



# **PARA EQUESTRIAN CLASSIFICATION RULES**

FEI Equestrian Events for Athletes with Impairments

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## **FOREWARD**

The FEI Para Equestrian Classification Rules, First Edition, is based on the FEI Para Equestrian Classification Manual, Fifth Edition which was produced by The FEI Classification Working Group in consultation with The FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee, FEI Classifiers and National Federations.

These Classification Rules have been written with reference to the following documents produced by The FEI or the International Paralympic Committee:

- FEI Para Dressage Rules
- FEI Driving Rules
- IPC Model Rules for Classification (2016)
- IPC Athlete Classification Code (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training (2015)
- IPC International Standard for Protests and Appeals (2015)

It is recommended that National Federations adopt these Rules for National Classification.

## **Chapter I: General Provisions**

### **1. Scope and Application**

#### **Adoption**

- 1.1. These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by the FEI to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2. The Classification Rules have been adopted by the FEI on 1 January 2018.
- 1.3. These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.4. These Classification Rules form part of the FEI Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5. The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from the FEI, and can be amended by the FEI from time to time.

#### **Classification**

- 1.6. Classification is undertaken to:
  - 1.6.1 Define who is eligible to compete in Para sport and consequently who has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; and
  - 1.6.2 Group Athletes into Grades which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious.

#### **Application**

- 1.7 These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with the FEI, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by the FEI.
- 1.8 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of the FEI, including but not limited to the sport technical rules of the FEI. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

#### **International Classification**

- 1.9 The FEI will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Event if that Athlete has been allocated a Grade (other than Grade Not Eligible) and designated with a Grade Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.10 The FEI will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Grade and designated with a Grade Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Events (or other such locations as defined by the FEI). The FEI will advise Athletes and National Federations in advance as to such Recognised Events (or other such locations).

#### **Interpretation and Relationship to Code**

- 1.11 References to an 'Article' mean an Article of these Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to these Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these Classification Rules.
- 1.12 The Appendices to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules both of which may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by the FEI from time to time.
- 1.13 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.

1.14 These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner that is consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

## **2 Roles and Responsibilities**

2.1 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.

### **Athlete Responsibilities**

2.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:

2.2.1 Be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;

2.2.2 Participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;

2.2.3 Ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to the FEI;

2.2.4 Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and

2.2.5 Actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

### **Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

2.3 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:

2.3.1 Be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;

2.3.2 Use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;

2.3.3 Assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and

2.3.4 Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

### **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:

2.4.1 Have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;

2.4.2 Use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;

2.4.3 Assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and

2.4.4 Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

## **Chapter II: Classification Personnel**

### **3 Classification Personnel**

3.1 Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. The FEI will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for Para Equestrian.

3.2 All FEI Classification Personnel must comply with the FEI Rules and Regulations.

3.3 If any Classification Personnel is found to have breached the terms of the FEI Rules and Regulations and/or the FEI Classifier Code of Conduct, the Classification Personnel shall be subject to any disciplinary action as per the FEI General Regulations.

#### **Head of Classification**

3.4 The FEI must appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for Para Equestrian.

3.5 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, the FEI may appoint another person, or group of persons collectively (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification

3.6 The Head of Classification is required to be a certified Level 2 FEI Classifier.

3.7 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by the FEI.

3.8 Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

3.9 The Head of Classification will also fulfil the role of Chair of the Classification Working Group.

#### **Classification Working Group**

3.10 The Classification Working Group has been established to oversee, on behalf of the FEI and the FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee (PETC), activities pertaining to the classification of athletes competing in Para dressage and Para driving.

