

**IMPAIRED SKATING**  
**CLASSIFICATION HANDBOOK**

**1<sup>st</sup> EDITION – MARCH 2012**



**IMPAIRED**  
**SKATING**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This first edition of the Impaired Skating Handbook contains information on the competition levels that are available in impaired skating.

Impaired skating should provide skaters with impairments the means to compete equitably in competition and events and to ensure that impaired skaters who enhance their abilities and skills to best effect through training and quality coaching are those that succeed in competition. Therefore the impact of impairment is minimized in impaired skating events.

The role of classification in impaired skating is to determine:

- which levels the skater is eligible to compete and what is the elite level for that impairment,
- what impairment compensation the skater should obtain and
- what additional support should be made available to the skater through the facilitator and/ or modification to the music or starting procedures etc.

International classification is undertaken before a skater takes part in International competition and obtains impairment compensation and is the responsibility of Classifiers appointed by Impaired Skating.

The handbook provides information that is needed to understand the classification of skaters in ice-skating. In time case studies will be added in the medical and classification case review section to increase this understanding.

This handbook must be read in conjunction with the Code of Classification for Impaired Skaters. It is intended that the Classification Rules for Impaired skating will be in compliance with the IPC Classification code and any Classification Code that Impaired Skating or the ISU as the governing body is a signatory to.

Although this handbook and the Code may be amended from time to time to ensure that they remain in full compliance with the IPC Classification Code it is intended that the Handbook will contain the day to day practical application of classification guidelines to impaired skaters and will be continually evolving and will be continuously updated.

Impaired Skating will, until responsibility is assumed by the ISU, maintain a Classification Master List of Skaters including the skater's name, date of birth, country, sport class and sport class status and impairment compensation.

The Classification Master List is used to identify Skaters that enter international competitions. Impaired Skating will make the Classification Master List available to the ISU, the IPC, National Federations and relevant NPCs.

## **2. THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Impaired Skating Classification System offers figure and dance events for single ambulant impaired skaters and ice speed events for ambulant and non-ambulant skaters.

These events may expand in time to include pair, dance and synchro.

### **2.2 WHEELCHAIR SKATERS**

The non-ambulant skaters group consists of the following

Skaters who have and meet all of the following criteria:

- Impairment capable of evaluation under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Ed. By Robert D. Rondinelli (Rondinelli guides)
- The impairment results in the skater being non-ambulant or limited to short distances indoors.
- The impairment meets the sport specific minimum impairment levels and leads to a competitive disadvantage

General sub-groups are as follows:

#### **2.2.1 Loss of Power, for example**

- Spinal cord injuries or spinal cord conditions
- Poliomyelitis
- Transverse myelitis
- Spina Bifida
- Polyneuropathy

#### **2.2.2 Lower Limb Deficiency, for example**

- Amputations
- Unilateral hip disarticulation

#### **2.2.3 Hypertonia, for example**

- Cerebral palsy
- Other forms of hypotonia sufficient to prevent all ambulation or limit it to very short distances in doors

#### **2.2.4 Inco-ordination, for example**

- Multiple Sclerosis
- Other forms of inco-ordination in the lower limbs, possibly in conjunction with loss of strength and hypotonia with the objective signs of ataxia so that ambulation is prevented or limited to very short distances in doors.

#### **2.2.5 Restriction of Movement, for example**

- Arthrogryposis
- Other forms of loss of joint range in combination with loss of strength

2.2.6 Musculoskeletal impairments, congenital anomalies, nerve lesions and other impairments who meet the sport specific minimum impairment levels. For example,

- Traumatic brain injury
- Stroke

2.2.7 Other skaters who are not otherwise included in the sub-groups above and who have and meet all of the following criteria:

- Impairment capable of evaluation under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Ed. By Robert D. Rondonelli (Rondonelli guides)
- The impairment results in the skater being non-ambulant or limited to short distances in doors.
- The impairment meets the sport specific minimum impairment levels and leads to a competitive disadvantage

## **2.3 AMBULANT SKATERS**

The ambulant skaters group consists of the following

Skaters who have and meet all of the following criteria:

