



W O R L D
ParaVolley

**World ParaVolley
Sitting Volleyball
Classification Rules**

August 1, 2026

2026 World ParaVolley

Sitting Volleyball Classification rules

Acknowledgements

World ParaVolley wishes to acknowledge and thank all leaders and contributors who have participated in Classification Rule reviews and updates since the sport's early beginnings.

In particular, World ParaVolley wishes to acknowledge the historical trailblazers who moved classification forward significantly in both Sitting Volleyball and Standing Indoor Volleyball. These include Pieter Joon, Pierre Pinelli, Pavel Mustafin, Jurate Kesiene, Jenni Cole, Saro Keresteciyan, Istvan Plesa, Hetty Voeten, Cristina Riera, Dora Szatmari and Louise Ashcroft.

World ParaVolley Classification Rules Development

The first edition of Sitting Volleyball classification rules was developed in the eighties when a system proposed system by Pieter Joon with only a Minimum Impairment criterion (MIC) would be adopted, allowing Athletes with a wide range of locomotor impairments from other international recognized classification systems to participate in the sport. In 1984, "les autres" were added to the system. In 1988, the minimal disability rule for Sitting Volleyball was created, leading to regular evaluations, and protest procedures were added.

The 1997 version of the Sitting Volleyball classification rules further defined a "Minimum disability" class and included improved descriptors of "les autres" impairments of limb shortening, muscle power and PROM. The rules were also inclusive of those with health conditions of total endoprostheses of hip and knee joints, and those with permanent instabilities of the knee and shoulder joints.

Revisions to the Medical and Functional Classification Handbook were completed in 2009. This rulebook outlined that the sport classes in sitting volleyball were determined based on the potential impact of the impairment on the core functions of sitting volleyball to distinguish between "MD class" and "D" class, while the potential impact of the impairment on the core functions of standing volleyball were used to distinguish between NE and "MD class" Athletes.

In 2016 with the new 2015 IPC Classification Code in place, efforts were undertaken to update our rules to be Code Compliant and to use the opportunity to have a more comprehensive process including review of the literature, and surveys to obtain feedback from our stakeholders. Changes were made to clarify that Athletes with hypermobility/instability were no longer included as hypermobility/instability was not considered an Eligible Impairment by the IPC. Small changes were made to the Minimum Impairment criteria (MIC) for upper limb deficiency (reducing the level of MIC). Clarifications were added to PROM MIC without significant changes. Names were changed to VS1 and VS2 sport classes. Some changes were made to the lower limb impaired muscle power criteria between sport classes (criteria made more strict to be in VS1 class). Significant changes were made procedurally to ensure compliance with the Code, and International Standards for Protests & Appeals, International Standard for

Athlete Evaluation, and International Standard for Classifier Personnel & Development.

From 2019 to 2022, significant work was done relating to Classifier Personnel and Training, outlining the Scope and Authority of each classification certification level, as well as policy on Developing and Maintaining Excellence in Classifiers was completed.

WPV 2026 Classification Rules Contributors

The 2026 version of the Classification Rules has been completed with the assistance of the following:

- Classification Rules Working Group – Amr Ahmed, Graham Arthur, Louise Ashcroft, Madelyn Ball, Valentina Cavedon, Jenni Cole, Mossad Elaiuty, Maiiju Marjamaki, Jolanta Marszalek, Kwok Ng, Ronja Schmolders, Karla Schosinsky, Dora Szatmari, and Katelyn Wright.
- Commission Involvement – Athlete’s Commission, Technical Commission, Sitting Rules of the Game Commission, Referees Commission.

Changes to these Rules

This 2026 version of the rules has been updated procedurally to reflect changes from the 2025 IPC Classification Code and International Standards. It does not contain any changes that will impact eligibility or sport class criteria of Athletes. World ParaVolley will not make such changes without evidence to inform such changes, thorough stakeholder feedback, and an impact assessment for any such recommended changes. Future supported changes affecting Athlete eligibility and sport class allocation will be reflected in the relevant Appendices and communicated extensively to the membership prior to implementation.

World ParaVolley Sport Technical Rules

These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of World ParaVolley, including but not limited to the World ParaVolley sport technical rules for Sitting Volleyball. The Sport Technical Rules can be found [here](#).

Introduction:

The WPV Classification Rules 2026 that were developed based on the IPC Model Rules have been adopted without substantive change in order to eliminate uncertainties and/or interpretation difficulties. Please note that terms used in these World ParaVolley Classification Rules that are defined terms from the IPC Classification Code and International Standards start with a capital letter (for example, “Athlete” etc.)

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CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE OF CLASSIFICATION AND SCOPE OF THESE CLASSIFICATION RULES

1. Adoption

- 1.1 These Classification Rules have been prepared by World ParaVolley to implement the requirements of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2 The Classification Rules have been adopted by World ParaVolley on March 28, 2026 and will be effective from August 1, 2026 (**Effective Date**).
- 1.3 The Classification Rules form part of World ParaVolley's rules and regulations and may be amended by World ParaVolley from time to time.
- 1.4 The Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices, which are an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.5 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist in Classification. These forms are available from World ParaVolley and may be amended by World ParaVolley from time to time.

2. The purpose of Classification

- 2.1 The purpose of Classification is to enable Athletes with Eligible Impairments to participate in competitive Para sport with a pathway to sporting excellence, the pinnacle of which is the Paralympic Games.
- 2.2 Classification establishes a unique framework that promotes fair and meaningful competition by minimising the impact of Athletes' impairments on the outcome of competition so that the outcome is determined by factors other than impairment. Classification is therefore essential to the Paralympic Movement as Para sport cannot exist without Classification.

[Comment to Article 2.2: The term 'impairment' refers to a loss or abnormality in body structure or physiological function (including mental functions). "Abnormality" here strictly refers to a significant variation from established statistical norms (i.e. As a deviation from a population mean within measured standard norms) and should be used only in this sense. Examples of impairments include loss of an arm or leg or loss of vision. In the case of an injury to the spine, an impairment would be the resulting paralysis.]

- 2.3 To achieve its purpose, Classification performs two critical functions:
 - 2.3.1 The determination of which Athletes are eligible to compete in Sitting Volleyball, and

- 2.3.2 The grouping of eligible Athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball.
- 2.4 Classification is not designed to group Athletes into classes based on their sport performance. Rather, the unit of Classification is an Athlete's impairment, and impairments are classified based on the extent to which they impact an Athlete's ability to perform the fundamental activities in Sitting Volleyball. 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.

3. Scope and application of these Classification Rules

- 3.1 These Classification Rules apply to the following competitions within World ParaVolley for the Sitting Volleyball discipline. (each, a **Covered Competition**):
- 3.1.1 The Paralympic Games;
- 3.1.2 World Championships;
- 3.1.3 All Competitions that are part of the direct qualification pathway to participate in the Paralympic Games.
- 3.1.4 Any Competition where Observation Assessment may take place as part of a Classification process; and
- 3.1.5 Any other World ParaVolley Competition at the discretion of World ParaVolley.
- 3.2 Subject to Article 3.1, these Classification Rules will be binding on:
- 3.2.1 World ParaVolley and its representatives, including its board members, directors, officers and employees who are involved in any aspect of Classification;
- 3.2.2 Each of World ParaVolley's National Federations and all National Representatives;
- 3.2.3 All Participants;
- 3.2.4 All Classification Personnel;
- 3.2.5 All persons participating in Evaluation Sessions (whether in person or virtually); and
- 3.2.6 Any other person who agrees in writing to be bound by the Classification Rules.

- 3.3 Each of the above-mentioned Persons is deemed, as a condition of their participation or involvement in World ParaVolley, to have agreed to and be bound by these Classification Rules, and to have submitted to the authority of World ParaVolley to enforce these Classification Rules.

4. Interpretation

- 4.1 Defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 4.3 These Classification Rules have been adopted pursuant to the provisions of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards and are to be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with those documents. Aimed at implementing a global and harmonised approach to Classification, the Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of IPC Members, RIFs, or governments. When applying and interpreting the Classification Rules, all courts, arbitral tribunals and other adjudicating bodies should be aware of and respect the distinct nature of the Classification Rules, which implement the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, and the fact that the rules represent the consensus of a broad spectrum of stakeholders around the world as to what is necessary to protect and ensure fair and meaningful competition.
- 4.4 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of World ParaVolley, including but not limited to the sport technical rules. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules of World ParaVolley, these Classification Rules will take precedence.
- 4.5 Comments to these Classification Rules are deemed to be part of these Classification Rules and will be used to interpret these Classification Rules.

5. Use of the IPC's 'Para' mark

- 5.1 The word 'Para' is a registered trade mark of the IPC, which the IPC protects and registers for the benefit of the Paralympic Movement. Any use of the 'Para' mark must be in accordance with the IPC Constitution and the IPC's Intellectual Property Regulations.

- 5.2 The right to use the 'Para' mark is conferred on International Federations and RIFs that have agreed to comply with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards. However, International Federations and RIFs can only use the 'Para' mark in relation to those specific sports and disciplines for which the International Federation/RIF has agreed to comply with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards.
- 5.3 World ParaVolley has the right to use the 'Para' mark in relation to Covered Sitting Volleyball Competitions.
- 5.4 Sports and federations that are not International Federations or RIFs are not permitted to use the 'Para' mark under any circumstances.

CHAPTER 2: CLASSIFICATION

PART I: INTRODUCTION

6. Stages of Classification

6.1 Classification comprises four main assessment stages, each of which will be conducted by World ParaVolley (or its representatives):

UHC Assessment	Stage 1: an assessment to verify that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National Federation (UHC Assessment) (see Part IV.A).
Evaluation Session	Stage 2: an assessment to verify (i) that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) that there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s) (Eligible Impairment Assessment) (see Part IV.B.1).
	Stage 3: an assessment as to whether the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment (MIC Assessment) (see Part IV.B.2).
	Stage 4: the allocation to the Athlete of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A Sport Class based on an assessment of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball (Sport Class Assessment); and (ii) A Sport Class Status to indicate whether and when the Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future, (see Part IV.B.3).

6.2 The UHC Assessment will always be performed first. Subject to that, stages 2-4 will be conducted in sequential order during a Classification Evaluation Session. The decision-making process will follow the four stages sequentially in the order set out above.

PART II: BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CLASSIFYING ATHLETES

7. UHC Assessor

7.1 World ParaVolley is responsible for conducting UHC Assessments, prior to and between Competitions (as applications for Classification and medical documentation are submitted to World ParaVolley). All Athletes who require UHC Assessment will have their medical documents triaged by the World ParaVolley UHC Assessment Coordinator. UHC Assessments are conducted once the UHC Assessment Coordinator assigns the Athlete's medical documentation package to one of the following persons or bodies (each referred to as a **UHC Assessor**):

7.1.1 An UHC Assessor may be a single Medical Classifier who can conduct UHC Assessments in the circumstance of Athletes with Eligible Impairments of Limb Deficiency or clear cases of other Eligible Impairments; or

7.1.2 An UHC Assessor may otherwise consist of a three-person UHC Assessment Panel in the circumstance of Athletes with Eligible impairments of Coordination, or in the case of other Eligible impairments that are not clear cases or in the opinion of the initial UHC Assessor requires a full UHC panel. The UHC Assessment panel members may include the following persons appointed by World ParaVolley:

7.1.2.1 Medical Classifiers who are licensed physicians or physiotherapists, including Chief Classifier,

7.1.2.2 Physicians, medical specialists, and physiotherapists with relevant expertise including, but not limited to, external experts such as a neurologist, sport medicine specialist, rehabilitation specialist, orthopedic surgeon, pediatrician, radiologist, rheumatologist, or other specialist), subject to availability.

[Comment to Article 7.1.2: The UHC Assessment Coordinator will determine if the UHC Assessor is required to have a three-person panel based on criteria outlined in Appendix 1-Section 3].

7.1.3 The UHC Assessor will be responsible for conducting UHC Assessments for different Eligible Impairment types:

7.1.3.1 Limb Deficiency Impairments – 1 Assessor.

7.1.3.2 Impaired Muscle Power – 1 Assessor if straightforward case; three-person Assessor Panel if complex.

- 7.1.3.3 Impaired Passive ROM – 1 Assessor if straightforward case; three-person Assessor Panel if complex.
 - 7.1.3.4 Coordination Impairments – three-person Assessor Panel; Neurologist or Rehabilitation Specialist as one of the panel members is preferable.
 - 7.1.3.5 If, during triage of health documentation by the UHC Assessment Coordinator or review by a single Assessor, it is determined the potential outcome may be NE-UHC (Re-evaluation), the UHC Assessment Coordinator will ensure the first UHC Assessment is completed by a three-person UHC Assessment panel.
- 7.2 The UHC Assessment process is outlined in Appendix 1 – Section 3.
- 7.3 All persons acting as UHC Assessors must (i) have the skills and experience required to conduct UHC Assessments, and (ii) sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings.

8. Classification Panel

- 8.1 World ParaVolley will appoint Classification Panels to conduct Evaluation Sessions in accordance with this Article 8.
- 8.2 Except as provided in Article 8.3:
- 8.2.1 Each Classification Panel must consist of a minimum of two Classifiers.
 - 8.2.2 At least one member of the Classification Panel must be of a different nationality to the Athlete being assessed; and
 - 8.2.3 Where reasonably practicable, members of the Classification Panel must be of different nationalities to each other.

[Comment to Article 8.2: These provisions are intended to help manage potential conflicts of interest, whether perceived or actual. Conflicts of interest are addressed more broadly in Chapter 6 Part III, with further examples. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to Article 42.2 regarding the composition of a Protest Panel, a Classification Panel may consist of Classifiers who conducted previous Evaluation Sessions of the Athlete being assessed. However, while not mandatory, where reasonably practicable World ParaVolley will not appoint any Classifier who was involved in any assessment or evaluation of the relevant Athlete for Classification purposes (whether at the national or international level) within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the anticipated Evaluation Session.]

- 8.3 In exceptional circumstances, World ParaVolley may authorise a Classification Panel to consist of a sole Classifier and/or Classifiers who are each of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed, provided that:
- 8.3.1 At the conclusion of classification evaluation, any Sport Class issued to the Athlete must be accompanied by the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', with all resulting consequences; and
 - 8.3.2 Any sole Classifier must be certified to conduct all of the assessments within the Evaluation Session.
- [Comment to Article 8.3: For example, 'exceptional circumstances' may arise if there are genuine and unavoidable operational difficulties at a Competition (such as travel delays, Classifier illness, or conflicts of interest) that result in an insufficient number of Classifiers being available to constitute Classification Panels with two or more persons, or of different nationalities to the Athlete being assessed.]*
- 8.4 All members of the Classification Panel must sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings.

PART III: ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

9. Eligible Impairments

- 9.1 The Eligible Impairments that are catered for by World ParaVolley are set out in Appendix 1 – Section 2.
- 9.2 Any impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Article 9.1 is a '**Non-Eligible Impairment**'.
- 9.3 Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to, the following:
- 9.3.1 Pain;
 - 9.3.2 Hearing impairment;
 - 9.3.3 Low muscle tone;
 - 9.3.4 Hypermobility of joints;
 - 9.3.5 Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint or recurrent dislocation of a joint;
 - 9.3.6 Impaired muscle endurance or stiffness;
 - 9.3.7 Impaired motor reflex functions;
 - 9.3.8 Impaired cardiovascular functions;

- 9.3.9 Impaired respiratory functions;
 - 9.3.10 Impaired metabolic functions;
 - 9.3.11 Tics and mannerisms, motor stereotypies, and motor perseverations;
 - 9.3.12 Vestibular impairment;
 - 9.3.13 Impairments in muscle metabolism resulting in fatigue; and
 - 9.3.14 Impairments stemming from psychological and/or psychosomatic causes
- 9.4 An Athlete who has both an Eligible Impairment and a Non-Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of their Eligible Impairment, provided that their Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session (including Observation Assessment, if required) and allocate a Sport Class.

[Comment to Article 9.4: For example, an Athlete with osteoarthritis might have Impaired Passive Range of Movement (an Eligible Impairment) and pain (a Non-Eligible Impairment). If the presence of pain restricts a Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session the Athlete might not be allocated a Sport Class, notwithstanding that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.]

PART IV: THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

A. Stage 1: UHC Assessment

10. Diagnostic Information

- 10.1 In order to begin the Classification process, an Athlete must provide their National Federation with all relevant Diagnostic Information required to enable World ParaVolley to assess the existence of an Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment.
- 10.2 The Athlete's National Federation is responsible for providing a Medical Diagnostic form and all relevant supporting Diagnostic Information to World ParaVolley, and for ensuring that all Diagnostic Information is complete, accurate, authentic, and relevant, and that World ParaVolley is informed of any changes to that information. Diagnostic Information will be provided to World ParaVolley through the ParaVolley Sport Administration System (PVSAS) secure platform.

- 10.3 World ParaVolley (including the UHC Assessor) may request from the Athlete's National Federation any additional information that it deems necessary to carry out the Classification process, including Diagnostic Information.
- 10.4 Unless World ParaVolley specifies otherwise, Diagnostic Information must be provided in its original format (i.e., the original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language) and must be completed by an appropriate health care professional with expertise in the relevant impairment type or UHC and who has not been the team health care professional support personnel at any time within the last two years.

11. Conducting the UHC Assessment

- 11.1 The UHC Assessor will conduct the UHC Assessment for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to verify that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition. Appendix 1 – Section 3 sets out the detailed UHC Assessment Procedure.
- 11.2 The UHC Assessor will conduct the UHC Assessment based only on the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National Federation.
- 11.3 At any stage the UHC Assessor may, with the agreement of World ParaVolley, seek the assistance of such other medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific experts as it considers necessary for it to conduct the UHC Assessment.
- 11.4 If the UHC Assessor consists of more than one member:
 - 11.4.1 The individual members of the UHC Assessor must initially review the Athlete's Diagnostic Information independently of each other; and
 - 11.4.2 If the members are unable to reach a unanimous decision, the UHC Assessor must make its decision by majority.
- 11.5 If the UHC Assessor is satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:
 - 11.5.1 The UHC Assessor must notify World ParaVolley of the outcome of its assessment in writing.
 - 11.5.2 World ParaVolley will provide the Diagnostic Information and the UHC Assessor's written outcome to the Classification Panel via PVSAS and will then proceed with scheduling an Evaluation Session.

- 11.5.3 Unless the Athlete already has a relevant Sport Class and Sport Class Status, the Athlete will automatically be allocated the designation 'New (N)'; and
 - 11.5.4 An Athlete with the designation 'New (N)' must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at a Covered Competition.
- 11.6 If the UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:
- 11.6.1 The UHC Assessor must notify World ParaVolley of the outcome of its assessment and provide a written explanation for the decision.
 - 11.6.2 World ParaVolley will:
 - 11.6.2.1 Provide a copy of the UHC Assessor's written explanation to the Athlete's National Federation;
 - 11.6.2.2 Designate the Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)' with the resulting consequences specified in Article 12; and
 - 11.6.2.3 Arrange for a second UHC Assessor (Assessment panel of 3 members) to repeat the UHC Assessment as soon as reasonably practicable in accordance with Article 11.7.
- 11.7 If a second UHC Assessor is required pursuant to Article 11.6.2:
- 11.7.1 The second UHC Assessor shall be comprised of 3 members. Any member of the first UHC Assessor cannot serve as a member of the second UHC Assessor.
 - 11.7.2 The second UHC Assessor must review all of the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National Federation. Before reaching a final decision, the second UHC Assessor must also review the written explanation of the first UHC Assessor.
 - 11.7.3 If the second UHC Assessor is satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, Article 11.5 applies.
 - 11.7.4 If the second UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:

11.7.4.1 The second UHC Assessor must notify World ParaVolley of the outcome and provide a written explanation for the decision.

11.7.4.2 World ParaVolley will provide a copy of the second UHC Assessor's written explanation to the Athlete's National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable.

11.7.4.3 The Athlete must be designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', and the consequences in Article 12 will continue to apply.

12. **Designation of 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition'**

12.1 Subject to Medical Reviews (Article 36) and changes to Classification systems (Article 53.3), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition':

12.1.1 Is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions in Sitting Volleyball; and

12.1.2 Must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in World ParaVolley or in another sport). Such designation may be automatically recognised by other International Federations in their respective sports, in their absolute discretion.

[Comment to Article 12.1: If an Athlete who has been designated 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition' subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in Covered Competitions, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Sitting Volleyball.]

12.2 Subject to Article 11.7, the designation of an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.

12.3 World ParaVolley will include all Athletes designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition' on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 35.

B. Evaluation Session

B.1 Stage 2: Eligible Impairment Assessment

13. Conducting the Eligible Impairment Assessment

- 13.1 The Eligible Impairment Assessment will be conducted for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to verify that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s).
- 13.2 As a preliminary step, the Classification Panel must review the documentation relating to the UHC Assessment, namely the Athlete's Diagnostic Information and the written outcome of the UHC Assessor.
- 13.3 Appendix 1- Section 4 sets out how a Classification Panel will evaluate whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, including the criteria to be assessed for each Eligible Impairment and the full details of any impairment-based testing and/or other clinically recognised testing that will be used as part of the Eligible Impairment Assessment, and how the results of such testing will be evaluated.
- 13.4 The Eligible Impairment Assessment must take place in person.
- 13.5 When conducting the Eligible Impairment Assessment, if the Classification Panel considers that there are any inconsistencies with the Underlying Health Condition(s) reported in the UHC Assessment, the Classification Panel will:
 - 13.5.1 Designate the Athlete as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'.
 - 13.5.2 Prepare a written explanation identifying the inconsistencies and noting any additional information that is required, a copy of which must be provided to World ParaVolley and the Athlete's National Federation;
 - 13.5.3 If it considers it appropriate, specify a deadline by which such additional information must be provided by the Athlete's National Federation; such information must be provided in its original format (i.e. The original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language), unless World ParaVolley specifies otherwise; and

- 13.5.4 If the additional information is not provided by the specified deadline or does not otherwise satisfy the Classification Panel, or if the Classification Panel does not require any additional information, refer the matter back to the UHC Assessor (which, if possible, should be the same UHC Assessor as before) for reconsideration in accordance with Part IV.A above, along with the written explanation and any additional information provided.
- 13.6 The Eligible Impairment Assessment will continue (either by the same or a new Classification Panel) only once that Classification Panel is satisfied by the additional information provided and/or the UHC Assessor completes the reassessment.
- 13.7 Upon completion of the Eligible Impairment Assessment:
- 13.7.1 If the Classification Panel is satisfied that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s), it will proceed to the MIC Assessment.
- 13.7.2 If the Classification Panel is not satisfied as in Article 13.7.1, the Athlete must be designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)', with the resulting consequences specified in Article 14.
- [Comment to Article 13.7.2: When designating an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', the Classification Panel must record the Eligible Impairment(s) for which the Athlete was assessed, for example, 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' for Impaired Muscle Power and Impaired Passive Range of Movement.]*
- 13.8 The Classification Panel must notify World ParaVolley of the outcome of the Eligible Impairment Assessment and provide a written explanation for the decision. World ParaVolley will provide a copy of the Classification Panel's written explanation to the Athlete's National Federation.
- 13.9 If the Athlete is designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)', the Athlete is entitled to undergo a second Eligible Impairment Assessment by a second Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable:
- 13.9.1 Any member of the first Classification Panel cannot serve as a member of the second Classification Panel.
- 13.9.2 Before reaching a final decision, the second Classification Panel must also review the explanation of the first Classification Panel.

- 13.9.3 If the second Classification Panel is satisfied that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s), it will proceed to the MIC Assessment.
- 13.9.4 If the second Classification Panel is not satisfied as in Article 13.9.3, the Athlete must be designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', and the consequences in Article 14 will continue to apply.
- 13.9.5 The Athlete's right to a second Eligible Impairment Assessment may be waived by the Athlete if they do not wish to undergo a second assessment (in which case Article 13.9.4 will be deemed to apply).

14. Designation of 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment'

- 14.1 Subject to Medical Reviews (Article 36) and changes to Classification systems (Article 53.3), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment':
- 14.1.1 Is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions based on such Eligible Impairment(s) in Sitting Volleyball; and
- 14.1.2 Must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in World ParaVolley or in another sport). Such designation may be automatically recognised by other International Federations in their respective sports, in their absolute discretion.

[Comment to Article 14.1: If an Athlete who has been designated 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in Covered Competitions, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Sitting Volleyball.

- 14.2 Subject to Article 13.9, the designation of an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.

- 14.3 World ParaVolley will include all Athletes designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 35.

B.2 Stage 3: MIC Assessment

15. Conducting the MIC Assessment

- 15.1 The MIC Assessment will be conducted for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to assess whether the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment.
- 15.2 The MIC Assessment will be determined based solely on an evaluation of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment (i.e. Impairment-based testing and/or other clinically recognised testing) and not based on an assessment of tasks or activities performed in the sport, nor any other aspect of the Athlete's sport performance.
- 15.3 Appendix 1 – Section 5 sets out how a Classification Panel will assess whether an Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria.
- 15.4 The MIC Assessment must take place in person.
- 15.5 Upon completion of the MIC Assessment:
- 15.5.1 If the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, it will proceed to the Sport Class Assessment.
 - 15.5.2 If the Classification Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)', with the resulting consequences specified in Article 16.
- 15.6 The Classification Panel must notify World ParaVolley of the outcome of the MIC Assessment and provide a written explanation for the decision. World ParaVolley will provide a copy of the Classification Panel's written explanation to the Athlete's National Federation.
- 15.7 If an Athlete is designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)', the Athlete is entitled to undergo a second MIC Assessment by a second Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable:
- 15.7.1 Any member of the first Classification Panel cannot serve as a member of the second Classification Panel.

- 15.7.2 Before reaching a final decision, the second Classification Panel must also review the explanation of the first Classification Panel.
- 15.7.3 If the second Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, it will proceed to the Sport Class Assessment.
- 15.7.4 If the second Classification Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', and the consequences in Article 16 will continue to apply.
- 15.7.5 The Athlete's right to a second MIC Assessment may be waived by the Athlete if they do not wish to undergo a second assessment (in which case Article 15.7.4 will be deemed to apply).

16. Designation of 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria'

- 16.1 Subject to Medical Reviews (Article 36) and changes to Classification systems (Article 53.3), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria':
 - 16.1.1 Is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions based on the same Eligible Impairment(s) in Sitting Volleyball; and
 - 16.1.2 Must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in Sitting Volleyball or in another sport discipline or sport).

[Comment to Article 16.1: If an Athlete who has been designated 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in Covered Competitions based on such Eligible Impairment(s) in that sport, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Sitting Volleyball.]

- 16.2 However, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in Covered Competitions:

- 16.2.1 In Sitting Volleyball based on a different Eligible Impairment if they meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment; and/or
 - 16.2.2 In a different sport based on the same Eligible Impairment(s) if: (i) the other sport caters for the Eligible Impairment(s); and (ii) the Athlete meets the other sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria for the Eligible Impairment(s).
- 16.3 Subject to Article 15.7, the designation of an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.
- 16.4 World ParaVolley will include all Athletes designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 35.

B.3 Stage 4: Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation

B.3.1 Sport Class

17. Conducting the Sport Class Assessment

- 17.1 Subject to the suspension or termination of an Evaluation Session (Article 29) and the failure to attend an Evaluation Session (Article 30), if an Athlete has been assessed to have an Eligible Impairment that meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class.
- 17.2 The Sport Class Assessment will be conducted for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to assess the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball.
- 17.3 Appendix 1 – Section 6 sets out the assessment methodology and assessment criteria that the Classification Panel will use in evaluating which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete.
- 17.4 When assessing which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete, the Classification Panel must:
- 17.4.1 Base its assessment solely on the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball; and

[Comment to Article 17.4.1: The Classification Panel must therefore distinguish factors such as fitness level and/or technical proficiency in order to ensure that these do not affect the Sport Class allocated. For this purpose, it may be helpful for the Classification Panel to consider an Athlete's training history and age.]