3.11 The Classification Working Group is appointed by the FEI PE Technical Committee and shall comprise:

3.11.1 The Head of Classification - a Para Equestrian Classifier with at least 5 years' experience at international level

3.11.2 At least two Para Equestrian Classifiers with at least 5 years' experience at an international level

3.11.3 Other members as required with relevant expertise and experience pertaining to equestrian sport and disability

#### **Classifiers**

3.12 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the FEI to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

#### **Chief Classifier**

3.13 A Chief Classifier is approved by the FEI as a member of the appointed Classification Panel at an FEI Event. The Chief Classifier is a Level 2 FEI Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Event or at such other location as defined by the FEI. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by the FEI to do the following:

3.13.1 Identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;

3.13.2 Supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;

3.13.3 Manage Protests in consultation with the FEI; and

3.13.4 Liaise with the relevant Event organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Event.

3.14 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified FEI officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of an Event.

### **Trainee Classifiers**

3.15 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by the FEI.

3.16 The FEI may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.

## **4 Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification**

4.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by the FEI as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.

4.2 The FEI is responsible to train and certify the members of the Classification Panel, in order to allow them to determine an Athlete's Grade and Grade status. It is recognised that prior learning undertaken by physiotherapists and medical doctors will underpin their Education as Para Equestrian classifiers. Hence, the Para Equestrian Classifier Education System is primarily a competency based process building on existing clinical expertise.

4.3 The FEI has specified and published Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The FEI Classifier Competencies are available at [Education System | FEI](#) and include as a minimum that a Classifier has:

4.3.1 a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;

4.3.2 an understanding of the equestrian sport(s) for which they seek certification to act as a Classifier, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport(s);

4.3.3 an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and

4.3.4 a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for Para Equestrian. These include that Classifiers must either:

a) be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which the FEI, at its sole discretion, deems acceptable, that is, a medical doctor or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment; ophthalmologist or optometrist for Athletes with a Vision Impairment, be recognised by their national professional association and hold current authority to practice their profession in their home nation

b) have a knowledge of Para equestrian sport; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise, which the FEI, at its sole discretion, deems to be acceptable.

c) be able to converse competently (written and spoken) in business English

4.4 The FEI has established a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process is available at [Education System | FEI](#) includes:

4.4.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;



4.4.2 quality assessment for the period of certification;

4.4.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and

4.4.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.

4.5 The FEI has specified Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. The FEI will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.

4.6 The FEI will provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.

4.7 The FEI may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):

4.7.1 a limitation on the Impairment type for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;

4.7.2 a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;

4.7.3 a limitation on the level of Event or Competition that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;

4.7.4 the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;

4.7.5 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;

4.7.6 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if the FEI is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or

4.7.7 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if the FEI is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

4.7.8 More information regarding the FEI Classifier Education System can be found on the [FEI Website](#)

The FEI Classifier Education Pathway in summary



## **5 Classifier Code of Conduct**

5.1 The integrity of Classification in Para Equestrian depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. The FEI has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.

5.2 All FEI Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.

5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to the FEI.

5.4 If the FEI receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.

5.5 The FEI has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

## **Chapter III: Athlete Evaluation**

### **6 General Provisions**

6.1 The FEI has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a Grade and designated a Grade Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.

6.2 Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules therefore includes provisions regarding:

6.2.1 an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport;

6.2.2 an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport; and

6.2.3 the allocation of a Grade (and designation of a Grade Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport (with the exception for athletes with Vision Impairment, where the current assessment criteria is not yet sport specific and does not include a requirement that the Athletes are assessed in respect of the 'extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport')

6.3 A National Federation can lodge a request on behalf of an Athlete with Impairment to undergo an Athlete Evaluation for the purpose in competing in FEI Para Equestrian Events.

6.4 The Classification request must be made by the Athlete's National Federation and include:

6.4.1 The FEI Classification Request Form, completed legibly and in English

6.4.2 FEI Consent for Classification Form

6.4.3 FEI Medical Diagnostic Form and any additional medical documentation that demonstrates the Athlete's impairment. All documentation provided must be in English.

6.5 The Classification request must be received by the FEI at least 6 weeks before the next International Event where the Athlete intends to compete.

6.6 At FEI Events, Classification for those Athletes with either New (N) or Review (R) Status will be conducted by the Classification Panel appointed and results made available to the OC prior to the draw for competition being conducted.