- Impairment capable of evaluation under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Ed. By Robert D. Rondonelli (Rondonelli guides)
- The impairment meets the sport specific minimum impairment levels and leads to a competitive disadvantage

General sub-groups are as follows:

### 2.3.1 Skaters with

- Amputations
- Spinal cord injuries or spinal cord conditions
- Other musculoskeletal impairments, congenital anomalies and nerve lesions who meet the sport specific minimum impairment levels

### 2.3.2 Skaters with

- Cerebral palsy
- Traumatic brain injury
- Stroke

### 2.3.3 Skaters who are visually impaired

2.3.4 Skaters who are visually impaired and meet the definition of the relevant blind sports associations

2.3.5 Skaters who are hearing impaired

2.3.6 Skaters who are hearing impaired and meet the definition of the deaflympics and/or other relevant hearing impaired associations. For the purposes of the Deaflympics deafness is defined as hearing loss of at least 55db in the better ear (3-tone frequency average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, ISO 1964 Standard and any further amendments or modifications to this definition by the ICSD and Deaflympics shall be deemed to be automatically incorporated.

2.3.7 Skaters who are intellectually impaired

2.3.8 Skaters who are intellectually impaired and meet the Special Olympics Classification guidelines and/ or other intellectually impaired associations

2.3.9 Other skaters who are not otherwise included in the sub-groups above and who have and meet all of the following criteria:

- Impairment capable of evaluation under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Ed. By Robert D. Rondonelli (Rondonelli guides)
- The impairment meets the sport specific minimum impairment levels and leads to a competitive disadvantage

## **2.4 MINIMAL IMPAIRMENT**

If a skater does not meet the conditions for minimal impairment, that skater is not eligible to obtain impairment compensation and compete in Impaired Skating International Competitions held under the Rules and Regulations of Impaired skating, the IPC and the ISU where appropriate. More information on Minimal impairment is available at Section 6 below.

Skaters who do not meet the minimal impairment criteria may be eligible to compete in the skating result where a unified event between able bodied and impaired skaters is taking place in Impaired Skating International Competitions held under the Rules and Regulations of Impaired Skating, the IPC, the National Governing Body and the ISU where appropriate.

If in the view of the Classification Panel or the Head of Classification a skater meets the minimal impairment criteria and has not provided sufficient evidence to establish the precise impairment compensation to be added to their skating score then the skater should be deemed to be 5% whole person impaired and the relevant impairment compensation should be added to their skating score and an impaired skating score should be awarded to the skater.

## **2.5 COMPETITION LEVELS AND DEFINITIONS**

**Levels may also be split according to a specific impairment grouping, e.g. intellectual (I), visual (V), hearing (H), biomechanical (B) etc.**

**Levels may also be split according to age.**

**\*The speed races may be adjusted in each level and elite skaters may be separated into separate events. All distances may not be available especially the longer distances for the more impaired or new skaters.**

**Skaters should refer to the more detailed rules in the rules of competition and the Announcement for the technical criteria. These rules follow the ISU Rules and Special Olympic where relevant.**

Ambulant skaters may enter impaired skating competition at the technical level of skating that the skater, in consultation with their coaches, most closely matches their ability. There are no test requirements. The skater has a duty to skate at their current level of skating ability given their impairment and skaters must not skate below their standard. The coach has the a duty to ensure that the skater's health, safety and well-being is paramount and that the skater skates at their appropriate skating ability level.

The ambulant skaters elite level for paralympic participation will be determined by the expected technical progression for a skater with that whole person impairment and by any functional limitations, such as respiratory impairment, that will limit the time that the skater may be able to skate in a competition or perform specific elements. The elite level for paralympic participation will be determined during the classification process.

Competition Levels are intended to combine a development program for all impaired skaters with elite events for those skaters who are achieving elite status for their impairment.

At impaired skating events the skaters who are classified at each level as being at elite paralympic participation level may skate in separate events at the same competition level if there are sufficient numbers of participants. If numbers do not allow then the skaters who are in the development pathway and those that are at elite level will skate in the same event but separate results will also be provided for the elite skaters.

