perception in either eye. All competitors must wear an eye mask in this classification.

(B2) Partially Sighted – Legal blindness is defined as vision no better than 20/200, even with glasses, or a limited field of 20 degrees radius or less. To be eligible, **(B2)** athletes have less than 20 per cent visual acuity remaining (using Snellen); and a visual field restricted to less than 20 degrees diameter (using Perimeter).

Intellectually Disabled Division (1) (Standard Rules and Modified Competition Rules apply)

Intellectual Disabilities Classification

(ID) Classification - All competitors in this sport classes must minimally fulfill the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of intellectual disability as governed and deemed eligible internationally by VIRTUS (INAS). Virtus (INAS) is approved by The IPC to oversee ID related sports international competition.

Athlete eligibility requires -

- An IQ below 75.
- Limited intellectual functions and adaptive behavior which must be diagnosed before the age of 18.
- Impairment in adaptive functioning - for example, social, domestic and communication skills. The impairment must negatively affect the athlete's ability to compete in the specific sport.

All World Bowling and ParaBowling modified rules of competition apply. Currently Virtus athletes are not involved in the sport. VIRTUS (INAS) has been contacted and is determining their interest in ParaBowling competitions.

Note: *Special Olympics is an affiliated organization of WB but will not be competitively engaged in ParaBowling for international competition. A BOD determination must be made as to whether World Bowling wishes to maintain Special Olympics as an affiliated organization, by supporting at their independent Special Olympics World Games; or, in other ways better suited for both organizations.*

Dwarf Division (1)

Short stature athletes have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk. Examples of an underlying health condition that may lead to short stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta (*per IPC Eligible Impairments, Section 2.5*). **Note:** *Several contacts have been attempted with the International Dwarf Sports Federation (IDSA) and DAAA in the USA to determine their interest in the sport. To date, no contact has been returned.*

Deaf – Ineligible for ParaBowling

Deafness is not considered an eligible disability for ParaBowling. Deafness does not preclude one from participating and competing in the sport with able-bodied athletes. Many deaf athletes can easily assimilate into non-disabled competitions. However, ParaBowling may assist this affiliated organization, where practical, with bowling development and with their Deaf World Games (*Deaflympics*).