6.7 Athlete Evaluation for FEI Classification will be offered at approved FEI events. Athlete Evaluation is not available at Paralympic Games.

6.8 Athlete Evaluation is not available for Athletes with New (N) Status at Championships

6.9 It is the responsibility of the Athlete's National Federation to arrange for the evaluation of Review Athletes within the nominated time frame, failure to do so may mean the Athlete is unable to compete.

### **7 Eligible Impairment**

7.1 Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by the FEI must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent. The presenting Impairment must be verifiable and measurable.

7.2 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in a sport governed the FEI.

7.3 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One and Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Three includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

### **Assessment of Eligible Impairment**

7.4 The FEI must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.

7.5 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the FEI may require any Athlete to demonstrate that they have an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Three lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.

7.6 The means by which the FEI determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of the FEI. The FEI may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.

7.7 If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the FEI becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances the FEI will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Federation.

7.8 An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply the FEI, by way of their National Federation, with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:

7.8.1 The relevant National Federation must submit a FEI Medical Diagnostic Form to the FEI upon completing the registration of an Athlete.

7.8.2 The FEI Medical Diagnostic Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified medical doctor, or be accompanied by an English Translation. The date, name and designation of the person completing the translation should be included.

7.8.3 The FEI Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by the FEI.

7.8.4 It is required that that all medical and diagnostic documentation is provided by the National Federation to the FEI on behalf of the Athlete prior to Athlete Evaluation. The documentation will be reviewed by the FEI Classification Working Group to determine if the Athlete has an Eligible health condition or Impairment.

7.9 The FEI may require an Athlete to re-submit the FEI Medical Diagnostic Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if the FEI, at its sole discretion considers the FEI Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent. If the FEI requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, that is, by the Classification Working Group.

Note: Where an Athlete presents with a complex health condition (for example, multiple sclerosis), additional documentation must include specific details of the diagnosis (such as the type of multiple sclerosis), date of diagnosis and results of medical investigations.

7.10 The process by which the Classification Working Group is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:

7.10.1 The Head of Classification, or FEI nominee, will notify the relevant National Federation that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.

7.10.2 The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.

7.10.3 The Head of Classification, with other members of the Classification Working Group will review all Requests for Classification and supporting Diagnostics Information for each Athlete. Where the Classification Working Group believe they do not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, the Head of Classification will seek the advice of an expert in the relevant field of medicine.

7.10.4 Each member of the Classification Working Group will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.

7.10.5 If the Classification Working Group concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.

7.10.6 If the Classification Working Group is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Head of Classification will provide a Decision to this effect in writing to the relevant National Federation. The National Federation will be given an opportunity to comment on the Decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Classification Working Group for review. If the Decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the National Federation.

7.10.7 If the Decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final Decision letter to the National Federation.

7.10.8 The Classification Working Group may make its Decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Classification Working Group, they may veto any Decision if they do not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.

7.10.9 The FEI may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

7.10.10 If an Athlete has been determined Eligible to be Classified but does not attend a Classification evaluation within one year of the request, a new Classification request will be required.

## **8 Minimum Impairment Criteria**

8.1 An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.

8.2 The FEI has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

8.3 International Classification for Para Equestrian Sport is selective and not intended to be inclusive of all health conditions and impairments.

8.4 Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to each sport and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.

8.5 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

8.6 A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy the FEI that they have an Eligible Impairment.

8.7 In relation to the use of Standard Compensating Aids, the FEI has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:

8.7.1 for Eligible Impairments other than Vision Impairment, Minimum Impairment Criteria must *not* consider the extent to which the use of Compensating Aids might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;

8.7.2 for Vision Impairment, Minimum Impairment Criteria must consider the extent to which the use of Compensating Aids might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

## **9 Grade**

9.1 A Grade is a category defined by the FEI in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Para Equestrian sport.

9.2 An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para Equestrian sport must be allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of these Classification Rules.

