



World ParaVolley Adaptive & Protective Equipment Policy & Procedure

Approved by World ParaVolley Board of Directors on: [Insert Date]

Effective Date: [Insert Date]

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

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to define the rules, procedures, and standards for the use of Adaptive and Protective Equipment on the Field of Play 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.
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2. Scope

2.1 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.
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3. Definitions

3.1 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. Upper and Lower limb prostheses, brace (orthosis) to stabilize flaccid limb

3.2 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.

3.3 Standard Equipment: Equipment that is commercially available and can be used by all Athletes, regardless of impairment that does not provide advantage



or present a danger to self, others or the playing environment, and does not require approval from World ParaVolley to use on court, e.g. knee pads

3.4 Non-standard Equipment: Adaptive or Protective Equipment that is not standard equipment. For a non-exhaustive list of non-standard equipment examples, please see Appendix C of this policy.

4. General Principles

- **Equity & Fair Play:** Technology and 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, to others, or to the environment (e.g. playing surface, net).
- **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

5.1.1 Athletes who use Non-Standard Equipment are required to submit an application for each piece of equipment **with the exception of the following**, provided that the equipment does not provide advantage or present a danger to self, others or the playing environment:

(PE) Soft Shoulder Support Sleeves
(PE) Soft elbow sleeves (+/- padding)
(PE) Thumb/finger splints (to below fingertips)
(PE) Soft knee sleeves that don't have restriction settings in the hinges
(PE) Stump covers without dangerous edges or corners
(PE) Soft ankle braces with flexible stays/straps

All other Non-standard equipment should submit an application for equipment approval.

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

- A completed **Adaptive/Protective Equipment Approval Request Form** (available at [WPV website](#) or in PVSAS) 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 donned).



- For protective equipment only, written evidence of medical-based need (degrees of ROM limitation by orthoses must be specified) signed by a Doctor is required if the use of that PE limits range of motion in the joint that is being measured/observed for the purpose of Sport Class Assessment.

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 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, other players, or the environment.
- **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 unless the use of such Protective Equipment enhances or has the potential to enhance performance.
 - 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 any equipment on court.

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.

World ParaVolley shall be entitled to prohibit the use of equipment either permanently or on a temporary basis (to allow for further investigation), where it reasonably considers that any of the General Principles of equipment design are/may be breached. New or prototype equipment may be **conditionally approved** for competition use during one Competition, with monitoring and feedback collected for final evaluation.

6. Equipment Monitoring - 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 in Sitting Volleyball/Control Committee in BPV – Std, Referees and Classifiers) may inspect any equipment at any time during the Covered Competition to ensure that it conforms to the principles outlined in Section 4 of this Policy. 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, Beach ParaVolley Rules of the Game, Athletes and Classification Commissions) is recommended prior to any significant policy changes.

Appendices

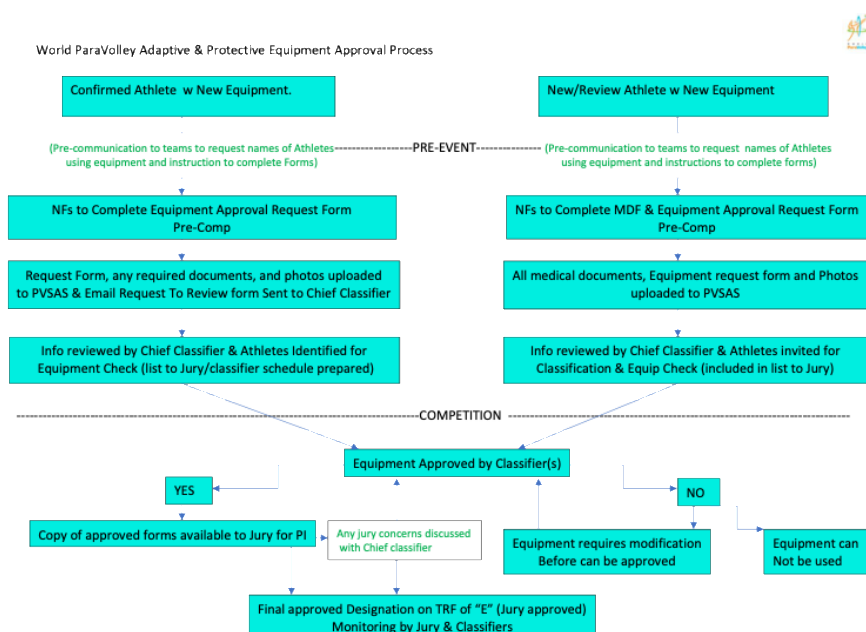
- Appendix A: Adaptive/Protective Equipment Request Approval Form
- Appendix B: WPV Approved Equipment Form (for WPV Use only)
- Appendix C: Examples of Non-Standard Equipment that Require Approval