The following provides a general template of the technical expected progression of skating skill at each level and is to be used as a guide during classification in order to assess the expected elite level for paralympic participation and to determine the current skating level for the skater.

### **2.5.1 NON-AMBULANT – SPEED**

### **SPEED LEVEL NON-AMBULANT 1**

Provisional estimate 40% or more WPI.

This level is for very challenged skaters and new skaters with average 100M lap times of greater than 100 seconds.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap

Race 3 111 M

\*Race 4 222 M

\*Race 5 333 M

\*Race 6 500 M

### **SPEED LEVEL NON AMBULANT 2**

Provisional estimate 20-40% WPI Rondinelli.

This level is intended to include LW 10 paraplegia with no or some upper abdominal function and no functional sitting balance.

For new skaters with an average 100M lap time 80 to 100 seconds.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap

Race 3 111 M

Race 4 222 M

Race 5 333 M

Race 6 500 M

\*Race 7 777 M (women only)

\*Race 8 1000 M

### **SPEED LEVEL NON AMBULANT 3**

Provisional estimate 20% or less WPI Rondinelli.

This level is intended to include LW 11 paraplegia with fair functional sitting balance.

For new skaters with an average 100M lap time of less than 80 seconds.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap

Race 3 111 M

Race 4 222 M

Race 5 333 M

Race 6 500 M

Race 7 777 M (women only)

Race 8 1000 M

\*Race 9 1500 M (men only)

## **2.5.2 AMBULANT – SPEED**

### **SPEED LEVEL AMBULANT 1**



Speed level Ambulant 1 is provisionally for elite skaters 70% or more WPI and for very challenged skaters and new skaters with 100M lap times of greater than 100 seconds participating at race distances 1, 2 and 3.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap

Race 3 111 M

## **SPEED LEVEL AMBULANT 2**

Speed level Ambulant 2 is provisionally for elite skaters 60% -69.9% WPI and for skaters with average 100M lap times of greater than 50 seconds but less than 100 seconds participating at race distances 1, 2 and 3. At elite level race distances of 4, 5 and 6 may be available.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap

Race 3 111 M

\*Race 4 222 M

\*Race 5 333 M

\*Race 6 500 M

## **SPEED LEVEL AMBULANT 3**

Speed Level Ambulant 3 is provisionally for elite skaters 50% -59.9% WPI and for skaters with average 100M lap times of 32 to 50 seconds participating at race distances 1 to 6. At elite level race distances of 7, 8 and 9 may also be available.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap

Race 3 111 M

Race 4 222 M

Race 5 333 M

Race 6 500 M

\*Race 7 777 M (women only)

\*Race 8 1000 M

\*Race 9 1500 M (men only)

## **SPEED LEVEL AMBULANT 4**

Speed Level Ambulant 4 is provisionally for elite skaters 40% -49.9% WPI and for skaters with average 100M lap times of 25 to 31 seconds participating at race distances 1 to 7. At elite level race distances of 8 and 9 may also be available.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap

Race 3 111 M

Race 4 222 M  
Race 5 333 M  
Race 6 500 M  
Race 7 777 M  
\*Race 8 1000 M  
\*Race 9 1500 M (men only)

### **SPEED LEVEL AMBULANT 5**

Speed level Ambulant 5 is provisionally for elite skaters 30% -39.9% WPI and for skaters with average 100M lap times of 19 to 24 seconds participating at race distances 1 to 8. At elite level race distance 9 may also be available.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway  
Race 2 55 M Half Lap  
Race 3 111 M  
Race 4 222 M  
Race 5 333 M  
Race 6 500 M  
Race 7 777 M  
Race 8 1000 M  
\*Race 9 1500 M

### **SPEED LEVEL AMBULANT 6**

Speed level Ambulant 6 is provisionally for elite skaters 20% -29.9% WPI and for skaters with average 100M lap times of 16 to 18 seconds participating at race distances 1 to 9. At elite level race distance 11 may also be available

Race 1 25 M Straightaway  
Race 2 55 M Half Lap  
Race 3 111 M  
Race 4 222 M  
Race 5 333 M  
Race 6 500 M  
Race 7 777 M (women only)  
Race 8 1000 M  
Race 9 1500 M (men only)  
\*Race 11 5,000 M

### **SPEED LEVEL AMBULANT 7**

Speed Level Ambulant 7 is provisionally for elite skaters 5% -19.9% WPI and for skaters with average 100 M lap times of less than 16 seconds participating at race distances 1 to 9. At elite level race distance 10, 11 and 12 may also be available.