9.3 Where an Athlete presents with borderline scores between Profiles and therefore Grades, an Athlete may be required to be evaluated by a second Classification Panel as soon as practicable. The Athlete will be allocated the higher Grade and Review status. Following Evaluation by the second Classification Panel the Grade and Grade Status can be allocated.

9.4 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Grade (subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).

9.5 Except for the allocation of Grade Not Eligible (NE) by the FEI (in accordance with Article 18.1), the allocation of a Grade must be based solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non- competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

Appendices One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Grade and the designation of Grade Status.

## **10 Classification Not Completed**

10.1 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation the FEI or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Grade to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the relevant Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).

10.2 The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Grade and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will however be recorded for the purpose of the FEI Classification Master List.

10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in the sport of Para Equestrian until a Classification evaluation has been completed and the Athlete has been allocated a Grade and/or Status.

10.4 Where a designation of Classification Not Completed is assigned and remedial action is not able to be taken by the Athlete at the same competition the designation of CNC was assigned, the Athlete will have the designation CNC on the FEI Classification Master List. The FEI will then determine the next steps available to the Athlete in regards to further evaluation based on the information available. The FEI may determine that the Athlete may enter an Event at which they must undergo a Classification evaluation prior to the competition draw. Where an Observation Assessment is required it must be done at that same Event during the Athlete's first appearance.

#### **Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue.**

10.4 Athlete Evaluation may take place at a place and/or time other than at an FEI Event in order to provide Athletes with the greatest possible opportunity to undergo Athlete Evaluation by a Classification Panel and be allocated a Grade. Such a place is referred to as a 'Non-Competition Venue'.

10.5 Where the FEI decides to make Athlete Evaluation available at a Non-Competition Venue it must (on reasonable notice) advise National Federations:

10.5.1 As to the location of the Non-Competition Venue and the date upon which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available;

10.5.2 The sports in respect of which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available; and

10.5.3 The scope and extent of Athlete Evaluation at the Non-Competition Venue and how it may differ from Athlete Evaluation undertaken by a Classification Panel at an Event, if at all. For example, an Athlete may only be allocated with a Grade with Grade Status Review (R).

10.6 Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue must be undertaken in a manner that complies with the IPC Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the IPC Classification Code.

10.7 The FEI must ensure that a National Federation has an opportunity to make a Protest in respect of a Grade allocated by a Classification Panel at a Non-Competition Venue. A Protest Panel at the Non-Competition Venue must handle this Protest, failing this the relevant Athlete must be allocated a Grade and designated with Grade Status Review (R) and the Protest resolved at the earliest available opportunity (which may be at another Non-Competition Venue).

10.8 If the allocation of a Grade is subject to an Observation Assessment, the FEI will advise National Federations prior to any Athlete Evaluation taking place at a Non-Competition Venue that a Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue may conclude that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation Assessment.

10.9 The FEI will specify the consequences if a Classification Panel undertakes Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue and concludes that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation Assessment.

## **Chapter IV: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel**

### **11 The Classification Panel**

11.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by the FEI to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

11.2 A Classification Panel comprising two FEI Para Equestrian Classifiers will be appointed for FEI CPEDIs and Championships as described in the FEI Para Dressage Rules.

#### **General Provisions**

11.3 A Classification Panel must comprise at least two certified Classifiers, with one Classifier being from a different nation to the Athlete. In exceptional circumstances a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a valid medical qualification.

11.4 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers, and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

11.5 The members of the Classification Panel should have no relationship with any Athlete or Athlete support personnel present at an Event or otherwise that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest.

11.6 Classification Personnel must disclose to the FEI any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest that may be relevant to their appointment as a member of any Classification Panel.

11.7 Classifiers who act as members of a Classification Panel at an Event will not have any official responsibilities other than in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

11.8 A Classification Panel may seek third party expertise of any nature if it is considered that this would assist it in completing the process of Athlete Evaluation.