- 17.4.2 With the exception of the Observation Assessment, conduct all parts of the Sport Class Assessment in a controlled non-competitive environment, meaning an environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 17.5 The Sport Class Assessment must take place in person.
- 17.6 Use of Adaptive Equipment:
- 17.6.1 The use of Adaptive Equipment is an integral component of the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by Sitting Volleyball. Sport Class Assessment must take into account the use of such Adaptive Equipment during competition, whether an Athlete chooses to use it or not.
- 17.6.2 During the course of the Sport Class Assessment, an Athlete must complete the tasks required by a Classification Panel using any Adaptive Equipment that they will use in competition.
- 17.6.3 World ParaVolley, whether through the Classification Panel or otherwise, shall assess whether any Adaptive Equipment proposed to be used by the Athlete in competition complies with these Classification Rules and/or other World ParaVolley technical rules on the use of Adaptive Equipment. Details of the requirements for use of Adaptive Equipment can be found in Appendix 1- Section 7 of these Classification Rules. If the Athlete's equipment does not comply with such rules, the Athlete will not be permitted to use that equipment as part of the Sport Class Assessment, and the Classification Panel will not take use of that equipment into consideration when making its determination as to the Athlete's Sport Class.
- 17.7 Following completion of the initial stages of the Sport Class Assessment set out above, the Classification Panel will either:
- 17.7.1 Allocate the Athlete a provisional Sport Class that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment in accordance with Article 17.8 below, using the tracking code 'OA' for 'Observation Assessment'; or
- 17.7.2 Allocate the Athlete a final Sport Class, in which case the Athlete must also be allocated a Sport Class Status.

17.8 Observation Assessment

- 17.8.1 The purpose of an Observation Assessment is to observe and evaluate the Athlete in a competitive environment in order to ensure that what is observed in competition is consistent with what was observed in the previous stages of Classification.
- 17.8.2 An Athlete shall be required to undertake an Observation Assessment (in competition) before allocating a final sport class and designating a final sport class status to that Athlete. Exceptions to this are Athletes who play with impairments of Limb Deficiency who are not required to undergo Observation Assessment. Observation Assessment is considered to be a formal part of the Sport Class Assessment unless the Classification Panel determines there is no possibility or risk of a change in sport class outcome following Evaluation.
- 17.8.3 Details of the Observation Assessment process are set out in Appendix 1 – Section 8.
- 17.8.4 If an Observation Assessment is required:
 - 17.8.4.1 Except in exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel that conducted the preceding stages of the Athlete’s Evaluation Session must also conduct the Observation Assessment.
 - 17.8.4.2 The Observation Assessment must be conducted in person at the Covered Competition where the Athlete competes in their provisional Sport Class for the first time (**First Appearance**). The Athlete may compete at First Appearance with their provisional Sport Class.
 - 17.8.4.3 The Observation Assessment will be conducted during the preliminary rounds and is based on the Athlete’s first meaningful participation in all relevant court positions and performing all the skills required for their position during match play. Observation Assessment must be completed to the extent that the classification panel members are confident of the observed activity limitation from the impairment on the core volleyball actions in order to finalize the Sport Class of the Athlete. Observation Assessment includes both match warm-up and match play.

[Comment to Article 17.8.4.3: For most Athletes this usually requires a minimum of one full rotation through all six positions on court, or for the libero position 2-3 rotations in and out of the court. If the libero player is changed from libero to a non-libero position for a different match, the Athlete could be subject to further Observation Assessment and can be designated Review status at the discretion of the Observation panel.]

- 17.8.4.4 Whenever possible, the Observation Assessment should not take place at the final of a Covered Competition.
- 17.8.5 Following an Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel may:
 - 17.8.5.1 Allocate the Athlete a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status; or
 - 17.8.5.2 Require the Athlete to redo any prior stages of the Evaluation Session and/or undergo a further Observation Assessment.
- 17.8.6 The Classification Panel cannot, based on the results of the Observation Assessment alone, allocate the Athlete a Sport Class that is different from the one provisionally allocated in accordance with Article 17.7.1.
- 17.9 If an Athlete with a provisional Sport Class is ultimately allocated a different final Sport Class:
 - 17.9.1 For competitions with Preliminary Rounds, such change must be implemented immediately, and the Athlete may not participate further in the competition or in any other Covered Competition until the change has been implemented.
 - 17.9.2 The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance has no effect on medals, records, and results for the team in accordance with World ParaVolley rules and regulations.
- 17.10 Athletes may only compete in the Sport Class allocated to them for their respective sport discipline.
- 17.11 An Athlete will receive a 'CNC' designation when the Athlete is designated for Observation Assessment and does not have an opportunity to play on court during the preliminary rounds of Competition.

18. Eligibility for multiple Sport Classes

- 18.1 In World ParaVolley it is not possible for an Athlete to be allocated multiple Sport Classes within each discipline.
- 18.2 An Athlete that has multiple Physical Impairments that could lead to a different assessment methodology for Minimum Impairment Criteria and Sport Class Assessment is entitled to attend an Evaluation Session in respect of all such Physical Impairments.

B.3.2 Sport Class Status

19. Sport Class Statuses

- 19.1 A Sport Class Status indicates whether and when an Athlete will be required to undergo Classification in the future.
- 19.2 The available Sport Class Statuses are as follows:
 - 19.2.1 Confirmed (C);
 - 19.2.2 Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO);
 - 19.2.3 Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD); or
 - 19.2.4 Expired (E).

20. Allocation of Sport Class Statuses

- 20.1 Sport Class Statuses must be allocated in accordance with the below:
 - 20.1.1 **'Confirmed (C)'**: A Classification Panel may allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status 'Confirmed (C)' if it is satisfied that the Athlete's Sport Class is unlikely to change given the nature of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball.
 - 20.1.2 **'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)'**:
 - 20.1.2.1 An Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' where:
 - (a) Their Classification Panel consisted of: (i) a sole Classifier; and/or (ii) Classifiers who were each of the same nationality as the Athlete (see Article 8.3.1);
 - (b) World ParaVolley has accepted a Medical Review request (see Article 36.9); and/or

(c) A National Federation Protest has been accepted or an International Federation Protest has been made (see Article 42.1.1).

20.1.2.2 A Classification Panel may also decide to allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' if:

(a) The Athlete is 'borderline' (i.e. They narrowly meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or they are on the boundary of two Sport Classes); and/or

(b) The Classification Panel believes that a further Evaluation Session will be required at the Next Available Opportunity.

[Comment to Article 20.1.2.2: A further Evaluation Session might be required for a number of reasons, including where the Athlete has only recently started competing in Covered Competitions, has one or more fluctuating and/or progressive or regressive impairment(s), and/or has not reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.]

20.1.2.3 World ParaVolley may also change an Athlete's Sport Class Status to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' where it has identified that changes to its Classification Rules may affect the Athlete's (in) eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status (see Article 53.3.2).

20.1.2.4 An Athlete with Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' may be required to submit new medical documentation if they have not completed a further Evaluation session within a two-year period.

20.1.3 **'Review with a fixed review date (R-FRD)'**

20.1.3.1 A Classification Panel may allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' where it believes that a further Evaluation Session will be required, but not within the current calendar year and/or season. The Classification Panel must set a date (no earlier than the end of the current calendar year or season, as applicable) after which the Athlete must attend a new Evaluation Session at the Next Available Opportunity (the **Fixed Review Date**). The Fixed Review Date shall be documented as dd/mm/yyyy on the Classification Evaluation Form.

20.1.3.2 World ParaVolley may also change an Athlete's Sport Class Status to 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' where it has identified that changes to its Classification Rules may affect the Athlete's (in) eligibility, Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status (see Article 53.3.2). In such circumstances, World ParaVolley will set an appropriate Fixed Review Date.

20.1.3.3 The Fixed Review Date will typically be no more than four years after the Athlete's previous Evaluation Session took place.

20.1.3.4 An Athlete with Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' may be required to submit updated Medical documentation if they have not completed a further Evaluation Session within a four-year period after the Fixed Review Date has passed.

20.1.4 **'Expired (E)'**:

20.1.4.1 An Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' when they retire, in accordance with World ParaVolley's rules.

21. Impact of Sport Class Status on participation in Covered Competitions

21.1 An Athlete allocated the Sport Class Status 'Confirmed' is not required to undergo any further Classification, except if their Sport Class Status is subsequently changed as a result of: (i) an International Federation Protest, accepted National Federation Protest, or successful Appeal; (ii) an accepted Medical Review request; and/or (iii) changes to World ParaVolley's Classification system under Article 53.3.

21.2 Unless World ParaVolley specifies otherwise, if an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status:

- 21.2.1 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', the Athlete must complete an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any Covered Competition.
- 21.2.2 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)', the Athlete may compete in Covered Competitions up until the Fixed Review Date, but thereafter must complete an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any further Covered Competitions.
- 21.3 If an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)', the Athlete must notify World ParaVolley of their return to participation in Covered Competitions. Athletes with Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' who previously had a Sport Class Status 'Confirmed (C)' may return to competition in their original Sport Class with Sport Class Status 'Confirmed (C)' without the need to undergo further Classification at the discretion of the Head of Classification, except if their Sport Class Status must be changed as a result of changes to World ParaVolley's Classification system under Article 53.3.

B.4 General provisions applicable to all Evaluation Sessions

22. General requirements for World ParaVolley

- 22.1 World ParaVolley will provide National Federations with reasonable notice of Classification opportunities, including the location, dates, and the sports and impairment types that will be assessed.
- 22.2 World ParaVolley will provide the Classification Panel with any information that becomes available to it that might be relevant to the Classification Panel conducting an Evaluation Session.
- 22.3 World ParaVolley will retain copies of any forms, reports, or other records from UHC Assessors and Classification Panels in the ParaVolley Sport Administration system (PVSAS), which may be provided by World ParaVolley to future UHC Assessors and Classification Panels that evaluate the Athlete.

23. Attendance at Evaluation Sessions

- 23.1 In addition to the Athlete and the members of the Classification Panel, the following individuals may attend Evaluation Sessions:
 - 23.1.1 The Athlete's accompanying National Representative and (if required) interpreter, subject to the requirements in Article 24.2;
 - 23.1.2 Trainee Classifiers and any other authorised persons involved in the training of such Trainee Classifiers, as determined by World ParaVolley (or the Chief Classifier, acting on behalf of World ParaVolley);

[Comment to Article 23.1.2: World ParaVolley will be respectful of Athletes when determining the number of Trainee Classifiers/trainers participating in an Evaluation Session.]

- 23.1.3 Observers appointed by the IPC as part of the IPC's monitoring of Compliance with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards;
 - 23.1.4 Observer appointed by World ParaVolley to monitor Classifier Performance and application of Classification Rules; and
 - 23.1.5 Any person from whom the Classification Panel seeks medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific advice in accordance with Article 27.
- 23.2 Except if specified otherwise in these Classification Rules, the Athlete and the members of the Classification Panel must attend Evaluation Sessions in person.
- 23.3 Any other person entitled to attend an Evaluation Session pursuant to Article 23.1 may attend the Evaluation Session in person. Alternatively, they may attend the Evaluation Session virtually, whether by telephone or video (or other virtual technology), provided that they can do so without adverse impact on the Evaluation Session, and provided that they comply with all of the same requirements as those attending in person.

[Comment to Article 23.3: An Evaluation Session would be adversely impacted if, for example, the internet connection of the person attending the Evaluation Session virtually was so weak or intermittent that the Evaluation Session was continually interrupted.]

24. Responsibilities of National Federations and Athletes in relation to Evaluation Sessions

- 24.1 An Athlete's National Federation is responsible for ensuring that the Athlete complies with the responsibilities applicable to them in relation to Evaluation Sessions.
- 24.2 Athletes may be accompanied during the Evaluation Session by a maximum of:
 - 24.2.1 One National Representative whose role is to support the Athlete and facilitate their Classification process (Athletes who are Minors or lack legal capacity in accordance with the laws applicable in their country of residence must be accompanied by such a National Representative); and
 - 24.2.2 If required, one interpreter (to be arranged and paid for by the Athlete's National Federation, and who will be deemed a National Representative).

- 24.3 The Athlete and any accompanying National Representative(s) (including any interpreter) must sign the World ParaVolley Classification Evaluation Agreement form.
- 24.4 The Athlete and any accompanying National Representative(s) (including any interpreter) must prove their identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel (by providing a document such as a passport or National ID card).
- 24.5 An Athlete must give their best efforts during an Evaluation Session and must comply with all reasonable instructions given to them by a Classification Panel.
- 24.6 The Athlete must (i) attend the Evaluation Session with sports attire that facilitates the physical evaluation, and any Adaptive Equipment permitted under World ParaVolley's Rules that they intend to use in any Covered Competition; and (ii) disclose their intended use of such Adaptive Equipment to the Classification Panel.
- 24.7 Medication, medical devices/implants, and procedures:
- 24.7.1 An Athlete must disclose to the Classification Panel the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant (including any audio aids and/or refractive or optical correction such as eyeglasses or corrective lenses) and any medical procedure that may affect the Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session; and
- [Comment to Article 24.7.1: For the avoidance of doubt, the Athlete's obligation to disclose their use of any medication, medical device/implant, and medical procedure under this Article is entirely separate to their obligations under any applicable anti-doping rules, including but not limited to in respect of therapeutic use exemptions and disclosures on a doping control form. Any such disclosure by an Athlete to the Classification Panel in no way equates to a disclosure or application for the purposes of such separate anti-doping rules, and vice versa.]*
- 24.7.2 An Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session (i) with all disclosed medical devices/implants; and (ii) if required by World ParaVolley's Rules or otherwise requested by the Classification Panel, with any or all disclosed medication(s) and/or related medical prescription(s).

25. Responsibilities of the Classification Panel in relation to Evaluation Sessions

- 25.1 Classification Panels are responsible for conducting Evaluation Sessions.

- 25.2 Except as provided in Article 13.6, or in other exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel must conduct all of the stages of an Evaluation Session in relation to an Athlete.

[Comment to Article 25.2: For example, 'exceptional circumstances' may arise if there are genuine and unavoidable operational difficulties (such as Classifier illness) that mean the same Classification Panel is not available to conduct all aspects of the Evaluation Session.]

- 25.3 Unless World ParaVolley specifies otherwise, the Classification Panel must conduct Evaluation Sessions in English.

- 25.4 The Classification Panel must inform the Athlete of the names and roles of all persons attending the Evaluation Session on behalf of World ParaVolley (whether they are attending in person or virtually).

- 25.5 When conducting an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel may only consider the information provided to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation, or World ParaVolley, and any additional information obtained under Article 27 below.

- 25.6 The Classification Panel must record their assessments at each stage of Classification in the World ParaVolley Classification Evaluation form and provide a copy of such records to World ParaVolley.

[Comment: "Recording an assessment" means completing a written or digital record of each stage of Classification on the Evaluation form. "Records" may also include any videorecording completed as part of the Evaluation.]

26. Consideration of prior Evaluation Sessions

- 26.1 If the Classification Panel is evaluating an Athlete who has previously undergone one or more Evaluation Sessions:

26.1.1 Before reaching a final decision, the Classification Panel must review the applicable forms, reports, or other records from previous Classification Panel(s); and

26.1.2 In relation to the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must not consult with any of the members of previous Classification Panels regarding their prior evaluation of the Athlete. For the avoidance of doubt, the Classification Panel may seek expert assistance in accordance with Article 27, including from any persons who provided equivalent assistance to previous Classification Panels.

[Comment to Article 26.1.2: For the avoidance of doubt, subject to Article 42.2 regarding the composition of a Protest Panel, a Classification Panel may consist of Classifiers who conducted previous Evaluation Sessions of the Athlete. In those circumstances, such Classifiers should not discuss their previous evaluation of the Athlete with the new Classification Panel (beyond reviewing the documentation referred to in Article 26.1.1).]

27. Classification Panel requests for additional information or expertise

- 27.1 At any stage the Classification Panel may request that an Athlete's National Federation provide any additional information (including Diagnostic Information) that the Classification Panel believes is necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session. If the Athlete's National Federation provides such information within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session may continue. If the Athlete's National Federation is unable or fails to provide such information within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may suspend the Evaluation Session in accordance with Article 29.
- 27.2 At any stage the Classification Panel may, with the agreement of World ParaVolley, seek the assistance of such other medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific experts as it considers necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session.

28. Requirement to redo prior stages of the Evaluation Session

- 28.1 The Classification Panel may at any time require the Athlete to redo any prior stages of the Evaluation Session if it considers it necessary to do so.

29. Suspension or termination of an Evaluation Session

- 29.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with World ParaVolley (or the Chief Classifier, acting on behalf of World ParaVolley), may suspend an Evaluation Session if it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session for any reason, including in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 29.1.1 Failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
 - 29.1.2 Failure on the part of the Athlete or the Athlete's National Federation to provide any information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - 29.1.3 The Classification Panel believes that any use (or non-use) of any medication or medical device/implant or any medical procedure disclosed by the Athlete may interfere with the Classification of the Athlete;

- 29.1.4 The Athlete has a Health Condition or impairment that limits or prevents them from complying with the requests of the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules;
 - 29.1.5 The Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel, even in the presence of an interpreter;
 - 29.1.6 In the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel, the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
 - 29.1.7 The Classification Panel believes that the Athlete is not giving their best efforts, or the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by the Classification Panel;
 - 29.1.8 The Athlete or their accompanying National Representative or interpreter (or any other person associated with the Athlete or the Athlete's National Federation) is found to be photographing or recording the Evaluation Session;
 - 29.1.9 There are more people attending the Evaluation Session than permitted under these Classification Rules, or the identity of someone attending is not clear;
 - 29.1.10 The Classification Panel believes that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is inconsistent (i.e., is subject to significant fluctuation) such that it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session and allocate the Athlete with an appropriate Sport Class; and/or
 - 29.1.11 The Athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with other information available to the Classification Panel.
- 29.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel must designate the Athlete as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'. Subject to Article 13.5, the following steps must be taken:
- 29.2.1 The Classification Panel must prepare a written explanation (i) explaining why the 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' designation has been applied (including, where applicable, identifying any observed inconsistencies in the Athlete's representation of their abilities), and (ii) if applicable, specifying the details of any remedial action that is required for the Evaluation Session to be resumed, a copy of which must be provided to World ParaVolley and the Athlete's National Federation;

- 29.2.2 The Classification Panel must separately record any concerns regarding potential Intentional Misrepresentation, if applicable; and
 - 29.2.3 If an Athlete completes any specified remedial action to the satisfaction of World ParaVolley (or the Chief Classifier, acting on behalf of World ParaVolley), an Evaluation Session will be rescheduled as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 29.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel and cannot (for any reason) be resumed and completed at the same Classification opportunity by the same Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session must be terminated, and the Athlete will remain designated as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'.

30. Failure to attend an Evaluation Session

- 30.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending all stages of their Evaluation Session(s). Without limiting the Athlete's personal responsibility, an Athlete's National Federation must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends their Evaluation Session(s).
- 30.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session as required, the Classification Panel will report the failure to World ParaVolley as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 30.2.1 If the Athlete is able to provide World ParaVolley with a reasonable explanation for their failure to attend the Evaluation Session, World ParaVolley may reschedule the Evaluation Session to a revised date and time at the same Classification opportunity.
 - 30.2.2 If the Athlete is unable to provide World ParaVolley with a reasonable explanation for their failure to attend the Evaluation Session, the Athlete will be designated as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'.

[Comment to Article 30.2: World ParaVolley is under no obligation to provide unlimited opportunities for an Athlete to attend an Evaluation Session.]

31. Designation of 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'

- 31.1 An Athlete designated as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' may not compete in Covered Competitions until they complete an Evaluation Session (except for purposes of completing an Observation Assessment as part of such Evaluation Session).
- 31.2 A designation of 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' is not subject to review or Protest or Appeal.

32. Location of Evaluation Sessions

- 32.1 Evaluation Sessions may take place at any time or place specified by World ParaVolley, with the exception of Observation Assessments, which must take place at a Covered Competition.

[Comment to Article 32.1: Evaluation Sessions may take place In-Competition or Out-of-Competition to provide Athletes with the greatest possible opportunity to be evaluated by a Classification Panel and allocated a Sport Class. For example, Out-of-Competition Classification opportunities may be provided by World ParaVolley using a competition venue for another sport; at a Covered Competition where the relevant Athlete is not competing; or at a location away from competition, such as a sports science institute. In the case of a classification opportunity offered to an Athlete being seen where the relevant Athlete or team is not competing at a Covered Competition, and the Evaluation Session requires the Athlete to have an Observation Assessment, the evaluation will result in the Athlete being given a designation of 'CNC' as the Sport Class cannot be confirmed at the Evaluation Session in this circumstance.]

- 32.2 World ParaVolley can complete Evaluation Sessions as specified here:

32.2.1 All parts of an Evaluation Session, except Observation Assessment, may be completed In-Competition and Out-of-Competition; whereas Observation Assessment must take place In-Competition. Where an Athlete is at an Out-of-Competition Evaluation Session and it is determined that they need to undergo Observation Assessment, then the Athlete must be designated 'CNC'.

32.2.2 All impairment types can be evaluated In-Competition and impairments of Limb Deficiency, Impaired PROM, and Impaired Muscle Power may be evaluated Out-of-Competition to the extent that an Observation Assessment is not required to complete Stage 4 of the evaluation process.

- 32.3 All Evaluations Sessions must be conducted in a manner that complies with these Classification Rules. In particular, the venue at which the Evaluation Session takes place must be properly equipped to conduct all necessary aspects of the Evaluation Session. World ParaVolley will notify potential organisers of the requirements for hosting Evaluation Sessions and the approval procedure for Classification venues.

- 32.4 If the allocation of a Sport Class might require an Observation Assessment, World ParaVolley may still allow for part(s) of the Evaluation Session to take place Out-of-Competition, but will (in advance of the Evaluation Session) advise the relevant National Federations that a Classification Panel may conclude that it is unable to allocate a final Sport Class without an Observation Assessment (in which case the Athlete must be designated 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' and be required to undergo a further Evaluation Session at a later date at a Covered Competition).

33. Photographs and audio-visual technology

- 33.1 The Classification Panel may make, create, and/or use photographs and/or audio-visual technology, including but not limited to during any Observation Assessment. Copies of any such materials must be provided to the Athlete or their National Federation on request.
- 33.2 Subject to Article 33.1, no photography or audio or video recording of the Evaluation Session is permitted. For the avoidance of doubt, this prohibition applies to all persons, regardless of whether they attend the Evaluation Session in person or virtually.

PART V: NOTIFICATION AND PUBLICATION

34. Notification of Classification outcome

- 34.1 World ParaVolley will notify the outcome of Classification to the Athlete concerned and/or their National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of Classification. Ordinarily, such notification will be carried out by the Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable after a decision has been made. Notification date and time is noted on the Classification Evaluation Form.
- 34.2 In the context of a Competition, a Chief Classifier must notify all relevant World ParaVolley technical delegates and Competition-organising committee representatives of the Sport Class (including any provisional Sport Class) and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete. If an Observation Assessment takes place, further notification must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable following completion of the Observation Assessment.
- 34.3 World ParaVolley will make available the following information to participants at the venue for a Covered Competition:
- 34.3.1 Any provisional Sport Class (that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment) allocated to an Athlete entered in the Covered Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable after it is allocated; and

- 34.3.2 The final Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete entered in the Covered Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of their Classification. The process for notification following Observation Assessment will be outlined to participants by World ParaVolley prior to the start of the Covered Competition at the General Technical Meeting.

Specifically, the Athlete will be notified in person by the Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable, usually immediately following the match where their Observation Assessment is completed. The Chief Classifier will notify the Technical Delegate for the Competition (via email or in person) who will ensure the Jury and other participants will be notified of the final outcome of Classification Evaluation either through written notice (through the daily bulletin) or immediately (via written group communication) if there is a change from the provisional Sport Class that may impact team preparations for matches later the same day.

35. Classification Master List

- 35.1 World ParaVolley will maintain, publish, and keep up-to-date a '**Classification Master List**', which will include (at a minimum) the following information regarding: (i) each Athlete; and (ii) any Participant currently suspended by World ParaVolley for Intentional Misrepresentation:
- 35.1.1 Name;
 - 35.1.2 Gender;
 - 35.1.3 Year of birth;
 - 35.1.4 Nationality;
 - 35.1.5 Sport Class and Sport Class Status;
 - 35.1.6 Any designations (including 'New (N)', 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', and 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'), any 're-evaluation' status attached to a designation, and tracking codes (such as 'OA' for Observation Assessment); and
 - 35.1.7 Any current designation for Intentional Misrepresentation ('IM'), together with the duration and commencement date of the period of ineligibility.
- 35.2 Publication will be accomplished at a minimum by placing the required information on a publicly-available website.

- 35.3 World ParaVolley will update the Classification Master List as soon as reasonably practicable following any change to the information.

PART VI: CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

36. Medical Review

- 36.1 A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment might mean that a reassessment is required to ensure that the outcome of the Athlete's previous Classification remains correct (for example, to ensure that an Athlete remains eligible or that the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete remains correct, or to reassess an Athlete previously found to be not eligible). This is known as a '**Medical Review**'.

[Comment to Article 36.1: For example, a Medical Review request would be appropriate where the effect of surgery, a new medication or device, or some other medical procedure has resulted in changes to an Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities relevant to Sitting Volleyball. A request may also be appropriate where an Athlete has a new Underlying Health Condition.]

- 36.2 A Medical Review request must be made by a National Federation on behalf of an Athlete.
- 36.3 A Medical Review **must** be requested by a National Federation if there is a change in the nature or degree (e.g. impairment has improved or regressed) of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment.

- 36.4 A Medical Review request must:

- 36.4.1 Explain in detail why the request is being made (including how and to what extent the Athlete's Eligible Impairment has changed, and whether and why it is believed that the outcome of the Athlete's previous Classification is no longer correct); and
- 36.4.2 Be accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation, including updated Diagnostic Information in accordance with Article 10.

[Comment to Article 36.4: Ordinarily, any Medical Review request will need to be accompanied by detailed medical records.]

- 36.5 As set out in Article 10, World ParaVolley may request from the Athlete's National Federation any additional information that it deems necessary to assess the Medical Review request, including Diagnostic Information.
- 36.6 The National Federation must notify World ParaVolley of their Medical Review Request (MRR). World ParaVolley will then issue an invoice to the National Member Federation to pay the applicable Medical Review request Fee. Information about the Fee amount and the Medical Review Request form can be found on the World ParaVolley website classification page at <https://worldparavolley.org/classification/>. The invoice to the National Member Federation includes World ParaVolley banking information to facilitate an electronic bank transfer payment which allows the Medical Review Request Process to proceed.
- 36.7 A Medical Review request will be accepted where World ParaVolley determines that the National Federation has complied with Articles 36.4 to 36.6, and World ParaVolley is satisfied that there is a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) that may impact the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to age, levels of training, fitness, and technical proficiency. If this test is not met, the Medical Review request will be dismissed.
- 36.8 World ParaVolley will decide whether to accept a Medical Review request as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of a complete request.
- 36.9 If the Medical Review request is accepted by World ParaVolley, where applicable, the Athlete's Sport Class Status must be changed to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' with immediate effect.
- 36.10 If the Medical Review request is dismissed by World ParaVolley, World ParaVolley will notify the Athlete's National Federation of the decision and provide a written explanation setting out the basis upon which the Medical Review request is dismissed. World ParaVolley's decision is not subject to review or Protest or Appeal.
- 36.11 If an Athlete or other Participant becomes aware of changes in their/the Athlete's circumstances that would require a Medical Review but fails to draw those changes to World ParaVolley's attention, the Athlete and/or other Participant may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

PART VII: COMPETITION FORMATS

37. Combined Class Event

- 37.1 Sitting Volleyball is a multi-class team sport where Athletes may have different Sport Classes (VS1 Sport Class or maximum of 1 player in VS2 Sport Class on court) but compete as a team. Details regarding the competition format can be found in the World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball Rule Book [here](#) under Articles 4.1 and 7.3.

CHAPTER 3: PROTESTS AND APPEALS

PART I: PROTESTS

38. Scope of Protests

- 38.1 A '**Protest**' is a challenge filed against the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete.
- 38.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a Protest cannot be made in respect of (i) an Athlete's Sport Class Status, (ii) any designation of 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' (as in those cases the Athlete already receives an automatic second assessment), (iii) any designation of 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)', or (iv) any other matter where Protests are expressly excluded under the IPC Classification Code.

39. Parties permitted to make a Protest

- 39.1 A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- 39.1.1 A National Federation; or
 - 39.1.2 World ParaVolley.
- 39.2 For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete cannot make a Protest themselves. A Protest may only be made on behalf of the Athlete by one of the bodies listed under Article 39.1.

40. National Federation Protest

- 40.1 A National Federation may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. In particular, it cannot make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated to an Athlete from another National Federation. However, it can raise any such concerns about the Sport Class allocated to such Athletes with World ParaVolley, so that World ParaVolley can consider if it wishes to make an International Federation Protest.

[Comment to Article 40.1: This approach is intended to strike a balance between the rights of the various stakeholders (World ParaVolley, National Federations, Athletes, and others), and forms part of a number of carefully balanced mechanisms in these Classification Rules that provide appropriate tools aimed at ensuring that Athletes are allocated the correct Sport Class.]

