



ParalympicsGB



UK CLASSIFICATION CODE

July 2026





As Chief Executive of ParalympicsGB, I am truly delighted to have the opportunity to write a word of welcome to all readers and recipients of the 2026 UK Classification Code. Whatever role you play in Paralympic sport, you will be acutely aware that confidence in the classification process is critical to the continued success and growth of all Paralympic sports. Classification is at the very core of the foundations on which our incredible movement is built, and we all have a responsibility to recognise its value and positively protect it in everything we do. Indeed, it is through this unwavering belief in the integrity of Paralympic sport partly facilitated by the classification system that increased numbers of athletes, coaches, medical professionals and spectators are attracted to Paralympic sport.

As Paralympic sport continues to develop at pace, it is of course important to continue to update the approach to classification and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has participated in the process to update the UK Classification Code from the 2017 version to this new 2026 version. I am equally pleased to see an athlete centred approach with education and athlete welfare at the heart of the document.

While this updated code is the most thorough yet, if you do have any questions or would welcome specific advice in relation to the UK Classification Code, please do get in touch and we will of course do our best to assist you.

As the National Paralympic Committee of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, we are privileged to play the role of embedding classification into our sporting system at a national level, and I commend the UK Classification Code 2026 to you all.

David Clarke OBE
Chief Executive Officer
ParalympicsGB





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INTRODUCTION





1 INTRODUCTION

Classification is a cornerstone of Paralympic sport. As the global governing body for Paralympic sport, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) publishes the IPC Classification Code and International Standards to ensure fair and meaningful competition for athletes with eligible impairments.

ParalympicsGB, as the UK's National Paralympic Committee and a member of the IPC, is committed to achieving excellence in classification and full alignment with the IPC Classification Code.

With funding support from UK Sport, ParalympicsGB works in collaboration with its member organisations and the wider sporting system to deliver and uphold national classification standards. These partners include National Governing Bodies (NGBs), National and Home Nation Disability Sport Organisations, Home Nation Institutes of Sport, Sport Councils, and the British Elite Athletes Association.

Originally published in 2017, the UK Classification Code is reviewed following each Summer Paralympic Games. This updated 2026 version reflects changes introduced in the 2025 IPC Classification Code, approved in May 2024, and supports the implementation of current best practice.

The UK Classification Code ensures national classification practices are ethical, athlete-focused, and aligned with international standards. It provides clarity on responsibilities, protects athlete welfare, and enables a coherent pathway from grassroots participation to international competition.

1.1 Purpose of Classification

Classification is a fundamental and defining feature of Paralympic sport. Its core purpose is to enable athletes with Eligible Impairments to participate in meaningful Para sport competition, by minimising the influence of an athlete's impairment and ensuring that the outcome of competition is determined by factors other than impairment. Classification supports a pathway to sporting excellence - the pinnacle of which is the Paralympic Games - and is therefore essential to the Paralympic Movement.





To achieve its purpose, classification must deliver two critical functions:

- The determination of which athletes are eligible to compete in Para sport.
- The grouping of athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairments impact their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the relevant sport.

Para sport Classification systems are not designed to group athletes into classes based on their performance. Rather, the unit of Classification is an athlete's impairment. An athlete who improves their sport performance will become more competitive within their allocated Sport Class, but improved performance does not of itself provide a basis for changing an athlete's Sport Class.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS





2 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The UK Classification Code, and accompanying Assurance Strategy, was drafted following consultation with the UK high-performance sporting system. Specific feedback was provided by ParalympicsGB Classification Advisory Group and Athletes' Commission, and by the British Elite Athletes Association.

Research-informed expert guidance was provided by the Stress, Anxiety, Resilience, and Thriving (StART) research group from the University of Bath, led by Dr Rachel Arnold. Two research studies used to inform specific provisions within this UK Classification Code were:

Lee, L., Arnold, R., Roberts, G. A., Barker, J. B., Hutchinson, M. J., & Wagstaff, C. R. D. (2025). Classification in sport: Exploring the experiences of elite British athletes with a disability.

Taylor, H., Arnold, R., Roberts, G. A., Hutchinson, M. J., & Moore, L. J. (under review). Exploring classifiers' perspectives of the holistic athlete: Implications for health and wellbeing from a biopsychosocial perspective.





SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE UK CLASSIFICATION CODE





3 **SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE UK CLASSIFICATION CODE**

3.1 **2025 IPC Classification Code**

Following an extensive review process, the IPC membership approved the 2025 IPC Classification Code on 17 May 2024. The IPC Classification Code is accompanied by three International Standards, which cover intentional misrepresentation, classification personnel and training, and classification data protection.

All IPC members (including International Federations (IFs), National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), and International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs)) and Recognised International Federations (RIFs) must comply with the IPC Classification Code. Although a RIF does not have a sport or discipline included in the Paralympic Games programme and is therefore not eligible for IPC membership, it still plays a role in contributing to the development of the Paralympic Movement.

The IPC Classification Code applies at Covered Competitions, as defined in Article 3.2 of the IPC Classification Code. Covered Competitions include The Paralympic Games, World Championships, any competition that is part of the direct qualification pathway to participate in the Paralympic Games, as determined by the relevant International Federation, and any competition where Observation Assessment may occur as part of an IF's classification process.

3.2 **Scope of the UK Classification Code**

The UK Classification Code governs national level classification, and applies to competitions or classification activity delivered by:

- ParalympicsGB
- ParalympicsGB's member organisations and their membership
- Agencies within the UK sporting system that support ParalympicsGB and its members.
- Identified groups of individuals that are explicitly referenced in this document.

This is subject to any specific provisions defined in an IF's or RIF's classification rules. If an IF or RIF extends the definition of a Covered Competition to include national level competitions within their own classification rules, those provisions will supersede this UK Classification Code.





Although not required to comply with the UK Classification Code, UK organisations governing disability sports that are not part of the Paralympic Games programme are encouraged to align with the provisions of the Code. Such alignment will support:

- Future planning for sports where the ambition is, ultimately, to be included in the Paralympic Games.
- Greater consistency for athletes who may be involved in several sports at a national level.

The UK Classification Code is intended to be specific enough to ensure consistency where standardisation is required, and general enough to permit flexibility regarding its implementation. Its application aims to establish an ethical framework and culture around classification, protect athletes' rights, support athletes in meeting their responsibilities, and safeguard their welfare in relation to the classification process.

3.2.1 Compliance Monitoring

Pursuant to Article 4.1(e) of ParalympicsGB Members' Handbook, each ParalympicsGB member organisation must comply with the UK Classification Code. ParalympicsGB member organisations may collaborate with other organisations, who are not ParalympicsGB members, in the delivery of National Classification. In their role of supporting a ParalympicsGB member organisation to deliver National Classification, these other organisations are also required to comply with the UK Classification Code.

ParalympicsGB will monitor the compliance of organisations covered by this Code through an Assurance framework for organisations to report on their National Classification rules, policies, processes and practices. Not engaging with the activities included within the Assurance framework could be considered as non-compliance with this UK Classification Code.

ParalympicsGB retains the ability to impose sanctions for any non-compliance pursuant to Article 6 of the ParalympicsGB Members' Handbook.

3.3 International Classification

International Classification is governed by each sport's International Federation (IF). Athletes must undergo International Classification to compete at international competitions sanctioned by the IF, including but not necessarily limited to those





included within the definition of a Covered Competition under the IF's Classification rules.

The UK organisation affiliated to an IF must support its athletes and athlete support personnel in meeting their responsibilities under the IF's classification rules.

The outcome of International Classification takes precedence over National Classification outcomes, unless one of the following scenarios occurs:


- If an athlete is assigned a "Classification Not Complete" (CNC) designation by an international classification panel, they may continue to compete domestically under their national sport class either until the international classification process is concluded or until a period of 2 years has passed since the CNC was assigned by an international classification panel, at which point the athlete must be reviewed by a national classification panel to review their national classification.
- If an athlete receives a "Not Eligible" (NE) designation and subsequently lodges an accepted appeal, they may also continue domestic competition under their national classification until the appeal outcome is finalised.