Race 1 25 M Straightaway

Race 2 55 M Half Lap  
Race 3 111 M  
Race 4 222 M  
Race 5 333 M  
Race 6 500 M  
Race 7 777 M (women only)  
Race 8 1000 M  
Race 9 1500 M (men only)  
\*Race 10. 3000 M (women only)  
\*Race 11 5,000 M  
\*Race 12 10,000 M (men only)

### **2.5.3 FIGURE**

#### **FIGURE LEVEL 1**

Figure Level 1- ability to skate on 2 feet in 1 minute program.  
Average IJS PCS score of less than 0.75

#### **FIGURE LEVEL 2**

Figure Level 2- ability to skate on 1 foot in 1 minute 30 second program,  
Average IJS PCS score of 0.75

#### **FIGURE LEVEL 3**

Figure Level 3 – ability to skate on edges in 2 minute program.  
Average IJS PCS score of 1.0

#### **FIGURE LEVEL 4**

Figure Level 4 – ability to do ½ revolution jumps in 2 minute program.  
Average IJS PCS score of 1.25

#### **FIGURE LEVEL 5**

Figure Level 5 – ability to do single rotation jumps in 2 minute 30 second program.  
Average IJS PCS score of 1.5

#### **FIGURE LEVEL 6**

Figure Level 6 – ability to do double jumps in 3 minute program.  
Average IJS PCS score of 1.75

#### **FIGURE LEVEL 7**

Figure Level 7 – ability to do axle and flying spin in 2 minute 30 second program.

Average performance component score of 1.75.

Specific ISU technical requirements apply, e.g. number and type of spins and jumps and skater must have ability to cope with the intensity of the programme.

### **FIGURE LEVEL 8**

Figure Level 8 – ability to do simple double jumps in 3 minute program.

Average performance component score of 2.0.

Specific ISU technical requirements apply, e.g. number and type of spins and jumps and skater must have ability to cope with the intensity of the programme.

### **FIGURE LEVEL 9**

Figure Level 9 – ability to do double loop and flip in 3 minute program for girls and ladies and 3 minute 30 second program for boys and men. Average performance component score of 2.5

Specific ISU technical requirements apply, e.g. number and type of spins and jumps and skater must have ability to cope with the intensity of the programme.

### **FIGURE LEVEL 10**

Figure Level 10 – ability to do all double jumps in 3 minute 30 second program for girls and ladies and 4 minute program for boys and men. Average performance component score of 3.0

Specific ISU technical requirements apply, e.g. number and type of spins and jumps and skater must have ability to cope with the intensity of the programme.

### **FIGURE LEVEL 11**

Figure Level 11 – ability to do triple jumps in 4 minute program for ladies and 4 minute 30 second program for boys and men. Average performance component score of 3.5 or more.

Specific ISU technical requirements apply, e.g. number and type of spins and jumps and skater must have ability to cope with the intensity of the programme.

## **2.5.4 SOLO DANCE**

### **SOLO DANCE LEVEL 1**

Level 1 Solo Dance - Dutch Waltz, Canasta Tango, Rhythm Blues

Ability to skate on 2 feet independently and on 1 foot with assistance.

Average IJS performance component score of less than 0.75

## **SOLO DANCE LEVEL 2**

Level 2 Solo Dance - Cha-Cha, Fiesta Tango, Swing  
Ability to skate on 1 foot independently and on 1 foot edges with assistance.  
Average IJS performance component score of 0.75

## **SOLO DANCE LEVEL 3**

Level 3 Solo Dance - Ten Fox, Willow Waltz, Hickory Hoe Down  
Ability to skate on 1 foot edges independently. Average IJS performance component score of 1.00

## **SOLO DANCE LEVEL 4**

Level 4 Solo Dance - Fourteen Step, European Waltz, Foxtrot  
Ability to skate basic turns independently. Average IJS performance component score of 1.50

## **SOLO DANCE LEVEL 5**

Level 5 Solo Dance - American Waltz, Tango, Rocker Foxtrot  
Ability to perform complicated turns with assistance. Average IJS performance component score of 2.00.

