

International  
Paralympic Committee

# Alpine Skiing Classification Rules and Regulations

August 2015





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# **IPC Alpine Skiing Classification Rules and Regulations**

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## Purpose and organisation of these Rules

### Purpose

These Classification Rules (referred to generally as “the Rules”) provide a framework within which the process of “classification” may take place. 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. The purpose of classification is to minimise 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.

### Organisation

#### Articles

Article one	Article one explains that these Rules apply to persons who compete or are otherwise involved in the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing, and how the Rules should be interpreted.
Article two	Article two explains that qualified personnel referred to in these Rules as “classifiers” conduct athlete evaluation, with other key “classification personnel” being involved.
Article three	Article three explains how classifiers will conduct athlete evaluation as part of a classification panel.
Article four	Article four explains that the process of classification is carried out by way of athlete evaluation under these Rules, and details the specific processes and protocols to be followed during athlete evaluation.
Article five	Article five explains that classification is undertaken so that athletes can be designated a Sport Class (which groups athletes together in competition) and allocated a Sport Class Status (which indicates when athletes should be evaluated and how their Sport Class may be challenged).
Article six	Article six explains that one outcome of athlete evaluation may be that an athlete is found not to be eligible to compete in the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing, and the implications that arise if this is the case.
Article seven	Article seven explains that an Athlete or other party may dispute the

allocation of a Sport Class, and the process by which these disputes should be resolved.

**Article eight** Article eight explains that the procedure by which a Sport Class is allocated is subject to a limited form of challenge, and how these challenges should be made.

**Article nine** Article nine explains that if an athlete or other party attempts to subvert the athlete evaluation process, there will be consequences.

**Glossary** The glossary to these Rules contains a list of the defined terms used in these Rules.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix one** Appendix one deals with Sport Classes for Athletes with physical impairment, and sets out the minimum disability criteria and assessment methodologies that apply in order for an athlete with physical impairment to be eligible to compete in alpine skiing events.

**Appendix two** Appendix two deals with Sport Classes for athletes with visual impairment, and sets out the minimum disability criteria and assessment methodologies that apply in order for an athlete with visual impairment to be eligible to compete in the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing.



## 1 Article one - Scope and application

- 1.1 These Rules are an integral part of the IPC Alpine Skiing Rules and Regulations and are intended to implement the provisions of the IPC Classification Code for the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing.
- 1.2 These Rules shall apply to -
  - 1.2.1 All athletes and athlete support personnel who are registered and/ or licensed with IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard as defined in the IPC Alpine Skiing Rules and Regulations;
  - 1.2.2 All athletes and athlete support personnel participating in such capacity in events and competitions recognised by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard or any of its members or affiliate organisations or licensees;
- 1.3 It is the personal responsibility of athletes, athlete support personnel and classification personnel to acquaint themselves with all of the requirements of these Rules, the IPC Classification Code (see IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) and the other sections of the IPC Handbook that apply to classification, including the IPC Position Statement on Background and Scientific Rationale for Classification in Paralympic Sport (see IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 4.4)

### International classification

- 1.4 Athlete evaluation that is conducted in full compliance with these Rules is referred to as international classification. IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will only recognize Sport Class and Sport Class Status if allocated by way of international classification.
- 1.5 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will provide athletes with an opportunity to undertake international classification by appointing classifiers certified pursuant to article two to conduct athlete evaluation at recognized competitions, and by providing reasonable notice of such international classification opportunities to athletes and national bodies.
- 1.6 An athlete will only be permitted to undergo international classification if he or she
  - 1.6.1 is registered and/ or licensed with IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard pursuant to the relevant provisions in the IPC Alpine Skiing Rules and Regulations, and
  - 1.6.2 has been entered in a recognised competition where international classification is to take place.



### **Interpretation, commencement and amendment**

- 1.7 These Rules shall be interpreted and applied at all times in a manner that is consistent with the IPC Classification Code.
- 1.8 These Rules shall come into full force and effect on the effective date as specified by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
- 1.9 Amendments to these Rules shall be approved and shall come into effect in the manner prescribed by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard. IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard may at any time amend, update or otherwise alter the text, meaning and effect of the appendices independently of these Rules.

## 2 Article two – Classification personnel

- 2.1 Classification personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Rules. This article two explains how IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard classification personnel assist in the delivery of classification under these Rules.

### Classification Personnel

- 2.2 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard should appoint the following classification personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the administration, organisation and execution of classification for IPC Alpine Skiing:

#### 2.3 Head of Classification

- 2.3.1 The Head of Classification for IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will be appointed by IPC Alpine Skiing to be responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of all classification matters for IPC Alpine Skiing.
- 2.3.2 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard may delegate the role of Head of Classification to a nominated person or group of persons, such persons being identified publicly as such by IPC Alpine Skiing.
- 2.3.3 The Head of Classification in conjunction with IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard management is responsible for appointing classification panel(s) that will conduct international classification at recognised competitions.

#### Classifiers

- 2.3.4 A classifier is a person authorised and certified by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard as being competent to conduct athlete evaluation. IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will specify from time to time the means by which it shall certify classifiers.
- 2.3.5 IPC Alpine Skiing classifiers are required, as appropriate, to assist in the research, development and clarification of the Classification Rules and Sport Class profiles for IPC Alpine Skiing; participate in classifier workshops arranged by IPC Alpine Skiing and/or the IPC from time to time; and attend such classifier training as requested from time to time by the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
- 2.3.6 The Head of Classification may be appointed as classifier and/ or Chief Classifier.

## 2.4 Chief Classifiers

- 2.4.1 A Chief Classifier is a classifier who is appointed by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to act as the senior classifier present at a specific IPC Alpine Skiing recognised competition.
- 2.4.2 A Chief Classifier is responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters at a competition. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to do the following:
  - 2.4.2.1 Identify those athletes who will be competing at that competition who will require athlete evaluation;
  - 2.4.2.2 Supervise classifiers to ensure that the Rules are applied appropriately during a specific competition;
  - 2.4.2.3 Manage the Protest process as required by article seven.
  - 2.4.2.4 Liaise with the relevant competition organiser to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that classifiers may carry out their duties at the competition;

## 2.5 Trainee classifiers

- 2.5.1 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard may appoint trainee classifiers in order that they may be certified as a classifier.
- 2.5.2 A trainee classifier may actively participate in or observe athlete evaluation under supervision of a classification panel in order to develop the necessary competencies and proficiencies so as to be certified by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard as a classifier. They will be required to perform any such other duties as IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard requires.

### **Classifier competencies, qualifications and responsibilities**

- 2.6 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard certifies classifiers who have abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct athlete evaluation in respect of athletes with physical and/ or visual impairment.

- 2.7 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard requires classifiers to be certified health professionals in a field relevant to the impairment category which IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard at its sole discretion deems acceptable, e.g. physicians and physiotherapists for athletes with physical impairment, and ophthalmologists and optometrists for athletes with visual impairment. In addition, a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise in the sport of (adaptive) skiing and/or snowboard must be proven.
- 2.8 All classification personnel must comply with the standards of behaviour mandated from time to time in the IPC Code of Ethics and the IPC Classifier Code of Conduct. If any classification personnel is found to have breached the terms of either the IPC Code of Ethics or the IPC Classifier Code of Conduct, IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will have sole discretion to withdraw any applicable certification or authorisation. IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard may also make such recommendations as it sees fit to IPC and any other relevant bodies as regards any certification held by the relevant classification personnel to act as classification personnel in respect of other sports.