For clarity an international classification assigned sports class will always supersede a national classification sports class. An NE designation by an international classification panel which is the final decision or not under appeal will supersede a national classification.

When a British athlete is identified as ready to compete at an international level, the UK organisation affiliated to the IF must support that athlete throughout the classification process as defined by the IF's Classification rules. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Fully educating and preparing the athlete for what the classification process will involve.
- Explaining that there is no guarantee that the international classification process will reach the same outcome as any National Classification that the athlete has already undergone.
- Supporting the athlete to complete the IF's Medical Diagnostic Form and ensuring that appropriate medical data is provided as evidence of the Athlete's Underlying Health Condition(s) and Eligible Impairment(s).



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- Ensuring the athlete understands their responsibility to be truthful and give their best effort throughout the classification process.
 - Understanding the Protest and Appeal procedures and utilising the challenge mechanisms, if it is deemed appropriate.
 - At all times respecting the Classifiers, classification process, and its final outcomes including that of any Protest and Appeal.

Though sport-specific classification for athletes with an intellectual impairment is carried out by the IF, the initial process for determining if they have an Eligible Impairment is managed by Virtus. Athletes with an intellectual impairment must first submit their eligibility paperwork via SportExcel UK, who are the UK national member for Virtus.

UK organisations must remain mindful that IFs update the sport's classification rules from time-to time and are strongly encouraged to contribute to the evolution of their sport's classification through contributing to their IF's consultation processes.

3.4 National Classification

National Classification is a critical step in supporting athlete development and enabling meaningful domestic competition. In alignment with the IPC's Model of Best Practice, it is recommended that athletes undergo National Classification before presenting for International Classification.

National Classification can serve many purposes including, but not limited to:

- Determining an athlete's eligibility for a sport and establishing what Sport Class they should compete in as early as possible in their career.
- Allowing athletes to benchmark against international performance standards.
- Establishing meaningful competition at the national level.

Not every disabled person in the UK needs to undergo National Classification to participate in sport. Athletes may not need to undergo classification to participate in sport at a recreational level. Organisations should identify where in each sport's respective performance pathway is the most appropriate place to undergo National Classification.

UK Organisations' National Classification rules must comply with the UK Classification Code. Typically, National Classification will be governed and delivered





by the UK NGB that is the member of ParalympicsGB. However, in some cases multiple organisations, as outlined in section 4.2 above, may carry out National Classification in the same sport. In such cases they should ensure that there is consistency in rules and processes to ensure a consistent athlete experience.

The organisations should also consider collaboration that would allow for resource sharing such as sharing National Classifiers, maintaining a single master list, subject to meeting Data Protection requirements and having a single body responsible for handling appeals.

It is recommended that National Classification rules and processes replicate those of the sport's IF as much as possible, including any updates that an IF may implement from time to time. This can be achieved by adopting appropriate sections of the IF's Classification rules verbatim. National Classification rules must specify at which events an athlete must have a National Classification in order to compete.

Organisations may also adapt their National Classification and/or competition rules to allow for meaningful competition and/or to foster greater levels of participation. Example adaptations could include:

- Utilising Combined Class Events
- Inclusion of athletes with Non-Eligible Impairments or non-disabled athletes
- Establishing additional Sport Classes outside of the International Classification structure


In cases where adapted rules are implemented, it must be made clear:

- At which events the adapted rules are implemented at
- If there are any additional criteria or conditions attached to their implementation
- Which athletes are eligible to be part of a formal Paralympic pathway and which athletes are not

An athlete with an existing National Classification that changes Sport Class when undergoing International Classification must subsequently compete in national competition with the Sport Class assigned at the International Classification.

In the UK, physical impairment classification is delivered by classifiers accredited through UK NGBs. For athletes with vision impairments classification is centrally





provided by ParalympicsGB, via NGB referrals, due to common procedures across sports. Athletes with intellectual impairments receive their National Classification from SportExcel UK, the recognised National Disability Sport Organisation (NDSO).

All organisations are strongly encouraged to signpost sporting opportunities either within their sport or elsewhere in cases where:

- An athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment for that sport.
- An athlete does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- An athlete wishes to transition from one sport to another.

When signposting athletes to other sporting opportunities, this must include making clear whether an athlete is, or is not, on a Paralympic pathway.



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES





4 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Overview

The provisions listed in Article 4 apply in addition to any other specific obligations imposed in this Code.

4.2 ParalympicsGB

ParalympicsGB is responsible for:

1. Fulfilling its roles and responsibilities as defined in the IPC Classification Code.
2. Developing, maintaining, and monitoring the implementation of this Code.
3. Making compliance with this Code a requirement for membership.
4. Supporting member organisations to comply with this Code through the Assurance Monitoring provisions.
5. Developing and implementing a classification strategy that will enable ParalympicsGB and its member organisations to fulfil their responsibilities under this Code and the IPC Classification Code.
6. Leading the development of initiatives that will create positive experiences with classification for all stakeholders.
7. Leading the focus on safeguarding athletes' physical and mental welfare in classification policies, processes, and practices.
8. Leading initiatives to create a more holistic environment for the delivery of National Classification.
9. Providing national platforms that allow classification best practice to be shared and facilitate cross-system collaboration.
10. Providing cross-sport classification education templates and tools.
11. Establishing and maintaining a process for receiving and managing reports of Intentional Misrepresentation in line with this Code.
12. Providing cross-sport opportunities for National Classifier recruitment, training, certification, development and retention.

4.3 Organisations that are a member of a signatory to the IPC Classification Code

These organisations could include National Governing Bodies, National Disability Sport Organisations, Home Nation Disability Sport Organisations.






In order to meet their obligations under their International Federation's classification rules, UK representative organisations are responsible for:

1. Being knowledgeable of and complying with all applicable regulations, policies, rules and processes.
2. Using their influence to foster a positive and collaborative attitude regarding the classification process and supporting their athletes to give a true reflection of their impairment and ability during classification.
3. Safeguarding athletes' physical and mental welfare, including those that are made Not Eligible or who transition away from the sport and/or retire as a consequence of Classification.
4. Supporting their Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel to participate fully and honestly with all classification processes.
5. Supporting an athlete through a Protest or Appeal following International Classification.
6. Providing an opportunity for athletes to discuss their classification experiences in a psychologically safe manner.
7. Ensuring adequate information related to Underlying Health Condition(s) and Eligible Impairment(s) is provided to the IF, including notifying the IF in the event of a change in an athlete's condition (whether through a medical intervention or organically) that may impact on that athlete's Sport Class.
8. Cooperating fully, honestly and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation.
9. Provide athlete education to help them build a thorough understanding and awareness of classification as an aspect of their development.
10. Completing ParalympicsGB requests for data concerning the organisation's International Classification activity.
11. Engaging in Assurance monitoring in relation to this Code
12. Having policies and procedures that ensure the appropriate management, handling, sharing and storage of sensitive data submitted and created as part of the classification process.

Organisations should also aim for the following, but is not mandatory:

13. Supporting their International Federation to achieve and/or maintain compliance with the IPC Athlete Classification Code.



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14. Facilitating and encouraging athletes to participate in classification research, and the development and implementation of classification systems.

4.4 Organisations delivering National Classification

These organisations could include National Governing Bodies, National Disability Sport Organisations, Home Nation Disability Sport Organisations.