## **SOLO DANCE LEVEL 6**

Level 6 Solo Dance – Killian, Paso Doble, Blues  
Ability to perform complicated turns without assistance. Average IJS performance component score of 2.50.

## **SOLO DANCE LEVEL 7**

Level 7 Solo Dance - Westminster Waltz, Quickstep, Argentine Tango  
Ability to perform full range of skating movements. Average IJS performance component score in excess of 3.00

### **3 THE CLASSIFICATION PATHWAY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This classification pathway must be read in conjunction with the more detailed provisions of the Impaired Skaters Code of Classification.

#### **3.2 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

When attending for evaluation the skater is required to produce:

- Evidence of identity
- Passport sized photograph
- Copies of Medical documentation – for instance a report from General Practitioner or hospital giving a summary of the case and where necessary a translation into English

Impaired Skating may require a skater to provide detailed specialist medical documentation and the Chief Classifier has the discretion not to determine eligibility without this documentation. It is the responsibility of the National Federation of the Skater to ensure that any skater whose impairment is the result of a rare or uncommon condition provides supporting specialist documentation in English when presenting the skater for evaluation.

Skaters should wherever possible provide evidence of their medical condition that meets the standards provided for in the Rondinelli Guides.

#### **3.3 CLASSIFICATION CONSENT FORM**

The skater must consent to evaluation by signing a CLASSIFICATION CONSENT FORM to indicate their agreement to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full effort and co-operation during the classification process.

#### **3.4 PRESENTATION FOR EVALUATION**

The skater must dress appropriately and must bring all equipment including competition or daily use prosthesis or orthoses and any hearing or visual aids.

If a skater wishes to use any assistive device or aid during competition then they must be classified with that device and obtain an impairment compensation on that basis.

The skater may be accompanied by an interpreter and not more than one representative of the Skater's NPC or National Federation.

Where possible the skater's facilitator should be available to attend the evaluation or for consultation about the skater's needs during competition.

If the Skater has a health condition that produces pain, which limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation, it may not be appropriate for evaluation to take place at that time. It may be possible to reschedule the evaluation but ultimately the Skater will not be eligible to compete at international level and obtain impairment compensation until such an evaluation is satisfactorily completed.

### **3.5 ASSESSMENT**

The classification panel should where necessary conduct a physical assessment of the skater. This will include but is not limited to the examination of motor power, muscle tone, co-ordination, range of movement and observation of any residual ability to ambulate.

Video footage and/or photography may be utilized by the classification panel for all purposes connected to the competition and the evaluation.

The classification panel will review all medical evidence and records.

The skater may be required to undertake further tests and will be reviewed during competition for a period of time.

### **3.6 OUTCOME – SPORT CLASS ALLOCATION**

A member of the Classification Panel will inform the skater of the panel's decision. It is expected that this will occur as soon as possible after the decision has been taken.

#### **3.6.1 Sport Class Status New (N)**

When skaters have not previously been classified by an international Classification Panel then they will be assigned Sport Class New (N).

Sport Class Status N skaters include those who have been allocated a sport class by their National Federation for entry purposes.

Sport Class N skaters must complete classification prior to competing at Paralympic Winter Games, Impaired Skating World Championship or Qualifying events and any International events where the skater wishes to obtain impairment compensation.

#### **3.6.2 Sport Class Review (R)**

Sport Class Review (R) status may be assigned to skaters, following classification by an Impaired Skating Classification Panel, for a period of time.

All skaters should expect to be assigned Sport Status R for a minimum period of time of 1 year of competitive skating.

During the development phase of Impaired Skating it is intended that all skaters will have Sport Class Status R.

Sport Class Review Status (R) is assigned to a skater who has been previously classified by an Impaired Skating International Classification Panel but for reasons determined by the Impaired Skating Head Classifier requires a review of their sport class for example because their condition appears to have changed.