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





Appendix A



Classification

ADAPTIVE/PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

All requests for the Use of Adaptive/Protective Equipment for Covered Competitions must be submitted by the National Member Organization in writing for approval at least one (1) month before the Covered Competition in which the Athlete wishes to compete in, with a clear description and a minimum of 3 photos attached to this form. Additionally, if this request is being made for the use of a brace as Protective Equipment (equipment for protection and safety vs adaptive equipment to improve function), the request must include signed medical documentation with rationale to support the use of the Protective equipment).

National Member Federation to complete ALL sections A, B, and C.

A. Athlete Information

Last (Family) Name:			
First Name:			
Date of Birth <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i> :	PVSAS #:		Gender:
Sport Discipline:			National Member Organization:
Competition Athlete next likely to attend:			Date of Competition:
Has Athlete attended WPV classification?	☐ Yes ☐ No		Sport Class: ☐ VS2 ☐ VS1 ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ <u>Unknown</u>
Current Sport Class Status:	☐ No status allocated yet ☐ <u>*New</u> ☐ Confirmed ☐ Review ☐ RFD		

*New status can only be designated once Stage 1 (UHC Assessment) completed, reviewed by the UHC Assessor, and classifier has allocated "New" status to the Athlete.

B. Description of Equipment

This request for Equipment is for the Use of: ☐ Adaptive Equipment ☐ Protective Equipment
**Detailed Written Description of Equipment:
How does equipment function during play?
☐ 3 Photos attached (front, side views & fitted on Athlete) ☐ Evidence of medical need for Protective equipment attached (only if protective equipment used)

C. Submitted by National Member Federation Representative:

☐ I confirm that the above information is an accurate description of the Adaptive/Protective Equipment used on court by this Athlete.			
☐ I also acknowledge that World ParaVolley must be notified (by way of a new equipment approval request form submitted) by the National Member Federation if the Athlete uses new or different adaptive equipment or if the equipment is modified in any way.			
Name:			
Role within National Member Federation:			
Phone:		Email:	
Date: <i>dd/mm/yyyy</i> :		Signature:	



Appendix B

FOR WORLD PARAVOLLEY USE ONLY – ADAPTIVE /PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT APPROVAL FORM

Name (& NF):		PVSAS #	
Description of Equipment	☐ Adaptive Equipment ☐ Protective Equipment		
Material			
Will the Equipment prevent valid OA?		☐ Yes ☐ No	
Use of brace is medically substantiated? (list any pre-set ROM measures here)			
Relevant Measurement of Equipment Dimensions			

WPV EQUIPMENT APPROVED PENDING JURY REVIEW ☐YES ☐NO (updated approval status in PVSAS)

If NO – explain reason and provide any recommendations that could allow approval in future.

DESIGNATION FOR FUTURE SCREENING:

- ☐ Visual Inspection by Jury unless concerns noted
☐ Classifier Equipment Check Required

Name of Classifier

Signature



APPENDIX C

World ParaVolley – EXAMPLES of NON-STANDARD of Adaptive/Protective Equipment Requiring WPV Approval prior to Use in Covered Competitions

(Non-exhaustive List)

AE = Adaptive Equipment

PE = Protective Equipment

Equipment	Examples	Materials/Measurements
(AE) Adaptive Prosthesis Upper Limb	-UL prosthesis- static hand; -Scoop prosthesis fixed elbow or with elbow joint (barrage VB)	Materials - hard or rigid edges should be appropriately padded or shielded. Should not pose a safety issue Measurements - The prosthesis must not exceed the size and proportions of the contralateral limb
(AE) Adaptive Functional Braces/Orthoses (Stability or Movement Control for Impaired muscle power, spasticity, or limb deficiency) for UL & LL	- UL rigid braces (for spasticity); - Semi-rigid elbow brace - Rigid AFO; - Semi-rigid/rigid knee braces	Materials - hard or rigid edges should be appropriately padded or shielded. Should not pose a safety issue Measurements -may be necessary to ensure proportions are not advantageous
(PE) ** Rigid Protective joint braces for UL/LL	- Rigid wrist brace - Knee braces with metal hinges	Materials – hard or rigid edges should be appropriately padded or shielded. Should not pose a safety issue during play Measurements may be necessary to ensure proportions are not advantageous
(AE) Adaptive prosthesis Lower Limb	-LL blade in Beach ParaVolley (Std)	TBD