Organisations delivering National Classification are responsible for:

1. Establishing an effective classification strategy that delivers against these responsibilities, including the identification of an individual with appropriate time and budget to ensure its delivery.
2. Developing, implementing, regularly reviewing and publishing National Classification rules that comply with this Code.
3. Safeguarding the physical and mental welfare of all athletes' and personnel involved in the classification process, including those that are made Not Eligible or that transition away from the sport and/or retire as a consequence of National Classification.
4. Providing athletes and athlete support personnel with appropriate education regarding the classification process prior to their involvement in the process.
5. Having policies and procedures that ensure the appropriate management, handling, sharing and storage of sensitive data submitted and created as part of the classification process.
6. Maintaining a clear and well communicated process for athlete or athlete support personnel to raise queries around classification and to resolve any complaints or disputes with regard to classification at a national level.
7. Engaging in Assurance monitoring in relation to this Code
8. Having a process for receiving and managing reports of Intentional Misrepresentation in line with the provisions in this Code.
9. Having a process for receiving and managing feedback on individuals' experiences of the classification process.
10. Providing an opportunity for athletes to discuss their classification experiences in a psychologically safe manner.
11. Having a strategy for the recruitment, training, certification and continued development of National Classifiers.
12. Completing ParalympicsGB requests for data concerning the organisation's National Classification activity.





Organisations delivering National Classification should also aim to meet the following non-mandatory standards:

13. Collaborating with their membership and/or other agencies within the UK sporting system that support their organisation to deliver a consistent National Classification process and experience.
14. Collaborating with ParalympicsGB in the development of initiatives that will foster positive experiences with classification for all stakeholders.
15. Collaborating with ParalympicsGB in there being a focus on safeguarding athlete physical and mental welfare in classification policies, processes and practices.
16. Collaborating with ParalympicsGB in initiatives aimed at creating a more holistic environment for the delivery of National Classification.
17. Contributing to national platforms to allow classification best practice to be shared and to facilitate cross-system collaboration.
18. Providing sport-specific classification education templates and tools.


4.5 Agencies supporting organisations to deliver National Classification

This includes Agencies that are not directly delivering National Classification but may be supporting athletes or their support personal to obtain National and/or International Classification. This could include National Governing Bodies, Home Nation Sport Councils, National Disability Sport Organisations, Home Nation Disability Sport Organisations and/or Home Nation Sport Institutes.

Such agencies are responsible for:

1. Being knowledgeable of and complying with all applicable regulations, policies, rules and processes.
2. Using their influence to foster a positive and collaborative attitude regarding the classification process and supporting their athletes to give a true reflection of their impairment and ability during classification.
3. Safeguarding athletes' physical and mental welfare, including those that are made Not Eligible or that transition away from the sport and/or retire as a consequence of National and/or International Classification.
4. Cooperating fully, honestly and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation.



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5. Collaborating with the relevant organisation that delivers National Classification to facilitate the provision of appropriate and relevant classification education to athletes and athlete support personnel.

Such agencies should also aim to meet the following, non-mandatory standards:

6. Collaborating in the development of initiatives that will foster positive experiences with classification for all stakeholders.
7. Collaborating in ensuring a focus on safeguarding athlete physical and mental welfare in classification policies, processes and practices.

4.6 UK Sport

UK Sport will commit to:

1. Upholding the clauses of funding agreements between UK Sport and National Governing Bodies that reference classification.

4.7 British Elite Athletes Association

The British Elite Athletes Association will commit to:

1. Supporting ParalympicsGB to implement and review this Code in a manner that is athlete focused.
2. Supporting athletes on a World Class Programme to understand their rights and meet their responsibilities under this Code and their International Federation's classification rules.

4.8 Athletes

4.8.1 Under the UK Classification Code, athletes have the right to:

1. Be evaluated by appropriately trained and qualified National Classifiers.
2. Have all personal information used in the classification process managed carefully and appropriately.
3. A Sport Class based solely on the impact their impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of their sport.
4. Protest and appeal a classification decision.
5. Receive education on all relevant aspects of classification prior to undergoing classification evaluation.
6. Provide feedback on their experience(s) of the classification process.





7. Receive a response to any feedback they provide within a reasonable timeframe, with detail on how their feedback is being addressed.
8. Receive appropriate support from the organisation delivering National Classification when raising a potential breach of the UK Classification Code.
9. On request, receive copies of all classification data relating to them, including video footage and documented decisions made by the classifiers that have an impact on the outcome of the classification evaluation process.
10. Select one person to accompany them during the classification process.
11. Work with athlete support personnel that have appropriate knowledge and understanding of the classification process.
12. Put competition and training commitments before education or research requests relating to classification.

4.8.2 Athletes are responsible for:

1. Understanding and complying with all applicable regulations, policies, rules and processes.
2. Giving a true reflection of their impairment and ability during classification evaluation.
3. Providing accurate and up-to-date medical evidence as directed by the organisation delivering National Classification in advance of classification evaluation.
4. Notifying the organisation delivering National Classification if they experience a change in their condition (whether through a medical intervention or organically) that may impact on their Sport Class.
5. Being respectful towards National Classifiers and their decisions, the classification process and fellow athletes and their athlete support personnel.
6. Arriving at classification evaluation informed of the classification process, in good time for the start of the appointment, with relevant sports clothing and equipment, and in good health, in order to participate fully in the evaluation.
7. Engaging in classification education to support their understanding of the classification process.
8. Reporting any suspected cases of Intentional Misrepresentation.
9. Cooperating fully, honestly and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation.





4.9 Athlete Support Personnel

Athlete Support Personnel include any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, science and medicine practitioner, parent, guardian, carer, or any other person working with and/or assisting an athlete.

4.9.1 Athlete support personnel have the right to:

1. Receive education on all relevant aspects of classification before being involved with the classification process, including how best to support athletes through evaluation.
2. Provide feedback on their experience(s) of the classification process.
3. Receive appropriate support when raising a potential breach of the UK Classification Code.

4.9.2 Athlete support personnel are responsible for:

1. Understanding and complying with all applicable regulations, policies, rules and processes.
2. Supporting athletes to give a true reflection of their impairment and ability during classification evaluation.
3. Supporting athletes to provide accurate and up-to-date medical evidence as directed by the organisation delivering National Classification in advance of classification evaluation.
4. Safeguarding athletes' physical and mental welfare, including those that are made Not Eligible or that transition away from a sport and/or retire as a consequence of Classification.
5. Being respectful towards National Classifiers and their decisions, the classification process, athletes and fellow athlete support personnel.
6. Refraining from any intervention that might undermine the classification process.
7. Not prejudging the outcome of classification evaluations.
8. Reporting any suspected cases of Intentional Misrepresentation.
9. Cooperating fully, honestly and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation.
10. Engaging in classification education to support their understanding of the classification process.





4.10 Classification Personnel

4.10.1 National Classifiers have the right to:

1. Receive training on the Ethics and Safeguarding Policies of the organisation delivering National Classification.
2. Receive ongoing training to maintain their skills as a National Classifier.
3. To stop a classification and withdraw interaction with an athlete or athlete support personnel if they are rude, disrespectful and/or abusive towards classifiers.

4.10.2 National Classifiers must fulfil their responsibilities as defined by the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct. The Classification Personnel Code of Conduct must at a minimum require Classification Personnel to:

1. Comply with their relevant organisation's Code of Ethics and Safeguarding Policy.
2. Act as neutral/impartial evaluators throughout all stages of the classification process.
3. Have high regard for the dignity and physical and mental welfare of all athletes.
4. Satisfy any reasonable request that will, without prejudicing the integrity of the classification process, enable an athlete to engage with the classification process in an inclusive and accessible manner.
5. Deliver classification in a way that does not cause barriers that deter people from positively engaging with the process based on their background or characteristics.
6. Perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently and objectively for all athletes.
7. Respect all athletes and their support personnel and upholding a courteous environment throughout the classification process.
8. Communicate the outcome of classification with empathy while remaining aware of the perceived power dynamic between Classifier and athlete.
9. Ensure that they are fit to perform the role and duties reasonably expected of National Classifiers, and notifying the relevant organisation if this ceases to be the case.
10. Maintain excellent hygiene and sanitation throughout the classification process.





11. Not abuse their position to obtain advantage or benefit for themselves or third parties.
12. Maintain confidentiality of athlete information in accordance with this Code.
13. Comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act.
14. Declare any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest.