### 3 Article three - Classification panels

- 3.1 A classification panel is a body that is appointed by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to conduct athlete evaluation in accordance with these Rules. A classification panel should be comprised of a minimum of two (2) classifiers. If the circumstances so require, the Head of Classification may designate that a classification panel may consist of one suitably accredited and qualified classifier, who has been certified by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to conduct physical assessment. A classification panel consisting of one Classifier may only allocate a Sport Class designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) (see article 5.11.2 below).
- 3.2 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard and competition organizers will whenever possible ensure that at least two classification panels are able to conduct athlete evaluation for each impairment category (physical impairment and visual impairment, assuming that events are offered for both impairment categories).
- 3.3 Classification personnel should have no relationship with any athlete or athlete support personnel present at a competition or otherwise that might create any actual or perceived bias or conflict of interest. Classification personnel must disclose to IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard any actual or perceived bias or conflict of interest that may be relevant to their appointment as a member of any classification panel.
- 3.4 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will wherever possible ensure that classifiers who act as members of a classification panel at a competition will not have any official responsibilities other than in connection with athlete evaluation.
- 3.5 A Classification panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it considers in its sole discretion that this would assist it in completing the process of athlete evaluation.

## **4 Article four - Athlete evaluation**

- 4.1 Athlete evaluation is the process by which an athlete is assessed by a classification panel in order that the athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.

### **Athlete evaluation process**

- 4.2 The athlete evaluation process may encompass the following:
- 4.2.1 Physical assessment: the classification panel should conduct a physical assessment of the athlete, so as to establish that the athlete has an eligible impairment that meets the relevant minimum disability criteria; and/ or
  - 4.2.2 Technical assessment: the classification panel should conduct a technical assessment of the athlete which may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the athlete's ability to perform, in a non-competitive environment, the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the athlete participates; and/ or
  - 4.2.3 Observation assessment: the classification panel may conduct observation assessment, which shall involve observing an athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the sport in competition. Observation assessment may only take place if a classification panel believes that they cannot complete athlete evaluation and allocate a fair sport class without observing the athlete in competition.
- 4.3 The means by which physical, technical and observation assessment are to be conducted are specified in the appendices to these Rules.

### **Athlete evaluation requirements**

- 4.4 The following requirements apply to athlete evaluation:
- 4.4.1 The Athlete and his or her national body are jointly responsible for ensuring that the athlete attends athlete evaluation.
  - 4.4.2 Athlete evaluation and its associated processes will be conducted in English. If the athlete and/or the athlete support personnel require an interpreter, the national body will be responsible for arranging the attendance of an interpreter.

- 4.4.3 One person (in addition to any required interpreter) may accompany an athlete during athlete evaluation. This person should be familiar with the athlete's impairment and sporting history and must be a member of the athlete's national body or must be otherwise authorized in advance by the Chief Classifier to attend the athlete's athlete evaluation.
- 4.4.4 The athlete must accept the terms of the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Evaluation Consent Form prior to participating in athlete evaluation. The athlete must provide identification, such as a passport, ID card, IPC Alpine Skiing license Card or accreditation that verifies the Athlete's identity to the satisfaction of the classification panel.
- 4.4.5 The athlete must attend athlete evaluation with all sports equipment and attire used in competition.
- 4.4.6 The athlete must attend athlete evaluation with all relevant medical documentation (in English or with a certified English translation), including but not limited to medical reports, medical records and diagnostic information, which relate to the athlete's impairment (see the [Medical Diagnostic Form](#)).
- 4.4.7 The athlete must disclose either prior to, or at, athlete evaluation details of any medication used by the athlete.
- 4.4.8 The classification panel may use video footage and/or any other records (including pre-existing video footage and/or records) to assist it in carrying out athlete evaluation. In addition, the classification panel may video-record any part of athlete evaluation if it considers that such recording is necessary to enable it to complete athlete evaluation. Any such recording will be used for the purposes of athlete evaluation only and may be used for research and education purposes with the athlete's prior consent.
- 4.4.9 The classification outcomes will be published at the competition by the Chief Classifier or a person authorized by the Chief Classifier.

### **Failure to attend athlete evaluation**

- 4.5 If an Athlete is required to attend athlete evaluation, but fails to do so, the classification panel will report the fact of the non-attendance to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend athlete evaluation, specify a revised time and date for athlete evaluation at the relevant competition.



- 4.6 If the athlete fails to attend athlete evaluation on this second occasion, or is, in view of the Chief Classifier, unable to provide a reasonable explanation of his or her non-attendance, the athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant competition.

### **Suspension of athlete evaluation**

- 4.7 A classification panel may suspend athlete evaluation in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 4.7.1 if the athlete fails to meet any of the requirements detailed in these Rules for attendance at athlete evaluation (see article 4.4 above);
  - 4.7.2 if the classification panel considers that the use (or non-use) of any medication disclosed by the athlete will affect its ability to conduct athlete evaluation in a fair manner;
  - 4.7.3 if an athlete fails to produce sufficient medical documentation and the classification panel considers that the absence of such medical documentation will affect its ability to conduct athlete evaluation in a fair manner;
  - 4.7.4 if an athlete has a health condition (of any nature or description) that limits or prohibits the athlete from complying with requests made by the classification panel during the course of athlete evaluation, which the classification panel considers will affect its ability to conduct athlete evaluation in a fair manner (e.g. pain);
  - 4.7.5 if an athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given to him or her by a classification panel (or a Chief Classifier or the relevant Head of Classification) during the course of athlete evaluation to an extent that classification panel considers that this means it cannot conduct athlete evaluation in a fair manner. Such behaviour shall be referred to as a case of non-cooperation. (see IPC Classification Code, article 10);
  - 4.7.6 if an athlete's presentation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with other information made available to the classification panel to the extent that the classification panel considers that this means it cannot conduct athlete evaluation in a fair manner.
- 4.8 If a classification panel suspends an athlete evaluation the following steps will be taken:

- 4.8.1 the classification panel will explain the reason for the suspension to the athlete and the athlete's national body and detail the remedial action that is required on the part of the athlete.
- 4.8.2 the classification panel will report the fact of the suspension to the chief classifier. the chief classifier will specify a time and date for resumption of the athlete evaluation on the condition that the athlete takes the remedial action specified by the classification panel.
- 4.9 If the athlete attends athlete evaluation having taken the remedial action to the classification panel's satisfaction, the classification panel will attempt to complete the athlete evaluation and allocate a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This procedure will be subject to the classification panel's right to further suspend athlete evaluation according to article 4.7.
- 4.10 If the athlete fails to take the remedial action required to the classification panel's satisfaction and within the time specified by the Chief Classifier, the classification panel will terminate the athlete evaluation and IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will designate the athlete as being "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) within the classification master list for IPC Alpine Skiing. This designation will preclude the athlete from competing at any competition until athlete evaluation is completed. IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will stipulate from time to time how this designation impacts on performance recognition.
- 4.11 The athlete and/ or athlete support personnel may be subject to further investigation regarding Intentional Misrepresentation pursuant to article nine.

### **Observation assessment**

- 4.12 If a classification panel requires an athlete to complete observation assessment following completion of physical and technical assessment in order that the athlete can be allocated a Sport Class, the provisions regarding observation assessment will apply.
- 4.13 Pending completion of observation assessment, the athlete will be allocated a Sport Class with a tracking code:
  - 4.13.1 If the Athlete has entered the relevant competition with Sport Class Status New (N), the athlete will be allocated the tracking code competition New Status (CNS);

- 4.13.2 If the athlete has entered the relevant competition with Sport Class Status Review (R), the athlete will be allocated the tracking code Competition Review Status (CRS);
- 4.14 An athlete will retain the Sport Class and tracking code until observation assessment is satisfactorily completed.

#### **Observation assessment and first appearance**

- 4.15 Observation assessment, if required by the classification panel for the respective athlete, is conducted during the athlete's first appearance.
- 4.16 First appearance is the first time that an athlete competes in an event during a competition. First appearance in one event within a Sport Class shall apply to all other events within the same Sport Class, except if otherwise stipulated in the appendices to these Rules.
- 4.17 After satisfactorily completing observation assessment, the classification panel will allocate the athlete a Sport Class and designate the athlete with a Sport Class Status. The tracking code will then be removed.

#### **Changes of Sport Class following first appearance**

- 4.18 If an Athlete makes his or her first appearance with a Sport Class and tracking code, the athlete may be allocated a different Sport Class after the observation assessment is completed.
- 4.19 The impact of an athlete changing Sport Class after first appearance on medals, records and results is detailed in the Model of Best Practice on Sport Class Changes following First Appearance (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) and/or the IPC Alpine Skiing Rules and Regulations.