- 40.2 A National Federation Protest may be made where there is a reasonable basis to believe that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

- 40.3 National Federation Protests will be upheld where World ParaVolley determines that the National Federation has complied with the requirements of Article 40.6 and World ParaVolley is satisfied that there is a reasonable basis to believe that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class. If this test is not met, the National Federation Protest will be dismissed.
- 40.4 A National Federation Protest must be submitted in connection with an Evaluation Session and by the deadline specified by in Article 40.6.2 below.
- 40.5 If an Athlete is allocated a provisional Sport Class that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment, the National Federation may make a Protest after the relevant Evaluation Session but before Observation Assessment ('an evaluation Protest') and/or may make a Protest after Observation Assessment ('an observation Protest')
- 40.5.1 The following provisions apply to evaluation Protests and observation Protests:
- 40.5.1.1 if an evaluation Protest is accepted no further Protest may be made after the subsequent Observation Assessment.
- 40.5.1.2 if an evaluation Protest is dismissed an observation Protest may be made but cannot relate to any aspect of the Evaluation Session that preceded the Observation Assessment.
- 40.5.1.3 if no evaluation Protest is made, an observation Protest may be made in relation to both the aspects of the Evaluation Session that preceded the Observation Assessment and the Observation Assessment itself.

[Comment to Article 40.5.1: an observation Protest may be made in relation to both the aspects of the Evaluation Session that preceded the Observation Assessment and the Observation Assessment itself, even if an evaluation Protest has been made and dismissed, if there are exceptional circumstances that would make it manifestly unfair for the observation Protest not to relate to both aspects, for example, an evaluation Protest being dismissed for being filed out of time through no fault of the National Federation.]

- 40.6 To submit a Protest, a National Federation must:
- 40.6.1 Complete a Protest form in the format prescribed by World ParaVolley, including the following information:
- 40.6.1.1 the name and sport of the protested Athlete;

- 40.6.1.2 the details of and/or a copy of the protested decision; and
 - 40.6.1.3 a detailed explanation of the basis for the National Federation's belief that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class, including (where applicable) (i) reference to any specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached or misapplied, and (ii) any supporting evidence for that belief;
- 40.6.2 Submit the completed Protest form at a Competition to the Chief Classifier within the following timelines:
- 40.6.2.1 During the pre-competition Classification Evaluation Period within one hour of the protested decision being communicated to the Athlete/National Federation.
 - 40.6.2.2 Following Observation Assessment in Competition (for Athletes with the tracking status OA), the documentation for the Protest must be lodged within one hour of the result being communicated to the Athlete/National Federation.
- 40.6.3 Pay the applicable Protest fee, the amount as determined by the World ParaVolley standard protest fee in the competition regulations. In the circumstance where the outcome of a National Protest decision of the first instance Panel is overturned by the Protest Panel, World ParaVolley will refund the applicable Protest Fee paid by the National Federation.
- 40.7 Upon receipt of the Protest form, World ParaVolley will conduct a review of the Protest in accordance with Article 40.3. If a Chief Classifier was a member of the Classification Panel whose decision is being protested or potentially could be a member of the Protest Panel, that Chief Classifier cannot have any involvement in World ParaVolley's review of the Protest.
- 40.8 World ParaVolley will notify the National Federation of the outcome of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable, and (if the Protest is dismissed) will also provide a written explanation for the dismissal.

41. International Federation Protest

- 41.1 International Federation Protests may be made where World ParaVolley considers that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

[Comment to Article 41.1: As indicated in Article 40.1 above, if a National Federation (or any other third party) has concerns that an Athlete from another National Federation has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class, it can raise such concerns with World ParaVolley so that World ParaVolley can consider if it wishes to make an International Federation Protest.]

- 41.2 World ParaVolley may make a Protest at any time.

- 41.3 If World ParaVolley submits a Protest, it will:

- 41.3.1 Notify the relevant National Federation of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable; and
- 41.3.2 Provide a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made.

42. Protest Panel Procedures

- 42.1 If a National Federation Protest is accepted or if an International Federation Protest is made:

- 42.1.1 The protested Athlete's Sport Class will remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, and their Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', unless that is already their Sport Class Status (in which case it will remain unchanged);
- 42.1.2 If an Athlete is required to undergo Observation Assessment and a National Federation Protest is accepted before the Athlete's First Appearance, the Athlete cannot compete at that Competition until the National Federation Protest has been resolved;
- 42.1.3 World ParaVolley will appoint a Protest Panel in accordance with Article 42.2 to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as reasonably practicable, and notify all relevant parties of the time and date that the new Evaluation Session will be conducted; and
- 42.1.4 If the Protest was made In-Competition, the new Evaluation Session should be conducted at that Competition if reasonably practicable.

- 42.2 World ParaVolley will appoint a Protest Panel in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in Article 8. A Protest Panel must not include any Classifier who:
- 42.2.1 Was a member of the Classification Panel that made the protested decision;
 - 42.2.2 In the case of a National Federation Protest, was involved in World ParaVolley's review of that Protest;
 - 42.2.3 In the case of an International Federation Protest, was involved in World ParaVolley's decision to make such a Protest; or
 - 42.2.4 Was involved in any assessment or evaluation of the protested Athlete for Classification purposes (whether at the national or international level) within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the protested decision, except where both the National Federation and World ParaVolley agree to this.
- 42.3 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with Chapter 2 Part IV.B. For these purposes, any reference to the Classification Panel in Chapter 2 Part IV.B will be deemed to include the Protest Panel. Before reaching a final decision, the Protest Panel must review the protested decision and any document submitted as part of the Protest.
- 42.4 All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's final decision as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 42.5 Subject to Articles 42.6 and 42.7, the decision of a Protest Panel is final, and not subject to further Protest by the National Federation or World ParaVolley. However, the decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed by the National Federation if the requirements in Article 44 are satisfied.
- 42.6 If World ParaVolley makes a Protest after the expiry of the deadline for National Federation Protests to be made (as per Article 40.6.2 above), the decision of a Protest Panel in relation to the Protest is not final and may be subject to further Protest by the National Federation or World ParaVolley. In these circumstances, the decision of a Protest Panel will be treated as if it were a decision of a first instance Classification Panel. The decision of a Protest Panel may also be Appealed by the National Federation if the requirements in Article 44 are satisfied.

- 42.7 If a Protest Panel designates an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' the Athlete will be entitled to undergo a further Eligible Impairment Assessment in accordance with Article 13.9, or a further MIC Assessment in accordance with Article 15.7 (as applicable) by a new Classification Panel. In such circumstances the decision of the Protest Panel will be treated as if it were a decision of a first instance Classification Panel and '(Re-evaluation)' will be added to the Athlete's designation.
- 42.8 A change in an Athlete's Sport Class following a Protest will not result in any changes or consequences to results and/or prizes for the Athlete or team.

43. Circumstances where a Protest Panel is not available

- 43.1 If a Protest is made In-Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
- 43.1.1 The protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in that Competition with the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest (subject to any other eligibility criteria for that Competition), pending resolution of the Protest; and
- 43.1.2 All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved as soon as reasonably practicable after that Competition.

[Comment to Article 43.1: This Article reflects the reality that it might not be possible to resolve a Protest made In-Competition at that same Competition. For example, this might happen where there are a limited number of Classifiers or Evaluation Session slots available, or the Classifiers who are available are precluded from participating in a Protest Panel due to a conflict of interest.]

PART II: APPEALS

44. Scope of Appeals

- 44.1 An '**Appeal**' is a challenge to any aspect of a Classification process on the grounds that:
- 44.1.1 There was a breach of World ParaVolley's rules during the Classification process; and
- 44.1.2 That breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

- 44.2 An Appeal will be upheld if a National Federation establishes that the grounds in Article 44.1 are met.

[Comment to Article 44.2: The limited scope of review available to the Appeal Body is a fundamental aspect of an Appeal. The allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status or designation as not eligible is a specialist sport decision and must be made by persons who are authorised and certified by World ParaVolley to do so. Those decisions must not be changed except by other persons who are similarly authorised and certified. In particular, the right to submit an Appeal must not be seen as an opportunity to simply dispute the opinion of the relevant experts. The Appeal Body will only review the process by which the decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been conducted in accordance with World ParaVolley's rules.]

45. Making an Appeal

- 45.1 An Appeal cannot be submitted whilst a Protest is ongoing. However, for the avoidance of doubt, in order to submit an Appeal it is not necessary for the National Federation to have first made a Protest.

[Comment to Article 45.1: As stated, it is not necessary for a National Federation to have first made a Protest in order to submit an Appeal. This reflects the fact that Protests and Appeals are distinct concepts, with different tests.]

- 45.2 An Appeal may only be submitted by a National Federation in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete cannot submit an Appeal themselves; rather, an Appeal may only be submitted on behalf of the Athlete by their National Federation.
- 45.3 An Appeal must be submitted by a National Federation to World ParaVolley in respect of an Athlete within 15 calendar days of notification of the decision from which the appeal arises.

46. Appeal Body

- 46.1 Appeals relating to Classification-related disputes will be heard and determined by the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC). The BAC, as the Appeal Body for World ParaVolley, will hear and determine Appeals in accordance with the BAC's procedural rules and bylaws.

47. Appeal decision

- 47.1 The Appeal Body (BAC) 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 Athlete Classification, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status decision (for example by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status).

- 47.2 The Appeal Body (BAC) must issue a written reasoned decision after the hearing, within the timeframe already set out in the Board of Appeal of Classification Rules (which provide that the appeal body will issue a written decision resolving any appeal as soon as reasonably practicable and ordinarily within 42 calendar days after the hearing). The written decision must set out the reasons for the Appeal Body's decision and the actions that are required as a result. If the decision appealed against is set aside, the written decision must also specify the breach committed and how that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible - Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.
- 47.3 The decision of the Appeal Body must be provided to the appellant and the respondent.
- 47.4 The decision of the Appeal Body is final and not subject to any further appeal or challenge.

CHAPTER 4: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

48. General provisions

- 48.1 Intentional Misrepresentation presents a major threat to the integrity of Classification and Para sport. It is a very serious offence because it constitutes an attempt to: (i) mislead World ParaVolley (and/or its representatives) in relation to any aspect of Classification; and/or (ii) achieve an unfair advantage that undermines fair and meaningful competition. Consequently, potential incidents of Intentional Misrepresentation will be properly investigated, and if evidence indicates that Intentional Misrepresentation has occurred, disciplinary action must be taken.
- 48.2 The processes set out in this Chapter are, and must remain, distinct from the process of Classification. In other words, the rules and procedures set out in this Chapter are not concerned with verifying (and if necessary, correcting) the Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete, but with preventing (and, if necessary, sanctioning) instances of the specific disciplinary offence of Intentional Misrepresentation.

49. Intentional Misrepresentation

- 49.1 The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation:
- 49.1.1 A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead World ParaVolley or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or
- 49.1.2 A Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of: (i) Article 49.1.1 above; or (ii) a period of ineligibility imposed on another Participant pursuant to the relevant Article from the World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules.
- 49.2 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 49.1.1 include (without limitation) a Participant:
- 49.2.1 Submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence, nature, and/or degree of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment that the Athlete does not have;
- 49.2.2 Deliberately underperforming during an Evaluation Session;

- 49.2.3 Deliberately tiring themselves out (in the case of Athletes) or deliberately tiring the Athlete out (in the case of other Participants) prior to an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
 - 49.2.4 Unless expressly provided otherwise in World ParaVolley's rules, intentionally undergoing an Evaluation Session without appropriate sports attire or Adaptive Equipment that the Athlete intends to use in competition and/or intentionally failing to disclose the intended use of such sports attire and/or Adaptive Equipment to the Classification Panel;
 - 49.2.5 Intentionally failing to disclose the Athlete's use of any medication and/or medical device/implant and/or any medical procedure to the Classification Panel; or intentionally using a medical device to limit movement or restrict function when the device is not medically required.
 - 49.2.6 Otherwise misrepresenting the Athlete's skills, abilities, and/or the existence, nature, and/or degree of the Athlete's impairment before, during, or after an Evaluation Session;
 - 49.2.7 Disrupting an Evaluation Session, or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
 - 49.2.8 Not providing accurate information as to the Athlete's identity or having another person attend an Evaluation Session in the Athlete's place; and/or
 - 49.2.9 Deliberately failing to notify World ParaVolley of any relevant Classification-related information, including that the Athlete has previously undergone Classification (for example, on an earlier occasion, or in the context of another Para sport) and/or that there has been a change in the nature or degree of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment that may necessitate a Medical Review.
- 49.3 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 49.1.2 include (without limitation):
- 49.3.1 Where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, Intentional Misrepresentation;
 - 49.3.2 Where, having discovered that a Participant has committed or intends to commit Intentional Misrepresentation, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist World ParaVolley in the investigation or prosecution of that offence;

- 49.3.3 Where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant for that other Participant to violate, or attempt to violate, any period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to the World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules; and/or
 - 49.3.4 Where, having discovered that another Participant has violated or intends to violate any period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to the World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist World ParaVolley in the investigation or prosecution of that offence.
- 49.4 For the avoidance of doubt:
- 49.4.1 A Participant can commit Intentional Misrepresentation even if that Participant does not know that their conduct will constitute a violation of Article 49.1.
 - 49.4.2 A Participant can commit Intentional Misrepresentation irrespective of any designation, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete.

50. Obligations to report and cooperate

- 50.1 Each Participant, and each National Federation, must:
- 50.1.1 Report to World ParaVolley promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith any information they possess that a reasonable person would consider might evidence or otherwise reflect:
 - 50.1.1.1 Any approach or invitation by any Participant (including themselves) to engage in conduct that might constitute Intentional Misrepresentation; and/or
 - 50.1.1.2 Any incident, fact, or matter that might indicate the planning or commission of Intentional Misrepresentation by any Participant (including themselves);
 - 50.1.2 Cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with all investigations carried out by World ParaVolley and/or by the IPC, including by answering any questions and providing access to any information, data, and/or documentation requested as part of that investigation;

- 50.1.3 Cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with any proceedings brought by World ParaVolley against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation; and
 - 50.1.4 Not do anything (by act or omission) that has the object or effect of obstructing, preventing, delaying, or otherwise interfering with or frustrating any such investigation or proceeding.
- 50.2 On request, World ParaVolley will provide the IPC with information on the following, in the form requested by the IPC: (i) all credible reports or other intelligence that World ParaVolley has received which indicate potential Intentional Misrepresentation; (ii) the actions taken in relation to such reports; and (iii) updates in relation to all of its ongoing and completed investigations and proceedings relating to Intentional Misrepresentation.

51. Investigations

- 51.1 Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a Participant might have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, World ParaVolley will initiate an investigation in a timely manner. Grounds do not need to be given to a Participant for the initiation of an investigation, and the decision to initiate an investigation cannot be contested.
- 51.2 Where a Participant is affiliated with World ParaVolley and one or more other International Federations, World ParaVolley may also assist those other International Federations in relation to any investigation(s) they initiate into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation by the Participant (including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations conducted by those other International Federations).
- 51.3 The IPC may, in its absolute discretion:
- 51.3.1 Offer assistance to World ParaVolley in conducting investigations into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations;
 - 51.3.2 Direct World ParaVolley to conduct an investigation in relation to suspected Intentional Misrepresentation that has come to the attention of the IPC (including, but not limited to in circumstances where a Participant is affiliated to World ParaVolley and one or more other International Federations, and a dispute has arisen as to which International Federation has the responsibility to investigate the suspected Intentional Misrepresentation); and/or

- 51.3.3 Conduct its own investigations into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation, whether on its own initiative and/or as requested by World ParaVolley or another International Federation or otherwise. In such circumstances, references to World ParaVolley in the remainder of this Article 51 will, where the context requires, be interpreted as a reference to the IPC.
- 51.4 The objective for each investigation will be to gather information necessary to determine: (i) whether a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation; and, if so (ii) whether any other Participant has a case to answer for intentional complicity in that Intentional Misrepresentation. This will include gathering and recording all relevant information, developing that information into evidence, and identifying and pursuing further lines of enquiry that might lead to the discovery of such evidence.
- 51.5 World ParaVolley will conduct each investigation fairly, objectively, and impartially. It will be open to and consider all possible outcomes at each key stage of the investigation and will seek to gather not only any available evidence of Intentional Misrepresentation but also any available evidence indicating that there is no case to answer.
- 51.6 Except in exceptional circumstances, World ParaVolley will notify the Participant of the investigation and give the Participant an opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation. World ParaVolley will decide when this notification should be made.
- [Comment to Article 51.6: Exceptional circumstances may arise if (for example) World ParaVolley is concerned about the risk of information relating to the investigation leaking, or if World ParaVolley's investigation is subject to any time pressure. Irrespective of whether the Participant is given the opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation, they will nevertheless be able to do so following any Notice of Charge, as per Article 52.5.3 below.]*
- 51.7 World ParaVolley may make requests of any Participant, and of any National Federation, to assist an investigation by producing documents, information, and/or other material, including by answering questions.
- 51.8 Where during the course of any investigation World ParaVolley identifies any additional Participants who might also have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the investigation may be expanded to cover such additional Participants or (alternatively) a separate investigation may be commenced.

[Comment to Article 51.8: For example, in the context of Team Sports, where World ParaVolley suspects that one member of a team has committed Intentional Misrepresentation, it may expand its investigation to cover: (i) any or all other members of the same team; and/or (ii) any additional Participants connected to that team; or (alternatively) separate investigations may be commenced into each team member/other Participant connected to the team.]

52. Proceedings

- 52.1 If World ParaVolley determines that a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation, World ParaVolley will bring disciplinary proceedings against the Participant unless there are specific and extenuating circumstances that are notified to and accepted by the IPC.
- 52.2 Disciplinary proceedings brought by World ParaVolley for alleged Intentional Misrepresentation will be subject to the [World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules](#).

CHAPTER 5: CHANGES TO CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

53. Changes to Classification systems

53.1 Before making any substantive changes to its Classification systems and/or Classification processes, World ParaVolley will:

53.1.1 Carry out an appropriate assessment of what impact any changes will have on Athletes, National Federations, and NPCs, including consideration of the Paralympic Games cycle, World ParaVolley's competition cycle, and the qualification periods for the Paralympic Games;

[Comment to Article 53.1.1: In particular, World ParaVolley will as part of its impact assessment carefully consider the appropriate timing for any changes that may affect the (in)eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status of Athletes (for example, changes to the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or to the assessment methodology). Ordinarily, such changes will not be made during World ParaVolley's qualification period for the Paralympic Games.]

53.1.2 Provide National Federations (with a copy to the IPC) with:

53.1.2.1 Appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, an explanation of which Athletes or groups of Athletes (if any) may need to be reassessed, the proposed timelines for implementation, and (if applicable) any proposed transition rules; and

53.1.2.2 An opportunity to submit feedback before such changes are adopted; and

53.1.3 Provide the IPC with:

53.1.3.1 Appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, the proposed timelines for implementation, any proposed transition rules (if applicable), a copy of World ParaVolley's impact assessment, and an overview of the consultation undertaken as part of the review process; and

53.1.3.2 An opportunity to submit feedback before such changes are adopted.

- 53.2 If World ParaVolley notifies a National Federation of anticipated changes pursuant to Article 53.1.2, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are (i) notified about such changes, and (ii) invited to provide feedback. If World ParaVolley then notifies a National Federation that changes will be implemented, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are notified about such changes.
- 53.3 If World ParaVolley makes changes to its Classification Rules that may affect the (in)eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status of Athletes (for example, changes to the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or to its assessment methodology), it will:
- 53.3.1 Take reasonable steps to identify such Athletes and notify them (through their National Federation) that they are entitled to be reassessed; and
 - 53.3.2 Where applicable, change each such Athlete's Sport Class Status to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' or 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)', as deemed appropriate by World ParaVolley.
- 53.4 If a National Federation considers that changes to these Classification Rules may affect the Classification of any Athlete under its jurisdiction who was previously found to be not eligible, it must notify World ParaVolley accordingly.
- 53.5 For the avoidance of doubt, if: (i) World ParaVolley makes substantive changes to its Classification systems, Classification processes, and/or these Classification Rules, without first following the processes set out in this Chapter; and/or (ii) a National Federation fails to meet its obligations under this Chapter, that fact alone will not render the amended Classification systems, Classification processes, and/or Classification Rules (or any Classification decision made in accordance with those amended systems, processes, and/or rules) invalid, and the amended systems, processes, and rules (and any Classification decision made under them) will continue to bind all those persons listed in Article 3.2 above.

CHAPTER 6: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

PART I: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL ROLES AND COMPETENCIES

54. Classification Personnel

54.1 World ParaVolley will appoint the Classification Personnel specified below.

54.2 All Classification Personnel must sign confidentiality undertakings.

54.3 Head of Classification

[Comment to Article 54.3: The Head of Classification for World ParaVolley has the title/role of Team Leader Classification Commission. For clarity, all references to the Head of Classification in these rules shall be understood as referring to the Team Leader for Classification].

54.3.1 The Head of Classification is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for World ParaVolley.

[Comment to Article 54.3.1: If World ParaVolley is unable to appoint a Head of Classification for a period of time, World ParaVolley may temporarily appoint a person or persons to perform the role of Head of Classification on an interim basis.]

54.3.2 World ParaVolley has a Classification Commission which may appoint other persons within the Commission to be delegated specific areas of responsibility listed in Article 54.3.3 consistent with their Commission role. In this instance, the Head of Classification will maintain oversight of same. World ParaVolley will communicate this information to its membership and the IPC. Detailed role descriptions are developed and updated from time to time and available in the World ParaVolley Classification Operational Handbook.

[Comment to Article 54.3.2: Please refer to World ParaVolley Classification Operational Handbook for details of the organizational structure and roles and responsibilities within the Classification Commission].

54.3.3 The Head of Classification will, as a minimum, be responsible for performing and/or overseeing the following activities:

54.3.3.1 Recruiting and appointing Classifiers;

- 54.3.3.2 Organising and conducting Classifier education, training, Certification, Re-Certification, and development according to World ParaVolley's Classifier pathway;
- 54.3.3.3 Managing, maintaining, and updating a database to track Classifier activity, Certification, and Re-Certification;
- 54.3.3.4 Identifying Classification Research needs and being aware of, supporting and, where appropriate, providing input in relation to the Classification Research on which World ParaVolley's Classification systems are based;
- 54.3.3.5 Ensuring that World ParaVolley's Classification Rules and implementation comply with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, for example, by planning, designing, executing, and reviewing programmes and policies;
- 54.3.3.6 Collecting feedback and inputting on Classification-related issues that affect World ParaVolley's rules, for example, the Classification Rules and sport technical rules;
- 54.3.3.7 Monitoring and evaluating the status of Classification within World ParaVolley on a regular basis;

[Comment to Article 54.3.3.7: This may include, for example, the Head of Classification attending (or instructing other Classification Personnel to attend) Covered Competitions where no classification is due to take place in order to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of World ParaVolley's Classification systems.]
- 54.3.3.8 Informing Classifiers of any changes to these Classification Rules;
- 54.3.3.9 Managing, maintaining, and updating the Classification Master List to ensure that World ParaVolley's Classification records are accurate;
- 54.3.3.10 Engaging with World ParaVolley's relevant bodies and committees on Classification matters; and
- 54.3.3.11 Communicating with all relevant external parties (including the IPC) in relation to Classification matters.

- 54.3.4 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities to other Classification Personnel within World ParaVolley, and/or to appointed persons in the organising committee of a competition or Classification opportunity.
- 54.3.5 The Head of Classification may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier. For the avoidance of doubt, in this situation article 40.7 of these Classification Rules will apply with equal effect to the Head of Classification.

54.4 **Chief Classifier(s)**

- 54.4.1 The Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, coordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Classification opportunity according to the Classification Rules.
- 54.4.2 In that context, a Chief Classifier may be required by World ParaVolley to do the following, among other things:
- 54.4.2.1 Identify Athletes who require Classification at a specific Classification opportunity, whether In-Competition or Out-of-Competition;
 - 54.4.2.2 Supervise Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers to ensure that the Classification Rules are properly applied and to monitor their level of competencies and proficiencies;
 - 54.4.2.3 Manage Protests in consultation with World ParaVolley;
 - 54.4.2.4 Liaise with the relevant organiser to ensure that all travel, accommodation, and other logistics are arranged so that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Classification opportunity;
 - 54.4.2.5 Communicate with and educate Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel regarding the Classification process;

- 54.4.2.6 Provide a clear explanation of all stages of the Classification process to Classifiers, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, including the following matters: (i) any findings made by a UHC Assessor, Classification Panel, Protest Panel, or Appeal Body; (ii) the procedures of the Evaluation Session (including eligibility requirements and Minimum Impairment Criteria), Protest procedures, and the procedure following any designation or tracking code being assigned to an Athlete; and (iii) matters concerning Intentional Misrepresentation, including the behaviours that may constitute that offence, and how potential violations will be investigated and prosecuted;
 - 54.4.2.7 Manage the Classification Master List during a particular Classification opportunity;
 - 54.4.2.8 Analyse and review the Classification processes during a Classification opportunity and recommend improvements to the Head of Classification; and
 - 54.4.2.9 Report all relevant issues at a particular Classification opportunity to the Head of Classification.
- 54.4.3 The Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities to other Classification Personnel within World ParaVolley and/or to appointed persons in the organising committee of a competition or Classification opportunity.
- 54.4.4 A Chief Classifier cannot also be appointed to act as a Classifier at a Classification opportunity, except in exceptional circumstances (for example, Classifier illness, cancellation or travel delays or to manage a conflict of interest). In this circumstance, protest management will involve using the Head of Classification or other delegated remote L3 Classifier to perform Chief Classifier duties with respect to Protests.
- 54.4.5 World ParaVolley may appoint one or more co-Chief Classifiers for a specific Classification opportunity, as follows:
- 54.4.5.1 Where Classification happens at more than one location (in which case the relevant co-Chief Classifier will have primary responsibility for conducting the roles listed in Article 54.4.2 above in respect of their location).

- 54.4.6 References in the Classification Rules to a 'Chief Classifier' will include any co-Chief Classifier(s) appointed by World ParaVolley.
- 54.4.7 Co-Chief Classifiers should liaise regularly with the other co-Chief Classifiers in relation to the performance of their roles.

54.5 Classifiers

- 54.5.1 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and Certified by World ParaVolley to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 54.5.2 In order to be Certified by World ParaVolley, Classifiers must demonstrate the minimum Classifier competencies set out in Article 55.2.
- 54.5.3 All Classifiers must apply the assessment methods established by the Classification Rules properly and consistently.
- 54.5.4 All Classifiers must work within their defined scope and authority as outlined by the World ParaVolley Classifier Scope & Authority Policy.
- 54.5.5 For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the rules of each National Federation, there is nothing to prevent Classifiers from also conducting classification at the national level.

54.6 Trainee Classifiers

- 54.6.1 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training to become a Classifier.
- 54.6.2 World ParaVolley shall appoint an educator/mentor for Trainee Classifiers.
- 54.6.3 World ParaVolley may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Classification provided that such participation is under the supervision of a Classification Panel.
- 54.6.4 A Trainee Classifier cannot be appointed as a member of a Classification Panel.

54.7 UHC Assessors

- 54.7.1 As set out in the Classification Rules, World ParaVolley is responsible for conducting UHC Assessments, to be carried out by UHC Assessors.

54.8 **UHC Assessment Coordinator**

- 54.8.1 The UHC Assessment Coordinator is a Classifier who is appointed by the World ParaVolley Head of Classification to manage the receiving, screening, triaging, and processing of an Athlete's Medical Diagnostic Form and supporting Medical documentation prior to assigning an UHC Assessor to conduct an UHC Assessment and ensuring communication of the outcome is provided to the National member Federation.
- 54.8.2 The UHC Assessment Coordinator is active in this role on an ongoing basis throughout the year outside of the Competition calendar, to facilitate the opportunity for UHC Assessment throughout the year.
- 54.8.3 The UHC Assessment Coordinator works with the Chief Classifier prior to a Classification opportunity to establish which Athletes require UHC Assessments and to coordinate the UHC Assessment process for all Athletes who require Classification.
- 54.8.4 An UHC Assessment Coordinator must demonstrate the competencies set out in Article 55.6.

54.9 **Classifier Educators/Mentors**

- 54.9.1 A Classifier educator/mentor is a person authorized by World ParaVolley to support the ongoing professional development of Classifiers, contribute to Classification system improvement, and uphold World ParaVolley's commitment to fairness, inclusion, and transparency in Sitting Volleyball.
- 54.9.2 An educator/mentor must demonstrate the minimum competencies set out in Article 55.5.
- 54.9.3 An educator/mentor must deliver education programs and assist in the design and evaluation of Classifier education programs that align with the World ParaVolley Classification Rules, and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code.
- 54.9.4 An educator must be appointed in a dedicated role as an educator for Classification courses completed at a Covered Competition.