SAFEGUARDING, WELFARE AND INCLUSION





5 **SAFEGUARDING, WELFARE AND INCLUSION**

Classification is fundamental to Para sport and must be delivered in a way that protects and promotes the physical and mental welfare of all involved. ParalympicsGB is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for National Classification, in collaboration with all relevant organisations.

5.1 **Prioritising wellbeing**

The classification process can significantly affect athletes' mental health and wellbeing, due to factors such as:

- identity challenges,
- focus on impairments,
- perceived loss of sporting achievement or purpose,
- reputational concerns or,
- uncertainty about the future.

These effects may arise from both the outcome and the delivery of classification.

Influencing factors include:

- the physical setting,
- communication style,
- timing of assessments (especially near major competitions) and,
- limited understanding of the athlete's broader biopsychosocial context.

Classification must always prioritise athlete wellbeing while upholding process integrity. Organisations should ensure that appropriate support is available to athletes undergoing classification.

5.2 **Psychological Safety**

Organisations involved in classification have a duty to ensure that all stakeholders can engage with the process in an inclusive, psychologically safe way. This includes creating supportive environments where athletes can share concerns and if needed pausing the process so they can access appropriate support. All individuals involved in classification must be treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their background, identity, or role. Safeguarding, inclusivity, and accessibility are essential to delivering classification that is ethical, equitable, and psychologically safe.





5.3 Inclusive Practice and Accessibility

Inclusive practice may include the use of respectful and inclusive language, ensuring that the physical environment in which classification takes place is appropriate, offering educational resources in a variety of formats, allowing athletes to ask questions about the process before providing informed consent, and allocating sufficient time for classification assessments while considering individual needs.

Organisations should proactively seek to understand what adjustments may be required for athletes to fully and comfortably engage in the classification process, and athletes must be empowered to request such adjustments. Reasonable adjustments, such as providing documentation in accessible formats, can be accommodated without interfering with the classification process. However, there may be cases where adjustments could affect the ability to conduct a full and accurate assessment.

For example, a request to omit a certain test due to discomfort may hinder the ability to determine eligibility. In such cases, a transparent discussion must take place with the athlete regarding the potential implications, such as a suspension of the evaluation session in line with Section 7.8. Once informed of the possible consequences, the athlete retains the right to choose how to proceed, whether by withdrawing consent or continuing with the classification process.

Organisations must ensure that their Classification Personnel are equipped and empowered to implement any feasible and reasonable adjustments as requested by the athlete.


5.4 Safeguarding

Organisations delivering or supporting classification must ensure they have appropriate safeguarding protections and policies in place.

The classification environment can present several safeguarding risks, including but not limited to:

- A power imbalance
- Physical contact and privacy
- Emotional and psychological stress
- Communication barriers





Safeguarding is not just about preventing harm, it is about creating a safe, respectful and empowering environment for athletes. This includes but is not limited to:

- Respecting dignity and autonomy
- Promoting transparency and fairness
- Listening to athlete feedback



THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS





6 **THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS**

6.1 **Fundamental principles**

Classification process is made up of four main stages:

- Stage 1: Underlying Health Condition (UHC) Assessment
- Stage 2: Eligible Impairment Assessment
- Stage 3: Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) Assessment
- Stage 4: Allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

Details of the 4 stage classification process can be accessed in Chapter 2 Part 5 of the IPC Classification Code by [CLICKING HERE](#). The classification process can be seen in a flow chart in appendix 2.

In developing National Classification rules, organisations covered in section 4.4 must develop a classification process that includes the 4-stage process as set out in this Classification Code. Organisations have the option to complete Stage 1: UHC Assessment remotely with no evaluation of the athlete or combined with Stage 2 as part of in-person evaluation session. Organisations must specify in their classification rules how they will conduct the UHC Assessment. Stages 2, 3 and 4 must be conducted in an in-person evaluation session. When an organisation builds their national classification rules there is specific guidance on how the classification process must be carried out which can be found in Appendix 1.

6.2 **Eligible Impairments**

There are seven Eligible Impairments under the 2025 IPC Classification Code. They are:

1. Impaired Muscle Power
2. Impaired Passive Range of Movement
3. Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference, including:
 - Limb Deficiency;
 - Leg Length Difference; and/or
 - Arm Length Difference.
4. Short Stature
5. Coordination Impairments, including:
 - Hypertonia/Spasticity





- Motor Ataxia
 - Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea).
6. Vision Impairment
 7. Intellectual Impairment

Further details and information about eligible impairments can be accessed in Chapter 2 Part 3 of the IPC Classification code by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Organisations can decide which Eligible Impairments they include within the classification system for their sport. Therefore, not all Para sports will include all Eligible Impairments at an international and/or national level. Within their National Classification rules, organisations are encouraged to include the same Eligible Impairments as in their IF's International Classification rules.

Organisations may decide to include Non-Eligible Impairments within their National Classification rules. If so, it must be made clear at which competitions athletes with that impairment are able to compete at and that athletes competing solely on the basis of having that impairment are not on a Paralympic pathway.

In determining that an athlete does not have one of the seven Eligible Impairments, it must never be inferred that they do not have any type of impairment. They are just unable to compete in Paralympic sport.

6.3 Non-Eligible Impairments


Any impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Section 7.2 is a Non-Eligible Impairment. Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments can be found in Appendix 3.

An athlete with both an Eligible Impairment(s) and a Non-Eligible Impairment(s) may be evaluated on the basis of their Eligible Impairment(s), provided that their Non-Eligible Impairment(s) does not affect the ability to carry out the classification process and allocate a Sport Class.

6.4 Classification Panel

Organisations delivering National Classification must appoint a Classification Panel to conduct Stages 2-4 of the classification process. The same Classification Panel must conduct each of these Stages for an individual athlete.





The Classification Panel must consist of a minimum of two National Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances, a Classification Panel of a single National Classifier may be authorised. Exceptional circumstances could arise due to travel delays, illness or conflict of interest.

In cases where a Classification Panel consists of a single National Classifier special consideration should be given to whether they can assign a “Confirmed” Sport Class Status and they must be qualified to conduct all aspects of the classification process, for example medical and technical aspects.

A Classification Panel consisting of a single National Classifier is not permitted when an athlete presenting to a second Classification Panel having previously been found Not Eligible or for a Protest Panel following a successful Protest.

6.5 Eligibility for multiple Sport Classes

National Classification rules must define the sport’s Sport Classes, as well as whether, and in what circumstances, an athlete may be allocated multiple Sport Classes.

National Classification rules must specify in the circumstances when an athlete meets the criteria for more than one Sport Class, whether they can be allocated to multiple Sport Classes, or instead must choose which they wish to compete in. For clarity if an athlete is eligible to compete in both an intellectual impairment sport class and a physical impairment sport class, they must declare which class they chose to compete and cannot compete in both classes at the same time. Example of scenarios can be found in Appendix 6.

6.6 Sport Class Status

A Sport Class Status indicates whether and when an athlete will be required to undergo Classification in the future.

The available Sport Class Statuses are as follows and must be allocated in line with the below:






6.7 Designations

Confirmed (C)	A Classification Panel may allocate an athlete “C” if it is satisfied that the athlete’s Sport Class is unlikely to change given the nature of their Eligible Impairment and the extent to which it impacts their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)	A Classification Panel may allocate an athlete “R-NAO” if the athlete narrowly meets the MIC or they are on the boundary between two Sport Classes, and/or they believe that a further assessment will be required at the next opportunity within the current year and/or season. An organisation may also change an athlete’s Sport Class Status to “R-NAO” where it has identified a change to their National Classification rules which may affect the athlete’s eligibility, Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status
Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)	A Classification Panel may allocate “R-FRD” where it believes a further Classification will be required, but not within the current year and/or season. The Classification panel must set a date after which the athlete must be classified again at the next available opportunity. An organisation may also change an athlete’s Sport Class Status to “R-FRD” where it has identified a change to their National Classification rules which may affect the athlete’s eligibility, Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.
Expired (E)	An athlete will automatically be allocated “E” when they retire, in accordance with the organisation’s rules. Organisations may also decide to allocate “E” where an athlete does not present for classification within a specified time period. Specifically, they must specify the maximum period for which “R-NAO” and “R-FRD” will remain valid prior to “E” being allocated.