### **12 Classification Panel Responsibilities**

12.1 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:

12.1.1 assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;

12.1.2 assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and

12.1.3 conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.

12.2 Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must allocate a Grade and designate a Grade Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).

12.3 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by the FEI, unless the FEI requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.

12.4 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

12.5 Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, the allocation of Grade must not be affected by these factors.

12.6 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Grade.



12.7 The Grade allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendices One and Two.

### **13 Evaluation Sessions**

13.1 This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.

13.2 The Athlete's National Federation is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.

13.3 In respect of Athletes:

13.3.1 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's National Federation when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has an Intellectual Impairment.

13.3.2 The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.

13.3.3 The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Consent Form as specified by the FEI.

13.3.4 The Athlete must verify their identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card, or event accreditation.

13.3.5 The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Grade.

13.3.6 The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel. If the Athlete uses approved medication to manage pain or muscle spasms, the Athlete is required to take the medication within an appropriate time frame to be of maximum affect at the time the Athlete Evaluation is conducted.

13.3.7 The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

13.4 In respect of the Classification Panel:

13.4.1 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide diagnostic information relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Grade.

13.4.2 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English, unless all present speak a common language, or unless otherwise stipulated by the FEI. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete's National Federation will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the person referred to in Article 13.3.1 above.

13.4.3 The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion(s) is necessary in order to allocate a Grade.

13.4.4 In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.3, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation and the FEI (from any source) when allocating a Grade.

13.4.5 The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Grade.

13.4.6 Audio-visual evidence will only be used for the purpose of Athlete Evaluation unless the Athlete has provided written consent for use by the FEI for the purpose of research or education relating to Classification.

## **14 Observation in Competition**

14.1 A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Grade and designates a Grade Status to that Athlete.

14.2 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendices One and Two .

14.3 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Grade allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.

14.4 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Grade Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment. An Athlete can remain on the FEI Masterlist for a maximum of two (2) years with tracking code OA, after which time, if the Observation Assessment has not been completed, the Athlete will be removed from the Masterlist unless a suitable explanation is given by the NF. If an Athlete is removed from the Masterlist after two years they will need to follow the Classification process to return to the list.

14.5 Observation in Competition Assessment must not be undertaken in order to establish if an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria.

14.6 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to undertake Observation in Competition Assessment, this must take place after the assessment of compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria and the assessment of the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

14.7 Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:

14.7.1 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in a Competition during an Event in a particular Grade. First Appearance may apply to participation in all competitions within the same grade throughout the Event.

14.8 If an Athlete is:

14.8.1 subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and

14.8.2 pursuant to the second Evaluation Session the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition,

14.9 Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Grade allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA).

14.10 The Classification Panel must allocate a Grade and replace the Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Grade Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Grade or Grade Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective from the time that the change appears on the FEI Masterlist.

14.11 Following the Observation in Competition assessment the Athlete may be required to attend a reassessment of their impairment by the Classification Panel at the Event where they were observed. In this case, the National Federation will be notified of the time for this reassessment to occur.

14.12 The Classification Panel will record the result of the Observation in Competition Assessment on the Athlete Classification assessment document.

14.13 The impact of an Athlete changing Grade after First Appearance on medals, records and results is detailed in the FEI Para Dressage Rules.

## **15 Grade Status**

15.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Grade to an Athlete, it must also designate a Grade Status. Grade Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Grade may be subject to Protest and Appeals.

15.2 The Grade Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:

- Confirmed (C)
- Review (R)
- Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

### **Grade Status New**

15.3 An Athlete is allocated Grade Status New (N) by the FEI prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. This will apply if a National Federation has allocated an Entry Grade to the Athlete, and the Athlete has not completed FEI Classification yet. An Athlete with Grade Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any FEI Para Equestrian Event, unless the FEI specifies otherwise.

### **Grade Status Confirmed**

15.4 An Athlete will be designated with Grade Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are and will remain stable (with the exception for Athletes with Vision Impairment as referred to in Article 6.2.3).