## 5 Article five - Sport Class and Sport Class Status

- 5.1 A Sport Class is a sporting competition category that is allocated to an athlete following athlete evaluation. It is allocated based on the existence of an eligible impairment and compliance with the minimum disability criteria, and the degree to which impairment impacts upon sport performance.

### Sport Class

- 5.2 A Sport Class will be allocated to an athlete by a classification panel following athlete evaluation. A Sport Class cannot be allocated to an athlete in any other circumstances.
- 5.3 The decision of the classification panel to allocate a Sport Class is final and subject to challenge only as prescribed in article seven and article eight of these Rules.
- 5.4 A Sport Class that enables an athlete to compete in the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing will be allocated if that athlete has an eligible impairment that complies with the minimum disability criteria set by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard. The requirements regarding eligible impairment and minimum disability criteria are detailed in the appendices to these Rules.
- 5.5 If an athlete does not have an eligible impairment or has an eligible impairment that does not comply with the minimal disability Criteria, he or she will not be eligible to compete within the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing. If an Athlete is not eligible to compete he or she will be allocated Sport Class “Not Eligible” (see article six).
- 5.6 The Sport Class allocated to the athlete will be in accordance with the Sport Class designations as explained in the appendices to these Rules.

### Sport Class Status

- 5.7 An athlete’s Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an athlete will be required to undertake athlete evaluation again in the future, and whether (and by what party) the athlete’s Sport Class may be subject to challenge by way of Protest as prescribed in article seven of these Rules.
- 5.8 The Sport Class Status designated to an athlete will be one of the following:
- Sport Class New (N)
  - Sport Class Review (R)
  - Sport Class Confirmed (C)

## 5.9 Athletes with Sport Class Status New (N)

- 5.9.1 An athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status New (N) if a national body has allocated an Entry Sport Class to him or her, and the athlete has not completed international classification yet.

## 5.10 Athletes with Sport Class Status Review (R)

- 5.10.1 A classification panel will designate an athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) if he or she has completed athlete evaluation and been allocated a Sport Class, but the classification panel believes that further athlete evaluation will be required before the athlete can be designated as Sport Class Confirmed (C). This may be, for a range of reasons, for example, because the athlete has a fluctuating and/or progressive impairment(s), or, given his or her age, has Impairment(s) that may not have stabilized.
- 5.10.2 Any Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Review (R) if that athlete is entitled to a further athlete evaluation under these Rules (see article six).
- 5.10.3 An athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete athlete evaluation prior to competing at a recognised competition where classification is offered, save where the provisions in these Rules relating to the Fixed Review Date apply (see Articles 5.12-15).
- 5.10.4 The Sport Class of any athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) may be subject to Protest by a national body as prescribed in article seven of these Rules.

## 5.11 Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

- 5.11.1 A classification panel will designate an athlete with Sport Class Confirmed (C) if he or she has completed athlete evaluation and has been allocated a Sport Class, and the classification panel is satisfied that the athlete's impairment and/or activity limitations are sufficiently stable so that the athlete can be allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed.
- 5.11.2 Sport Class Status Confirmed may not be allocated if the classification panel consists of one classifier only.
- 5.11.3 Any athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be designated with Sport Class Confirmed (C) if that Athlete is not entitled to a further athlete evaluation under these Rules (see article six).

- 5.11.4 An athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo athlete evaluation prior to competing at any competition.
- 5.11.5 The Sport Class of any athlete who enters a competition with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) may be subject to Protest pursuant to the provisions in articles 7.24-7.26 of these Rules relating to Protests under exceptional circumstances.

### **Fixed Review Date**

- 5.12 A classification panel that allocates Sport Class Status Review may also, if it considers it appropriate to do so, nominate a “Fixed Review Date”.
- 5.13 If a Fixed Review Date is set in this manner, then
  - 5.13.1 the athlete will not be required to attend athlete evaluation at any competition prior to the Fixed Review Date; and
  - 5.13.2 The athlete will retain the Sport Class assigned to that athlete and be permitted to compete with that Sport Class.
- 5.14 The athlete may, at his or her own request, attend athlete evaluation before the Fixed Review Date pursuant to the Medical Review Process described in these Rules (see articles 5.19-5.24).
- 5.15 The Fixed Review Date will be the first day of the competition season, which is 1 July for IPC Alpine Skiing, or an alternative date set by the Classification Panel.

### **Changes to Sport Class criteria**

- 5.16 If IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the appendices to these Rules, then –
  - 5.16.1 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard may re-assign any athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed with Sport Class Status Review in order for the athlete to undergo athlete evaluation; or
  - 5.16.2 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard may remove the Fixed Review Date for any athlete in order for the athlete to undergo athlete evaluation at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 5.17 In both instances the relevant national body shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

### **Errors regarding Sport Class Status**

- 5.18 If the Head of Classification believes on reasonable grounds that an Athlete has been designated with a Sport Class Status in manifest error and/or clear breach of these Rules, he or she shall
- 5.18.1 advise the athlete and the relevant national body or bodies as to the error or breach that has taken place with a brief statement of the reasons for that belief; and
  - 5.18.2 immediately amend the athlete's Sport Class Status, and advise the athlete and the relevant national body or bodies. IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will make the appropriate amendment to the classification master list.

### **Medical Review: Application to undergo athlete evaluation**

- 5.19 An athlete who has reason to believe that his or her impairment and activity limitations are no longer consistent with the profile for his or her Sport Class should have his or her Sport Class reviewed. The means by which this can take place is referred to in these Rules as "the Medical Review Process" and the means by which a request for such review is referred to as "a Medical Review Request".
- 5.20 A national body must make a Medical Review Request. A Medical Review Request cannot be made by an athlete.
- 5.21 A Medical Review Request may be made if an athlete has been allocated:
- 5.21.1 A Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C), or
  - 5.21.2 A Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R), if the athlete has been allocated a Fixed Review Date
- 5.22 A Medical Review Request must be made by completing the IPC Medical Review Request Form and by following its instructions. The Athlete and his or her NPC must ensure that the Medical Review Request abides by the following provisions:
- 5.22.1 it must explain that the athlete's relevant Impairment has changed since the last athlete evaluation to an extent that the athlete's Sport Class might not be accurate anymore;
  - 5.22.2 it must be completed by an appropriately qualified health professional and include all relevant supporting documentation in English or with a certified English translation;



5.22.3 a non-refundable fee must be paid.

- 5.23 Each Medical Review Request will be assessed by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to ensure that all requisite information, documentation and fee have been provided. Once the Medical Review Request is complete, the Head of Classification will, in conjunction with such third parties as he or she considers appropriate, decide whether or not the Medical Review Request should be upheld.
- 5.24 If the Medical Review Request is upheld the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended from Confirmed to Review; or the athlete's Fixed Review Date will be set aside; and the athlete will be requested to undertake athlete evaluation at the next available opportunity.

#### **Provision involving Multiple Sport Classes**

- 5.25 IPC's general principle is that an athlete is allocated one Sport Class only, which is either based on a physical, visual or intellectual impairment.
- 5.26 The Model of Best Practice on Choice of Sport Class for Athletes with Multiple Impairments (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3) should be considered by any athlete who believes that he or she is eligible for more than one Sport Class.

#### **Recognition of Sport Classes for athletes with visual impairment of other sports**

- 5.27 If brought to the attention of IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard that an athlete with visual impairment and Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date or Confirmed with IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard holds a different and more recently allocated Sport Class with another IF or Sport, then IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will adopt the Sport Class that indicates the most visual ability, and amend the Sport Class Status to Review. If the Sport Class by the other IF or Sport allocated is Not Eligible, the athlete's Sport Class of IPC Alpine Skiing will not be changed, but the Sport Class Status will be changed to Review.