A designation may be assigned to an athlete who begins the classification process but is not assigned a Sport Class and therefore is not assigned a Sport Class Status.

The available designations are as follows and must be allocated in accordance with the below:





Not Eligible due to not having an Underlying Health Condition (NE-UHC)	An athlete may be designated NE-UHC if at Stage 1 of the classification process it is determined by two independent UHC Assessors that they do not have a medically and/or clinically diagnosed UHC.
Not Eligible due to not having an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport (NE-EI)	An athlete may be designated NE-EI if at Stage 2 of the classification process it is determined by two independent Classification Panels that they do not have an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport that is consistent with one or more UHC reported in Stage 1.
Not Eligible due to not meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria (NE-MIC)	An athlete may be designated NE-MIC if at Stage 3 of the classification process it is determined by two independent Classification Panels that their Eligible Impairment does not meet the relevant MIC.
Classification Not Completed (CNC)	An athlete may be designated CNC if a Classification Panel suspends or terminates the classification process in accordance with the provisions in Section 6.8.


If an athlete is given any of these designations, this is not subject to Protest (see section 7.1). All designations may be Appealed in accordance with section 7.2. An athlete with any designation may still be able to compete in the sport, subject to the National Classification rules and provisions outlined in section 3.4.

6.8 Suspension or termination of the classification process

A Classification Panel may suspend the classification process if it is unable to complete it for any reasons, including one or more of the following:

- Failure of the athlete or their support personnel to comply with any part of the National Classification rules.
- Failure of the athlete or their support personnel to provide any information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel.
- The Classification Panel believes that any medication, medical device or medical procedure disclosed by the athlete may interfere with the classification process.



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- The athlete has a health condition or impairment that limits or prevents them from complying with the requests of the Classification Panel, thus affecting the ability of the Classification Panel to conduct their assessments.
 - The Classification Panel believes that the athlete is not giving their best effort and/or refusing to comply with any reasonable instructions given.
 - The athlete or their support personnel are found to be photographing or recording the classification process.
 - The Classification Panel believes that the athlete's Eligible Impairment is inconsistent such that they are unable to complete their assessments and allocate a Sport Class.

If a Classification Panel suspends the classification process, they must:

- Prepare a written explanation why CNC has been designated.
- Specify the details of any remedial action that is required for the classification process to be resumed.

The athlete must complete any specified remedial action to the satisfaction of the relevant organisation and Classification Panel before the classification process can be resumed. Once this has been satisfied, the classification process must be resumed as soon as reasonably practicable.

6.9 Photography and audio-visual technology

The Classification Panel may make, create and/or use photographs and/or audio-visual technology during the classification process. When this is the case copies of such materials must be provided to the athlete on request.


Such materials must be dealt with in accordance with the provisions on data protection in section 12.

6.10 Medical Review

There may be circumstances where a change in the nature or degree of an athlete's Eligible Impairment might mean that reassessment is required to ensure the outcome of a previous Classification remains correct.

A Medical Review Request would be appropriate where, for example, a surgery, new medication or device, or other medical procedure has resulted in changes to an





athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities relevant to a sport. A Medical Review Request may also be appropriate where an athlete has a new UHC.

National Classification rules must set out the process for requesting and conducting Medical Reviews.

6.11 Classification Master List

Organisations must maintain and keep an up to date a Classification Master List. Details on what information must be kept on the master list can be found in Appendix 4.

The Classification Master List must be dealt with in accordance with the provisions on Data Protection in Article 11.



PROTESTS AND APPEALS





7 **PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

National Classification rules must provide processes that permit for challenges to the outcome of Classification, by way of Protest and Appeal.

7.1 Protests

A Protest can only be made in respect of the Sport Class allocated to an athlete. No protest can be made against the Sport Class Status allocated to an athlete.

A Protest can be made by:

- The athlete, or
- An organisation as owner of the National Classification rules of the sport.

An athlete making a Protest may only do so in relation to their Sport Class and can only protest on one occasion unless there has been a change to an impairment that may impact on their sport class allocation and can be evidenced.

Athletes cannot make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class allocated to another athlete.


An organisation may make a Protest against any athlete with a Sport Class allocated under their National Classification rules, and at any time. A written explanation must be given to the athlete.

National Classification rules must detail:

- How an athlete submits a Protest, for example in what format a Protest must be made, and to whom a Protest must be made.
- Any conditions attached to an athlete submitting a Protest, for example if there is a timeframe following notification of their allocation to the Sport Class when the Protest must be made.
- Who is responsible for deciding if the Protest is upheld or dismissed and with what test this determination will be made. For example, the adjudicator may have to be satisfied that there is a “reasonable basis” to believe that the athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

In the case of an athlete Protest being upheld, or an organisation making a Protest, a Protest Panel must be arranged as soon as reasonably practicable.





The Protest Panel must carry out the classification process in accordance with the National Classification rules of the sport.

The Protest Panel must not include a Classifier who:

- Was a member of the Classification Panel that made the protested decision.
- Was involved in the review of the Protest.

Unless otherwise specified in a sport's National Classification rules, the decision of a Protest Panel is final and not subject to further Protest by the athlete or organisation.

The decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed by the athlete in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.2.

7.2 Appeals

An athlete may only make an Appeal pertaining to the classification process that they went through. They may not make an Appeal concerning another athlete.

An Appeal cannot be submitted whilst a Protest is ongoing, however it is not necessary to have made a Protest in order to be able to submit an Appeal.

An Appeal will be upheld if it is established that:

- There was a breach of the National Classification rules during the Classification process, and
- The breach could reasonably have caused that athlete to be given an incorrect designation (NE-UHC, NE-EI, NE-MIC, CNC) or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

National Classification rules must detail how an athlete lodges an Appeal, for example in what format an Appeal must be made, and to whom an Appeal must be made, if there any conditions attached to an athlete submitting an Appeal, for example if there is a timeframe within which an Appeal must be submitted and who is responsible for hearing and determining Appeals, i.e. the Appeal Body, and the procedural rules for the Appeal Body.

Organisations should consider if the Appeal Body can be from within their organisation, or if they should appoint an independent dispute resolution body to hear and determine Appeals.





Procedural rules for the Appeal Body should include:

- Criteria for who can sit on a Panel.
- Timeframes for the hearing of an Appeal.

The Appeal Body must either affirm or set aside the decision under Appeal. The Appeal Body does not have the power to modify, alter or otherwise change any Classification, Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status decision. For example, and for the avoidance of doubt, an Appeal Body cannot allocate an athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

The decision of the Appeal Body will be final and not subject to further appeal or challenge.





CLASSIFICATION **PERSONNEL**





8 **CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

Classification Personnel are integral to the effective functioning of National Classification.

Organisations delivering National Classification must develop and/or collaborate in the development of clear frameworks for the recruitment, training, development, certification, and recertification of classification personal. This framework must include:


- The minimum expertise or experience levels required of a person wishing to commence training to become a National Classifier.
- The National Classifier pathway, for example from Trainee, to National Classifier, to Senior National Classifier.
- The minimum competencies required at each stage of the National Classifier pathway.
- The training, development, certification and recertification processes for each stage of the National Classifier pathway.
- A Classification Personnel Code of Conduct.
- Steps the organisation will take to manage classifier wellbeing, including protecting classifiers from abuse, harassment, and bullying.

Organisations delivering National Classification must appoint **National Classifiers**. A National Classifier is a person authorised and certified to evaluate athletes under National Classification Rules as a member of a Classification Panel. National Classifiers may be differentiated as **Medical Classifiers**, for those with specialist medical expertise and **Technical Classifiers**, for those with technical and/or sport experience.