54.10 **Other Classification Personnel**

- 54.10.1 the Classification Commission of World ParaVolley shall appoint additional Classification Personnel in addition to those listed here to manage specific areas of responsibility within the Commission.

[Comment to Article 54.9: Please refer to the World ParaVolley Classification Operational Handbook for details].

54.11 National classifiers

- 54.11.1 A National Classifier is a person trained by World ParaVolley as a Level 1 classifier and authorised by a National Federation to conduct some or all aspects of classification at a National level. Unless also certified as a Level 2 or Level 3 classifier by World ParaVolley, a National Classifier cannot under any circumstances conduct international level Classification.

[Comment to Article 54.10.1: A National Classifier certified by World ParaVolley must also comply with the Scope & Authority Document for National Classifiers].

55. Classification Personnel competencies

- 55.1 UHC Assessor competencies include, as a minimum, that an UHC Assessor has:
- 55.1.1 A thorough understanding of:
 - 55.1.1.1 World ParaVolley and its applicable rules, including the Classification Rules;
 - 55.1.1.2 The IPC Classification Code and International Standards; and
 - 55.1.1.3 the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct and, in particular, the management of potential, perceived and/or actual conflicts of interest;
 - 55.1.2 relevant qualifications to conduct the assessment of the diagnostic information (including the review of the medical documents and interpreting diagnostic tests);
 - 55.1.3 Expertise in the relevant health conditions and their impact on physical abilities;
 - 55.1.4 ability to evaluate complex medical information;
 - 55.1.5 Ability to identify the medical documentation required to verify the underlying health condition(s) that may lead to an eligible impairment, and other information relevant for conducting the classification process;

- 55.1.6 Ability to assess and communicate the need to seek the opinion of another UHC Assessor, for example, when additional expertise is required; and
 - 55.1.7 The relevant skillset to provide written reports in English about the outcomes of the UHC Assessment.
- 55.2 Classifier competencies include, as a minimum, that a Classifier has:
- 55.2.1 A thorough understanding of:
 - 55.2.1.1 World ParaVolley and its applicable rules, including the Classification Rules;
 - 55.2.1.2 The IPC Classification Code and International Standards; and
 - 55.2.1.3 The Classification Personnel Code of Conduct and, in particular, the management of potential, perceived and/or actual conflicts of interest;
 - 55.2.2 a health-related qualification as either:
 - 55.2.2.1 a medical doctor, with experience of Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to Eligible Impairments catered for by the sport, in this case the physical impairments of Limb Deficiency, Impaired Passive ROM, Impaired Muscle Power, and Coordination Impairments; or
 - 55.2.2.2 A physiotherapy qualification or other related discipline with experience of individuals with the clinical manifestations of the Eligible Impairments catered for by the sport, in this case the physical impairments of Limb Deficiency, Impaired Passive ROM, Impaired Muscle Power, and Coordination Impairments;
- [Comment to Article 55.2.2.2: Individuals from other related disciplines must undergo a review of their pre-training credentials and competencies to ensure they have a thorough understanding of the Underlying health Conditions relevant to ParaVolley, training in the clinical manifestations of Eligible Impairments and can interpret in relation to the presenting UHC, and training in the use of and correct application of measurement tools and methods for measurement of impairments relevant to ParaVolley.]*

- 55.2.3 competency in the use of and correct application of measurement tools and methods for the measurement of Eligible Impairments for the ParaVolley sport disciplines.
 - 55.2.4 a good understanding of the sport specific tasks and activity demands fundamental to Sitting Volleyball and the ways in which an Athlete's eligible impairment can affect their ability to execute specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
 - 55.2.5 an appropriate level of English to conduct the Classification process;
 - 55.2.6 effective interpersonal and teamwork skills;
 - 55.2.7 effective decision-making skills.
- 55.3 In addition to the Classifier competencies, a Chief Classifier must have the following additional minimum competencies:
- 55.3.1 Have completed L3 World ParaVolley Classifier Training and utilize mentorship in the role of the Chief Classifier for one year or as required;
 - 55.3.2 Knowledge and experience of each stage of the Classification process;
 - 55.3.3 Effective communication skills in English, including the ability to provide a clear explanation of all stages of the Classification process to Classifiers, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel;
 - 55.3.4 The mentorship skills to provide training or mentoring to Classifiers;
 - 55.3.5 Effective management skills; and
 - 55.3.6 Effective organisation skills.
- 55.4 In addition to the classifier competencies, the Head of Classification must have the following additional minimum competencies:
- 55.4.1 A minimum number of 4 years' experience as a L3 Classifier in World ParaVolley.
 - 55.4.2 The competencies described in Articles 55.3.1 to 55.3.6 above;

- 55.4.3 Demonstrable leadership skills in matters related to Classification, for example: administration and management of Classification; rules, policy, and procedure development or revision; Classification Research; Classification education and training; and Classifier mentorship; and
 - 55.4.4 Experience and continuing participation in training and Certification of Classifiers, for example, teaching and supervising/mentoring instructors at workshops and other similar activities.
- 55.5 In addition to the Classifier competencies, the Classifier Educator/Mentor must have the following additional minimal competencies:
- 55.5.1 a deep understanding of Athlete evaluation processes (physical, sport-specific, and Observation Assessments);
 - 55.5.2 ability to integrate medical, technical and functional perspectives into education
 - 55.5.3 ability to design, update, implement and adapt Classification education curricula aligned with world ParaVolley standards and frameworks.
 - 55.5.4 development of learning materials, (e-learning, case studies, learning resources)
 - 55.5.5 use of adult learning principles to engage diverse learners and demonstration of skills that promote reflective learning and continuous professional growth.
 - 55.5.6 skills in the use of varied instructional methods (interactive discussions, simulations, practical assessments);
 - 55.5.7 competence in giving constructive feedback and coaching emerging Classifiers.
 - 55.5.8 ability to assess learner performance against World ParaVolley Classifier standards and competence in evaluating knowledge, skill, and ethical decision-making.
- 55.6 In addition to the Classifier competencies listed in Articles 55.2.1 and 55.2.2, the UHC Assessment Coordinator must have the following additional minimal competencies:
- 55.6.1 An appropriate level of written and spoken English to manage communication related to UHC Assessments
 - 55.6.2 Effective interpersonal and teamwork skills;
 - 55.6.3 Effective decision-making skills

55.6.4 Effective organizational and coordinating skills

PART II: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION

56. Recruitment and retention of Classification Personnel

56.1 World ParaVolley must have a Classification Recruitment strategy to ensure that it can meet the required quality and quantity of Classification Personnel for World ParaVolley to deliver its Classification services to the level necessary to support its Competitions. This strategy addresses how World ParaVolley will:

56.1.1 Identify and recruit prospective Trainee Classifiers from the L1 Classifier base or other source;

56.1.2 Appoint its Classification Personnel (including how Classifiers will be appointed to individual Classification Panels, and how the Head of Classification and Chief Classifiers will be appointed to their respective roles);

56.1.3 Retain existing Classification Personnel and encourage them to remain active;

56.1.4 Manage Classifier wellbeing, including protecting Classifiers from abuse, harassment, and bullying; and

56.1.5 Re-engage non-active Classification Personnel.

57. Classification Personnel training and development

57.1 World ParaVolley has a commitment to the ongoing professional development of Classification Personnel, including by providing appropriate training and education to ensure that they can (i) obtain and/or maintain the competencies required of them by the international federation; (ii) achieve and/or maintain certification; and (iii) otherwise develop and enhance their skills and experience in classification so that any limitations placed on their Certification can be removed and/or they may progress to more senior Classification Personnel roles. The World ParaVolley Policy for Developing and Maintaining Excellence in Classifier Performance sets out the training, education, achievement and maintenance of Certification Requirements for each level of Classifier training.

57.2 Where reasonably practicable, World ParaVolley will look to support National Federations and National Paralympic Committees in training and developing National Classifiers. In particular:

- 57.2.1 Where appropriate, World ParaVolley will make preliminary information materials used to train and educate Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers available to National Federations and National Paralympic Committees for the purpose of training National Classifiers;
- 57.2.2 World ParaVolley will engage with National Federations and National Paralympic Committees to cooperate and support a pathway to enable National Classifiers to become international Classifiers; and
- 57.2.3 World ParaVolley will make available to National Federations a schedule of Classifier and Trainee Classifier education sessions with sufficient notice and frequency to enable National Federations to identify and apply for Trainee Classifiers to attend such education sessions.

58. Classifier Certification

- 58.1 Classifier Certification is the process by which World ParaVolley assesses and confirms that a Classifier has met the Classifier competencies.
- 58.2 World ParaVolley shall outline the requirements and competencies that must be demonstrated by all Classifiers to be Certified or Re-certified, and
 - 58.2.1 Each Classifier shall complete the requirements and demonstrate competencies for each Classifier training level as part of the Certification and Re-certification process as per the World ParaVolley Classifier Competency Framework.
 - 58.2.2 World ParaVolley shall monitor Classifier performance and identify and handle performance concerns, including procedures for the withdrawal of Certification as further described in the World ParaVolley Policy on Developing and Maintaining Excellence in Classifier Performance.
- 58.3 World ParaVolley shall review all Classifier's Certifications as per below:
 - 58.3.1 A Classifier's Certification is reviewed annually to ensure that the Classifier has retained the relevant competencies. Where substandard competencies have been identified, a management plan is developed to address the substandard competencies. This process is outlined in the World ParaVolley Policy on Developing and Maintaining Excellence in Classifier Performance.

- 58.3.2 A Classifier may have their Certification removed if, without limitation, (i) World ParaVolley is no longer satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier competencies; and/or (ii) the Classifier breaches the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct; and
- 58.3.3 A Classifier whose Certification was removed pursuant to Article 58.3.2(i) may regain their Certification if they subsequently satisfy World ParaVolley that they have re-attained the required Classifier competencies.

PART III: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CODE OF CONDUCT

59. Identifying and managing conflicts of interest

- 59.1 World ParaVolley must develop and adopt in their rules a policy regarding the identification and management of conflicts of interest in relation to Classification Personnel, consistent with the IPC Integrity Code and, where applicable, World ParaVolley's Code of Conduct & Ethics. As part of that policy, World ParaVolley must define what they consider to be a conflict of interest in relation to Classification Personnel. That definition must include, as a minimum, any direct or indirect interest(s) and/or any relationship(s) with any person(s) that might affect, or be reasonably understood by others as affecting, the Classification Personnel's objectivity, judgement, or conduct in carrying out their classification responsibilities.
- 59.2 World ParaVolley will identify, actively manage, record, and keep updated a register of actual, perceived and potential Classification Personnel conflicts of interest. In this context, all Classification Personnel must promptly, accurately, and fully disclose to World ParaVolley all past and current personal and professional role(s), office(s) and relationship(s) that may affect their ability to make an objective decision or assessment when fulfilling their Classification Personnel role, or may create the perception of such. This duty of disclosure on Classification Personnel is an ongoing duty, to allow World ParaVolley to keep its register updated.
- 59.3 World ParaVolley will consider whether any disclosures by Classification Personnel represent an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest that requires active management. Examples of where an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest may arise (and will need to be actively managed) include where Classification Personnel are also acting as an office-holder, member of staff of, or otherwise representing and/or working on behalf of a National Federation. Other roles, whether paid or voluntary, with National Federations or National Paralympic Committees may also lead to actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.

- 59.4 World ParaVolley can determine, in its sole discretion, whether or not any Classification Personnel have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest.
- 59.5 World ParaVolley has the right not to appoint Classification Personnel (or to withdraw appointments of Classification Personnel) who, in the view of World ParaVolley, have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest.
- 59.6 In order to manage actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest, it is not permitted for the following persons to (i) commence practical training to become a Classifier (i.e., they cannot participate in any evaluation sessions e.g., as a Trainee Classifier); (ii) receive or keep their Certification as a Classifier; or (iii) act as a Head of Classification:
- 59.6.1 An international athlete who is currently competing in any Para sport, or who has retired from World ParaVolley less than four years ago;
- 59.6.2 A national team coach or national team assistant coach involved in Sitting Volleyball or who has retired from a coaching role in World ParaVolley less than four years ago; or
- 59.6.3 Other Athlete Support Personnel in World ParaVolley with direct involvement with the national team or international athletes, or who have retired from such involvement in World ParaVolley less than two years ago (including but not limited to a team physiotherapist, medical doctor, psychologist, massage therapist).

[Comment to Article 59.6: There is a high risk of an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest arising in circumstances where Classification Personnel have (or have recently had) a close association or role with a national sport team. The above restrictions are intended to help manage such risks. For example:

An international Athlete in World ParaVolley cannot become a Classifier in any Para sport while they hold such role. However, once they have retired from such role they can immediately become a Classifier in other Para sports (but not World ParaVolley and can become a Classifier in World ParaVolley once they have been retired for four years.

A national team coach or national team physiotherapist in World ParaVolley may become a Classifier in any Para sport except World ParaVolley. Once they have retired from such role they can also become a Classifier in World ParaVolley after being retired for, respectively, four years or two years.]

- 59.7 For the avoidance of doubt, article 59.6 does not prevent persons covered by that provision from training or acting as National Classifiers.
- 59.8 Classifiers must also not take on any other roles and responsibilities at Covered Competitions and Classification opportunities where they are acting as Classifiers that would impact their ability to carry out the Classification process/their responsibilities. World ParaVolley may assign other roles and responsibilities to Classifiers provided that they can be managed without interfering with the Classifier roles and responsibilities.

60. Classification Personnel Code of Conduct

- 60.1 The professional conduct of Classification Personnel is fundamental to ensuring the integrity of Classification in Sitting Volleyball. All Classifier Personnel must comply with a clear set of behavioural and ethical standards. These standards are referred to as a Classification Personnel Code of Conduct. World ParaVolley has a general Code of Conduct & Ethics document which all Classification Personnel must comply with. World ParaVolley also has a Classification Personnel Code of Conduct which includes the matters set out below, is consistent with the IPC Integrity Code and with the World ParaVolley Code of Conduct & Ethics.
- 60.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct.
- 60.3 The World ParaVolley Classification Personnel Code of Conduct requires Classification Personnel to:
- 60.3.1 Comply with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, and the International Federation's Classification Rules;
 - 60.3.2 Comply with the World ParaVolley Code of Conduct & Ethics;
 - 60.3.3 Act as neutral evaluators throughout all stages of the Classification process;
 - 60.3.4 Have high regard for the dignity of all Athletes;
 - 60.3.5 Have high regard for the physical and mental welfare of all Athletes;
 - 60.3.6 Perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently, and objectively for all Athletes;
 - 60.3.7 Respect all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel and strive to uphold a courteous environment during the Classification process;

- 60.3.8 Ensure that they are fit to perform the role and physical duties reasonably expected of Classification Personnel, and notify World ParaVolley if this ceases to be the case;
- 60.3.9 Maintain excellent hygiene and sanitation during the Classification process;
- 60.3.10 Not abuse their position to obtain advantage or benefit for themselves or third parties;
- 60.3.11 Maintain confidentiality of Athlete information in accordance with World ParaVolley's Classification Rules; and
- 60.3.12 Comply with World ParaVolley's safeguarding rules.

CHAPTER 7: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

61. World ParaVolley

61.1 The roles and responsibilities of World ParaVolley under these Classification Rules include to:

- 61.1.1 Increase awareness of the purpose, principles, and scientific rationale behind Classification amongst relevant stakeholders in ParaVolley;
- 61.1.2 Develop, implement, and regularly review and publish Classification Rules in Compliance with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards;
- 61.1.3 Require, as a condition of membership, that its National Federations and other members comply with these Classification Rules, and to take appropriate action to ensure such compliance;
- 61.1.4 Develop and deliver (where appropriate with the involvement of Athletes) Classification education and awareness programmes for National Federations, Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classifiers which must, at a minimum, explain these Classification Rules and that the rules must comply with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards;
- 61.1.5 Promote, initiate, and/or review Classification Research;
- 61.1.6 Develop, implement, and maintain a clear Classifier recruitment, training, and development pathway; and
- 61.1.7 Cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with the IPC in connection with any investigations conducted by the IPC in relation to potential Intentional Misrepresentation or Compliance matters.

62. Participants

62.1 It is the personal responsibility of all Participants to:

- 62.1.1 Be knowledgeable of and comply with these Classification Rules, and all applicable regulations, policies, rules, and processes adopted pursuant to these Classification Rules;
- 62.1.2 Participate in, and cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any Classification process and/or related procedure; and
- 62.1.3 Cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

63. Athletes

- 63.1 In addition to the general responsibilities listed in Article 62.1 above, all Athletes must:
- 63.1.1 Ensure that World ParaVolley is provided (through their National Federation) with all relevant Diagnostic Information required to enable World ParaVolley to assess the existence of an Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment, and ensure that all such information is complete, accurate, authentic, and relevant, and that World ParaVolley is informed of any changes to that information;
 - 63.1.2 As set out in Article 24.5, give their best efforts during an Evaluation Session and comply with all reasonable instructions given to them by a Classification Panel; and
 - 63.1.3 Support and facilitate Classification education and research, and the development and implementation of Classification systems.

64. Athlete Support Personnel

- 64.1 In addition to the general responsibilities listed in Article 62.1 above, all Athlete Support Personnel must:
- 64.1.1 Use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative attitude regarding the Classification process and those involved in the Classification of Athletes (e.g. Classifiers); and
 - 64.1.2 Facilitate and encourage Athletes to participate in Classification education and research, and the development and implementation of World ParaVolley's Classification systems.

65. National Federations

- 65.1 In addition to the general responsibilities listed in Article 62.1 above, National Federations must:
- 65.1.1 Commit to supporting the Athletes to the best of their ability (e.g. helping them find pathways/doctors to carry out the required examinations or investigations and explicitly reminding the Athletes about deadlines, ensuring each Athlete understands the information in the Athlete Evaluation Agreement before signing it).
 - 65.1.2 Respect deadlines set by World ParaVolley for submitting medical documentation on behalf of Athletes without delay;

- 65.1.3 Act as an intermediary between Athletes and World ParaVolley, passing on accurate and complete information from World ParaVolley to the Athletes without delay.
- 65.1.4 Ensure that World ParaVolley is provided with all relevant Diagnostic Information required to enable World ParaVolley to assess the existence of an Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment, and ensure that all such information is complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge, authentic, and relevant, and that World ParaVolley is informed of any changes to that information; and
- 65.1.5 Foster a positive and collaborative attitude regarding the Classification process and those involved in the Classification of Athletes (e.g. Classifiers).

CHAPTER 8: BEST PRACTICE CLASSIFICATION, AND RESEARCH

66. Best Practice Classification

- 66.1 World ParaVolley will ensure that it has a sport-specific Classification system that reflects **Best Practice Classification**. Best Practice Classification means that the Classification system:
- 66.1.1 Adopts the four stages of Classification set out in Article 6.1 and describes the methods used in each of the four stages;
 - 66.1.2 Uses the best available evidence at each stage of Classification, in particular by:
 - 66.1.2.1 focusing on the relationship between the impairment and key performance determinants, where the impairment is the unit of classification and impairments are classified based on the extent to which they impact the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to their specific sport;
 - 66.1.2.2 drawing on reliable assessment results from a range of domains (for example, Athlete training history, impairment(s), performance of novel and practised motor tasks, and sport-specific/sports technical performance).
 - 66.1.2.3 using assessments that are, as a minimum, evidence-informed (i.e., scientific evidence indicates that the individual assessments that make up the classification system will provide information that is accurate and reliable); and
 - 66.1.2.4 relying on as few assumptions as possible (and, where assumptions are relied on, ensuring that those assumptions are defensible).
 - 66.1.3 Applies principles of clinical reasoning and critical thinking to enable balanced consideration of the assessments conducted at each stage of Classification;
 - 66.1.4 Is consistent with established principles of human movement science and sports performance; and
 - 66.1.5 Is consistent with current knowledge of (i) each Eligible Impairment, and (ii) the Underlying Health Conditions that are consistent with those Eligible Impairments.

[Comment to Article 66.1: Best Practice Classification represents the full utilisation of the scientific evidence available today, where evidence-informed assessments are used along with clinical reasoning to draw conclusions from assessment results from a range of domains. Best Practice Classification will evolve over time, with the goal for it to reach the standard of evidence-based Classification, as referred to in Article 67.2.]

67. Classification Research

- 67.1 World ParaVolley will conduct multidisciplinary Classification Research to:
 - 67.1.1 Ensure that its Classification system meets (and continues to meet) the requirements for Best Practice Classification; and
 - 67.1.2 Monitor the quality of its assessment systems and improve its evidence base.
- 67.2 World ParaVolley should also invest in Classification Research that is designed to assist in developing evidence-based Classification systems (i.e., systems that are supported by scientific evidence that indicates that the methods used for assigning Athletes a Sport Class will result in Sport Classes that each comprise Athletes who have Eligible Impairments causing approximately the same degree of activity limitation in that sport). Evidence-based Classification is the gold standard, to which all Classification systems should aspire.
- 67.3 World ParaVolley will ensure that, where appropriate, stakeholders (including Athletes and Classifiers) have an opportunity to provide input as part of World ParaVolley's plans to conduct Classification Research.
- 67.4 All Classification Research will comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.

CHAPTER 9: DATA

68. General provision

- 68.1 The Classification Rules require World ParaVolley to Process Classification Data relating to Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, Classification Personnel, and other individuals involved in ParaVolley sport disciplines.
- 68.2 This Chapter sets out the data protection and privacy standards that World ParaVolley will apply when Processing Classification Data. World ParaVolley will also comply with any additional requirements arising under applicable Data Protection Laws where the legal organization World ParaVolley is registered.

69. Principles for Processing Classification Data

- 69.1 World ParaVolley will only Process Classification Data in connection with Classification, or other purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code, and/or International Standards, including (without limitation) UHC Assessments, Eligible Impairment Assessments, MIC Assessments, Sport Class Assessments, Evaluation Sessions, conducting disciplinary procedures, resolving Protests and Appeals, using or sharing Classification-related intelligence, and for education and awareness.
- 69.2 World ParaVolley will only collect Classification Data that it reasonably requires to achieve the above purposes, and will take steps to delete, destroy, or anonymise Classification Data once it is no longer required for such purposes.
- 69.3 World ParaVolley will use reasonable efforts to ensure Classification Data is:
- 69.3.1 Accurate, complete, and up-to-date;
 - 69.3.2 Processed fairly and lawfully, and in a manner that is clear to the relevant individual, such as through the use of written or oral notices;
 - 69.3.3 Processed for specified and legitimate purposes in connection with Classification, or other purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards, and not further Processed for unrelated or incompatible purposes unless those purposes are expressly permitted by law; and
 - 69.3.4 Adequate, relevant, and limited to what World ParaVolley reasonably requires in connection with Classification, or other purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

[Comment to Article 69.3: World ParaVolley will abide by certain common principles of data protection when Processing Classification Data. This includes taking reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that Classification Data remains correct and accurate, is not Processed for additional, unrelated purposes except where applicable laws expressly permit, and is promptly deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymised as soon as possible. It also includes taking reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that relevant individuals are informed, for instance through the use of specific or general informational notices, regarding the Processing of their Classification Data.]

70. Lawful grounds for Processing Classification Data

70.1 World ParaVolley will ensure that each Processing operation it performs upon Classification Data has a valid legal basis to support it, and that the Processing is otherwise permitted under applicable Data Protection Laws.

70.2 Lawful grounds for Processing Classification Data include where the relevant Processing (i) furthers World ParaVolley's legitimate interests, and those interests outweigh the interests of the relevant individual; (ii) takes place with the individual's informed and voluntary consent; (iii) is required or necessary under applicable law to fulfil contractual obligations owed to the individual or to perform tasks carried out in the public interest; or (iv) complies with other legal grounds available to World ParaVolley under applicable Data Protection Laws.

[Comment to Article 70.2: World ParaVolley is likely to rely on more than one legal basis to perform the various Processing operations required under the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards. The appropriate ground may depend on a range of factors, such as whether the Classification Data includes Sensitive Personal Information; whether data protection, sport, or other local laws expressly set forth such grounds (in which case, the data may be considered necessary to comply with such laws or necessary to fulfil legitimate interests related to sport); and other circumstances relating to the Processing.]

70.3 Where World ParaVolley relies upon consent to justify its Processing of certain 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.

[Comment to Article 70.3: In situations where an Athlete is a minor, as determined under applicable law, and so incapable of furnishing consent, their authorised representative, which may include a parent, guardian, or other representative, such as a member of the Athlete's delegation where the Athlete's parent or guardian has expressly agreed to this, may provide consent on the Athlete's behalf.]

71. Processing for Classification Research

71.1 World ParaVolley may Process Classification Data to engage in Classification Research, and in these circumstances, World ParaVolley will ensure that a valid legal basis exists to permit such Processing, which may be the Athlete's informed and voluntary consent or other legal grounds available to World ParaVolley under applicable Data Protection Laws.

[Comment to Article 71.1: Classification Research is vital for the development of Classification in sport and Athletes are often asked to provide Classification Data to Classification Organisations, including World ParaVolley, for this purpose. In addition to reliance upon consent, Data Protection Laws applicable to World ParaVolley may permit the Processing of Personal Information, including Sensitive Personal Information, on grounds other than consent, provided certain conditions related to the Classification Research are satisfied. In all of these circumstances, World ParaVolley will ensure that its Classification Research is transparent to the relevant Athletes.]

71.2 Where World ParaVolley Processes Classification Data for Research Purposes it will comply with all applicable ethical use and research requirements. Whenever possible, World ParaVolley will conduct Classification Research using Anonymised Data in lieu of Personal Information, in order to best protect the privacy of the relevant Athlete(s).

71.3 Personal Information (including Sensitive Personal Information) provided for Research Purposes will not be used to engage in individual Classification and the allocation of a Sport Class to that individual.

71.4 In the event that World ParaVolley publishes any Classification Data Processed for Research Purposes, it will seek to ensure that the publication contains only Anonymised Data and does not identify Athletes. If the publication will contain any Personal Information, World ParaVolley will obtain the informed and voluntary written consent of the relevant Athlete(s) prior to such publication.

72. Notification to Athletes and others

72.1 World ParaVolley will notify Athletes and others whose Classification Data it Processes about the following, along with any other disclosures required by applicable Data Protection Laws:

72.1.1 To the extent that World ParaVolley is not the Classification Organisation responsible for collecting the Classification Data, the identity of that other Classification Organisation;

- 72.1.2 An appropriate contact point for handling any enquiries within World ParaVolley and/or any other relevant Classification Organisation responsible for collecting the Classification Data;
 - 72.1.3 The types of Classification Data collected and Processed, and the purpose(s) for which the Classification Data may be Processed, which must be sufficiently comprehensive in scope to cover all purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards;
 - 72.1.4 The types of third parties, such as other Classification Organisations, and national or international sports federations, to whom Classification Data may be disclosed;
 - 72.1.5 The individual's rights with respect to the Classification Data under Article 76; and
 - 72.1.6 The expected period of time that the Classification Data will be retained by World ParaVolley, as documented in accordance with Article 75.2.
- 72.2 World ParaVolley will furnish the information listed in Article 72.1 at the time that it collects Classification Data from an individual or at an otherwise appropriate time in accordance with applicable Data Protection Laws, in a format and manner that the individual can reasonably comprehend, using clear and plain language that can be readily understood.
- 72.3 Where World ParaVolley receives Classification Data from third parties it will communicate the information in Article 72.1 as soon as reasonably practicable, unless the Athlete or other individual is already in possession of it, such as where it has been furnished by another Classification Organisation.

73. Classification data security

- 73.1 World ParaVolley will:
- 73.1.1 Protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical, and other measures to prevent the loss, theft, or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure of Classification Data; and
 - 73.1.2 Take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party that it provides Classification Data to for Processing does so in a manner consistent with this Chapter. Where World ParaVolley engages third parties to Process Classification Data on its behalf or under its instructions, it will subject such third parties to appropriate contractual controls.

[Comment to Article 73.1.2: World ParaVolley bears ultimate responsibility when outsourcing any Processing to third parties and should only rely upon reputable parties to Process Classification Data. World ParaVolley will ensure that such third parties only Process Classification Data on World ParaVolley's instructions, apply appropriate security measures to the Classification Data, promptly provide notice of any security compromise impacting the Classification Data, and apply other suitable safeguards.]

74. Disclosure of Classification Data

- 74.1 World ParaVolley may disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations (including the IPC), provided that such disclosure reasonably relates to Processing activities contemplated under the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards, and/or the disclosure is in accordance with applicable Data Protection Laws.