Sport Class Status R Skaters must complete classification prior to competing at Paralympic Winter Games, Impaired Skating World Championship or Qualifying events and any International events where the skater wishes to obtain impairment compensation.

### 3.6.3 Sport Class Confirmed (C)

Sport Class status of confirmed (C) may only be allocated following classification by certified Impaired Skating classification panel/ classifiers.

When a skater has confirmed status further classification is not required.

The status of a confirmed Skater cannot be protested by another NPC or NF after it comes into effect 24 hours after first appearance at the first international competition following the process of evaluation.

## 3.7 INELIGIBILITY

In Impaired Skating the allocation of sport class is either:

- Eligible (ISE), or
- Non Eligible (ISNE)

In circumstances where a Sport Class of ineligible to compete is allocated by a classification panel then the skater has a right to be examined again by a second classification panel at a later date. If the second classification panel, whose members could not have taken part in the first evaluation confirms the ineligibility the skater will not be permitted to compete and will have no further protest options.

## 3.8 PROTEST

A protest is the procedure whereby a formal objection to a skater's sport class is made and subsequently resolved.

A skater's sports class should generally only be protested once with the exception of protests in exceptional circumstances.

A protest should not be resolved by the classification panel that was involved in the allocation of the sports class that is being protested.



Protests will generally be submitted during competition and can be submitted by a designated representative of an NPC or NF, the Chief Classifier or by the Impaired Skating Head of Classification.

Skaters who have undergone classification of eligibility either as new (N) or Review (R) designations can only be the subject of protest within a period of 24 hours following first appearance at the first international Competition following evaluation. Protests must be submitted to the Chief Classifier within that period otherwise the protest will be void.

Skaters with a confirmed status cannot be the subject of a protest from an NPC/NF but can be the subject of a protest by the chief Classifier.

### **3.9 POST-EVALUTION TASKS**

Written notification must be provided to the Skater. An Impaired Skating Passport is completed with full Classification details including: identifying the Impairment Compensation, the elite paralympic competition level and any specific impairment competition levels for figure, dance and speed events. Additional information to aid the participation of the skater by the facilitator or otherwise may also be specified.

### **3.10 APPEAL**

An appeal is the procedure by which a formal object to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

The Appeal body shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to

- Ensure all appropriate sports class classification procedures have been followed
- Ensure all appropriate protest procedures have been followed.

But no Appeal body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of Sports Class or Sports Class Status and under no circumstance shall the appeal body modify a classification decision by allocating a new Sports Class or Sports Class Status.

### **3.11 POST-COMPETITION TASKS**

The Chief Classifier must complete a post competition report which is forwarded to the Head of Classification. The Head of Classification has the responsibility of updating the Classification Master List after each competition at which classification has taken place.

## **4 GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFIERS**

### **4.1 CLASSIFIERS**

Classifiers are either medically qualified as registered medical practitioners or registered physiotherapists or are technically qualified as skaters or coaches.

Impaired Skating requires to see documentation confirming the professional qualifications of potential classifiers prior to appointment.

Classifiers will be certified after undergoing training which includes both theoretical and practical aspects and an assessment of required competencies in carrying out classifications and applying the classification rules of impaired skating.

Any certified classifier who has not performed any classifications or performed classification duties at international level for 2 years will be required to undergo retraining.

### **4.2 CLASSIFICATION PANEL**

Classifiers will work as members of a classification panel, which has at least 2 members so long as the numbers of classifiers trained for impaired skating and their geographical locations allow. At least one member should be medically qualified and one member should be technically qualified.

There may be an interim requirement for classifiers to work alone at times until the appropriate expansion of classifiers occurs.

### **4.3 CLASSIFICATION DUTIES DURING COMPETITION**

During a competition members of a Classification Panel should not have any responsibilities towards or attachment to a National Team/ Squad.

### **4.4 CHIEF CLASSIFIER**

A Chief Classifier is appointed for a specific competition. The Chief Classifier may be the Head of Classification or it may be another fully certified international classifier.