15.5 An Athlete with Grade Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 19), Medical Review (Article 31) and changes to Grade criteria (Article 15.17)).

15.6 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Grade Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with Grade Status Review (R).

15.7 The Athlete with Status (C) can only be Protested under Exceptional Circumstances (Refer Article 27.5)

### **Grade Status Review**

15.8 An Athlete will be designated Grade Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required before an Athlete can be allocated Grade Status Confirmed (C).

15.9 A Classification Panel may base its belief that further Evaluation Sessions will be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by the FEI; has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity, and/or achieved a borderline result in the previous Athlete Evaluation.

15.10 . An Athlete with Grade Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation at any subsequent International Event at which they will appear in competition, unless the FEI specifies otherwise.

15.11 An Athlete with (R) Status may be subject to Protest as described in Article 27, Table 1.

### **Grade Status Review with Fixed Review Date**

15.12 An Athlete may be designated Grade Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.

15.13 An Athlete with Grade Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) must complete Athlete Evaluation at the first International Event at which they will appear in competition after the relevant Fixed Review Date, unless the FEI specifies otherwise.

15.14 An Athlete who has been allocated Grade Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

15.15 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Grade Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but must designate the Athlete with Grade Status Review (R).

15.16 The Classification Panel should assign Fixed Review Date (FRD) Status where appropriate in preference to Review (R) Status with no fixed review date.

### **Changes to Grade Criteria**

15.17 If the FEI changes any Grade criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:

15.17.1 The FEI may re-assign any Athlete who holds Grade Status Confirmed (C) with Grade Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or

15.17.2 The FEI may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and

15.17.3 In both instances the relevant National Federation shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

15.18 If the Head of Classification believes on reasonable grounds that an Athlete has been designated with a Grade Status in error and/or clear breach of these Rules the following will occur:

15.18.1 The Head of Classification will advise the Athlete through the relevant National Federation as to the error or breach that has taken place with a brief statement of the reasons for that belief

15.18.2 Immediately amend the Athlete's Grade Status, and advise the Athlete through the relevant National Federation

15.18.3 Inform the FEI who will make the appropriate amendment to the FEI Classification Master List.

## **16 Multiple Grades**

16.1 An Athlete can only hold one Grade per discipline at a time within a Para Equestrian sport.

16.2 Where an Athlete is competing in Para Dressage (five Grades Available) and Para Driving (two Grades available) the Athlete may be eligible to hold different Grades across the two sports.

### **Multiple Eligible Impairments**

16.3 An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment, may be eligible to be allocated more than one Profile and allocated a Grade according to a dual Profile in relation to those Eligible Impairments. In such instances:

16.3.1 the Athlete must be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each relevant Impairment, either at the relevant Event or the subsequent Event;

16.3.2 at the conclusion of the Evaluation Sessions the Athlete will be allocated the relevant Profile/s and the single Grade determined based on the dual Profiles allocated;

## **17 Notification**

17.1 The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the Athlete and/or National Federation via the Interim Result Form

17.2 The Organising Committee for the Event will be notified of the results of Athlete Evaluation prior to completing the Draw for the Competition and published as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.

17.3 The FEI must publish the outcome of Athlete Evaluation at the Event following Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the Classification Master List on the FEI website.

## **Chapter V: Grade Not Eligible**

### **18 Grade Not Eligible**

#### **General Provisions**

18.1 If the FEI determines that an Athlete:

18.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

18.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition,

The FEI must allocate that Athlete Grade Not Eligible (NE).

18.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

#### **Absence of Eligible Impairment**

18.3 If the FEI determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:

18.3.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and

18.3.2 will be allocated with Grade Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Grade Status Confirmed (C) by the FEI.

18.4 If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Grade Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment the FEI may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.

18.5 An Athlete who is allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) by the FEI or a Classification Panel (if delegated by the FEI) because that Athlete has:

18.5.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

18.5.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;

The Athlete has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in Para Equestrian

#### **Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria**

18.6 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.