Organisations delivering National Classification that opt to include Stage 1: UHC Assessment as a standalone step in their classification process must appoint **UHC Assessors**. As set out in Appendix 1, a UHC Assessor is responsible for conducting Stage 1 of the classification process. Organisations must ensure that UHC Assessors they appoint have the skills, experience and expertise to conduct UHC Assessments.

Organisations delivering National Classification should also consider their need to appoint a classification manager, chief classifier and a classification advisory panel. Details of what these roles are can be found in Appendix 5.





Organisations delivering National Classification must require their Classification Personnel to comply with their Classification Personnel Code of Conduct, as defined in Section 1.



INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION





9 **INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION**

Intentional Misrepresentation presents a major threat to the integrity of classification and Para sport. It is a very serious threat as it constitutes an attempt to mislead the classification process, thus achieving an unfair advantage for an athlete that undermines fair and meaningful competition, and the purpose of classification.

Organisations delivering National Classification must have within their Classification Rules procedures for the identification, investigation and prosecution of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation in accordance with the provisions in this Code.

9.1 **Definition**

In the context of National Classification, Intentional Misrepresentation is:

- A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleading or attempting to mislead an organisation delivering National Classification or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of classification; or
- A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, being intentionally complicit in any violation or attempted violation of a period of ineligibility imposed on another Participant as outlined in Article 9.7 of this code.

9.2 **Examples**

Examples of behaviours constituting Intentional Misrepresentation include (without limitation):

- Submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment the athlete does not have.
- Deliberately underperforming during any stage of the classification process.
- Deliberately tiring themselves, or an athlete out prior to an evaluation session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel.
- Intentionally failing to disclose the athlete's use of any medication and/or medical device/implant and/or medical procedure to the Classification Panel.
- Otherwise misrepresenting the athlete's skills, abilities and/or existence, nature and/or degree of the athlete's impairment(s) at any point before, during or after the classification process.



- Disrupting the classification process or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel with the intention of misleading.
- Not providing accurate information as to the identity of the athlete, or having another person attend in their place.
- Inducing, instructing, facilitating, assisting, encouraging or conspiring with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, Intentional Misrepresentation.
- Upon discovery, concealing or covering up an offence or information which would assist an organisation delivering National Classification in the investigation or prosecution of the offence.
- Inducing, instructing, facilitating, assisting, encouraging or conspiring with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, a violation of a period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to Articles 9.6 in this Code.

9.3 International Classification

Organisations covered by this Code must recognise, respect and enforce any sanctions imposed upon any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation that is imposed by a signatory to the IPC Classification Code in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation during International Classification.

9.4 Obligations to report and cooperate


Each individual must:

- Report to the relevant organisation delivering National Classification promptly, truthfully and in good faith any information they possess that could reasonably be considered evidence of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- Cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely and in good faith with any investigation carried out by, and proceedings brought by an organisation delivering National Classification and/or ParalympicsGB against any Participant for alleged Intentional Misrepresentation.
- Not do anything, by act or omission, to obstruct, prevent, delay or otherwise interfere with any such investigation or proceeding.

Organisations delivering National Classification must:

- Support any reporting party to remove any fear of reprisal that could arise from them having made their report.



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- Have publicly available methods for the reporting of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation. This must include the ability to submit reports anonymously.
 - Upon receipt of information that relates to alleged Intentional Misrepresentation during International Classification, ensure that the information is passed in its entirety to the relevant International Federation.
 - Maintain a log of all received reports of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation, including follow-up action and make the log available to ParalympicsGB, as required by ParalympicsGB.

9.5 Investigations

Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an individual might have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the relevant organisation delivering National Classification must initiate an investigation. Grounds do not need to be given to the individual under investigation, and the decision to investigate cannot be contested.

National Classification rules must:

- Detail how and when the person(s) under investigation will be notified.
- Give the person(s) under investigation an opportunity to make a submission as part of the investigation.

ParalympicsGB may also conduct its own investigation into possible Intentional Misrepresentation. Any such investigation will be conducted in accordance with ParalympicsGB Intentional Misrepresentation process and associated disciplinary policy.

9.6 Proceedings

Where it is determined that a Participant has a case to answer for alleged Intentional Misrepresentation, the organisation delivering National Classification must bring disciplinary proceedings against them.

Organisations delivering National Classification must produce procedural rules to govern proceedings. Procedural rules must include provisions to:

- State who is responsible for hearing proceedings related to Intentional Misrepresentation, i.e. the Hearing Panel.



- State criteria for who can sit on a Panel.
- Detail timeframes related to all aspects of proceedings.
- Issue a Notice of Charge when bringing disciplinary proceedings.
- Allow resolution of charges without a hearing.
- Set criteria related to a hearing.
- Detail Appeal procedures.

Organisations should consider if the Hearing Panel can be from within their organisation, or if they should appoint an independent dispute resolution body to hear and determine proceedings related to Intentional Misrepresentation.

No disciplinary proceedings may be commenced for Intentional Misrepresentation unless such disciplinary proceedings are commenced within either of the following, whichever is later:

- Eight years from the date the alleged Intentional Misrepresentation occurred.
- Two years after the discovery of the alleged Intentional Misrepresentation.

9.7 Sanctions


Anyone found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation will be subject to the following sanctions:

- **Disqualification of results:** all results, medals, prizes, ranking points obtained from the date the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred must be disqualified.
- **Period of ineligibility:** a default period of ineligibility of four years will apply, which may be i) increased by an additional period of up to a lifetime ineligibility depending on the seriousness of the violation and nature of any aggravating circumstances, or ii) reduced depending on the seriousness of the violation and nature of any mitigating circumstances.
- **Other sanctions:** such other sanctions as the organisation delivering National Classification or Hearing Panel considered appropriate and proportionate within the circumstances of the case.

Aggravating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- The age and experience of the guilty party, and their experience in relation to classification.



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- A lack of remorse on the part of the guilty party.
 - A finding that the guilty party received or expected to receive a significant benefit as a result of their Intentional Misrepresentation.
 - A finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation affected the outcome of a competition sanctioned by an organisation delivering National Classification.
 - A finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation was part of a wider scheme involving others.

Mitigating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- The youth or inexperience of the guilty party, particularly in relation to classification.
- Diminished responsibility on the part of the guilty party resulting from their impairment.
- The guilty party having a good disciplinary record.
- Genuine remorse on the part of the guilty party.
- Voluntary admission of Intentional Misrepresentation, including whether this is made before or after an investigation is instigated.
- Providing substantial assistance throughout investigations and proceedings into a case of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation against somebody else.

Where a guilty party is found to have committed multiple violations of Intentional Misrepresentation, the period of ineligibility that will be imposed shall be:

- For a second violation within any eight-year period, twice the period of ineligibility that would otherwise be applicable.
- For a third or subsequent violation within any eight-year period, a lifetime period of ineligibility.

To be considered a second or subsequent violation, it must be established that the additional violation occurred after the guilty party was issued with the Notice of Charge for their first offence. If this cannot be established the violations will be considered as a single violation and the sanction imposed will reflect this severity including the application of provisions related to aggravating circumstances.

If it is established that a second or third violation for Intentional Misrepresentation is committed during a period of ineligibility for a previous violation, the periods of ineligibility for the multiple violations shall run consecutively rather than concurrently.





During a period of ineligibility, the guilty party is prohibited from participating in any capacity in:

- Classification.
- Any competition, event, programme or other activity organised, authorised or recognised by any organisation covered by this Code.

If the guilty party is part of a team, then any sanctions to be applied to the team will be at the discretion of the organisation delivering the National Classification.

If ParalympicsGB establish that there was complicity of individuals within one of their Member Organisations in a proven case of Intentional Misrepresentation, it will pursue sanctions against that Member following the Compliance Procedures of the ParalympicsGB Member Handbook.