## **6 Article Six - Rules regarding athletes who are Not Eligible**

- 6.1 An athlete must have an eligible impairment, and that eligible impairment must comply with the minimal disability criteria set by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard in order to be eligible to compete. If a classification panel determines that an athlete does not have such eligible impairment, and/or that eligible impairment does not comply with the minimal disability criteria, that athlete will not be eligible to compete.
- 6.2 If a classification panel determines that an athlete is not eligible to compete the athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 6.3 If a classification panel allocates an athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) the athlete will be entitled to undergo a second athlete evaluation by a second separate classification panel either at that competition or as soon as practicable thereafter. Pending this second assessment the athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Review (R). The athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 6.4 If there is no opportunity for a separate athlete evaluation to be undertaken at that competition, IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will take all reasonable steps to ensure the second athlete evaluation is undertaken at the earliest opportunity.
- 6.5 If a second classification panel confirms that the athlete is not eligible the athlete will not be permitted to compete at that competition or any future competitions. The athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed and there is no further right to Protest unless made under exceptional circumstances pursuant to articles 7.24-7.26.
- 6.6 A national body may request that an athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) undertakes athlete evaluation, but only by way of a Medical Review Request as defined in these Rules.
- 6.7 While an athlete with Sport Class NE will be not eligible to compete within the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing, it will not affect his or her ability to compete in other para-sports, subject to their rules on classification.
- 6.8 If an athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible, 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 IPC Alpine Skiing.

## 7 Article Seven - Protests

- 7.1 The term “Protest” is used in these Rules refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to the allocation of a Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 7.2 A national body may make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class of any athlete who entered the relevant competition where classification is offered with either Sport Class Status New (N) or Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 7.3 The decision that is the subject of the Protest is referred to in this part of the Rules as “the Protested Decision”, and the Athlete in respect of whose Sport Class the Protest is made is referred to as “the Protested Athlete”.
- 7.4 No national body may make a Protest in respect of any Athlete who entered the relevant competition with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 7.5 The Chief Classifier for the relevant competition may make a Protest in respect of any athlete regardless of their Sport Class Status pursuant to the provisions contained in these Rules regarding Protests under exceptional circumstances (see articles 7.24-7.26).
- 7.6 An athlete's Sport Class may only be protested once in any individual competition, unless an additional Protest is made pursuant to the provisions concerning Protests made in exceptional circumstances.
- 7.7 The national body making a Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.

### Protests submissions

- 7.8 A Protest may only be submitted by a national body, an Athlete cannot submit a Protest.
- 7.9 The Chief Classifier, or a person designated by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard for the relevant Competition, will be the person authorised to receive Protests on behalf of IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
- 7.10 If a classification decision is published during the classification evaluation period, the national body must make a Protest within one (1) hour of the classification decision being published. If a Protest is made during competition following completion of an athlete's observation in competition, the Protest must be submitted within fifteen (15) minutes of the Protested Decision being published.

- 7.11 Protests must be made by way of a designated Protest Form that will be made available by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard at the relevant competition. The Protest Form will prescribe certain information and documentation that must be submitted with the Protest form. This will include the following:
- 7.11.1 Name, nation and sport of the athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
  - 7.11.2 The details of the Protested Decision;
  - 7.11.3 An explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the national body believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
  - 7.11.4 All documents and other evidence referred to in the Protest;
  - 7.11.5 The signature of the authorised national body; and
  - 7.11.6 A Protest fee 100 EUR.
- 7.12 Upon receipt of the Protest Form the Chief Classifier will conduct a review of the Protest submission. If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not made bona fide or is based on mere assertion without credible supporting evidence and/ or the Protest submission is otherwise not in compliance with these Rules, the Chief Classifier shall decline the protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases the Chief Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the national body as soon as is practicable. The Protest fee will be retained by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
- 7.13 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the National Body may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier in respect of the Protest. The time frames for submitting a Protest shall remain the same in such circumstances. If a national body resubmits a Protest, all protest procedure requirements will apply. A second Protest fee must be paid.

### **Resolving a Protest**

- 7.14 If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a classification panel to conduct athlete evaluation in respect of the athlete. This classification panel is referred to as a “Protest Panel”.

- 7.15 A Protest Panel should comprise, at a minimum, the same number of classifiers as those comprised in the classification panel that made the Protested Decision. Only if practicable given all the circumstances of the competition, the Protest Panel should comprise classifiers of equal or greater level of experience and/or certification as who comprised the classification panel that made the Protested Decision.
- 7.16 The Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the classification panel that made the Protest Decision. Further, it should not include any person who has been a member of any classification panel that has conducted any athlete evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of eighteen (18) months prior to the date of the Protest Decision.
- 7.17 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest Form to the Protest Panel. The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the athlete evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 7.18 The Protest Panel will conduct athlete evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete according to the provisions concerning athlete evaluation in these Rules.
- 7.19 The Protest Panel may make enquires of the classification panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier, if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete athlete evaluation in a fair and transparent manner. In addition, it may seek medical, sport, technical or scientific expertise in its conduct of athlete evaluation.
- 7.20 The Protest Panel will conclude athlete evaluation and, if appropriate, allocate a Sport Class. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following athlete evaluation.
- 7.21 If the Protest is upheld and the Sport Class of the athlete is changed by the Protest Panel, the Protest Fee will be refunded to the national body. If the Protest is not upheld and if the Sport Class of the Athlete is not changed by the Protest Panel, the Protest fee will be retained by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
- 7.22 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest. According to Article 6.3, the athlete is given the opportunity to a re-assessment if the Sport Class allocated by the Protest Panel is Not Eligible.
- 7.23 The consequences of an athlete changing Sport Class after the resolution of a Protest during competition on medals, records and results are detailed in the Model of Best Practice on Sport Class Changes following First Appearance (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).

### **Protests under exceptional circumstances**

- 7.24 A Protest in exceptional circumstances may be made in respect of an athlete if the Chief Classifier believes that because of exceptional circumstances, the athlete should undertake athlete evaluation in order that his or her Sport Class may be reviewed.
- 7.25 Examples of exceptional circumstances that may arise that may warrant an athlete participating in athlete evaluation include, but are not limited to:
- 7.25.1 An obvious and permanent change in the degree of Impairment of an athlete;
  - 7.25.2 An athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition which does not reflect the athlete's current Sport Class;
  - 7.25.3 An error made by a classification panel which has led to the athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the athlete's ability; or
  - 7.25.4 Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the athlete's most recent evaluation.
- 7.26 The procedure for the making of a Protest in exceptional circumstances shall be as follows:
- 7.26.1 The Chief Classifier shall advise the athlete and relevant national body that a Protest is being made in exceptional circumstances;
  - 7.26.2 The Chief Classifier will provide a written summary of the reasons for the making of the Protest, which at a minimum shall explain why the Chief Classifier believes that the Athlete's Sport Class appears to be inconsistent with the athlete's perceived impairment(s) and/or activity limitation(s) and/ or with these Rules;
  - 7.26.3 The athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect;
  - 7.26.4 The process for making such a Protest shall be the same as that stated in these Rules in respect of Protests made by national bodies save that the Chief Classifier is not required to pay a Protest fee.

### **Provisions where no Protest Panel is available**

- 7.27 If a Protest is made and accepted at a competition, but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that competition (because, for example, it is not possible to form an appropriately constituted Protest Panel), the following provisions will apply:

- 7.27.1 If the athlete has been allocated Sport Class Status Confirmed (C), that will be amended to Sport Class Status Review (R);
- 7.27.2 The athlete will be permitted (or required) to compete in his or her current Sport Class, pending the resolution of the Protest;
- 7.27.3 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity, for example, at the next competition that the Athlete intends competing at and where international classification is offered.