[Comment to Article 74.1: World ParaVolley may wish to disclose Classification Data to another Classification Organisation (including the IPC), such as in connection with Competitions, to ensure the integrity of the Classification process (including in respect of instances or suspected instances of Intentional Misrepresentation), and to otherwise assist in the process of Classification.]

- 74.2 World ParaVolley may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is permitted by applicable Data Protection Laws and fulfils purposes relating to the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.
- 74.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing, World ParaVolley may share Classification Data with law enforcement or other government authorities if required to do so under applicable law.

[Comment to Article 74.3: In cases where World ParaVolley is compelled by law to disclose Classification Data, it may do so consistent with this Chapter.]

75. Retaining Classification Data

- 75.1 World ParaVolley will ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is reasonably required by World ParaVolley to fulfil purposes relating to the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards, and/or the retention of the Classification Data is otherwise required by applicable law. Where the above conditions are not met, Classification Data will be deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymised.

[Comment to Article 75.1: World ParaVolley may retain Classification Data as long as it is still useful or necessary to fulfil a purpose relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.]

- 75.2 World ParaVolley will develop guidelines for establishing reasonable and appropriate retention times that reflect the different categories and purposes served of the Classification Data that it Processes.

[Comment to Article 75.2: World ParaVolley will develop guidelines, which may be reflected in internal policies or procedures, to enable it to allocate suitable retention times for the various types of Classification Data it Processes. In relation to retired or former Athletes, the continued retention of certain categories of Classification Data following an Athlete's retirement may be justified for a certain period of time (for example, where World ParaVolley reasonably believes that the Athlete may return to active competition, or if the Classification Data may reasonably be needed for investigatory or disciplinary purposes). In relation to individual Classifiers, World ParaVolley will make sure that Classifiers do not retain any of the Classification Data that Classifiers Process in that capacity once the Classification Data is no longer necessary to Classification of the relevant Athlete. This includes any notes, comments, video recordings, or records written or captured electronically (e.g., on personal laptops or other storage devices), generated, or compiled by Classifiers during Classification.]

76. Rights relating to Classification Data

- 76.1 Individuals may request from World ParaVolley:

- 76.1.1 Confirmation of whether or not World ParaVolley Processes Classification Data relating to them and the informational disclosures set forth in Article 72.1;
- 76.1.2 A copy of the Classification Data held by World ParaVolley relating to them in an accessible format; and/or
- 76.1.3 Correction or deletion of the Classification Data relating to them held by World ParaVolley.

[Comment to Article 76.1: World ParaVolley will provide Athletes with information about the Classification Data it Processes in relation to them, and will respond to requests seeking access to, or correction or deletion of such Classification Data.]

- 76.2 World ParaVolley will respond to such requests and should do so within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the effort required to comply with the request, and in accordance with applicable Data Protection Laws, which may set forth specific timeframes for responding.

- 76.3 Notwithstanding the above, World ParaVolley may refuse to grant such requests where it would interfere with efforts to maintain the integrity of the Classification process, prevent World ParaVolley from complying with the IPC Classification Code, or refusing the request is otherwise permitted under applicable Data Protection Laws.

[Comment to Article 76.3: In certain contexts, World ParaVolley may refuse a request seeking access to, or correction or deletion of, Classification Data, such as where the request would undermine efforts to ensure the integrity of Para sport, such as investigations and intelligence gathering relating to Intentional Misrepresentation by an Athlete or conducting disciplinary proceedings. Under certain data protection laws, it may be possible to refuse a request, such as where the request is manifestly unfounded, repetitive, or abusive in nature.]

- 76.4 Data Protection Laws may provide for additional individual rights, besides those arising under Article 8.1, and World ParaVolley will honour such rights where they exist in law.

CHAPTER 10: TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

77. Transitional provisions

- 77.1 Any period prior to the Effective Date will be governed by the substantive rules in effect at the time. However, procedural rules will apply retroactively unless specified otherwise.
- 77.2 Any charge for breach of World ParaVolley's previous classification rules that: (i) was pending as of the Effective Date; or (ii) is brought after the Effective Date, will be governed by the substantive rules in effect at the time the alleged breach occurred, and not by the substantive rules set out in these Classification Rules, unless World ParaVolley or the body hearing the case determines that the principle of "lex mitior" appropriately applies under the circumstances of the case (i.e., World ParaVolley or the hearing body determines that: (i) the new substantive rules in these Classification Rules are more lenient than those in force at the time of the breach; and (ii) it would be reasonable and proportionate in all the circumstances to apply the new substantive rules).
- 77.3 World ParaVolley will promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of any decision made to apply the principle of "lex mitior" under Article 77.2.
- 77.3.1 That decision may be appealed by the IPC to World ParaVolley's designated appeal body within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC has not previously received a copy of the full case file pertaining to the alleged breach of World ParaVolley's previous classification rules (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language), it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to apply the principle of "lex mitior" to request a copy of that case file (including any translations).
- 77.3.2 In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all necessary translations) to file an appeal.
- 77.4 The limitation period set out in the World ParaVolley Intentional Misrepresentation Rules is a procedural rule not a substantive rule and should be applied retroactively along with all of the other procedural rules in these Classification Rules (provided, however, they will only be applied retroactively if the limitation period has not already expired as at the Effective Date).

APPENDIX 1: CLASSIFICATION OF ATHLETES WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 World ParaVolley has designated two Sport Classes with activity limitations that result from a Physical Impairment. Appendix One outlines the process of Classification in several Sections that are numbered in relation to each stage of the Classification Process as described in the IPC Classification Code.
- 1.2 Stage 1 of the Classification Process for World ParaVolley aims to identify the Underlying Health Condition of the Athlete that could lead to one of the Eligible Impairment types from the list of IPC Eligible Impairments included in Sitting Volleyball (Appendix 1 – Section 2). The process of confirming the Underlying Health Condition is described in this Appendix 1 under Section 3. This part of the evaluation takes place before the Athlete is accepted onto a team list as a new Athlete prior to attending their first Covered Competition.
- 1.3 Stages 2-4 are considered to be the Classification “Evaluation” and must take place in person with a Classification Panel.
- 1.4 Stage 2 of the Classification Process involves verifying the presence of the Physical Eligible Impairment and its consistency with the UHC and is described in Appendix 1 – Section 4.
- 1.5 Stage 3 of the Classification Process involves measurement of the Impairment to determine if the Athlete’s impairment meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for Sitting Volleyball to be eligible to play [*NOTE: each sport determines its own MIC. Athletes with Eligible Impairments that are do not meet the MIC for ParaVolley may be eligible in another Para sport*]. Stage 3 is described in Appendix 1 – Section 5 and testing measurements for MIC described in Appendix 1 – Section 4.
- 1.6 Stage 4 of the Classification Process involves designation of the appropriate Sport Class through the allocation to the Athlete of:
 - 1.6.1 A: Sport Class based on an assessment of the extent to which the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball (**Sport Class Assessment**); and,
 - 1.6.2 B: A Sport Class **Status** to indicate whether and when the Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future. Stage 4 Procedures are described in Appendix 1 – Section 6.

- 1.7 Adaptive Equipment used by Athletes during play must be declared and the Procedure outlined in Appendix 1 – Section 7 must be followed.
- 1.8 Athletes requiring Observation Assessment must be seen at a World ParaVolley Covered Competition. Observation Assessment Procedures are outlined in Appendix 1 – Section 8.

Classification Flowchart

Version April 2024

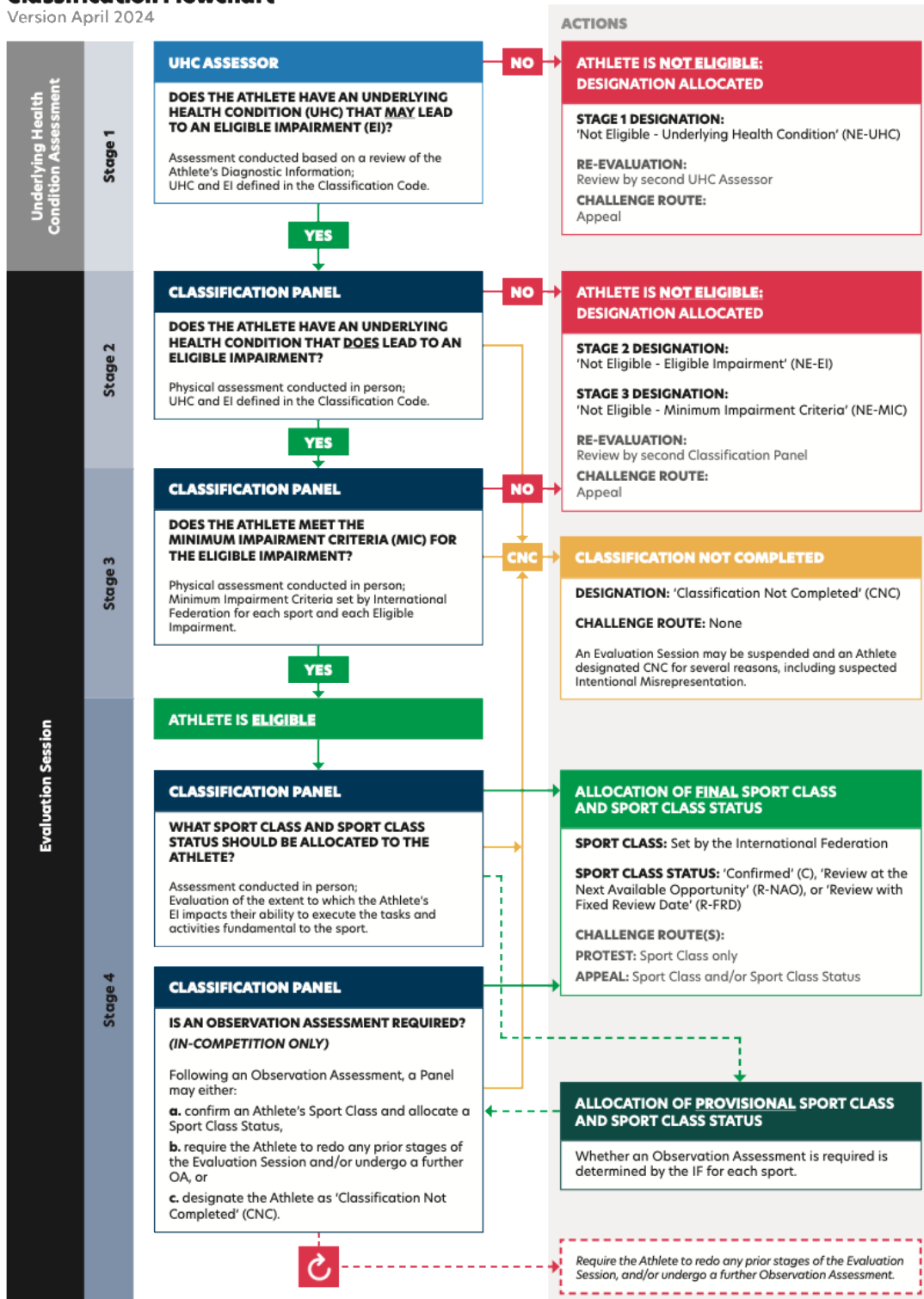


Figure 1 - 1: Classification Flowchart from IPC 2024

2. World ParaVolley Eligible Impairments

- 2.1 All Physical Impairments must be consistent with an Underlying Health Condition that (i) originates from the central or peripheral nervous system; or (ii) is musculoskeletal. The Physical Impairments catered for by World ParaVolley are:

Table 1 - 1: Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Underlying Health Conditions	Relevant ICF Impairment Code & Description
<p>Impaired Muscle Power</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a reduced (or no) ability to contract their muscles to generate force that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central or peripheral nervous system or the muscles (including the muscle origin and muscle insertion).</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete), spina bifida, plexus injuries, poly(neuropathies) or muscular dystrophies</p>	<p>b730</p>
<p>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a reduced ability for a joint to be passively moved that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting a structure of bones, joints, connective tissue, or soft tissues.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogyrosis and contractures resulting from joint dysplasia, rheumatoid diseases or trauma resulting in anatomical changes and/or function of a joint.</p>	<p>b7100 – 7102 (excluding hypermobility)</p>
<p>Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference</p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference have a total or partial absence of a limb or anatomically irregular limb dimensions that are consistent with an Underlying Health Condition</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Limb Deficiency include traumatic oncologic or vascular amputation, illness (for</p>	<p>s720 s730 s740 s750 s73000 s73010 s73020 s75000</p>

<p>resulting from trauma, illness or congenital causes affecting the bones and/or joints.</p> <p>The Eligible Impairment can be further divided into the following sub-categories:</p> <p>a) Limb deficiency b) Leg length difference, and/or c) Arm length difference.</p>	<p>example amputation due to infectious disease) or congenital limb deficiency (longitudinal or transverse). Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Limb Length Difference include congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth and/or its anatomy</p>	<p>s75010 s75020</p>
<p>Coordination Impairments</p> <p>Athletes with a Coordination Impairment have one or more of the following three movement disorders that (i) adversely affects the ability to voluntarily produce a full range of skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately; and (ii) is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central nervous system:</p> <p>a) Hypertonia/Spasticity: an increase in muscle tension that may be velocity-dependent and/or a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.</p> <p>b) Motor Ataxia: limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement</p> <p>c) Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea): involuntary movements that interfere with voluntary movements.</p> <p><i>[Comment to Coordination Impairments: Coordination is the ability to voluntarily produce skilled</i></p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to one or a combination of Coordination Impairments include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury or cerebrovascular disease</p>	<p>B735 Hypertonia: Inclusion: high muscle tone Exclusions: low muscle tone</p> <p>B760 Involuntary Movement: Inclusions: Ataxia only</p> <p>B7650 Involuntary Contractions of Muscles</p>

<i>movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately (Connick et al., 2015; Runciman & Derman 2018)].</i>		
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3. Underlying Health Condition Assessment

3.1 This Appendix Section outlines the process for assessing an Athlete's Underlying Health Condition (UHC) to determine eligibility for competition. The process is structured to ensure fair and consistent evaluations, with clear procedures for initial UHC assessments, and second panel UHC Assessments.

3.2 Initial UHC Assessment:

3.2.1 **Purpose:**

3.2.1.1 To verify if the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of Diagnostic information. The UHC must be one that could lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball.

3.2.2 **General Procedure:**

3.2.2.1 The Classifier in the role of World ParaVolley UHC Assessment Coordinator, will receive applications for Classification from National Federations on a rolling basis.

[Comment: National Federations are encouraged to send in documentation as soon as the Athlete is recruited for a national program in order to confirm the UHC even before sending the Athlete to a WPV Covered Competition, and at a minimum, no later than 3 months prior to the competition that the Federation plans to have the Athlete participate. National Federations are responsible for ensuring that all Diagnostic Information is complete, accurate, authentic, and relevant, and that World ParaVolley is informed of any changes to that information. All MDFs must be signed by a certified health care professional with expertise in the relevant impairment type and who has not been associated with the team as the team health care professional in the last two years].

3.2.2.2 The UHC Assessment Coordinator shall screen each Classification Application, including Medical Diagnostic Form and supporting documentation for completeness and triage each Application to determine if a one-person Assessor or a three-person panel Assessor is required. The Chief Classifier is kept informed of all UHC decisions for those Athletes participating in an upcoming Classification opportunity. Each Classification Application is assigned to an UHC Assessor (single Assessor or three-person panel Assessor).

3.2.2.3 The UHC Assessor evaluates the Athlete's health condition by reviewing the MDF and relevant information submitted by the National Federation to determine if a UHC is present and could lead to an Eligible Impairment catered to by World ParaVolley. This involves:

- Verifying that the health condition presented is listed in the International classification of Diseases
- Using clinical reasoning to determine whether the evidence presented alongside the MDF supports the diagnosis given
- Associating the health condition with one or more identified Eligible Impairments

3.3 First Panel UHC Assessment (for Complicated Cases)

3.3.1 Purpose:

3.3.1.1 To provide an expanded assessment for complex UHC cases or those indicating potential non-eligibility.

3.3.2 Trigger:

3.3.2.1 If the UHC Assessment Coordinator identifies the Athlete's health condition as complex, is unclear if there is sufficient evidence to support the presence of the Eligible Impairment, or could potentially result in an outcome of Not Eligible (NE – UHC – Re-evaluation):

[Comment to 3.3.2: Complex health condition means there is a health condition with unclear link to an Eligible Impairment or a condition that could affect multiple body systems].

3.3.3 Procedure:

A three-person panel is appointed (this could include the Chief Classifier if the Athlete is attending a Covered Competition). All three assessors conduct their own independent assessments.

3.3.4 Decision-Making:

The final decision of the UHC Assessor (panel) is determined by a majority vote if the members are unable to reach a unanimous decision.

3.3.5 If the UHC Assessor is satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, Article 11.5 of these Classification Rules will be applied.

3.3.6 If the UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, Article 11.6 of these Classification Rules will be applied.

3.4 Second Panel UHC Assessment (for Non-Eligible – UHC (Re-evaluation) Decisions from first Panel)

3.4.1 Purpose:

To provide a second UHC Assessment for cases where the first panel has determined Non-Eligible UHC (NE-UHC- Re-evaluation). The outcome cannot be protested. The only challenge route available following this final review is through appeal.

3.4.2 Trigger:

If the first panel's decision is Ne-UHC Re-evaluation.

3.4.3 Procedure:

A second UHC Assessor (panel), composed of three different assessors, is formed. Any member of the first UHC Assessor cannot serve as a member of the second UHC Assessor. The second UHC Assessor (panel) must review all of the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National federation. Before reaching a final decision, the second UHC Assessor (panel) must also review the written explanation of the first UHC Assessor (panel).

Each member of the panel reviews the medical information independently.

3.4.4 Decision-Making:

The decision of the UHC Assessor (panel) is made by a majority vote if consensus is not reached.

This decision is final and cannot be protested (the only challenge route is via appeal).

3.4.5 If the second UHC Assessor (panel) is satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, Article 11.5 of these Classification Rules applies.

3.4.6 If the second UHC Assessor (panel) is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:

3.4.6.1 The second UHC Assessor must notify World ParaVolley of the outcome and provide a written explanation for the decision.

3.4.6.2 World ParaVolley will provide a copy of the second UHC Assessor's written explanation to the Athlete's National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable and upload the outcome details to PVSAS.

3.4.6.3 The Athlete must be designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition'.

3.5 Consequences of Ne-UHC:

3.5.1 The Athlete:

3.5.1.1 (1) Is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions in Sitting Volleyball; and

3.5.1.2 (2) Must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in that sport or in another sport). Such designation may be automatically recognised by other International Federations in their respective sports, in their absolute discretion.

3.6 Flow Chart – Assessment of UHC

UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION ASSESSMENT FLOW CHART

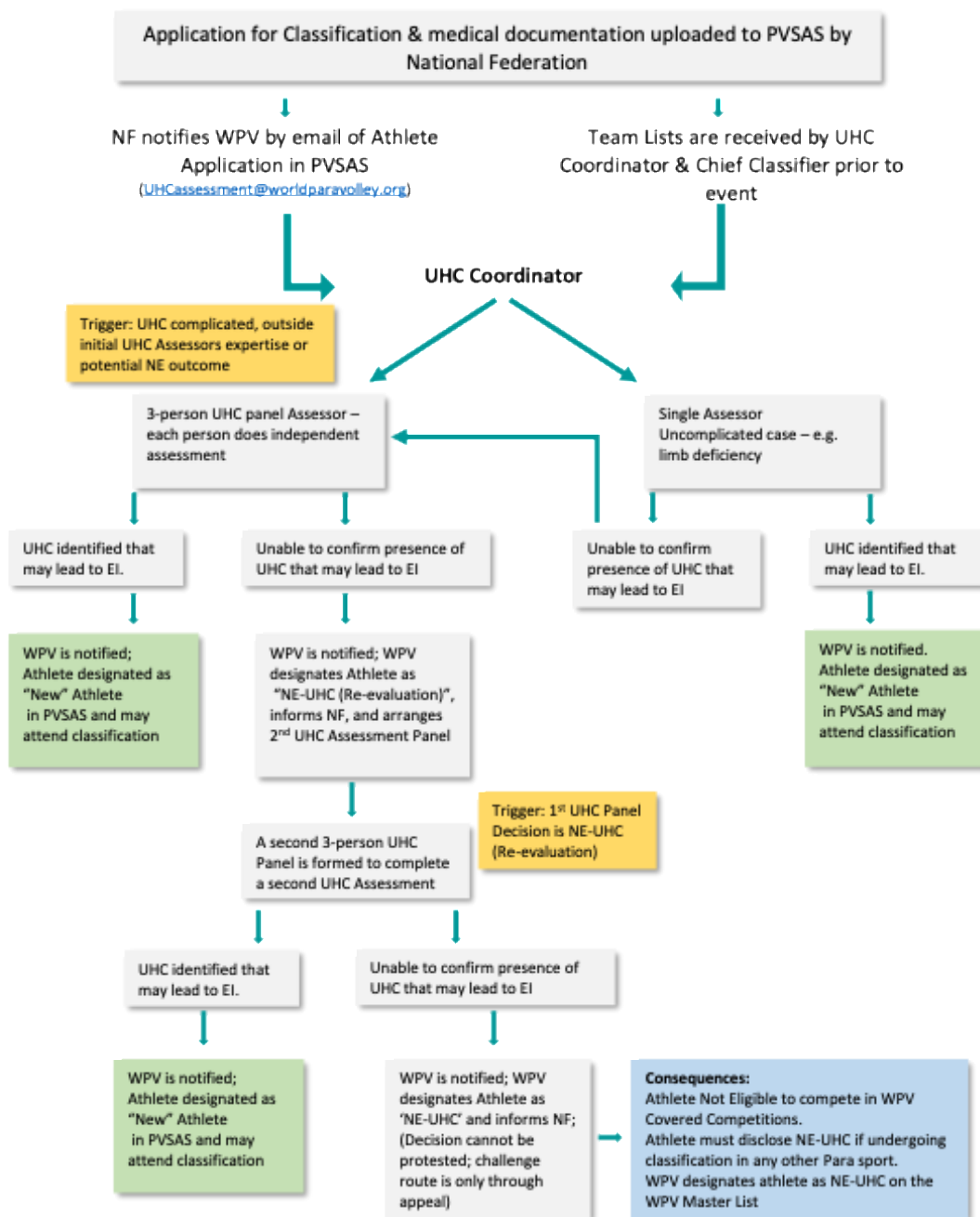


Figure 1 - 2: UHC Assessment Flow Chart

4. Eligible Impairment Assessment (Impairment Assessment Methods)

4.1 The Eligible Impairment Assessment involves an in-person evaluation to verify that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s).

4.1.1 Any positive finding or combination of findings in the EI Testing which is consistent with the UHC Assessment may be considered at the discretion of the classification panel as evidence of the presence of an EI.

4.2 Verification / Testing for each Eligible Impairment is outlined below:

4.2.1 **Limb Deficiency** (including Limb Length Difference) Upper & Lower limbs. The following procedure describes the method for locating key anatomical landmarks which will be used as the measurement reference points, and the method for performing the measurement. Measurements need to be precise.

4.2.1.1 Physical inspection

4.2.1.2 Measurement of lengths of limbs/anatomical body segments. A pen or pencil is used to landmark the skin over the palpated anatomical landmarks prior to measuring, which will be used as the measurement reference points.

(a)Note: In terms of Anthropometric measurements, all measures are taken in centimeters (cm) and recorded to the nearest millimetre (mm). An average of two (2) measures is taken. If the difference between these two (2) measures is greater than 1%, one additional measure is taken, and the median measure is recorded on the Classification sheet as the measurement.

- (b) To measure leg length difference, a measurement is taken from the ASIS to the most inferior (caudal) point of the medial malleolus. The Athlete should lie supine with legs relaxed and fully extended. Measure from the inferior aspect of the anterior superior iliac spine to the inferior aspect of the tip of the medial malleolus on each leg and then compare.
- (c) The difference in limb length is expressed as a percentage:

$$\% \text{ LLD} = \frac{\text{Length of longer limb} - \text{Length of shorter limb}}{\text{length of longer limb}} \times 100\%$$

- (d) To measure arm length difference, a measurement is taken with the Athlete in standing with palms slightly off the thighs. from the acromiale to the tip of the longest finger (dactylion). The acromiale is the point on the superior aspect of the most lateral part of the acromion border. To locate, stand behind and on the right-hand side of the subject (for the right arm measure) and palpate along the spine of the scapula to the corner of the acromion. This represents the start of the lateral border which usually runs anteriorly, slightly superiorly and medially. Apply the straight edge of a pencil to the lateral aspect of the acromion to confirm the location of the most lateral part of the border. The landmark is a point on the most lateral and superior part of the border so palpate superiorly to the top margin of the acromion border in line with the most lateral aspect.

Alternatively (if the Athlete has large muscle curvatures or joint contractures, measures can be taken of each of segments below and added together:

1. Upper Arm (Acromiale – Radiale) – from Acromiale to the Radiale landmark (the point at the proximal and lateral border of the head of the radius. The Athlete stands in a relaxed position with the arm hanging by the side in the mid-prone position. Palpate downward into the lateral dimple of the right elbow. It should be possible to feel the space between the capitulum of the humerus and the head of the radius. Mark with a short line perpendicular to the long axis of the forearm. As a landmark check, a slight rotation of the forearm is felt as rotation of the head of the radius.)

2. Forearm (Radiale – Stylium) – from the Radiale to the Stylium landmark (the most distal point on the lateral margin of the inferior head of the radius). Using a thumbnail, the tester palpates in the triangular space identified by the muscle tendons of the wrist immediately above the thumb (anatomical 'snuff box'). Once the snuff box has been identified, palpate in the space between the distal radius and the most proximal aspect of the first metacarpal in order to correctly identify the tip of the styloid process.

3. Hand (Mid stylium – dactylium) – from the marked Mid-stylium site (a line from the Stylium landmark perpendicular to the long axis of the forearm drawn close to the mid-point of the wrist) to the Dactylium with fingers outstretched (but not hyperextended). The Athlete places the hand in a supinated position (palms up) and the fingers extended. The measurement is taken from the marked Mid-stylium line to the most distal point of the third (or longest) digit.

(e) To measure foot length for lower limb dysmelia, a measurement is taken on the unaffected foot from the tip of the great toe to the posterior aspect of the calcaneus. The Athlete should lie supine with legs relaxed and fully extended for the measurement.

4.2.2 **Impaired Muscle Power**

4.2.2.1 Manual Muscle testing using Daniels and Worthingham – Muscle Testing - 2007)

The following movements shall be tested by the Classifiers when conducting testing for impaired muscle power involving the upper or lower limbs:

Table 1 - 2

Lower Limb	Upper Limb
Hip Flexion	Shoulder Flexion
Hip Extension	Shoulder Extension
Hip Abduction	Shoulder Abduction
Hip Adduction	Shoulder Adduction
Knee Flexion	Elbow Flexion
Knee Extension	Elbow Extension
Ankle Dorsiflexion	Forearm Supination
Ankle Plantarflexion	Forearm Pronation
	Wrist Flexion (volarflexion)
	Wrist Extension (dorsiflexion)
	Finger 2-5 Flexion
	Finger 2-5 Extension
	Thumb Opposition
	Thumb Extension

Muscle power will be assessed through full available anatomical ROM according to the Daniels and Worthingham (D&W) (3) scale published in 2007. The scale has 6 levels, from 0-5:

Table 1 - 3

5	Normal muscle power through available ROM
4	Active movement through available ROM, against gravity plus some resistance
3	Active movement through full available ROM against gravity but no resistance

2	Active movement with gravity eliminated (some movement against gravity may be possible, but not full range)
1	Trace muscle activity but no movement of the limb
0	No muscle Activity

The presence of impaired muscle power is determined by the Classification Panel, (e.g. the finding of at least one or more movement(s) tests with a muscle grade of less than 5/5.

This scale will be used with one modification: The Scores 0,1 and 2 of the Daniel and Worthingham scale are all captured as a score of 0. As well, ankle plantarflexion strength testing has been modified.

The above grades of muscle power are based on the concept that the grades are given for full active/passive ROM with the given amount of resistance, while loss of ROM (active or passive) does affect the ability of a muscle to generate force and function. The guidelines below should be considered for adjustments to the muscle grade with testing:

*¾ - full ROM – muscle grade given
 ½ - ¾ ROM – muscle grade minus 1 point
 ¼ - ½ ROM – muscle grade minus 2 points
 0 – ¼ ROM – muscle grade minus 3 points*



PAIN cannot be taken into account in classification grading.

Muscle strength must be graded as a 5/5 if pain interferes with the testing.