9.8 Confidentiality and public disclosure

All proceedings brought by an organisation delivering National Classification against a Participant in respect of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation will be confidential, including all documents, evidence, submissions and other information related to the proceedings.

Organisations delivering National Classification may, at its discretion, decide to share information on a confidential basis in order to assist in the discharge of their functions, for example investigatory or disciplinary.

Only when a Participant has been found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, and when all procedural routes have been exhausted, should the identity of the guilty party, the nature of the Intentional Misrepresentation, and the sanctions imposed be publicly disclosed.

If a Participant has not been found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation this must not be publicly disclosed unless explicitly directed by the Participant.





EDUCATION





10 **EDUCATION**

10.1 Overview

All individuals involved in the classification process, particularly athletes and athlete support personnel, have the right to appropriate education before their participation. Education ensures informed engagement and supports the integrity and fairness of the classification system.

Organisations covered by this Code must contribute to the delivery of education that is:

- Proportionate to the individual's role,
- Appropriate to their stage in the classification process,
- Accessible and inclusive.

10.2 ParalympicsGB classification education strategy

ParalympicsGB has developed a national classification education strategy, which:

- Defines key learning objectives for athletes and support personnel,
- Identifies suitable resources to meet those objectives,
- Differentiates education based on the individual's role and level of engagement.

ParalympicsGB is responsible for identifying gaps in cross-sport educational resources and developing new materials where needed.

10.3 Organisations delivering National Classification

Organisations delivering National Classification may use ParalympicsGB's strategy as a foundation. They are responsible for:

- Identifying any additional sport-specific education needs,
- Developing and delivering tailored resources where appropriate.





DATA PROTECTION





11 **DATA PROTECTION**

11.1 Overview

All organisations delivering classification activity must process personal information related to classification, hereafter known as Classification Data, in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Organisations must make sure Classification Data is:

- Used fairly, lawfully and transparently.
- Used for specific, explicit purposes.
- Used in a way that is adequate, relevant and limited to only what is necessary.
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
- Kept for no longer than is necessary.
- Handled in a way that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unlawful or unauthorised processing, access, loss, destruction or damage.

11.2 Legal basis

Organisations need to ensure that Classification Data is processed with a valid lawful basis. In some instances, this will be where an individual has given informed and voluntary consent but could also be because the organisation has a legitimate interest in processing the Classification Data in order to fulfil its purpose.

If consent is being relied upon to justify the processing of Classification Data, and the relevant individual is not competent by virtue of their age or other factors to provide informed and voluntary consent, a duly authorised representative may provide consent on the individual's behalf.

11.3 Athletes' rights

Athletes have the right to:

- Access the Classification Data that is held about them.
- Have any Classification Data that is held about them corrected or deleted.
- Data portability, allowing them to get and reuse their Classification Data.
- Request an organisation stop or restrict the processing of their Classification Data.





Some of these rights might only apply in certain circumstances and organisations may not be able to fulfil every request. It should be noted that an Organisation may not be able to complete the classification process if it is requested to stop processing or delete an Athlete's classification data, resulting in designation of "CNC" status in line with section 7.8 above.

11.4 Data security

Organisations must protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards including physical, organisational and technical measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of the information and take reasonable steps to ensure that any party that it provides Classification Data to for processing does so in a manner that is compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018.

11.5 Disclosure of data

Organisations may disclose Classification Data to other organisations and ParalympicsGB provided that such disclosure reasonably relates to processing activities under this Classification Code and is in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Organisations may disclose Classification Data to law enforcement authorities if required to do so by law.

11.6 Retaining of data

Organisations must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is reasonably required by the organisation to fulfil its purpose related to classification.





IMPLEMENTATION AND MODIFICATIONS





12 **Implementation and Modifications**

This Code was approved by the Board of Trustees of ParalympicsGB in December 2025 and takes effect from 1st July 2026.

The UK Classification Code was drafted following extensive consultation with the Paralympic Movement in the UK. This Code will be updated from time-to-time with a review of its content and effectiveness taking place at the very least every four years following a Summer Paralympic Games, or at any other point when deemed necessary, for example if there is an update to the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

The Board of Trustees of ParalympicsGB is responsible for approving any amendments to the UK Classification Code.

ENDS





APPENDIX





APPENDIX 1

Specific Guidance on How the Classification Process Must Be Carried Out

Classification Process Stage 1: UHC Assessment

Organisations should support athletes in understanding what relevant diagnostic information may be needed for this stage. Athletes must provide all relevant diagnostic information required to assess the existence of a UHC and Eligible Impairment. Organisations may request from the athlete any additional information that it deems necessary to carry out the classification process.

National Classification rules should detail the process by which a UHC Assessor will conduct the UHC Assessment. The UHC Assessor must conduct the assessment based only on the information provided by the athlete. Organisations have the option to complete the UHC Assessment remotely with no evaluation of the athlete or combined with Stage 2 during an in-person assessment. Provisions around UHC Assessor:


- May or may not be Classifier.
- May be an individual or group.
- Must have relevant medical expertise to determine if there is UHC.

If the UHC Assessor determines that the athlete has a medically and/or clinically diagnosed UHC, the athlete can proceed to Stage 2. If the UHC Assessor determines that the athlete does not have a medically and/or clinically diagnosed UHC:

- The athlete must be notified of the decision with a written explanation.
- The athlete must be designated “Not Eligible-UHC Review” (NE-UHC R)
- A second UHC Assessor must be arranged to repeat the UHC Assessment.

The second UHC Assessor, whether an individual or group, cannot have been involved in the first UHC Assessment. In the case that the second UHC Assessor is satisfied that the athlete does have a medically and/or clinically diagnosed UHC, the athlete can proceed to Stage 2. In the case that the second UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the athlete does have a medically and/or clinically diagnosed UHC, the athlete will be designated “Not Eligible-UHC” (NE-UHC).





Athletes designated as NE-UHC may still be able to compete in the sport, subject to the National Classification rules and provisions outlined in Article 0.

Stage 2: Eligible Impairment Assessment

Stage 2 takes place in-person and is conducted by a Classification Panel pursuant to the provisions in Article 6.4, with the exception of classification for Intellectual Impairment, where Stage 2 may be done remotely, in conjunction with the diagnostic information provided in Stage 1.

National Classification rules must specify:

- Which Eligible Impairments the sport caters for.
- How athlete assessment will be conducted to determine if an athlete has an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport.

When conducting the Eligible Impairment Assessment, if the Classification Panel considers that there are any inconsistencies with the UHC reported in Stage 1, the Classification Panel will designate the athlete as “Classification Not Completed” (CNC), with the provisions set out in Article 6.8 . If the Classification Panel is satisfied that (i) the athlete has an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport that is consistent with the UHC reported in Stage 1, it will proceed to Stage 3.

If the Classification Panel is not satisfied:

- The athlete must be notified of the decision with a written explanation.
- The athlete must be designated as “Not Eligible-Eligible Impairment Review” (NE-EI R).


An athlete designated “NE-EI R” is entitled to a second Eligible Impairment Assessment by a different Classification Panel to that which performed the first Eligible Impairment Assessment.

In the case that the second Classification Panel Is satisfied, the athlete can proceed to Stage 3. In the case the Classification Panel is not satisfied the athlete must be designated as “Not Eligible-Eligible Impairment” (NE-EI).

Athletes designated as NE-EI may still be able to compete in the sport, subject to the National Classification rules and provisions outlined in Article 0.

Stage 3: MIC Assessment





Stage 3 must take place in-person and be conducted by a Classification Panel pursuant to the provisions in Article 6.4.

National Classification rules must specify the MIC for each Eligible Impairment, including sub-impairments, catered for by the sport and how athlete assessment will be conducted to determine if the athlete meets the MIC for an Eligible Impairment(s) catered for by the sport.