## 8 Article eight – Appeals

- 8.1 An Appeal is a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 8.2 If an athlete believes that an unfair decision has been made pursuant to these Rules, he or she may apply to have that decision set aside following the Appeal procedure.
- 8.3 A decision will be considered unfair, if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in these Rules at article 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of these Rules; and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the decision such that it should be set aside.
- 8.4 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard has designated the International Paralympic Committee Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the hearing body for all Appeals and all athletes submitting to athlete evaluation irrevocably submit to the exclusive, final and binding jurisdiction of the BAC.
- 8.5 The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals are provided by the IPC in the form of the IPC BAC Bylaws (see IPC Handbook, Section 1, Chapter 2.8). These Rules incorporate the IPC BAC Bylaws, and any Appeal made under these Rules must be made pursuant to the IPC BAC Bylaws.
- 8.6 The outcome of an Appeal will be that either the relevant decision is upheld, or is set aside. An Appeal decision cannot amend a Sport Class or Sport Class Status.

## **9 Article nine – Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 9.1 Intentional Misrepresentation is a violation of these Rules, and will be investigated and potentially sanctioned as provided for in the IPC Intentional Misrepresentation Rules (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 1.3).

### **Misrepresentation during athlete evaluation**

- 9.2 An athlete who intentionally misrepresents his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of physical or visual impairment to a classification panel in the course of athlete evaluation with the intention of deceiving or misleading that classification panel shall be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

### **Misrepresentation after allocation of Confirmed Sport Class**

- 9.3 If following the allocation of a Sport Class an athlete undertakes any form of corrective treatment (a “medical intervention”), and the athlete (or any other participant) knows (or should know) that the medical intervention was intended to result in improved sport performance, the athlete must provide details of that medical intervention to the IPC at the earliest reasonable opportunity. If the athlete’s Sport Class is later changed because the athlete’s sporting performance has improved as a result of (in whole or in part) that medical intervention, but the athlete failed to disclose that medical intervention to IPC, the athlete will be charged with Intentional Misrepresentation.

### **Assisting Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 9.4 Any athlete or athlete support personnel who knowingly assists, covers up or is any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation shall themselves be guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation.

## 10 Glossary of defined terms

Term	Definition
<b>Activity limitation</b>	Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities.
<b>Appeal</b>	A formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.
<b>Athlete</b>	Any person who participates in the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing at either international level (as defined by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard) or national level (as defined by a national body) and any other additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's national body.
<b>Athlete evaluation</b>	The process by which an athlete is assessed in accordance with these Rules.
<b>Athlete support personnel</b>	Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or competition.
<b>Classification</b>	A structure for competition to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other Athletes.
<b>Classification evaluation period</b>	The timeframe prior to the commencement of events at a competition within which physical and technical assessment typically takes place.
<b>Classification master list</b>	The list, made available by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard that identifies the athletes that participated in international classification.
<b>Classification panel</b>	A group of classifiers appointed by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Rules.
<b>Classification personnel</b>	All persons involved in or associated with the process of athlete evaluation, including the Head of Classification, Classifiers, Chief Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers.

<b>Classifier</b>	A person authorized by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to evaluate athletes as a member of a classification panel.
<b>Competition</b>	A series of individual events conducted together under the jurisdiction of IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
<b>Competition season</b>	The timeframe within which competitions are held for a particular sport. For summer sports, the competition season runs from January 1 of a calendar year until December 31 of the same calendar year. For winter sports, the competition season runs from July 1 of a calendar year until June 30 of the next calendar year.
<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	A conflict of interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.
<b>Effective date</b>	The date upon which these Rules come into force.
<b>Eligible impairment</b>	An eligible impairment is an impairment the existence of which is a pre-requisite for an athlete to meet the minimum disability criteria for the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing.
<b>Entry Sport Class</b>	A Sport Class allocated to an athlete by a national body prior to an IPC Alpine Skiing competition to indicate the Sport Class with which the athlete intends to compete. An Entry Sport Class is an estimate and has no binding effect upon either the athlete or the body responsible for organising and managing the relevant competition.
<b>Event</b>	A sub-set of a competition that requires specific technical and sporting skills.
<b>Fixed Review Date</b>	<p>A date prior to which an athlete who has been designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) will not be required to undertake athlete evaluation, regardless of whether or not that athlete competes at any competition.</p> <p>Unless otherwise specified by the classification panel, the Fixed Review Date is the first day of the competition season of IPC Alpine Skiing, <i>i.e.</i> 1 January for summer sports and 1 July for winter sports.</p>
<b>Head of Classification</b>	A classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.

<b>Impairment</b>	Problems in body function or structure such as a significant deviation or loss.
<b>Intellectual impairment</b>	A type of impairment, which is defined as a limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills. This impairment originates before the age of 18.
<b>International classification</b>	Athlete evaluation that is conducted in full compliance with these Rules.
<b>IPC</b>	International Paralympic Committee
<b>IPC Classification Code</b>	The IPC Classification Code 2007 and accompanying International Standards and any subsequent version or versions of the same.
<b>IPC Classifier Code of Conduct</b>	A set of rules to outline the responsibilities, to guide behaviour and decisions and to identify best practice for an individual classifier, which is part of the IPC Classification Code International Standard of Classifier Training.
<b>IPC Code of Ethics</b>	The ethical standard that will be applied consistently within the Paralympic Movement, and will be applicable to all IPC sanctioned events, competitions and activities.
<b>IPC Handbook</b>	The IPC Handbook is the primary governance instrument for the IPC in its capacity as both an International Federation and the ruling body for the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games. All persons who are subject to the jurisdiction of the IPC are required to abide by its provisions.
<b>Medical intervention</b>	Any intervention such as surgery, pharmacological intervention or other treatment, which affects the athlete's eligible impairment
<b>Medical Review</b>	The process by which an Athlete can apply to IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard to undergo athlete evaluation, in order that the athlete's Sport Class may be reviewed to ensure that the athlete's Sport Class remains a fair allocation.
<b>Minimum disability criteria</b>	The standards set by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard in relation to the degree of eligible impairment that must be present in order that an athlete is deemed to be eligible to compete in the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing.

<b>National body</b>	A team entity of which an athlete is a member. Such an entity may be National Federation, National Paralympic Committee or other representative team body.
<b>Not Eligible</b>	Consequence of not meeting the eligibility criteria.
<b>Observation assessment</b>	The means by which a classification panel may complete athlete evaluation, if it considers that the only fair way in which it can complete athlete evaluation is to observe the athlete performing the specific skills associated with the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing either prior to or during an event.
<b>Physical assessment</b>	The means by which a classification panel will determine whether or not an athlete has an eligible impairment and whether that eligible impairment complies with the minimum disability criteria.
<b>Physical impairment</b>	A group of eligible impairments affecting an athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising ataxia, athetosis, hypertonia, impaired muscle power, impaired range of movement, limb deficiency, leg length difference and short stature.
<b>Protest</b>	The procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
<b>Protest panel</b>	A classification panel formed to conduct athlete evaluation in respect of an athlete's Sport Class, where that Sport Class is the subject of a Protest.
<b>Recognised competition</b>	An umbrella term for IPC Alpine Skiing Competitions, IPC Alpine Skiing Sanctioned Competitions and IPC Alpine Skiing Approved Competitions as defined in the IPC Alpine Skiing Rules and Regulations.
<b>Sport class</b>	A category defined by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard in which athletes are categorized by reference to an activity limitation resulting from impairment.
<b>Sport class status</b>	A category allocation to each athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities.
<b>Technical assessment</b>	The assessment of an athlete's ability to perform the tasks and activities required to participate in the sport of IPC Alpine Skiing.
<b>Tracking code</b>	A temporary designation applied to a Sport Class that indicates that a Sport Class is subject to final determination after observation assessment has taken place.

<b>Visual impairment</b>	An impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain, which adversely affect an athlete's vision.
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## **Appendix one: Eligibility criteria and sport classes for athletes with physical impairment competing in alpine skiing**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This appendix defines the eligible types of impairment, the minimum disability criteria, methods of assessment and sport profiles designated by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard for athletes with physical impairment competing in IPC Alpine Skiing.