Measurements are to be taken in the primary test position unless Athlete is unable to be tested in the primary position.

[Note: Classifiers have the discretion to use alternative test positions to confirm findings or if unable to achieve accurate measurements using the recommended test position].

Table 1 - 4: Lower limb Manual Muscle Testing

<p>Hip Flexion</p> <p>Position: Athlete sits with thighs fully supported on table, with the legs hanging over the edge. Athlete may use hands for support.</p> <p>Classifier: Standing next to the Athlete with hand on distal knee.</p> <p>Test: Flex hip to end of range, holding against Classifier's resistance.</p> <p>Instruction: Lift your leg off the table and do not let me push it down.</p> <p><u>Alternate position:</u> (shown here) is supine lying.</p> <p>Scoring:</p> <p>Grade 5 = Thigh clears table, Athlete tolerates maximum resistance.</p> <p>Grade 4 = Hip flexion holds against strong to moderate resistance, there may be some "give" at the end position.</p> <p>Grade 3 = Athlete completes test range and holds the position without resistance.</p>	
<p>Hip Extension</p> <p>Position: Athlete prone; if hip flexion contracture exists, then the modified test should be performed</p> <p>Classifier: Standing at side of limb, opposite side. Hand providing resistance on the posterior leg just above the knee.</p> <p>Test: Athlete extends hip through entire available range of motion. Resistance is given straight down towards the floor.</p> <p>Instruction: Lift the leg of the table as high as you can without bending the knee.</p> <p>Scoring:</p> <p>Grade 5 = Athlete completes available range and holds test position against maximum resistance</p> <p>Grade 4 = Athlete completes available range against strong to moderate resistance</p> <p>Grade 3 = Completes range and holds the position without resistance.</p>	

Modified Hip Extension Test for Athlete with a hip Flexion Contracture

Position: Athlete stands with hips flexed and places torso prone on the table.

Classifier: Standing at side of limb on opposite side. Hand placed over posterior thigh just above the knee, the opposite hand stabilizes the pelvis laterally to maintain posture.

Test: Athlete extends hip through available range, which is less with bent knee.

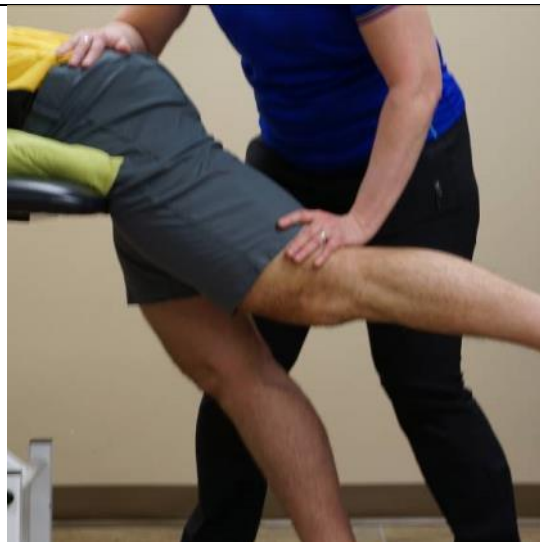
Instruction: Lift your foot off the floor as high as you can.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available range of hip extension; holds against maximum resistance

Grade 4 = Completes available range of hip extension. Limb position can be held towards heavy to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes available range and holds end position without resistance.



Hip Abduction

Position: Side lying with test leg uppermost, slightly extended with pelvis rotated slightly forward, leg in contact with the table bent for stability.

Classifier: Standing behind Athlete, hand contoured across the lateral surface of the knee. The other hand just proximal to the greater trochanter.

Test: Abduction through available range of motion without flexion or rotation of hip in either direction.

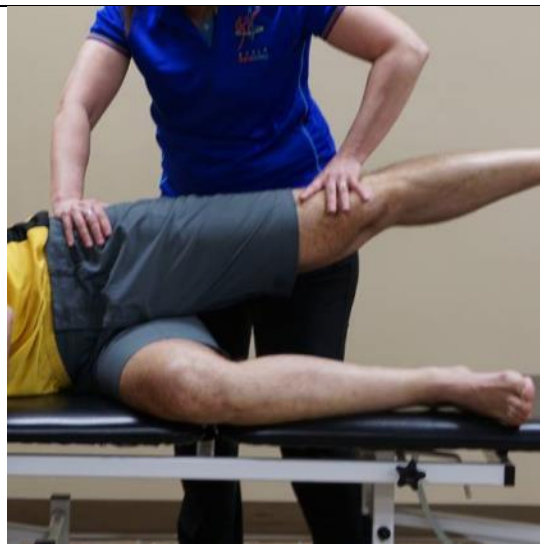
Instruction: Lift your leg and do not let me push it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available range of motion and holds against maximal resistance.

Grade 4 = Completes available range of motion and holds against heavy to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes range of motion available but takes no resistance.



Hip Adduction

Position: Side lying with test limb lower most resting on the table. Upper leg in 25 degrees of abduction, supported by the examiner.

Classifier: Standing behind Athlete at knee level, the hand giving resistance to the test limb (lowermost and closest to table) is placed on the medial surface of the distal femur just proximal to the knee joint. Resistance is directed straight downward to the table.

Test: Adducts hip until the lower limb contacts the upper one.

Instruction: Lift your bottom leg towards the upper one and do not let it drop.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes full range, holds against full resistance.

Grade 4 = Holds against strong to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes range of motion but takes no resistance.



Knee Flexion

Position: Prone with limbs straight and toes hanging over the edge of the table.

Classifier: Standing next to limb to be tested, hand contoured around the posterior surface of the leg just above the ankle, the other hand over the hamstring tendons.

Test: Athlete flexes knee while maintaining leg in neutral rotation.

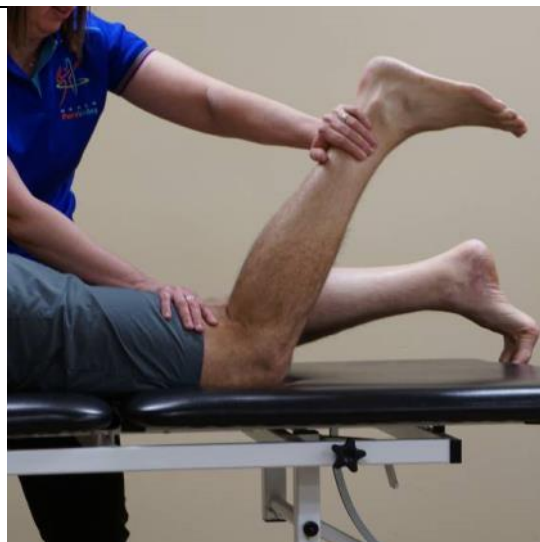
Instruction: Bend your knee, hold it and do not let me straighten it.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Resistance maximal and the end knee flexion position cannot be broken.

Grade 4 = End position holds against strong to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Holds end range position but unable to hold against any resistance.



Knee Extension

Position: High sitting; hand supporting under knee, other hand on ankle do not hyperextend knee,

Classifier: Standing at side of limb to be tested, pressure over ankle in a downward direction.

Test: Extend through available range of motion but not beyond 0 degrees.

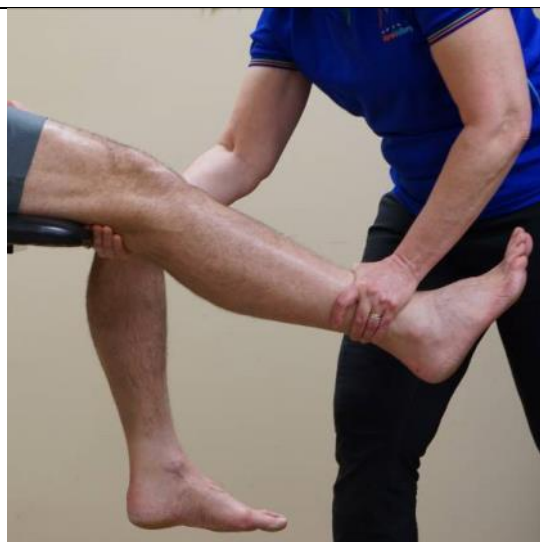
Instruction: Straighten your knee and do not let me bend it.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Holds end position against max resistance.

Grade 4 = Holds end position against strong to moderate resistance

Grade 3 = Completes range and holds position but unable to hold with any resistance.



Ankle Dorsiflexion

Position: High sitting with foot resting on examiner's knee.

Classifier: Hand supporting around ankle and the other cupped over the dorsal foot.

Test: Athlete dorsiflexes ankle and inverts foot, keeping toes relaxed.

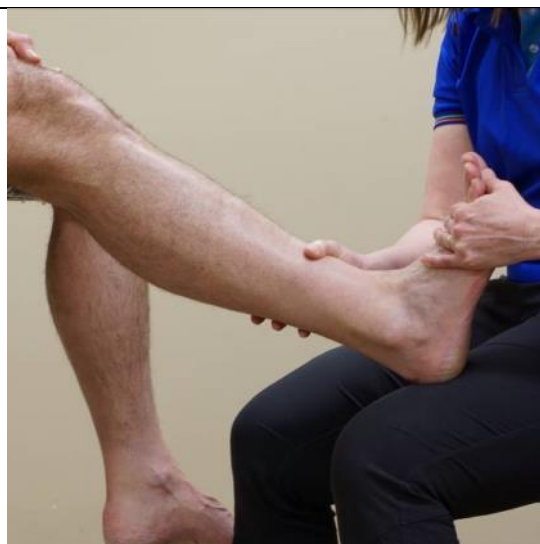
Instruction: Bring your foot up, hold it, and do not let me push it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Able to hold at endrange with maximal resistance.

Grade 4 = Able to hold at endrange against strong to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Able to hold at endrange but not with any resistance.



Ankle Plantarflexion

Position: Stand on limb to be tested with knee extended, not more than 2 fingers for support. **Classifier:** Standing or sitting with lateral view.

Test: Heel raises from floor through full available range of motion.

Instruction: Go up and down on your tiptoes.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Maintaining heel off floor through >6 reps on single leg

Grade 4 = Maintaining heel fully off floor through 3-5 reps only and subsequent attempts result in decreased range (single leg)

Grade 3 = maintaining heel off floor through 1-2 reps only and subsequent attempts results in decreased range. Both feet on ground.

Grade 2 = unable to complete 1 heel raise

Grade 1 = trace contraction, but no actual movement



Table 1 - 5: Upper Limb Manual Muscle Testing

Shoulder Flexion

Position: High Sitting, arm at side with elbow slightly flexed and forearm pronated.

Classifier: Stand at test side. Hand giving resistance is contoured over the distal humerus just above the elbow. The other hand may stabilize the shoulder.

Test: Athlete flexes shoulder to 90 degrees without rotation or horizontal movement. The scapula should be allowed to abduct and upwardly rotate.

Instruction: Raise you arm forward to shoulder height. Hold it and don't let me push it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Holds end position (90 degrees) against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Holds end position against strong to moderate resistance

Grade 3 = able to complete test range (90 degrees) but unable to hold against any resistance.



Shoulder Extension

Position: Prone with arms at sides and shoulder internally rotated (palm up)

Classifier: Stand at test side. Hand used for resistance is contoured over the posterior arm just above the elbow.

Test: Athlete raises arm off the table, keeping the elbow straight.

Instructions: Lift your arm as high as you can. Hold it. Don't let me push it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available range and holds against maximal resistance.

Grade 4 = Completes available range but yields against strong

Grade 3 = Completes available range with no additional resistance.

**Shoulder Abduction**

Position: High sitting with arm at side and elbow slightly flexed.

Classifier: Stand behind Athlete. Hand giving resistance is contoured over arm just above the elbow.

Test: Athlete abducts arm to 90 degrees.

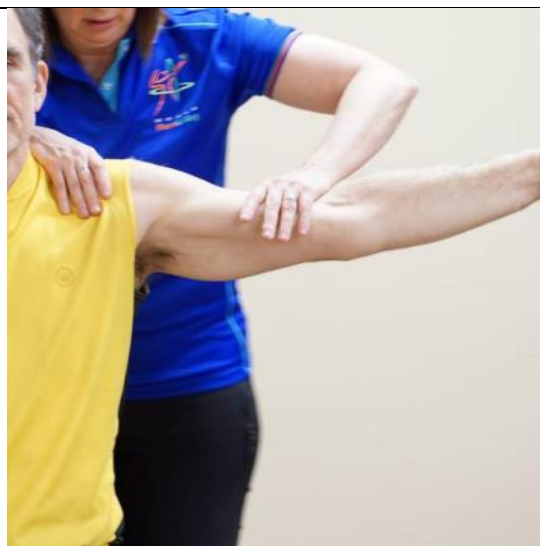
Instruction: Lift your arm out to the side to shoulder level. Hold it. Don't let me push it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Holds end test position against maximal downward resistance.

Grade 4 = Holds end test position against strong to moderate downward resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes range of motion to 9- degrees with no manual resistance.



Shoulder Adduction

Position: Supine lying; Shoulder at 90 degrees and elbow in 90 degrees flexion

Classifier: Stand on side of shoulder to be tested. Hand used for resistance is contoured around the elbow or distal humerus. The other hand can stabilize the shoulder.

Test: Motion begins in abduction and moves diagonally down and in toward the opposite hip.

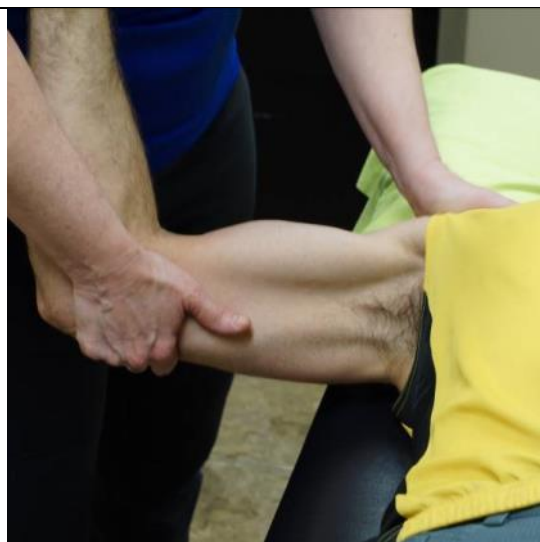
Instructions: Move your arm down and across your body. Hold it. Don't let me pull it back.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available ROM and takes maximal resistance.

Grade 4 = Completes available range of motion and takes strong to moderate resistance, but muscle exhibits some "give" at end.

Grade 3 = Completes available range of motion with no resistance



Elbow Flexion

Position: High sitting with arms at sides, forearm in mid-position:

Classifier: Stand in front of Athlete toward the test side. Hand giving resistance is contoured over the flexor surface of the forearm proximal to the wrist. The other hand applies counterforce by cupping the palm over the anterior superior surface of the shoulder.

Test: Athlete flexes elbow through ROM.

Instruction: Bend your elbow. Hold it. Don't let me pull it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available range and holds firmly against maximal resistance.

Grade 4 = Completes available range against strong to moderate resistance, but the end point may not be firm.

Grade 3 = Completes available range but unable to hold against any resistance.



Elbow Extension

Position: High sitting with shoulder in full flexion above head

Classifier: In front of Athlete toward test side. Hand giving resistance is contoured over the dorsal surface of the forearm proximal to the wrist. The other hand applies counterforce by cupping the palm over the distal humerus.

Test: Athlete extends elbow through full ROM.

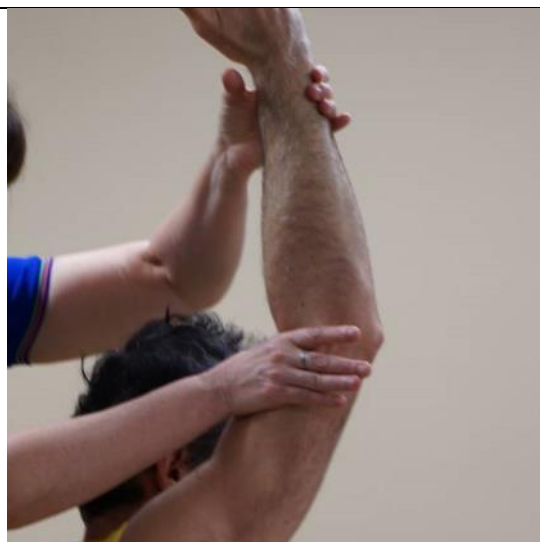
Instruction: Straighten your elbow. Hold it and don't let me bend it.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available range and holds firmly against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Completes available range against strong resistance, but there is a "give" to the resistance at endrange.

Grade 3 = Completes available range but is unable to hold against any resistance.



NOTE: if Athlete cannot get arm in full overhead position, alternative test position is prone lying with forearm over edge of table.

Forearm Supination

Position: High Sitting; arm at side and elbow flexed to 90 degrees and in pronation

Classifier: Stands at side or in front of Athlete. One hand supports the elbow. For resistance grasp the forearm on the volar surface at the wrist.

Test: Athlete begins in pronation and supinates the forearm until the palm faces the ceiling. Classifier resists motion in the direction of pronation.

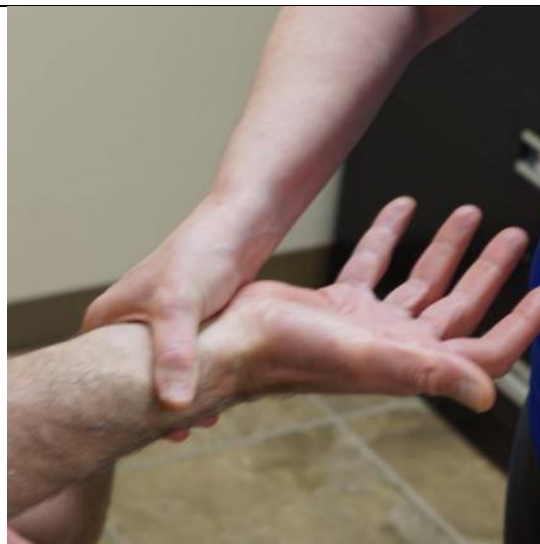
Instruction; Turn your palm up. Hold it. Don't let me turn it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available range of motion and holds against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Complete ROM against strong to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes available ROM without resistance.



Forearm Pronation

Position: High Sitting; arm at side and elbow flexed to 90 degrees and in supination

Classifier: Stands at side or in front of Athlete. One hand supports the elbow. For resistance grasp the forearm on the dorsal surface at the wrist.

Test: Athlete begins in supination and pronates the forearm until the palm faces the floor. Classifier resists motion in the direction of supination.

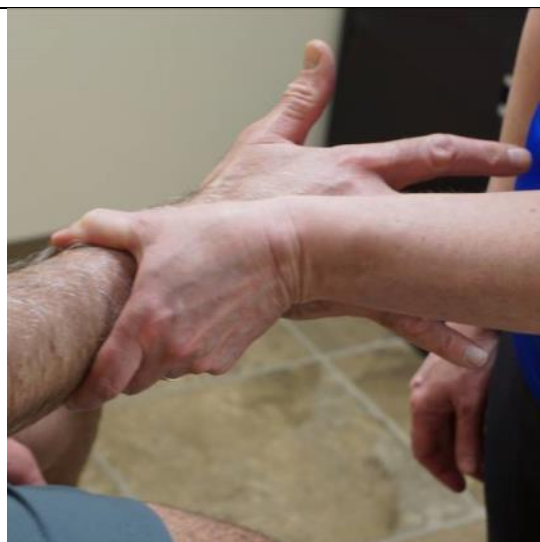
Instruction; Turn your palm down. Hold it. Don't let me turn it up.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available range of motion and holds against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Complete ROM against strong to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes available ROM without resistance.



Wrist Flexion (volar flexion)

Position: Sitting. Elbow is flexed to 90 degrees. Forearm is supinated. Wrist is in neutral position or slightly extended.

Classifier: One hand supports the Athlete's forearm under the wrist. Manual Resistance is applied over the MC heads on palmar surface of the hand

Test: Athlete flexes the wrist, keeping the digits and thumb relaxed.

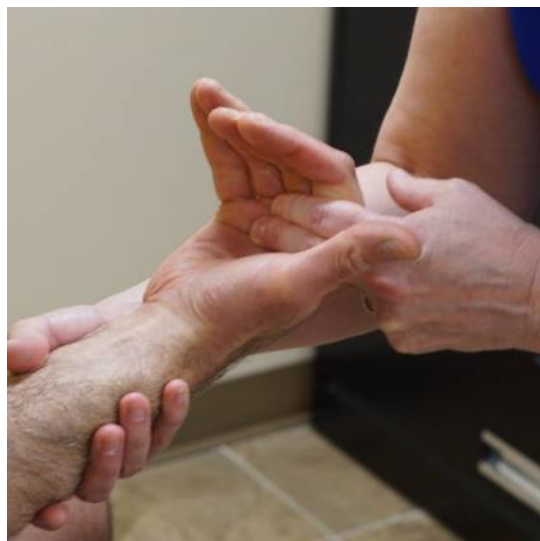
Instruction: Bend your wrist(s). Hold it. Don't let me bend it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available wrist flexion ROM and holds against maximal resistance.

Grade 4 = Completes available wrist flexion ROM and holds against strong to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes available wrist flexion ROM but is unable to hold against any resistance.



Wrist Extension (dorsiflexion)

Position: Sitting. Elbow is flexed to 90 degrees. Forearm is pronated. Wrist is in neutral position.

Classifier: Sit or stand at a diagonal in front of Athlete. The hand used for resistance is placed over the dorsal surface of the metacarpal heads.

Test: Athlete extends the wrist straight up through the full available range. Do not permit extension of the fingers.

Instruction: Bring your wrist up. Hold it. Don't let me push it down.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available wrist extension ROM and holds against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Completes available wrist extension ROM and holds against strong to moderate resistance

Grade 3 = Completes available wrist extension ROM but is unable to hold against any resistance.



Finger 2-5 Flexion

Position: Sitting with forearm supinated and wrist not flexed beyond neutral. All IP joints are flexed.

Classifier: Resistance is applied on the palmar surface of the phalanges to all fingers at once as a whole group

Test: Athlete flexes the MCP and IP joints of digits 2-5

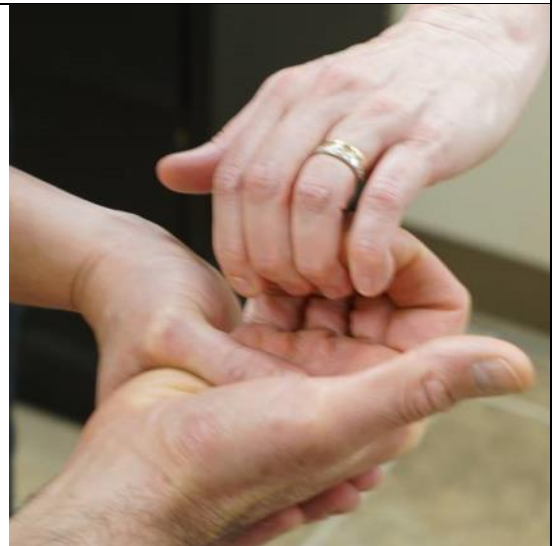
Instruction: Curl your fingers toward your palm. Hold them. Don't let me straighten them out.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes available ROM and can hold against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Completes available ROM and can hold against strong to moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Completes available ROM without resistance.



Finger 2-5 Extension

Position: Sitting with forearm pronated and wrist not extended beyond neutral.

Classifier: Resistance is applied to dorsal surface of all fingers at once.

Test: Athlete extends all fingers simultaneously

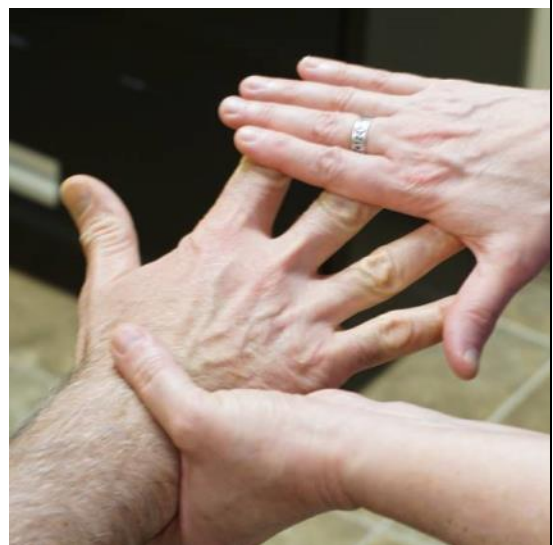
Instruction: Bend your fingers back. Hold them. Don't let me bend them.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes ROM against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Completes ROM against moderate resistance

Grade 3 = Completes ROM without resistance.



Thumb Opposition

Position: Sitting with forearm in supination, wrist in neutral.

Classifier: stabilizes hand by placing the dorsal aspect of his/her fingers on the palmar aspect of the Athlete's fingers, and the same with the thumb. Resistance is applied to the palmar side of the thumb in the direction of extension.

Test: The Athlete actively flexes the thumb toward the little finger.

Instruction: Bring your thumb to your little finger and touch the two pads, forming the letter "O" with your thumb and little finger.

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes ROM against maximal resistance

Grade 4 = Completes ROM against moderate resistance.

Grade 3 = Moves thumb and 5th digit through full ROM without resistance



Thumb Extension

Position: Sitting with elbow flexed, forearm in midposition, and wrist neutral with thumb extended.

Classifier: Resistance is applied to the dorsal surface of the thumb in the direction of flexion.

Test: Athlete extends the IP joint of the thumb

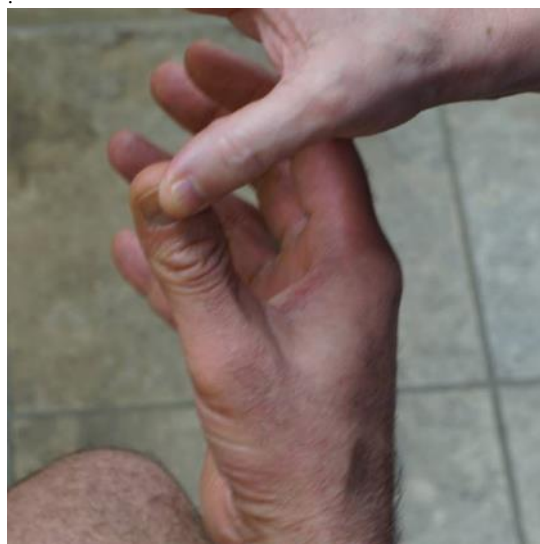
Instruction: Straighten the end of your thumb. Hold it. Don't let me bend it down

Scoring:

Grade 5 = Completes full range of motion against maximal resistance.

Grade 4 = difference between grades 5 and 4 is based on comparison with normal hand

Grade 3 = Completes full range of motion with no resistance.



- 4.2.2.2 Muscle wasting –limb girth measurements may assist to verify the presence of impaired muscle power.

4.2.3 Impaired Passive Range of Motion (PROM)

- 4.2.3.1 Unless otherwise indicated, PROM is assessed using a goniometer to measure relevant joint angles using the protocols described by Clarkson – “Musculoskeletal Assessment” (2000) in the WPV recommended test position. [Note: Classifiers have the discretion to use alternative test positions to confirm findings or if unable to achieve accurate measurements using the recommended test position]. The presence of a loss of PROM is present when any reduced PROM is measurable compared to the opposite uninvolved side or to the range noted on the normal PROM charts.
- 4.2.3.2 In brief, measurement of PROM requires the Athlete to relax completely while the Classifier moves the joint of interest through the available range. The Athlete should be relaxed and not attempting voluntary movement during the test. *Classifier must passively stabilize both sides of joint being assessed to evaluate PROM.*
- 4.2.3.3 Accurate endfeel assessment as described by Clarkson as the (normal or abnormal) sensation transmitted to the Classifier’s hands at the extreme end of the PROM must be achieved and documented on evaluation form. (one Classifier may be required to measure while other Classifier maintains limb segments at end of PROM). If PROM is limited, the examiner must determine that the PROM endpoint reached during testing is limited due to a passive physical limit and not other factors such as active resistance, pain, muscle spasm, etc. The reason for the limitation must be documented.
- 4.2.3.4 Measurements of greater than 5 degrees difference between Classifiers shall require a second round of measurements. If still not within 5 degrees of each other, a different testing position shall be used.



Table 1 - 6:

Normal PROM Chart (Clarkson, 2000)			
Lower Limb		Upper Limb	
Hip Flexion	120	Shoulder Flexion	180
Hip Extension	30	Shoulder Extension	60
Hip Abduction	45	Shoulder Abduction	180
Hip Adduction	30	Shoulder Adduction	0

Knee Flexion	135	Elbow Flexion	150
Knee Extension	0	Elbow Extension	0
Ankle Dorsiflexion	20	Forearm Supination	80
Ankle Plantarflexion	45	Forearm Pronation	80
		Wrist Flexion	80
		Wrist Extension	70

Reference: Clarkson HM: Joint Range of Motion & Manual Muscle Strength. 2nd Ed. 2000.