The assessment in Stage 3 cannot consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

If the Classification Panel is satisfied that the athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable MIC, it will proceed to Stage 4. If the Classification Panel is not satisfied that the athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable MIC:

- The athlete must be notified of the decision with a written explanation.
- The athlete must be designated as "Not Eligible-Minimum Impairment Criteria Review" (NE-MIC R).

An athlete designated "NE-MIC R" is entitled to a second MIC Assessment by a different Classification Panel to that which performed the first Eligible Impairment Assessment.

In the case that the second Classification Panel is satisfied that the athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable MIC, the athlete can proceed to Stage 4.

In the case that the second Classification Panel is not satisfied that the athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable MIC, the athlete must be designated as "Not Eligible-Minimum Impairment Criteria" (NE-MIC).

Athletes designated as NE-MIC may still be able to compete in the sport, subject to the National Classification rules and provisions outlined in Article 0.

Stage 4: Sport Class and Sport Class Status Allocation

Stage 4 must take place in-person and be conducted by a Classification Panel pursuant to the provisions in Article 6.4.

National Classification rules must specify the Sport Classes within the sport, by reference to the extent to which the athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their





ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport and how athlete assessment will be conducted and any criteria used to evaluate the athlete as part of allocating a Sport Class.

The assessment in Stage 4 must solely consider the extent to which the athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. Therefore, the Classification Panel must distinguish factors such as fitness level, technical proficiency, training history and age.

The assessment in Stage 4 must take place in a controlled, non-competitive environment, with the exception of Observation Assessment.

National Classification rules should set out what Adaptive Equipment, if any, may and may not be used by athletes within each Sport Class, whether the use of such Adaptive Equipment is mandatory or optional and the assessment in Stage 4 must take into account the optimal use of Adaptive Equipment allowed for within each Sport Class, whether an Athlete chooses to use it or not.


Observation Assessment allows an athlete to be observed and evaluated in a competitive environment in order to ensure that what is observed in competition is consistent with what has been observed throughout the other stages of the classification process.

National Classification rules must specify whether or not, and in what circumstances, Observation Assessment will be required and how the Observation Assessment will be conducted.

Except in exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel that conducted the preceding stages of an athlete's classification must also conduct the Observation Assessment.

An athlete must be allocated a provisional Sport Class prior to Observation Assessment, based on the preceding stages of the classification process and following an Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel may allocate the athlete a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status, or require the athlete to redo any prior stage of the classification process.



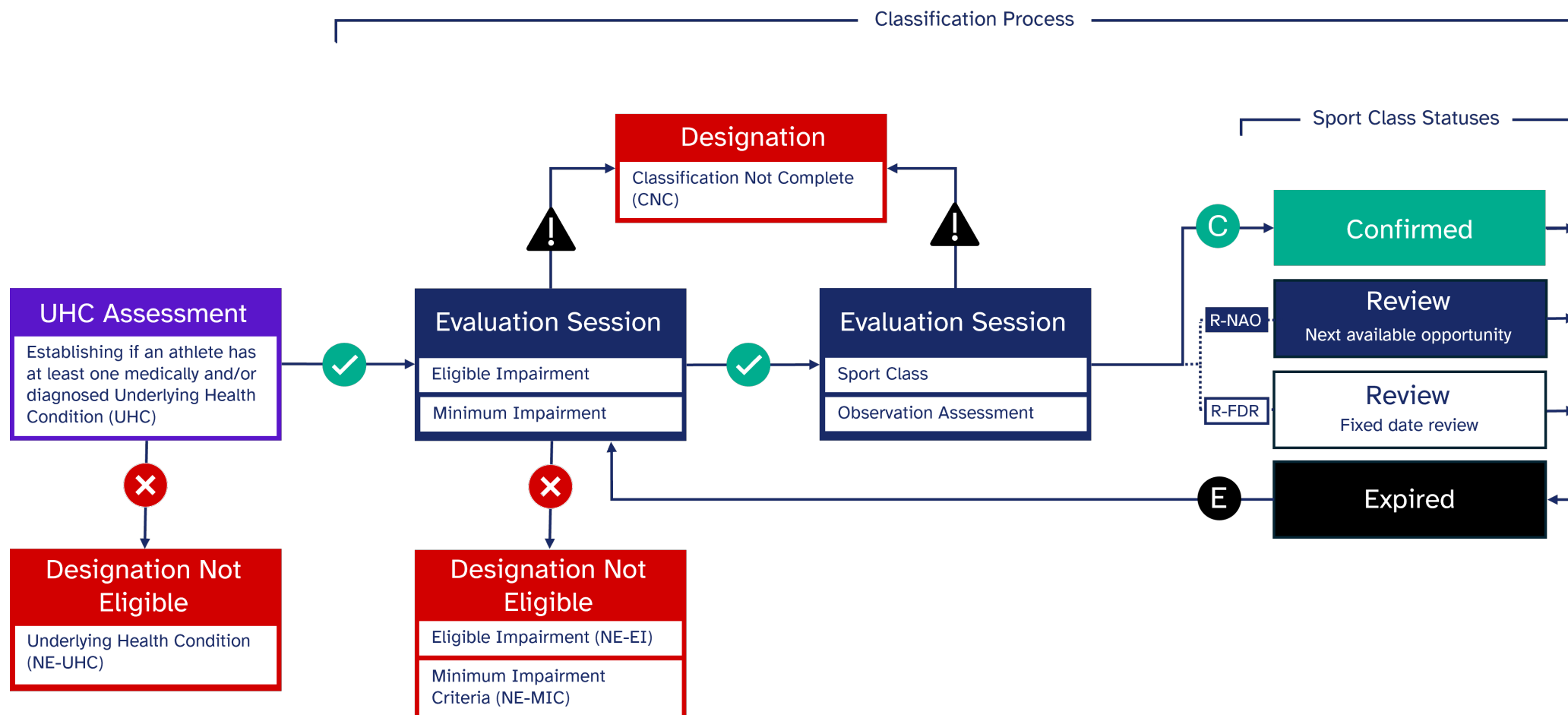


The Classification Panel cannot, based on the Observation Assessment alone, allocate a different Sport Class that is different to the provisional Sport Class allocated.

As stated in the IPC's Model of Best Practice: National Classification, when allocating a national sport class to a "borderline" athlete (or in other words an athlete who is on the cusp of two different Sport Classes), national classifiers should allocate the Sport Class for athletes with less impairment.

APPENDIX 2

Flow Chart of the Classification Process





APPENDIX 3

List of Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments

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

- Pain.
 - Hearing impairment.
 - Low muscle tone.
 - Hypermobility of joints.
 - Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint or recurrent dislocation.
 - Impaired muscle endurance or stiffness.
 - Impaired motor reflex functions.
 - Impaired cardiovascular functions.
 - Impaired respiratory functions.
 - Impaired metabolic functions.
 - Tics and mannerisms, motor stereotypes and motor preservations.
 - Vestibular impairment.
 - Impairments in muscle metabolism resulting in fatigue.
- Impairments stemming from psychological and/or psychosomatic causes.





APPENDIX 4

Information That Must Be Kept on a Master List

The following information must be kept on a master list for each athlete:

- Name.
- Gender.
- Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- Any designations (NE-UHC, NE-EI, NE-MIC, CNC).
- Any current designation for Intentional Misrepresentation along with details on any period of ineligibility.





APPENDIX 5

Details about Specific Roles within Classification

Classification Manager: A Classification Manager may be an individual within an organisation who is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of National Classification within a sport.

Chief Classifier: A Chief Classifier would direct, administer, coordinate and implement classification matters for a specific Classification opportunity, according to the National Classification rules for the sport. A Chief Classifier would typically not be a member of a Classification Panel at the Classification opportunity but may supervise the National Classifiers at the event and manage Protests in consultation with the relevant organisation. They would also report any relevant issues to the organisation's Classification Manager.

Classification Advisory Panel: A Classification Advisory Panel could be made up of people internal and external to the organisation and could serve the purpose of supporting the classification work of that organisation.