### **2 Eligibility criteria**

- 2.1 In order to compete in IPC Alpine Skiing, athletes with physical impairment must be affected by at least one of the following impairments:
- Limb deficiency: total or partial absence of the bones or joints of the shoulder region, upper extremities, pelvic region or lower extremities (s720-750)
  - Impaired passive range of Motion: limitations in joint mobility (b7100-7102)
  - Impaired muscle power (b730)
  - Leg length difference: aberrant dimensions of bones of right lower limb or left lower limb (s75000-75020)
  - Hypertonia: high muscle tone (b735)
  - Ataxia: absence of control of voluntary movement (b760)
  - Athetosis: involuntary contractions of muscles (b7650)
- 2.2 The following impairment types are non-eligible impairments in IPC Alpine Skiing:
- Mental functions (v140-189), including impairments of psychomotor control (b1470), quality of psychomotor functions (b1471), visuospatial perception (b1565), higher-level cognitive functions required for organization and planning movement (b1641); mental functions required for sequencing and coordinating complex, purposeful movements (b176)
  - Hearing functions (b230-249)
  - Pain (b280-0289)
  - Joint instability (b715), including unstable shoulder joint and joint dislocation
  - Muscle endurance functions (b740)
  - Motor reflex functions (b750)
  - Involuntary movement reaction functions (b755)
  - Tics and mannerism (b7652)
  - Stereotypies and motor perseveration (b7653)
  - Cardiovascular functions (b410-429)

- Respiratory functions (b440-449)
- Functions related to metabolism and the endocrine system (b540-b559)
- Short stature (s730.343, s750.343, s760.349)

The codes refer to the WHO manual on International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health.

- 2.3 An athlete who is affected by an eligible impairment in combination with any of the non-eligible impairments listed under 1.2 of this appendix, will be assessed against the extent of activity limitation resulting from the eligible impairment only.
- 2.4 If an athlete has an activity limitation resulting from an impairment that is not permanent the athlete shall be considered ineligible to compete.
- 2.5 If an athlete is deemed ineligible for competition under the rules of IPC Alpine Skiing, this does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. This is only a ruling on the eligibility of the athlete to compete under the Sport Rules of IPC Alpine Skiing.

### 3 Assessment methods

- 3.1 The IPC Alpine Skiing Classification Rules and Regulations require that an athlete undertakes physical and technical assessment in order to be allocated a Sport Class. This is required in order to establish that the athlete exhibits an impairment that qualifies the athlete for competition, and that the athlete exhibits activity limitations resulting from that impairment that affect the athlete's ability to compete. Both of these components are part of the overall eligibility assessment process that is an integral feature of athlete evaluation. The physical and technical assessment detailed in this section is complemented with observation in training practical and/or competition if required by the classification panel.
- 3.2 In order to complete physical and technical evaluation, a classification panel must have access to medical documentation regarding the athlete's impairment. It is the responsibility of the athlete to provide sufficient evidence of the athlete physical impairment, but it is at the discretion of the Head of Classification or classification panel to request more detail if so required. Medical documentation must be submitted by means of the Medical Diagnostic Form, available from the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard website.
- 3.3 Athletes are required to attend classification with any prosthetics, braces, strapping, and supports as well as modified ski boots.

### **Muscle Strength testing (Oxford Scale)**

3.4 Muscle strength is to be measured with the Oxford Scale (Daniels and Worthingham 2013). The scores defining the sport class profiles make use of this scale.

0 - Complete absence of muscle contraction

1 - Faint contraction noted without any movement of the limb

2 - Contraction with very weak movement through full range of movement when gravity is eliminated

3 - Contraction moving joint through the full range of movement against gravity

4 - Contraction with full range movement against gravity plus some resistance

5 - Normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance.

### **Spasticity Grading (Ashworth Scale)**

3.5 Spasticity is to be measured with the Ashworth Scale. The scores defining the sport class profiles make use of this score.

0 - No increase in muscle tone.

1 - Slight increase in tone giving a “catch” when affected part s moved in flexion or extension.

2 - More marked increase in tone but affected part is easily flexed.

3 - Considerable increase in tone; passive movement difficult.

4 - Affected part is rigid in flexion or extension.

3.5.1 In conducting the assessment, the classification panel must be satisfied that the resistance to passive lengthening of the muscle is related to an underlying impairment. The following signs may be useful indicators in this regard:

- presence of non-dampening clonus on the side which the tone is increased;
- abnormal brisk reflexes in the limb in which the tone is increased;
- mild atrophy in the limb in which the tone is increased;
- positive Babinski response on the side in which the tone is increased.

3.5.2 In conducting the assessment, the classification panel must be satisfied that ataxic movements are demonstrable and clearly evident and related to an

underlying impairment. Tests that may be useful for determining this include, but are not limited to:

- finger-to-nose test (athlete touching own nose from the crucifix position);
- finger-to-finger test (classifier presents his/her index finger and asks the Athlete to touch it with his/her own index finger);
- toe-to-finger test (classifier presents his/her index finger and asks the Athlete to touch it with his/her toe);
- heel shin test (drawing the heel of one leg along the length of the contralateral shin, from ankle to knee and then in reverse direction);
- tandem walk;
- gait.

3.5.3 In conducting the assessment, the classification panel must be satisfied that athetotic movements are demonstrable and clearly evident and related to an underlying impairment. Tests that may be useful for determining this include, but are not limited to:

- involuntary movement of the fingers or upper extremities despite the athlete trying to remain still;
- involuntary movement of the toes or lower extremities despite the athlete trying to remain still;
- inability to hold the body still – swaying of the body. Swaying should not be due to other neurological deficits such as vestibular or proprioceptive impairments and therefore should not be exacerbated by closing the eyes during the test;
- characteristic athetoid posturing of the limbs and/or trunk.

### **Board test for trunk function**

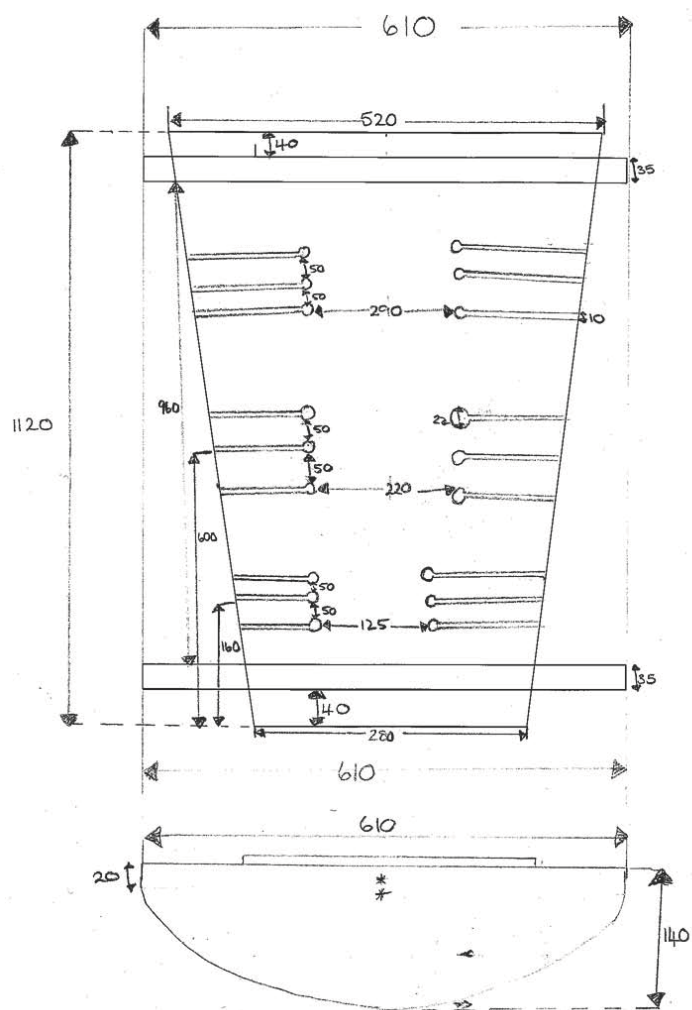
3.6 To conduct the board test, the following equipment is required:

- Testing board with 3 straps (as seen in the below pictures)
- 1 kg medicine ball
- Knee flexion roll
- Foam wedges to stabilize board

3.6.1 The testing board requires the following components:

- Wooden top board and two rockers

- Slits cut on both sides
- Straps in slits to hold athlete's hips, knees and ankles firm during testing
- Velcro or snap fastenings on straps
- Top can be covered with thin compressed foam to stop athlete slipping



3.7 Trunk function is assessed by way of the board test, which consists of the following six tests:

### 3.7.1 Test 1: Upper extremity testing of strength, range of movement and function.

The test board is secured for this test.