18.6.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) and designated Grade Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.

18.6.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Grade Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Grade Status Confirmed (C).

18.7 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Grade other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the Decision to allocate Grade Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.

18.8 If a Classification Panel allocates Grade Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.

18.9 If an Athlete is allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of Para Equestrian.

## **Chapter VI: Protests**

### **19 Protests**

#### **Scope of a Protest**

19.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Grade. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Grade Status.

19.2 A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Grade Not Eligible (NE).

19.3 Where the FEI is responsible for allocating a Grade, the FEI must resolve any protest made in respect of that Grade.

19.4 The FEI will work to resolve the Protest in a manner that minimises the impact on Competition participation, Competition schedules and results.

### **20 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest**

20.1 A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:

20.1.1 a National Federation (see Articles 21-22); or

20.1.2 FEI or its representative (see Articles 23-24).

20.2 Protest should only be submitted by the FEI or the FEI representative or the National Federation representative to submit Protests (for example, the Chef d'Equipe) at the Event.

20.3 An Athlete's Grade should generally only be Protested once, with the exception of Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances (as set out in these Classification Rules).

20.4 A Protest in respect of a Grade allocated by the FEI may only be resolved by the FEI.

#### **Submission of Protests**

20.5 Protests shall generally be submitted during Competitions. For Out-of-Competition Protest refer to Article 27 below.

### **21 National Protests**

21.1 A National Federation may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at an Event or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.

21.2 A National Federation may make a Protest on behalf of an Athlete. An Athlete must not make a Protest without the authorisation of the National Federation.

21.3 The National Federation making the Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are complied with.

21.4 A National Federation may not make a Protest in respect of the Grade Class of any Athlete who is under the jurisdiction of another National Federation. If a National Federation believes there are grounds for a Protest in respect of the Grade Class allocated to such an Athlete it may request the FEI to make a Protest.

21.5 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during an Event (pursuant to Article 17 of these Classification Rules) a National Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition a National Protest must be submitted within thirty (30) minutes of that outcome being published.



21.6 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Federation may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

## **22 National Protest Procedure**

22.1 To submit a National Protest, a National Federation must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete an official FEI Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form in English, that is made available by the FEI at the Event and via the FEI website, and must include, at minimum, the following:

22.1.1 the name nationality and home/administering National Federation of the Protested Athlete;

22.1.2 the name, date and location of the Event/Competition;

22.1.3 time of delivering the Protest;

22.1.4 the name, title, country and signature of the person submitting the Protest;

22.1.5 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;

22.1.6 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Federation believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;

22.1.7 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached except if the rule referenced is a discretionary rule the Protest will not comply with this Article 22.1.7; and

22.1.8 the Protest Fee of CHF150 or equivalent.

22.2 All documents and other evidence referred to in the FEI Classification Protest Form must be submitted with the Protest Form, or as soon as is reasonably practicable following the submission of the Protest Form. The Protest Form must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition no later than 60 minutes after the notification of the result from the Athlete Evaluation. Upon receipt of the Protest Form the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest of which there are two possible outcomes:

22.2.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements; or

22.2.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements.

22.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Federation as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.

22.4 If the Chief Classifier dismisses a Protest, the National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier. The time frame for re-submitting a Protest is within one (1) hour of the Decision to decline.

22.5 If the Protest is accepted:

22.5.1 the Protested Athlete's Grade must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Grade Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Grade Status is already Review (R);

22.5.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Athlete Evaluation as soon as possible, which must be either at the Event the Protest was made or at the next Event; and

22.5.3 The Head of Classification and/or the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Athlete Evaluation is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

## **23 FEI Protests**

23.1 The FEI may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:

23.1.1 It has good reason to believe that the Protested Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are not consistent with the Grade Class that has been allocated to the Protested Athlete.

23.1.2 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Grade; or

23.1.3 a National Federation makes a documented request to the FEI. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of the FEI.

23.2 A Chief Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of the FEI at an Event if it is in the interests of fairness to Athletes to do so.