Table 1 - 7: Lower Limb PROM Testing

<p>Hip Flexion</p> <p>Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete is supine Stabilize pelvis to prevent rotation Flex Hip <p>Goniometer Positioning:</p> <p><u>Axis</u>: Greater Trochanter of femur</p> <p><u>Stationary Arm</u> – Parallel to the midaxillary line of the trunk</p> <p><u>Moving Arm</u> – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the femur, pointing toward the Lateral Epicondyle</p>	
<p>Hip Extension</p> <p>Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete is prone Stabilize pelvis to prevent rotation Extend Hip <p>Goniometer Positioning:</p> <p><u>Axis</u>: Greater Trochanter of femur</p> <p><u>Stationary Arm</u> – Parallel to the midaxillary line of the trunk</p> <p><u>Moving Arm</u> – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the femur, pointing toward the lateral epicondyle.</p>	

Hip Abduction

Position:

Athlete is supine

Stabilize pelvis to prevent tilting

Abduct Hip

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: Anterior Superior Iliac Spine (ASIS)

Stationary Arm – Along a line between the two ASISs.

Moving Arm –Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the Femur



Hip Adduction

Position:

Athlete is supine; non-test hip is abducted or fully flexed. Adduction ROM to be measured on the tested side.

Stabilize pelvis to prevent tilting

Adduct Hip

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: Anterior Superior Iliac Spine (ASIS) on the side being measured

Stationary Arm – Along a line between the two ASISs.

Moving Arm –Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the femur.

In the start position described, the goniometer will indicate 90 degrees. This is recorded as 0 degrees. For example, if the goniometer reads 90 degrees at the start position for hip adduction and 105 degrees at the end position, hip adduction PROM would be 15 degrees.



Knee Flexion

Position:

Athlete is supine

Flex Knee and Hip up toward chest

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: Lateral Epicondyle of Femur

Stationary Arm – Aligned with Greater Trochanter (Parallel to line of Femur)

Moving Arm – Parallel to line of Fibula (Aligned with Lateral Malleolus)



Knee Extension

Position:

Athlete is supine

Knee relaxed to straight position

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: Lateral Epicondyle of Femur

Stationary Arm – Aligned with Greater Trochanter (Parallel to line of Femur)

Moving Arm – Parallel to line of Fibula (Aligned with Lateral Malleolus)



Ankle Dorsiflexion

Position:

Athlete is sitting or supine with knee flexed with foot relaxed (no tension in calf).

Dorsiflex Ankle (Pushing through ankle joint)

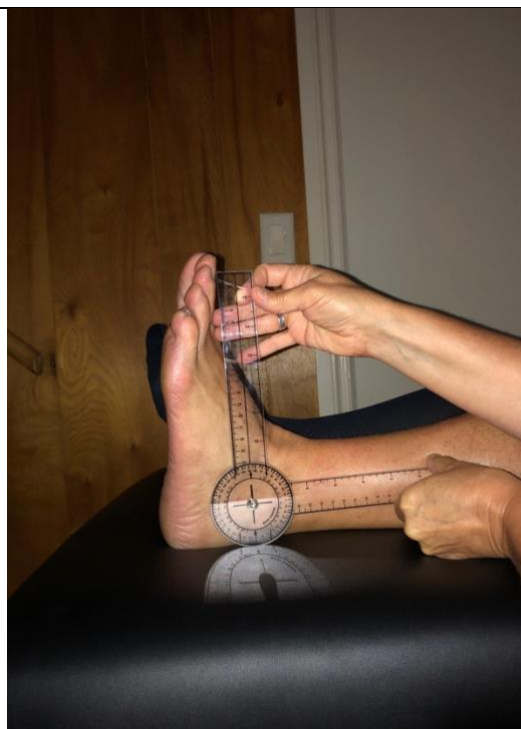
Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: 1.5 cm below lateral malleolus

Stationary Arm – Line of Fibula

Moving Arm – Line of Fifth MT

For Standing Volleyball, alternate test can be standing with knee semi-flexed (Measure angle between lower leg (line of fibula) and floor (line of Fifth MT))



Ankle Plantarflexion

Position:

Athlete is long sitting or supine

Plantarflex Ankle

Goniometer Positioning:



Axis: 1.5 cm below lateral malleolus

Stationary Arm – Line of Fibula

Moving Arm – Line of Fifth MT



Table 1 - 8: Upper Limb PROM Testing

<p>Shoulder Flexion</p> <p>Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete Supine Flatten Lumbar Spine Avoid Abduction, Adduction or Rotation Flex Shoulder <p>Goniometer Positioning:</p> <p><u>Axis</u>: Lateral aspect of the centre of the Humeral head – Approx 2.5 cm inferior to lateral aspect of acromion</p> <p><u>Stationary Arm</u> – Parallel to lateral midline of Trunk</p> <p><u>Moving Arm</u> – Parallel to Longitudinal Axis of Humerus. Use Lat Epicondyle as bony landmark</p>	
<p>Shoulder Extension</p> <p>Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete Sitting Avoid Abduction, Adduction or Rotation Extend Shoulder <p>Goniometer Positioning:</p> <p><u>Axis</u>: Lateral aspect of centre of Humeral head – Approx 2.5 cm inferior to acromion process</p> <p><u>Stationary Arm</u> – Parallel to lateral midline of Trunk</p> <p><u>Moving Arm</u> – Parallel to Longitudinal Axis of Humerus. Use Lat Epicondyle as bony landmark</p>	

Shoulder Abduction

Position:

- Athlete Supine
- Flatten Lumbar Spine
- Shoulder Externally Rotated
- Abduct Shoulder

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: midpoint of the anterior or posterior aspect of the glenohumeral joint, about 1.3 cm inferior and lateral to the coracoid process.

Stationary Arm – Parallel to Sternum

Moving Arm – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the Humerus



Shoulder Adduction

Position:

- Athlete Supine
- Adduct Shoulder

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: On top of acromion process

Stationary Arm – Perpendicular to the trunk

Moving Arm – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the humerus



Elbow Flexion

Position:

- Athlete Supine, Sitting or Standing
- Shoulder Neutral (Arm at side)
- Forearm Supinated
- Flex Elbow

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: Lateral Epicondyle of Humerus

Stationary Arm – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the humerus (Pointing toward tip of Acromion Process)

Moving Arm – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the radius, pointing toward the styloid process of the Radius



Elbow Extension

Position:

- Athlete Supine or Sitting or Standing
- Shoulder Neutral (Arm at side)
- Forearm Supinated
- Extend Elbow

Goniometer Positioning:

Axis: Lateral Epicondyle of Humerus

Stationary Arm – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the humerus (Pointing toward tip of Acromion Process)

Moving Arm – Parallel to the longitudinal axis of the radius, pointing toward the styloid process of the Radius



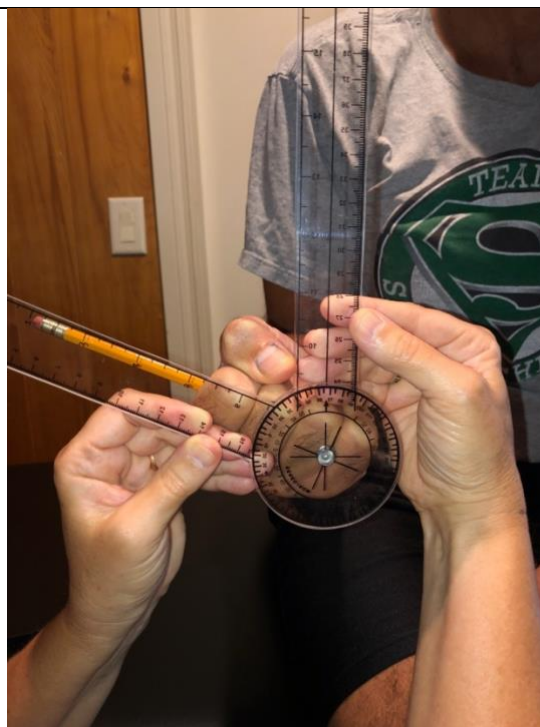
Forearm Supination

Position:

- Athlete Sitting
- Elbow at side and flexed to 90 degrees
- Pencil can be held in tightly closed fist with forearm in neutral Position
- Supinate forearm to end position

Goniometer Positioning:

- Axis: Over head of third metacarpal
- Stationary Arm – Perpendicular to the Floor
- Moving Arm – Parallel to the Pencil



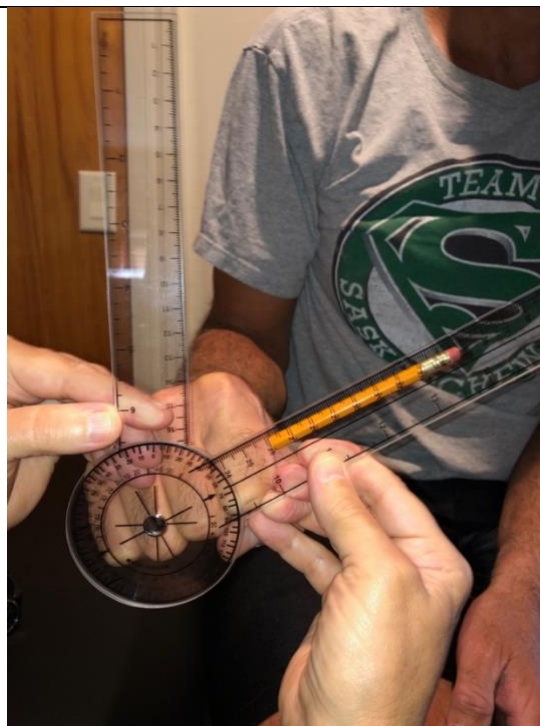
Forearm Pronation


Position:

- Athlete Sitting
- Elbow at side and flexed to 90 degrees with forearm in mid position
- Pencil can be held in tightly closed fist with forearm in neutral position
- Pronate forearm to end position

Goniometer Positioning:

- Axis: over head of third metacarpal
- Stationary Arm – Perpendicular to the Floor
- Moving Arm – Parallel to the Pencil



<p>Wrist Flexion (volar flexion)</p> <p>Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete Sitting Forearm stabilized on table Flex wrist (fingers relaxed) <p>Goniometer Positioning:</p> <p><u>Axis</u>: Ulnar Styloid Process</p> <p><u>Stationary Arm</u> – Forearm – Line from Ulnar Styloid to lateral epicondyle of humerus (parallel to the longitudinal axis of ulna)</p> <p><u>Moving Arm</u> – Parallel to longitudinal axis of 5th Metacarpal</p>	
<p>Wrist Extension (dorsiflexion)</p> <p>Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athlete Sitting Forearm stabilized on table Extend wrist (fingers relaxed) <p>Goniometer Positioning:</p> <p><u>Axis</u>: Ulnar Styloid Process</p> <p><u>Stationary Arm</u> – Forearm – Line from Ulnar Styloid to lateral epicondyle of humerus (parallel to longitudinal axis of ulna)</p> <p><u>Moving Arm</u> – Parallel to longitudinal axis of 5th Metacarpal</p>	

4.2.4 Coordination Impairments – Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis

Hypertonia

Hypertonia is defined as increased muscle tone which is caused by central nervous system impairment, which results in an increase in muscle tension that may be velocity- dependent and/or a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

One of the following types of hypertonia must be clearly clinically detectable:

Spastic hypertonia: Is defined as a velocity-dependent resistance to passive movement with a clasp-knife type of resistance. Clasp-knife resistance is resistance that is initially high and followed by a sudden relaxation. Velocity dependence increases as the speed of the passive movement increases, the resistance becomes greater and starts earlier in the range.

Spastic hypertonicity tends to predominate in the antigravity muscles particularly the flexors of the arms and extensors of the legs and may affect certain parts of the body more than others. In classification, testing for Spastic hypertonicity involves rapid, passive movement through the principal ranges of movement at the wrist, elbow, shoulder, ankle, knee or hip.

When testing for Spastic hypertonicity at the ankle or wrist, clonus may be elicited. Clonus is rapid, involuntary alternation of muscle contraction and relaxation and typically occurs in the ankle plantar flexors in response to rapid, passive dorsiflexion or the wrist flexors in response to rapid, passive wrist extension.

Rigidity: Is defined as a heightened resistance to passive movement of a limb that is independent of the velocity of stretch and relatively uniform throughout the range of motion of that limb. The uniform resistance is often referred to as 'lead pipe' type of resistance. Usually has a predominant pattern with a flexor pattern being more common.

Dystonia: Is resistance to passive movement that may be focal (affecting muscles of one limb or joint) or general (affecting the whole body). Contractions are powerful and sustained and cause twisting or writhing of the affected areas. *The pattern is highly variable – contractions may be fast or slow; painful or not; and the direction of greatest resistance may change regularly (e.g., a limb may move regularly from an extreme flexion pattern to an extreme extension pattern).*

As the description indicates, Dystonia may equally be classified as a type of Hypertonia OR a type of involuntary movement pattern. An Athlete who does not have one of the three types of Hypertonia – Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia – is not eligible.

4.2.4.1 Verifying presence of Hypertonia - The Classification Panel should be satisfied that the resistance to passive lengthening of the muscle is due to central nervous system impairment and the following signs may be useful in this regard:

- (a) Presence of non-damping clonus on the side on which the tone is increased (at least 4 beats);
- (b) Abnormally brisk reflexes in the limb in which the tone is increased (hyper-reflexia).

- (c) Positive Babinski on the side in which the tone is increased;
- (d) Mild atrophy in the limb in which the tone is increased

4.2.4.2 Ashworth scale – Spasticity grades used in the World ParaVolley Classification Rules refer to the Ashworth scale:

- (a) Grade 0: No increase in tone
- (b) Grade 1: Slight increase in tone giving a “catch” when the limb is flexed or extended
- (c) Grade 2: More marked increase in tone, but limb is easily flexed or extended.
- (d) Grade 3: Considerable increase in tone with passive movement difficult
- (e) Grade 4: Limb rigid in flexion or extension.

[NOTE: Further assessment measures being considered for future development of EI/MIC Coordination Assessment, e.g. Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale.]

Motor Ataxia

Motor ataxia refers to limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement. Motor ataxias most frequently result from malformation or damage to the cerebellum and are often associated with hypotonia. Motor ataxias are poorly compensated for by visual input. When evaluating an Athlete, the Classification Panel should be satisfied that the movement is demonstrable and clearly evident during classification and that the observed ataxia is due to motor system dysfunction as described.

4.2.4.3 Tests that may be useful for verifying the presence of ataxia include but are not limited to:

- (a) Finger-to-nose test (Athlete touching own nose from the crucifix position)
- (b) Finger-to-finger test (Classifier presents their index finger and asks the Athlete to touch it with their own index finger).

- (c) Fast alternating hand movements: (Athlete is asked to perform 10 cycles of repetitive alternation of pro and supinations of the hand on their thigh as fast and as precise as possible).
- (d) Toe-to-finger test (Classifier presents their index finger and asks the Athlete to touch it with his/her toe);
- (e) Heel-shin test (instruction is given to draw the heel of one leg along the length of the contralateral shin, from ankle to knee and then in the reverse direction)
- (f) Tandem walk
- (g) Gait.

[NOTE: Further assessment measures being considered for future development of EI/MIC Coordination Assessment, e.g. SARA Assessment Scale.]

Dyskinesia

Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea) refers to involuntary movements that interfere with voluntary movements. Athetosis refers to unwanted movement and posturing resulting from damage to motor control centres of the brain, most frequently the basal ganglia. When evaluating an Athlete, the Classification Panel should satisfy itself that athetosis is clearly evident and that it is neurological in origin.

- 4.2.4.4 Clearly evident athetosis is unwanted movement and posturing that is characteristically athetoid and is observable as at least one of the following:
 - (a) Involuntary movement of the fingers or upper extremities despite the Athlete trying to remain still;
 - (b) Involuntary movement of the toes or lower extremities despite the Athlete trying to remain still;
 - (c) Inability to hold the body still – swaying of the body. Swaying should not be due to other neurological deficits such as vestibular or proprioceptive impairments and therefore should not be exacerbated by closing of the eyes;

- (d) Characteristic athetoid posturing of limbs and/or trunk;
- (e) The Athlete will not be eligible if athetoid movements of the face are the sole impairment.

5. Minimum Impairment Criteria.

- 5.1 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) defines how severe an Athlete's impairment must be to participate in Sitting Volleyball.
- 5.2 World ParaVolley has described Minimum Impairment Criteria based on the presence of a permanent eligible physical impairment arising from a verified underlying health condition (UHC) that (when considered without aids or prosthetics) alters the biomechanical execution of lower and/or upper extremity actions required to play indoor standing volleyball, such as multidirectional movements, jumping, or controlling the ball in a way that is demonstrable and will adversely affect performance, i.e. meets the Minimal Impairment Criteria as set by World ParaVolley.

[Comment: "Eligible Physical Impairment" includes only the Eligible Impairments recognized by World ParaVolley].

5.3 Minimum Impairment Criteria for Sport Discipline of Sitting Volleyball

5.3.1 Limb Deficiency

Limb deficiency may result from amputation (e.g. acquired due to trauma or diseases such as bone cancer), dysmelia, which is defined as a congenital abnormality characterized by missing or foreshortened extremities, or limb length discrepancy. The criteria below may be described as:

- 5.3.1.1 A description of amputation meeting minimum impairment criteria
- 5.3.1.2 A description of dysmelia meeting minimum impairment criteria
- 5.3.1.3 A description of limb length difference, expressed as a percentage.

Table 1 - 9:Limb Deficiency – Lower Limb

Impairment Type	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Limb Deficiency	Complete unilateral or bilateral Lisfranc amputation; or Equivalent congenital limb deficiency Unilateral dysmelia in which the length of the affected foot is less than or equal to 50% of the length of the unaffected foot as measured on the unaffected foot from the tip of the great toe to the posterior aspect of the calcaneus (this description equates closely to a Lisfranc's amputation).

	For Limb length difference, the <u>difference in length</u> between right and left legs must be 7% or more, as measured from the ASIS to the most inferior (caudal) point of the medial malleolus.
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Table 1 - 10: Limb Deficiency – Upper Limb

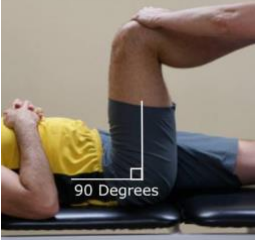

Impairment Type	Minimum Impairment Criteria
Limb Deficiency	<p>Unilateral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unilateral Amputation of any 4 digits (thumb or fingers) on one hand at MCP joint • Unilateral Amputation of Thumb and 2 adjacent fingers (index and long) at MCP joint • Or equivalent congenital limb deficiency unilateral dysmelia <p>Bilateral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral amputation of thumbs • Bilateral amputation of index and long fingers • Bilateral amputation of thumbs and index fingers <p>For limb length difference, the <u>difference in length</u> between right and left arms must be 25% or more, as measured from the acromion to the most distal point of the affected limb.</p>

5.3.2 Impaired Passive Range of Movement (PROM)

Unless otherwise indicated, PROM should be assessed using the protocols described by Clarkson. In brief, measurement of PROM requires the Athlete to relax completely while the Classifier moves the joint of interest through the available range. The Athlete should be relaxed and not attempting voluntary movement during these tests (reference).


The Minimum Impairment Criteria for impaired PROM in the lower limbs is met if one lower limb meets the following criteria:


Table 1 - 11: Impaired PROM Lower Limb

Joint	Minimum Impairment Criteria Impaired Passive Range of Motion (PROM) Lower Limb	
HIP	flexion deficit of ≥ 30 degrees. With neutral hip position being 0° , the normal anatomical range of hip flexion is 120° (6). A hip flexion deficit of ≥ 30 degrees criterion must be met (max hip flexion to 90° from 0°). 90 degrees is the maximum amount of hip flexion permissible in order to meet this criterion.	
KNEE	Knee flexion deficit of $\geq 45^\circ$. Normal anatomical range of motion of the knee is from the neutral position of 0° (straight knee) to 135° knee flexion. The maximum amount of knee flexion ROM that is permissible in order to meet this criterion is 90° . Alternate Test Position in Sitting if Hip flexion Contracture Present. The figure shows the alternate test position with a knee flexion deficit of $\geq 45^\circ$ (max knee flexion is 90°).	
ANKLE	Ankylosis in one ankle ($\leq 5^\circ$ combined Ankle dorsi / plantar flexion available). A 5° arc of motion within the anatomical ROM is the maximum PROM is that is permissible in order to meet this criterion. Normal anatomical PROM is 20° dorsiflexion to 45° plantar flexion	

The Minimum Impairment Criteria for impaired PROM in the upper limbs is met if one upper limb meets the following criteria:

Table 1 - 12: Impaired PROM Upper Limb

Joint	Minimum Impairment Criteria Impaired PROM Upper limb	
SHOULDER	Shoulder abduction or flexion $\leq 90^\circ$. Test is conducted with Athlete in supine. With the start position of 0° (arm by the side), the figure shows 90° of abduction and flexion, the maximum amount of PROM that is permissible in order to meet this criterion. The diagram does not illustrate the full anatomical PROM of the shoulder from 0-180 degrees.	 <p style="text-align: right;">Abduction</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Flexion</p>

ELBOW	Elbow extension deficit of $\geq 45^\circ$. The normal passive range of motion (PROM) of elbow extension is from full elbow flexion (150°) to full elbow extension of 0° (elbow straight). The lines show an extension deficit of 45° from the straight elbow position.	
WRIST	Wrist ankylosed in any position. From neutral 0 degree position of the wrist with the hand in line with the forearm, Normal Passive Range of motion for the wrist is full wrist extension (70 degrees) and full wrist flexion (80 degrees). An Athlete with a wrist ankylosed (stiff or < 5 degree arc of motion) in any position is eligible.	
HAND	Fingers on one hand stiff/afunctional	

5.3.3 Impaired Muscle Power

Muscle power will be assessed according to the Daniels and Worthingham (D&W) scale published in 2007.

Athletes are eligible if they meet the following criteria:

Table 1 - 13: Impaired Muscle Power Lower Limb

Impairment Type	Minimum Impairment Criteria Impaired Muscle Power Lower Limb
Impaired Muscle Power-Lower Limb	Combined Loss of 7 Muscle points considering <u>both</u> lower limbs from the following movements considered and tested in the manual muscle testing of Appendix 1 – section 4 (normal score = 80) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip Flexion • Hip Extension • Hip Abduction • Hip Adduction • Knee Flexion • Knee Extension • Ankle Dorsiflexion • Ankle Plantarflexion

Table 1 - 14: Impaired Muscle Power Upper Limb

Impairment Type	Minimum Impairment Criteria Impaired Muscle Power Upper Limb
Impaired Muscle Power – Upper Limb	Shoulder flexion loss of 3 muscle points (muscle grade of two or less) in <u>one</u> arm. Loss of 3 muscle points in elbow extension (i.e., muscle grade of two or less) in one arm.

	<p>Combined loss of 15 muscle points in one upper limb from the following movements (normal score = 70 / one upper limb):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoulder Flexion • Shoulder Extension • Shoulder Abduction • Shoulder Adduction • Elbow Flexion • Elbow Extension • Forearm Supination • Forearm Pronation • Wrist Extension (Dorsiflexion) • Wrist Flexion (Volarflexion) • Fingers 2-5 Flexion • Fingers 2-5 Extension • Thumb Opposition • Thumb Extension
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5.3.4 **Coordination Impairments - Hypertonia**

- 5.3.4.1 For an Athlete to be eligible, one of the following types of Hypertonia must be clearly clinically detectable – Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia. Grade 1 on the Ashworth scale must be present at the wrist, elbow, or shoulder for the upper limb, or grade I at the ankle plus the knee or hip).
- 5.3.4.2 An Athlete who does not have one of the three types of Hypertonia – Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia – is not eligible.
- 5.3.4.3 The Classification Panel should be satisfied that the resistance to passive lengthening of the muscle is due to central nervous system impairment and the following signs may be useful in this regard:
- (a) Presence of non-damping clonus on the side on which the tone is increased; Clonus that lasts for 4 beats or more and which can be reliably reproduced during a single classification session (i.e., is non-damping clonus) is considered to indicate presence of Spastic hypertonicity that meets the MIC.
 - (b) Abnormally brisk reflexes in the limb in which the tone is increased;
 - (c) Mild atrophy in the limb in which the tone is increased;

(d) Positive Babinski on the side in which the tone is increased.

5.3.5 Coordination Impairments - Ataxia

When evaluating an Athlete the Classification Panel should be satisfied that the ataxic movement is demonstrable and clearly evident during classification and that the observed ataxia is due to motor nervous system dysfunction as described. Tests that may be useful for determining this include but are not limited to:

- 5.3.5.1 Finger-to-nose test (Athlete touching own nose from the crucifix position);
- 5.3.5.2 Finger-to-finger test (Classifier presents his/her index finger and asks the Athlete to touch it with his/her own index finger);
- 5.3.5.3 Toe-to-finger test (Classifier presents his/her index finger and asks the Athlete to touch it with his/her toe);
- 5.3.5.4 Heel shin test (i.e., draw the heel of one leg along the length of the contralateral shin, from ankle to knee and then in the reverse direction);
- 5.3.5.5 Tandem walk;
- 5.3.5.6 Gait.

5.3.6 Coordination Impairments – Dyskinesia

Panel should satisfy itself that Dyskinesia is clearly evident and that it is neurological in origin. Clearly evident Dyskinesia is unwanted movement and posturing that is characteristically athetoid and is observable as at least one of the following:

- 5.3.6.1 Involuntary movement of the fingers or upper extremities despite the Athlete trying to remain still;
- 5.3.6.2 Involuntary movement of the toes or lower extremities despite the Athlete trying to remain still;

- 5.3.6.3 Inability to hold the body still – swaying of the body. Swaying should not be due to other neurological deficits such as vestibular or proprioceptive impairments and therefore should not be exacerbated by closing of the eyes;
- 5.3.6.4 Characteristic athetoid posturing of limbs and/or trunk; The Athlete will not be eligible if athetoid movements of the face are the sole impairment.

6. Sport Classes

6.1 Stage 4 of the Classification Process involves designation of the appropriate Sport Class through the allocation to the Athlete of a Sport Class based on an assessment of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Sitting Volleyball (**Sport Class Assessment**).

6.2 World ParaVolley has 2 sport classes: VS1 and VS2.

6.2.1 Athletes in the Sport Class VS1

These Athletes have impairments that more significantly affect the core functions in sitting volleyball.

Table 1 - 15: Sport Class VS1

Impairment Type	Sport Class Profile
Limb Deficiency – Amputation, Limb Dysmelia, or Limb length Discrepancy	Through-ankle (no calcaneus) or more proximal amputation A Difference in length between right and left legs more than 32% (33% or more)
	Amputation of all five digits (4 fingers and a thumb) at MCP joints on one hand or more proximal amputation Amputation of Eight digits across both hands; or first three digits across both hands Arm length difference in which the length of the affected arm measured from acromion to most distal point of affected limb is shorter than the unaffected arm measurement by 33% or more
	Impaired Passive ROM
Impaired Passive ROM	Hip stiff (ankylosed) in any position Knee flexion is 45 degrees or less measured from full extension or stiff knee in any position (knee cannot be flexed beyond the 45 degree position, irregardless of any extension restriction).
	Shoulder Abduction and/or flexion not more than 90 degrees both sides Elbow extension deficit of $\geq 90^\circ$ (elbow cannot be extended beyond the 90 degree flexed

	<p>position) or Stiff (ankylosed) elbow in 90 degrees flexion or more</p> <p>Stiff (ankylosed) wrist in position below neutral to full flexion (volarflexion) i.e. $\leq 5^\circ$ arc of movement within the range of neutral to full flexion.</p>
Impaired Muscle Power	<p>Combined Total loss of 16 or more muscle points in both lower limbs</p>
	<p>Combined loss of 25 or more muscle points in one upper limb from the following movements in the manual muscle testing described in Appendix 1 – Section 4 (normal score = 70 points/one limb):</p> <p>Combined Total loss of 20 muscle points in shoulder tests in one upper limb, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoulder flexion • Shoulder extension • Shoulder Abduction • Shoulder Adduction
Hypertonia, Ataxia, Dyskinesia	<p>Class 7 or lower CP-ISRA</p> <p>e.g. Class 7: Athletes are hemiplegic and noticeable limp is often noticed. The dominant upper limb should have normal strength and movement. The affected upper limb is usually more apparent during activity, flat footed on affected side when running, often tilts head to one side during exertion.</p>

6.2.2 Athletes in Sport Class VS2

These Athletes have impairments that minimally affect the core functions in sitting volleyball.