The Chief Classifier will ensure that the classification rules are applied appropriately during the specific competition and that classification facilities are provided at and during the competition, which allow high professional standards to be maintained.

The Chief Classifier shall maintain a record of the certified classifiers at the competition and shall send this information to the Head of Classification.

#### **4.5 HEAD OF CLASSIFICATION**

A Head of Classification, appointed by Impaired Skating (or the ISU and/or the IPC where appropriate), will have over all responsibility for international classification, classifier training and supervision, maintaining secure classification data and regularly updating it and ensuring such records are accurate, and liaising with all relevant external parties such as the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification committee, IPC Medical and Scientific Department and Organising Committees.

The Head of Classification shall maintain a list of certified classifiers and the events at which each has undertaken classification duties.

#### **4.6 CONDUCT OF CLASSIFIERS**

The role of the classifier is to act as an impartial evaluator in determining a skater's eligibility and Sport Class status. The integrity of Classification in the Paralympic movement rests on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual classifier. It is important that confidence in the Classification Rules and the Classification Personnel is preserved and developed and that it is based on transparent and agreed standards of practice which define a meaningful set of guidelines for the professional conduct of classification personnel.

All classifiers must abide by the Impaired Skaters Officials Policy Manual and in particular the Code of Conduct for Officials and should at all times respect the Classification rules.

Classifiers should value and respect the Skaters and Skaters Support Personnel and treat them with understanding patience and dignity while being courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing their classification duties.

Classifiers should accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with Skaters and Skaters support personnel in accordance with the International Standards for Skater Evaluation and International Standard for Protest and Appeals.

Confidentiality of Skater information must be maintained and whenever possible according to the International Standards for Skater Evaluation and Protests and Appeals.

#### **4.7 THE BASIS OF CLASSIFICATION**

Impaired Skating and the classifier body will promote and stimulate studies which endeavour to provide a scientific basis to underpin the scheme of classification and the development of technology to facilitate the development of impaired skating and participation by impaired skaters.

Such research would be expected to enhance confidence in the classification system and encourage its future development.

## **5 CODES OF CONDUCT**

Impaired skating Rules set out a consistent policy, which puts the skater first and ensures fair play and contains mechanisms which protect the rights of all skaters and of classifiers in the classification of skaters and a thorough system of Protests and Appeals, should there be any individual breakdown in the process of classification.

The classification rules are included in the Impaired Skating Rules, Official Policy Manual for Impaired Skating, and follow the ISU Rules and the rules of any relevant national governing body for ice-skating and sport. All participants in the sport of impaired skating accept these rules as a condition of participation in impaired skating.

## **6. MINIMAL IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA**

The minimal impairment varies from sub-group to sub-group e.g. cerebral palsy versus visually impaired versus intellectually disabled. If a skater does not meet the conditions for minimal impairment, that skater is not eligible to compete in International Competitions held under the Rules and Regulations of Impaired skating, the IPC and the ISU where appropriate.

The minimum impairment levels include references to muscle power, joint range of movement, spinal deformity, amputation level and congenital limb shortening, spasticity and tendon reflex changes, vision and visual fields, limb length differences and overall whole person impairment percentage assessed under the Rondinelli guides.

The minimum impairment under the Rondinelli Guides is generally set at 5% or less whole person impairment (WPI). This figure may however be adjusted depending on the impairment.

An athlete, who has more than one impairment, either of which does not meet the minimum level, may be eligible to compete providing they meet the minimum percentage assessed under the Rondinelli Guides.

## **7. IMPAIRMENT MUST FUNCTIONALLY LIMIT SKATING**

The impairment must impact on the skater's ability to compete fairly in able-bodied competition.

Impairments that do not functionally impact on the ability to skate are excluded from classification.

The decision of the classifiers on the impairments that do not meet the minimal impairment criteria and do not functionally limit ice-skating is final and is not subject to protest or appeal.

Impairments that are excluded include the following:

- Adjustments for Pain
- Burden of Treatment Compliance
- In solo skating impairments distal to wrist
- Mental Health

## **8. MEDICAL AND CLASSIFICATION CASE REVIEWS**

**These will develop when the classification system is implemented.**