3.7.2 Test 2: Sitting balance, in the sagittal plane.

Sitting with the hands behind the neck, flex forwards at the waist as much as possible. Then extend the trunk and lift to a position of 45° forward flexion. Hold that position, keeping the hands behind the neck. The test board is secured for this test.

3.7.3 Test 3: Sitting balance in the sagittal plane.

Arms folded over the chest, extend back to hold 45° backward extension.

3.7.4 Test 4: Sitting balance in the sagittal and frontal planes.

Free rotation of the trunk, in sitting, arms fully abducted.

3.7.5 Test 5: Sitting balance in the frontal plane.

The athlete has arms abducted and tilts the testing board from side to side, shifting the body weight sideways and maintaining the maximum tilt without losing balance.

3.7.6 Test 6: Sitting balance, in the frontal and sagittal planes to test stability of trunk and pelvis.

A 1kg ball is placed beside the athlete's hip at the level of the testing board. The athlete picks up the ball with both hands and lifts the ball above the head to place it beside the hip on the opposite side of the testing board. Repeat in the other direction.

3.8 For each test of the board test, one of the following scores are allocated:

0 = No function, test impossible

1 = Weak or poor function

2 = Fair function

3 = Normal function

3.9 The total score of all six parts of the Board Test translate into Sport Classes as follows:

LW 10 score 0 – 8

LW11 score 9 – 15

LW 12 score 16 – 18

## Upper limb assessment

3.10 The following aspects should be considered when assessing the upper limbs:

- Muscle power
- Muscle tone
- Reflexes
- Passive range of movement
- Co-ordination (describe, left and right):
- Hand grasp and release
- Finger opposition
- Finger to nose
- Rapid palm up/palm down on lap
- Bilateral finger opposition in front of body

3.11 The aim of an upper limb neurological assessment is to determine if an athlete has a bilateral or unilateral impairment which would then suggest an inability to grasp a pole and/or a capacity to use the pole functionally as well as ensuring minimal impairment criteria is met. This applies also for limb loss, and limited active and/or passive ROM.

## Lower limb assessment

3.12 The following aspects should be considered when assessing the lower limbs:

- Muscle power
- Muscle tone
- Reflexes
- Passive range of movement
- Co-ordination (describe, left and right):
- Heel walking
- Toe walking
- Heel- toe walking in a straight line
- Single leg stance (eyes open and eyes shut)

- Hoping on one leg, on spot/clockwise/anti-clockwise
- Running (including quick change of direction)
- Knee lifts whilst running
- Heel kick when running
- Jumping
- Rapid squats

3.13 The aim of a lower limb neurological assessment is to determine if an athlete has a bilateral or unilateral impairment, and to make an evidence based classification decision.



## 4 Sport Class Profiles

Final class allocation is a result of a combination of several measurements and assessments.

### Standing Sport Classes LW 1 to LW 9

LW1	Minimal criteria (Bilateral lower limb impairment)
Muscle power impairment	Total score of less than 35 (normal = 80) in both legs on the Oxford Scale
Limb deficiency	Double above knee amputation, one above knee and one below knee amputation or impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
Neurological impairment	<p>Both lower limbs affected</p> <p>Athetosis or ataxia must be observable with involuntary movement of both limbs</p> <p>Hypertonicity will be present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes bilaterally and spasticity = grade 3-2 bilaterally</p> <p>Requires a gait aid for ambulation and walking will be labored</p> <p>Running not possible</p> <p>Single leg stance less than 3 sec</p> <p>Poor balance</p> <p>Trunk sways to lead lower extremity movement</p> <p>Unable to hop</p> <p>Unable to perform advanced balance and co-ordination skills (grapevine, jump and turn, heal-shin)</p>
Technical	<p>Skis with 2 skis, 2 poles/outriggers, the skis may be tied together.</p> <p>Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.</p>

<b>LW2</b>	<b>Minimal criteria (Unilateral lower limb impairment)</b>
Muscle power impairment	Total score of less than 20 (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
Limb deficiency	Single above or below knee amputation, at minimum unilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation), or impairments that cause a similar loss of limb  Arthrodesis of knee and hip on the same side.
Neurological impairment	Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or limb deficiency as listed above
Technical	Skis with 1 ski, 2 poles/outriggers  Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.
<b>LW3</b>	<b>Minimal criteria (Bilateral lower limb impairment)</b>
Muscle power impairment	Total score of less than 60 (normal = 80) in both legs on the Oxford Scale
Limb deficiency	At minimum bilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation), including double below knee amputation and impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
Neurological impairment	Both lower limbs affected  Athetosis or ataxia must be observable with involuntary movement of both limbs  Hypertonicity will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes bilaterally and spasticity = grade 2-1 bilaterally  Does not use aids for ambulation  Able to run, but will demonstrate difficulty with sudden change in direction.  Single leg stance greater than 3 sec.  Able to hop, but difficulty remaining on one spot

	Impaired performance of advanced balance and co-ordination skills (grapevine, jump and turn, heal-shin)
Technical	Skis with 2 skis, 2 poles/outriggers  Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.
<b>LW4</b>	<b>Minimal criteria (Unilateral lower limb impairment)</b>
Muscle power impairment	Total score of 30 or less (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
Limb deficiency	At minimum unilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation), including below knee amputation and impairments that cause a similar loss of limb)
Neurological impairment	Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or limb deficiency as listed above
Technical	Skis with 2 skis, 2 poles  Lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.
<b>LW5/7</b>	<b>Minimal criteria (Bilateral upper limb impairment)</b>
<b>LW 5/7-1</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an athlete with double above elbow amputations; neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole
Limb deficiency	Bilateral above elbow amputation  Bilateral limb deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to bilateral above elbow amputations
Neurological impairment	Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or limb deficiency as listed above
Technical	2 skis, no poles  Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC

	Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.
<b>LW 5/7-2</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an athlete with an above elbow amputation, and below elbow amputation; neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole
Limb deficiency	One arm amputated above the elbow and one below the elbow.  Bilateral limb deficiency, with residual limb lengths equivalent to a one arm above elbow amputation and the other below elbow amputation.
Neurological impairment	Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or limb deficiency as listed above
Technical	2 skis, no poles  Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.
<b>LW 5/7-3</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an athlete with bilateral below elbow amputations  Neither hand is able to hold and use a ski pole
Limb deficiency	Bilateral below elbow amputation.  Bilateral limb deficiency, with residual limb lengths equivalent to below elbow limb amputations.  Residual limbs unable to hold and use a ski pole
Neurological impairment	Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or limb deficiency as listed above
Technical	2 skis, no poles  Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.

<b>LW6/8</b>	<b>Minimal criteria (Unilateral upper limb impairment)</b>
<b>LW 6/8-1</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an athlete with unilateral above elbow amputations
Limb deficiency	Unilateral above elbow amputation Unilateral limb deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to unilateral above elbow amputation
Neurological impairment	Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or limb deficiency as listed above
Technical	2 skis, 1 pole Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.
<b>LW 6/8-2</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Equivalent activity limitation to that of an athlete with a unilateral below elbow amputation.
Limb deficiency	Unilateral below elbow amputation Unilateral limb deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to unilateral through the elbow amputation. Residual limb is unable to hold and use a ski pole.
Neurological impairment	Nerve injury resulting in muscle power impairment or limb deficiency as listed above
Technical	2 skis, 1 pole Upper limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.