Table 1 - 16: Sport Class VS2

Impairment Type	Sport Class Profile
Limb Deficiency – (Amputation, Limb Dysmelia or Limb length difference)	<p>Complete unilateral or bilateral Lisfranc amputation; or</p> <p>Unilateral dysmelia in which the length of the affected foot is less than or equal to 50% of the length of the unaffected foot as measured on the unaffected foot from the tip of the great toe to the posterior aspect of the calcaneus (this</p>

	<p>description equates closely to a Lisfranc's amputation).</p> <p>A difference in length between right and left legs of at least 7 % and less than 33%</p> <hr/> <p>Unilateral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unilateral Amputation of any 4 digits (thumb or fingers) on one hand at MCP joint • Unilateral Amputation of Thumb and 2 adjacent fingers (index and long) at MCP joint • Equivalent Unilateral dysmelia <p>Bilateral:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral amputation of thumbs • Bilateral amputation of index and long fingers <p>A difference in length between right and left arms of 25 - 32%</p>
Impaired Passive ROM	<p>Hip flexion deficit of ≥ 30 degrees i.e. 90 degrees is the maximum amount of hip flexion permissible in order to be in this sport class</p> <p>Knee flexion deficit of $\geq 45^\circ$ i.e. The maximum amount of knee flexion ROM that is permissible in order to meet this criterion is 90°.</p> <p>Ankylosis in one ankle ($\leq 5^\circ$ combined Ankle dorsi / plantar flexion available).</p> <hr/> <p>Shoulder abduction or flexion $\leq 90^\circ$ available in the range between 0° and 90° abduction or flexion. i.e. 90° abduction/ flexion is the maximum amount of PROM that is permissible in order to be in this sport class.</p> <p>Elbow extension deficit of $\geq 45^\circ$ i.e. loss of extension of last 45 degrees of elbow extension ROM</p> <p>Wrist stiff (ankylosed) in position between neutral to full extension (dorsiflexion) ($\leq 5^\circ$ arc of movement within this range of movement)</p> <p>Fingers on one hand stiff/afunctional</p>

Impaired Muscle Power	<p>Combined Loss of 7-15 Muscle points in both lower limbs from the following movements in the manual muscle testing described in Appendix 1 – Section 4 (normal score = 80)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip Flexion • Hip Extension • Hip Abduction • Hip Adduction • Knee Flexion • Knee Extension • Ankle Dorsiflexion • Ankle Plantarflexion
	<p>Shoulder flexion loss of 3 muscle grade points (muscle grade of two or less). See manual muscle test described in Appendix 1 – Section 4.</p> <p>Loss of 3 muscle grade points in elbow extension (i.e., muscle grade of two or less). See manual muscle test described in Appendix 1 – Section 4.</p> <p>Combined loss of 15-24 muscle points in one upper limb from the following movements in the manual muscle testing described in Appendix 1 – Section 4 (normal score = 70 points/one limb):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoulder Flexion • Shoulder Extension • Shoulder Abduction • Shoulder Adduction • Elbow Flexion • Elbow Extension • Forearm Supination • Forearm Pronation • Wrist Extension (Dorsiflexion) • Wrist Flexion (Volarflexion) • Fingers 2-5 Flexion • Fingers 2-5 Extension • Thumb Opposition • Thumb Extension
Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis	Class 8 CP-ISRA

7. Adaptive Equipment – Final Draft to be Approved & Inserted

World ParaVolley Adaptive & Protective Equipment Policy & Procedure (DRAFT)

Effective Date: [Insert Date]

Review Cycle: Biennial (every 2 years) by Classification & Technical Commission

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the rules, procedures, and standards for the use of adaptive and protective equipment in all WPV Covered competitions and all WPV-sanctioned competitions that award WPV ranking points. This policy seeks to ensure that the use of adaptive and protective equipment:

- Enhances, but does not unfairly advantage, Athlete performance.
 - Prioritizes Athlete safety and equipment integrity.
 - Complies with the principles of fair play and inclusivity.
 - Encourages innovation in accessible sport technologies while maintaining the integrity of the game.
-

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Athletes, coaches, teams, and National Federations participating in WPV-sanctioned events.
 - Technical officials, referees and Classifiers.
 - Manufacturers and developers of sport-specific adaptive equipment.
-

3. Definitions

- Adaptive Equipment (AE):** means any implement, apparatus, and/or technical aid adapted to the special needs of an Athlete and used ON COURT to reduce the impact of their physical impairment(s) and that is permitted by World Paravolley's rules; e.g. UL prosthesis, LL prosthesis for Beach ParaVolley, brace to stabilize flaccid limb
- Protective Equipment (PE):** Means equipment worn or used to reduce or eliminate potential injuries by protecting players from various hazards or forces. This includes but is not limited to such items as lower limb braces that limit ROM used to protect a joint.

- c) **Standard Equipment:** Equipment that can be used by all Athletes, regardless of impairment that are described in the [WPV Team Uniform Regulations](#).
- d) **Non-standard Equipment:** Equipment used by specific Athletes to accommodate their impairment or increase accessibility. For a non-exhaustive list of non-standard equipment examples, please see Appendix C of this policy.
-

4. General Principles

- **Equity & Fair Play:** Equipment must not provide Athletes with an advantage that exceeds the purpose of accommodation.
 - **Safety:** All equipment must meet safety standards to prevent injury to the user and others.
 - **Classification Compliance:** The use of any Adaptive Equipment will be considered in allocating the sport class to the Athlete. The use of any temporary or permanent Protective Equipment will not be considered in allocating the sport class to the Athlete unless the use of such Protective Equipment enhances or has the potential to enhance performance.
 - **Non-interference:** Adaptive equipment must not obstruct or interfere with the play of others.
 - **Innovation Support:** Reasonable requests for new adaptive technologies will be reviewed under a structured approval process.
-

5. Approval Process for Non-Standard Equipment

5.1 Application Procedure

The National Federation (on behalf of the Athlete) must submit:

- A completed **Adaptive/Protective Equipment Approval Request Form** (available at [WPV website](#)) for each Adaptive/Protective equipment that the Athlete wishes to use on court.
- 3 Photos and/or technical drawings (side view, front view and Athlete with equipment attached).
- For protective equipment only, written evidence of medical-based need (degrees of ROM limitation by orthoses must be specified) signed by a Doctor.

Applications must be submitted through the ParaVolley Sport Administration system (PVSAS) **at least 30 days before a competition.**

5.2 Evaluation Process

Prior to the Covered Competition, the Chief Classifier will review the team entry forms for Equipment designations ("E") for all Athletes, and new Equipment Approval Requests in PVSAS.

Equipment Approval Requests for:

- a) Athletes with Confirmed Sport Class Status - will be scheduled into an Equipment check at the Competition adjacent to the Team classification schedule.
 - b) Athletes with New or Review Sport Class Status – will have an equipment check during their Classification evaluation.
- The Initial Equipment check by the Medical Classifier will include:
 - a) Review of the Athlete’s UHC and resulting functional impairment
 - b) Short Interview to clearly understand the rationale for the use of AE/PE
 - c) Examination of the Equipment – the materials and function, presence of any sharp edges or issues for safety
 - d) Whether the use of AE/PE will impact classification (including Observation Assessment)
 - e) Measurement of dimensions in all planes if required.
 - f) Documentation of all of the above.

The equipment will be evaluated on:

- **Safety and durability** – must not pose a safety risk for player or other players
- **Impact on performance**
 - equipment must not reduce the impairment to the degree that it gives the Athlete an advantage beyond expected normal function, and
 - must also be “natural in type and extent” i.e. dimensions
- **Compatibility with classification**
 - the use of AE will be considered in allocating the sport class to the Athlete;
 - temporary or permanent use of PE will not be considered in allocating the sport class to the Athlete
 - whether the use of the PE will limit classification Observation Assessment and whether the use of the PE has pre-set joint mobility restrictions and that those restrictions are medically substantiated
- **Compliance with existing WPV rules**

At any time pre-Competition or during equipment check, the classification panel can seek further input from a Jury member (and WPV Medical Advisor or coaching commission representative as appropriate) to advise on safety, compliance with sport technical rules, or performance advantage through the use of the equipment.

5.3 Approval

- Following the Equipment check, the use of the AE/PE, if approved by Classification Personnel, shall be documented, and uploaded to PVSAS, for review by Jury Personnel at the Preliminary Inquiry.

- Athletes who have World ParaVolley - approved Equipment will have a designation "E" (using Equipment) designated on the final team entry forms at the Competition; and will have up-to-date equipment sets documented in PVSAS.

New or prototype equipment may be **conditionally approved** for competition use during one Competition, with monitoring and feedback collected for final evaluation.

6. Equipment Checks for Prior approved Equipment

- **Pre-Competition Checks:** National Federations must identify on the team entry form all Athletes that utilize AE/PE on court that are attending a Competition where this policy applies. The Jury will review against the information in PVSAS and check AE/PE at the Preliminary Inquiry for equipment used by Confirmed or Review status Athletes who have previously received approval for their equipment. If there is a change or modification in the equipment, the Jury will access the Classifiers to review the equipment. If the Jury are satisfied that the equipment is as described in PVSAS and meets other criteria listed above, they will note the approval in their records.
- **On-Site Inspections:** Officials (Jury, Referees and Classifiers) may inspect any adaptive equipment at any time during the Covered Competition to ensure the use of AE/PE on court is the same as the Equipment that was approved. An Equipment Check can be requested by the Jury following visual inspection at the Preliminary Inquiry or during the Competition by Classifiers or Jury members.

7. Non-Compliance

- Equipment found to be non-compliant may be disallowed or require modification before competition.
- Any equipment found to be non-compliant that is identified during a match will be handled by the Jury according to the Uniform Regulations, Rules of the Game Regulations, and this Adaptive Equipment Policy. It shall also be reported to the Chief Classifier (or Head of Classification) for Equipment Review at the earliest possible opportunity.
- National Federations with Athletes who:
 - a) fail to disclose that they use AE prior to use at a Covered Competition or use a different AE/PE than what was used during classification or equipment checks, or
 - b) fail to notify World ParaVolley of a change in type/size of AE/PE after being evaluated prior to using or attempting to use the AE/PE at a Covered Competition, or

c) who are otherwise in breach of these procedures

shall be given a written warning that will be documented in the Athlete's file in PVSAS.

- Additionally:
 - Any non-compliance may result in investigation in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.
 - Repeated infractions despite warnings or disallowance shall result in immediate removal of the player from the team roster and may result in financial sanctions.
-

8. Protest/Appeals

Athletes may protest denied equipment approvals through the **World ParaVolley Technical Protest Procedure**.

9. Responsibilities

Athletes & National Federations: Submit timely applications, maintain equipment, and follow regulations.

Coaches/Teams: Support Athletes in compliance and education.

Technical Officials: Oversee policy enforcement during Covered Competitions. Be familiar with PVSAS Equipment Module.

Classifiers/Jury: Equipment checks pre-Competition and monitoring during Covered Competitions.

WPV Board: Review and update this policy as needed.

10. Policy Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed every two years or as necessary to reflect changes in sport science, classification, and technological innovation. Review by the relevant Commissions (Technical, Sitting Rules of the Game, Athletes and Classification Commissions) is recommended prior to any significant policy changes.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Adaptive/Protective Equipment Request Approval Form

- Appendix B: WPV Approved Equipment Form
- Appendix C: Examples of Non-Standard Equipment

Contact

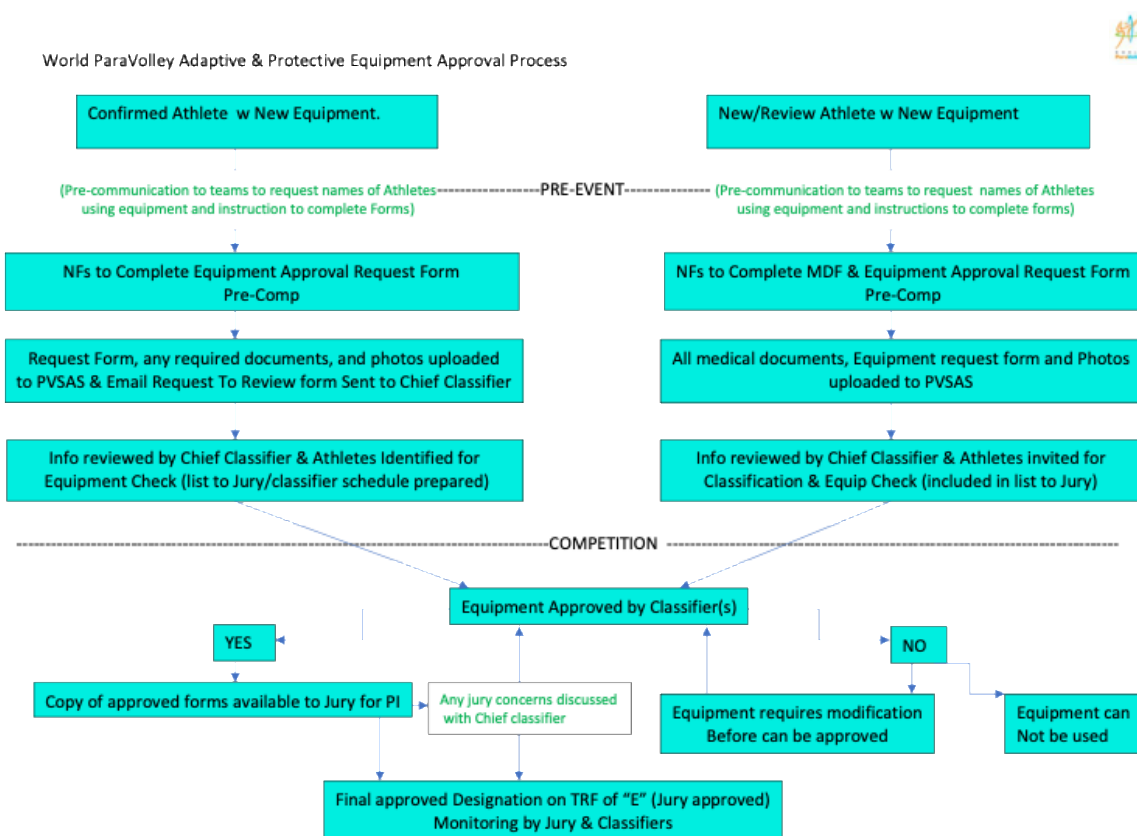
For inquiries or to submit equipment for review, contact:

World ParaVolley Classification Commission

Email: [classification@worldparavolley.org]

Website: www.worldparavolley.org

FLOW CHART OF EQUIPMENT APPROVALS



8. Observation Assessment

An Athlete shall be required to undertake an Observation Assessment (in competition) before allocating a final Sport Class and designating a final Sport Class Status to that Athlete. Exceptions to this are Athletes who play with clear limb deficiency impairments or limb length difference who are not required to undergo Observation Assessment. Observation Assessment is considered to be a formal part of the Sport Class Assessment unless the Classification Panel determines there is no possibility or risk of a change in sport class outcome following Evaluation.

Following the sport class physical assessment (Step 4a), Athletes requiring Observation Assessment (Step 4b) will undergo Observation Assessment on court during meaningful competition to confirm validity of their sport class.

Observation Assessment is used to verify the impact of Impairment on sport-specific activities to confirm the Sport Class outcome decision. This continuation of Athlete evaluation is also necessary to ensure the observed activities are not influenced by training, and skill.

Sport-specific activities must be observed in challenge conditions during meaningful game competition.

The sport-specific activities observed can include ball handling skills and court movement activities.

Following the Observation Assessment, if the results indicate the Athlete will change Sport Class from the provisionally allocated class, the Athlete must return to the Classification Panel for further physical assessment in order to confirm that the decision to change sport class results from the extent of the impairment, and is not related to skill, training and/or equipment. Impairment tests, such as manual muscle tests or limb measurements, may be repeated to clarify any discrepancies observed on court during Observation Assessment but not observed during the Sport Class Assessment. If there is no logical explanation, and there is no action that can bring explanation to the issue, the classification panel may need to suspend the Athlete Evaluation (CNC designation), and procedures outlined in Article 31 of the 2026 Classification Rules apply.

Observation Activities include:

A. Moving /Transitioning on Court

- Use of arms for propulsion
- Use of legs for propulsion and balance
- Transition movements ((diving and recovering, movements forward, backward and laterally in both directions)
- Trunk rotation and reach

B. Ball handling Skills

- Sitting Balance & stability
- Upper limb function – reach and block coverage, spiking/serving motion; bilateral use of upper limbs to set overhead and underhand pass



World ParaVolley Classification Player Observation Chart

4	3	2
5	6	1

Shirt No: _____

Position: _____

Volleyball Action	Observation in Competition
Above Shoulder (Sitting balance and Stability)	Serving
	Spike or tip ball
	Set / Volley
	Blocking
	Diving / Stretching
Below Shoulder	Receive or Pass (dig)
Mobility on Court Forward Backward (use of legs/arms, transition movements)	
Mobility of Court Side to Side (use of legs/arms, transition movements)	
Other Comments	

Classification Results

Physical Evaluation	Class: VS1 VS2	Status: OA	Reason:
Observation Assessment	VS1 VS2 NE	R - NAO R-FRD C CNC	
Final Classification	VS1 VS2 NE	R-NAO R - FRD C CNC	

I have been informed of my Final Sport Class and Status: _____ (Athlete Initials)

Classifier 1 Name: _____ **Classifier 2 Name:** _____

Classifiers Initials: _____ **Date & Time:** _____

Athlete Name: _____ Nation: _____

Figure 1 - 3: Observation Assessment Form

APPENDIX 2: DEFINITIONS

Terms used in the Classification Rules that begin with capital letters have the meanings set out below. Defined terms from the IPC Constitution are shown in underline. In the event of any inconsistency between a definition in underline below and a definition in the IPC Constitution, the version in the IPC Constitution will prevail.

Adaptive Equipment means any implement, apparatus, and/or technical aid adapted to the special needs of an Athlete to reduce the impact of their impairment(s) and that is permitted by World ParaVolley's rules.

Anonymised Data means data rendered in such a way that makes it impossible to identify the individual to whom the data relates, whether by the Classification Organisation Processing the data or by any other party.

Appeal has the meaning given to that term in Article 44.1.

Appeal Body means the IPC Board of Appeal for Classification (BAC).

Athlete means any Athlete who has participated in any way in the Classification process, who has taken any step to engage in that process (for example by providing Diagnostic Information to their National Federation for the purposes of undergoing Classification), and/or who has entered or participated in any Covered Competition.

Athlete Support Person means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent, or any other person working with, treating, and/or assisting an Athlete.

BAC means the Board of Appeal of Classification, defined below.

Best Practice Classification has the meaning given to that term in Article 70.

Board of Appeal of Classification means the body established by the IPC to hear and determine classification appeals.

Certification has the meaning given to it in Article 63.1, i.e., the process by which World ParaVolley assesses and confirms that a Classifier has met the Classifier competencies. The words 'Certify' and 'Certified' will be interpreted accordingly.

Chief Classifier means a Classifier appointed by World ParaVolley to direct, administer, co-ordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Classification opportunity according to the Classification Rules.

Classification means (i) the determination of which Athletes are eligible to compete in a particular sport discipline of World ParaVolley; and (ii) the grouping of eligible Athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the relevant sport discipline, further to the process set out in Part IV of Chapter 2.

Classification Data means Personal Information, including Sensitive Personal Information, relating to an Athlete, Athlete Support Person, other Participant, Classification Personnel, and others involved in World ParaVolley or Classification Processed in connection with Classification, or other purposes related to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

Classification Master List has the meaning given to that term in Article 35.1.

Classification Organisation means any organisation (including, for the avoidance of doubt, World ParaVolley and the IPC) that is responsible for any aspect of Classification and/or holds Classification Data pursuant to the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

Classification Panel means a specified number of Classifiers, appointed by World ParaVolley to conduct Evaluation Sessions and determine an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel means Persons acting with the authority of World ParaVolley in relation to Classification, for example Classifiers and administrative officers.

Classification Personnel Code of Conduct means the behavioural and ethical standards for Classification Personnel specified by World ParaVolley, as further detailed in Article 65.

Classification Research means any systematic scientific evaluation, analysis, or investigation, which aims to enhance or understand a Para sport classification system or systems.

Classification Rules means these Classification rules, as may be amended from time to time.

Classifier means a person authorised as an official and certified by World ParaVolley to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

Combined Class Events means events where Athletes with different Sport Classes compete against each other, in accordance with Article 37.

Competition means a series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

Compliance means the implementation of rules, regulations, policies, and processes that adhere to the text, spirit, and intent of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards.

Coordination Impairment has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

Covered Competition has the meaning given to that term in Article 3.1.

Data Protection Laws means all data protection and privacy laws and regulations applicable to World ParaVolley.

Diagnostic Information means medical records and/or any other documentation that enables World ParaVolley to assess the existence or otherwise of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment.

Dyskinesia has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

Effective Date has the meaning given to that term in Article 1.2.

Eligible Impairment means an impairment that is Permanent and that falls within one of the categories catered for by World ParaVolley as set out in Appendix 1 – Section 2.

Eligible Impairment Assessment means stage 2 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1.

Evaluation Session means stages 2, 3 and 4 of the Classification process, i.e., the Eligible Impairment Assessment, MIC Assessment, and allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status, as further defined in Article 6.1.

First Appearance has the meaning given to that term in Article 17.8.3.2.

Fixed Review Date has the meaning given to that term in Article 20.1.3.

Head of Classification (Team Leader of Classification) has the meaning given to it in Article 60.3.1, i.e., a person appointed by World ParaVolley who is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for World ParaVolley.

Health Condition means a disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury, or trauma.

Hypertonia has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

Impaired Muscle Power has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

Impaired Passive Range of Movement has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

In-Competition means the period commencing from the day on which World ParaVolley offers Classification opportunities in relation to a Competition in which the Athlete is scheduled to compete through to the day such Competition ends.

Intentional Misrepresentation has the meaning given to that term in Article 49.1.

International Federation means an international sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a specific Para sport that is on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

International Federation Protest means a Protest made by World ParaVolley pursuant to Article 41.

International Standard means a document adopted by the IPC to supplement the IPC Classification Code, as amended from time to time.

IPC means the International Paralympic Committee e.V.

IPC Classification Code means the 2025 IPC Classification Code, as amended from time to time.

IPC Constitution means the Constitution of the IPC, as amended from time to time.

IPC Member means the members of the IPC pursuant to Part II of the Constitution.

Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

Medical Classifier means a Classifier with specialist medical expertise.

Medical Review has the meaning given to that term in Article 36.

MIC Assessment means stage 3 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1.

Minimum Impairment Criteria means the minimum level of impairment resulting from an Eligible Impairment that is required in order for an Athlete to be eligible to participate in the World ParaVolley sport discipline of Sitting Volleyball, as set out in the Classification Rules for Sitting Volleyball.

Minor means a natural Person who has not reached the age of eighteen years.

Motor Ataxia has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

National Classifier means a person authorised by a National Federation to carry out some or all aspects of national level classification.

National Federation means a national member of World ParaVolley.

National Federation Protest means a Protest made by a National Federation pursuant to Article 40.

National Representative means any person who is an office-holder or member of staff of, or who otherwise represents and/or works on behalf of a National Federation.

Next Available Opportunity means the next available opportunity at which the Athlete can attend a new Evaluation Session, as determined by World ParaVolley.

Non-Eligible Impairment has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.2.

Observation Assessment means the observation of an Athlete in Competition by a Classification Panel as part of the Sport Class Assessment so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination regarding the extent to which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental each particular sport discipline of World ParaVolley.

Operational Independence (or **Operationally Independent**) means that (a) board members, staff members, commission members, consultants, and officials of World ParaVolley, as well as any Person involved in the investigation and pre-adjudication of the matter, cannot be appointed as members and/or clerks (to the extent that such clerk is involved in the deliberation process and/or drafting of any decision) of the relevant body, and (b) the relevant body must be in a position to conduct the hearing and decision-making process without interference from World ParaVolley or any third party. The objective is to ensure that members of the relevant body, or individuals otherwise involved in the decision of the relevant body, are not involved in the investigation of, or decisions to proceed with, the case.

Out-of-Competition means any period that is not In-Competition.

Para athlete means any athlete competing in a Para sport.

Para sport means any sport in which persons with a disability participate in accordance with classification rules that are compliant with the IPC Classification Code and the related International Standards.

Paralympic Games means the major international event owned and sanctioned by the IPC comprising summer and winter editions usually held in alternating biennial cycles where Para athletes compete in Para sports that are on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

Paralympic Games Sport Programme means the Para sports on the programme for the Paralympic Games.

Paralympic Movement has the meaning given to that term in Article 2.1 of the IPC Constitution: 'The Paralympic Movement comprises the IPC, the IPC Members, the Recognised International Federations, and any other Persons that participate in Para sport or are involved in the promotion, organisation, and/or delivery of Para sport'.

ParaVolley Sport Administration System (PVSAS) refers to the secure online data platform where classification data for World ParaVolley is stored and accessed.

Participant means:

- (i) Athletes;
- (ii) Athlete Support Personnel;
- (iii) National Representatives; and
- (iv) any other persons under the jurisdiction of World ParaVolley who participate in any aspect of Classification.

Permanent means an impairment that is unlikely to be resolved, meaning that the principal effects are lifelong.

Person means natural persons, corporate bodies, and unincorporated bodies (whether or not having separate legal personality), and also includes the legal personal representatives, successors, and permitted assigns of such person, as the context so requires. For the avoidance of doubt, the term Person does not include the IPC.

Personal Information means any information that relates to an identified or identifiable Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel, other Participant, Classification Personnel, or other individual involved in para sport.

Physical Impairment means the Eligible Impairments listed in Appendix 1 – Section 2.

Process(ing) means the collection, recording, storage, use, or disclosure of Personal Information.

Protective Equipment means equipment worn or used to reduce or eliminate potential injuries by protecting players from various hazards or forces. This includes but is not limited to such items as lower limb braces that limit ROM.

Protest has the meaning given to that term in Article 38.1.

Protest Panel means a Classification Panel appointed by World ParaVolley to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

Public Disclosure means the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public at a minimum by placing the information on World ParaVolley's website and leaving the information up for the longer of one month or the duration of any period of ineligibility.

Re-Certification means the process by which World ParaVolley will assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier competencies.

Recognised International Federation (RIF) has the meaning given to that term in Article 20.1 of the Constitution: 'The IPC recognises the importance of creating a Paralympic family network of recognised international federations that are not eligible to become IPC Members but contribute to the development of the Paralympic Movement. Accordingly, the Governing Board may, in its absolute discretion, grant the status of 'Recognised International Federation' (RIF) to an international federation that is not part of the Paralympic Games Sport Programme and so is not eligible to become an IPC Member as an International Federation, but still contributes to the development of the Paralympic Movement. For the avoidance of doubt, rifs are not IPC Members'.

Research Purposes means the general development and integrity of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including but not limited to Classification Research.

Sensitive Personal Information means Personal Information that relates to health or is otherwise deemed to be a sensitive or special category of Personal Information under applicable Data Protection Laws.

Spasticity has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

Sport Class means a category for competition in which Athletes are categorised by reference to the extent to which their Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the specific ParaVolley sport discipline, as set out in the Classification Rules.

Sport Class Assessment has the meaning given to that term in Article 6.1.

Sport Class Status means a status applied to a Sport Class to indicate whether and when an Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future.

Substantial Assistance has the meaning given to it in Article 54.5.3.1.

Team Sport means a sport in which the substitution of players is permitted during a competition.

Trainee Classifier means a person who is in the process of formal training to become a Classifier.

UHC Assessment means stage 1 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1.

UHC Assessor means any person or body responsible for conducting UHC Assessments in accordance with Article 7.1.

Underlying Health Condition means a verifiable Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by World ParaVolley.

Without Prejudice Agreement means a written agreement between World ParaVolley and a Participant that allows the Participant to provide information to World ParaVolley in a defined time-limited setting with the understanding that, if an agreement for Substantial Assistance is not finalised, the information provided by the Participant in this particular setting may not be used by World ParaVolley against the Participant (or any other Participant) in any Intentional Misrepresentation proceedings, and the information provided by World ParaVolley in this particular setting may not be used by the Participant against World ParaVolley in any Intentional Misrepresentation proceedings. However, and for the avoidance of doubt, such an agreement will not preclude World ParaVolley or the Participant from using any information or evidence gathered from any source other than during the specific time-limited setting described in the agreement.

World Championships means the highest-level international Competition(s) or event(s) owned or sanctioned by World ParaVolley.