<b>LW9</b>		<b>Minimal criteria (Ipsilateral or contralateral upper limb and lower limb impairment)</b>
<b>LW 9-1</b>		
Muscle power impairment	Lower limb	Total score of less than 20 (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
	Upper limb	Equivalent activity limitation to that of either an athlete with unilateral above elbow, or below elbow amputation.
Limb deficiency	Lower limb	Above knee amputation or impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
	Upper limb	Unilateral above or below elbow amputation Unilateral limb deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to either unilateral above or elbow amputation.
Neurological impairment (hemiplegic involvement)	Lower limb	May present with Athetosis or Ataxia Will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes Spasticity = grade 3-2 on impaired side Ambulant without assistive devices, but will present with a limp. Unable to hop on impaired side. Unable to side step towards impaired side Single leg stance less than 3 sec on impaired side. Unable to heel walk.
	Upper limb	Spasticity = grade 3-2 on impaired side Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests compared to non-affected side. Equivalent activity limitation to either above or

		below elbow amputation.
Technical	1 or 2 skis, 1 or 2 poles or outriggers Upper and lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book	
<b>LW 9-2</b>		
Muscle power impairment	Lower limb	Total score of 30 or less (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
	Upper Limb	Equivalent activity limitation to that of either an athlete with unilateral above elbow, or below elbow amputation.
Limb deficiency	Lower limb	At minimum unilateral through ankle amputation (Symes amputation) or impairments that cause a similar loss of limb
	Upper Limb	Equivalent activity limitation to that of either an athlete with unilateral above elbow, or below elbow amputation.
Impaired neurological (hemiplegic involvement)	Lower limb	May present with Athetosis or Ataxia Will present with Babinski, Clonus and/or Brisk/Different reflexes Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side Ambulant without assistive devices, but will present with a limp. Single leg stance on impaired side greater than 3 sec. Able to hop on impaired side, but difficulty remaining on one spot Side step towards impaired side more laboured than intact side. Able to heel walk, approx. 2m

	Upper limb	Spasticity = grade 2-1 on impaired side  Impairment noted on upper limb co-ordination tests compared to non-affected side.  Equivalent activity limitation to either above or below elbow amputation
Technical	2 skis, 1 or 2 poles or outriggers  Upper and lower limb prosthesis or orthosis must comply with the IPC Alpine Skiing Equipment Rule Book.	

### Sitting Sport Classes LW 10 to LW 12

<b>LW10</b>	<b>Minimal criteria</b>
<b>LW10-1</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Absent activity of upper and lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 0 (zero) on the Oxford scale
Neurological impairment	Neurological impairment presenting with trunk impairment as described above
Functional presentation	No active sitting balance  Functional Bench Test Score 0-4
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
<b>LW10-2</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Activity of upper abdominals and spinal extensors equaling a score of 1 (one) or greater on the Oxford scale  Absent activity of lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 0 (zero) on the Oxford scale
Neurological impairment	Neurological impairment presenting with trunk impairment as described above



Functional presentation	Minimal active sitting balance Functional Bench Test Score 4-8
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
<b>LW11</b>	<b>Minimal criteria</b>
Muscle power impairment	Full activity of upper abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 4 (four) or greater on the Oxford scale  Partial or full activity of lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 1 (one) or greater on the Oxford scale  No muscle power in flexion, extension, abduction and adduction at both hips
Neurological impairment	Neurological impairment resulting in muscle power impairment as described above  Diplegia with functional trunk impairment
Functional presentation	Fair active sitting balance Functional Bench Test Score 9-15
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
<b>LW12</b>	<b>Minimal criteria</b>
<b>LW12-1</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Full activity of upper abdominals and spinal extensors ;score of 4 (four) or greater on the Oxford scale  Partial or full activity of lower abdominals and spinal extensors; score of 1(one) or greater on the Oxford scale  A score of 10 or less around one hip (normal = 20) <u>or</u> a score of 30 or less across both hips (normal = 40)
Limb loss/deficiency impairment	Unilateral hip disarticulation/congenital absence or dysmelia or amputation of lower limbs with muscle power loss as above

Neurological impairment	Neurological impairment or diplegia presenting with muscle power impairment as described
Functional presentation	Functional Bench Test Score = 16-18 Good sitting balance
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers
<b>LW12-2</b>	
Muscle power impairment	Total score of 30 or less (normal = 40) in one leg on the Oxford Scale
Limb loss/deficiency impairment	Unilateral through ankle amputation Unilateral limb deficiency, with residual limb length equivalent to a through ankle amputation
Neurological impairment	Neurological impairment or diplegia presenting with muscle power impairment as described
Functional presentation	Functional Bench Test 16-18
Technical	Sit ski and 2 outriggers

## Appendix two: Eligibility criteria and sport classes for athletes with visual impairment

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard has designated Sport Classes for athletes with visual impairment, which are defined in this appendix.
- 1.2 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard is currently revisiting the Sport Classes for athletes with visual impairment and is aiming towards sport-specific classification systems on the basis of activity limitations that result from impairment. Until such a system is approved, the processes detailed in this appendix apply to athlete evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for athletes with visual impairment.
- 1.3 The processes detailed in this appendix apply to athlete evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for athletes with visual impairment.
- 1.4 The Sport Class allocated to athletes with visual impairment applies to all events offered by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
- 1.5 All provisions of the IPC Alpine Skiing Classification Rules and Regulations apply to the assessment of athletes with visual impairment, except if otherwise specified in this appendix.

### 2 Eligibility criteria

- 2.1 To be eligible to compete in Sport Classes B1-B3 in IPC Alpine Skiing, the athlete must meet both of the criteria below:
  - 2.1.1 The Athlete must have at least one of the following impairments:
    - impairment of the eye structure;
    - impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways;
    - impairment of the visual cortex.
  - 2.1.2 The athlete's visual impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 1.0 or a visual field restricted to less than 20 degrees radius.
- 2.2 It is the athlete's and NPC's responsibility to provide sufficient evidence of the athlete's visual impairment. This must be done by way of submitting medical diagnostic information completed by an ophthalmologist no later than at the beginning of athlete evaluation.

- 2.3 The medical diagnostic information must comprise the completed Medical Diagnostics Form (available on the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard website) and additional medical documentation as indicated on the Medical Diagnostics Form. Failure to present with complete medical diagnostic information might lead to athlete evaluation being suspended in accordance with article 4.7 of these Rules.
- 2.4 Medical Diagnostic Information must be typewritten and submitted in English and may not be older than 12 months prior to the date of athlete evaluation.

### **3 Assessment methods**

- 3.1 All Athlete evaluation and Sport Class allocation will be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the eye with better visual acuity when wearing the best optical correction.
- 3.2 Depending on an athlete's 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 any corrective devices (e.g. glasses, lenses) must attend classification with these devices and their prescription.
- 3.4 An athlete found to be using corrective devices during competition that were not declared during athlete evaluation may be subject to further investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article Nine).
- 3.5 Athletes must declare any change in their optical correction to IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard before any competition. If the athlete has a Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date or Confirmed, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review. The Athlete will then undergo Athlete Evaluation prior to the next competition under the provisions of these Rules. Failure to do so may result in an investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article Nine).
- 3.6 Any athlete support personnel accompanying the athlete in the assessment room must remain out of sight of the visual acuity charts during Assessment.
- 3.7 Under the current provisions set forth in this appendix, observation assessment does not apply to athletes with visual impairment.

- 3.8 IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard will inform the Local Organizing Committee of the equipment and room requirements for the assessment of athletes with visual impairment after the classification panels have been appointed. It is the Local Organizing Committee's responsibility to provide all equipment required by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.
- 3.9 Failure to provide all equipment required by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard may result in the classification decisions not being accepted by IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard.

## **4 Sport Classes Profiles for athletes with visual impairment**

### **4.1 Sport Class B1**

- 4.1.1 Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60.

### **4.2 Sport Class B2**

- 4.2.1 Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive), and/or
- 4.2.2 the visual field is constricted to a radius of less than 5 degrees.

### **4.3 Sport Class B3**

- 4.3.1 Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.40 to 1 (inclusive), and/or
- 4.3.2 the visual field is constricted to a radius of less than 20 degrees.



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