## **24 FEI Protest Procedure**

24.1 If the FEI decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the relevant National Federation of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.

24.2 The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Federation with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it is justified.

24.3 If the FEI makes a Protest:

24.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Grade must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;

24.3.2 the Protested Athlete's Grade Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Grade Status is already Review (R) and

24.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

## **25 Protest Panel**

25.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.

25.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.

25.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:

25.3.1 made the Protested Decision; or

25.3.2 conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the National Federation or the FEI making the Protest.

25.4 The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.

25.5 The Protest Panel shall consist of at minimum the same number of Para Equestrian Classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification, as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Grade.

25.6 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Athlete Evaluation in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Form when conducting the new Athlete Evaluation.

25.7 All documentation submitted with the Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. The Protest Panel should conduct the Athlete Evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel, which allocated the Athlete's most recent Grade.

25.8 The Protest Panel may make enquires of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.

25.9 Further to the Athlete Evaluation, the Protest Panel must, allocate a Grade and designate a Grade Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's Decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.

25.10 The Decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an FEI Protest is final. A National Federation or the FEI may not make another Protest at the relevant Event.

25.11 In all instances, the impact of the Athlete changing Grade after the resolution of a Protest during Competition is defined in the FEI Para Equestrian Rules.

## **26 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available**

26.1 If a Protest is made at an Event but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Event:

26.1.1 the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the Grade that is the subject of the Protest with Grade Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and

26.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

## **27 Special Provisions**

27.1 The FEI may make arrangements for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, the FEI must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Athlete Evaluation carried out away from a Competition.

27.1.1 If the Protest is accepted, the FEI Head Classifier shall notify all relevant parties within 28 days of receipt of the Protest of the time and date for any subsequent Protest Evaluation.

27.1.2 Each Party should bear their own costs of the process.

27.2 The regulations with regard to Athletes with Grade Status "Not Eligible" are outlined in these Classification Rules.

27.3 All Athletes with Grade Status C may only be Protested by the FEI Head Classifier or by the FEI Chief Classifier under Exceptional Circumstances (see article 27.5.)

27.4 Exceptional Circumstances, for the purpose of these Classification Rules, will arise if the FEI Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier believe that an Athlete's Confirmed (C) Grade no longer reflects that Athlete's ability to compete equitably within that Grade.

27.5 Exceptional Circumstances may result from:

- A change in the degree of Impairment of an Athlete.

- An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete’s current Grade.
- An error made by the International accredited Para Equestrian Classifier(s), which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Grade which is not in keeping with the Athlete’s ability.
- Grade allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete’s most recent Classification.

27.6 The FEI Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier shall notify the relevant National Federation and the Athlete that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances and provide a written summary to explain why the Protest is being made.

27.7 The Athlete’s Grade Status shall be amended to Review (R) Status with immediate effect.

27.8 A Protest made in Exceptional Circumstances shall follow the same process detailed in Article 23. The FEI Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier is not required to pay the Protest Fee specified.

Table 1 below indicates the Protests that are possible during Competitions and Out-of-Competition.

| <b>ATHLETES GRADE STATUS</b> | <b>Protest made by the National Federation in respect to an Athlete under its jurisdiction</b> | <b>Protest made by the FEI in respect to an Athlete under its jurisdiction</b> |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>New (N)</b>               | YES  | YES  |
| <b>Review (R)</b>            | YES  | YES  |
| <b>Confirmed (C)</b>         | NO   | <u>Only</u> in Exceptional Circumstances                                       |

### **Protest submission Out of Competitions**

27.9 Out of Competition means a Protest that is not submitted as per Article 20.5.

27.10 The FEI Head Classifier is the person authorised to receive any Protest.

27.11 Protests must be submitted in English on the official Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form available on the FEI website. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form should include, at minimum, the following:

- 27.11.1 The name, title, country and signature of the person submitting the Protest.
- 27.11.2 The name and nation of the Athlete whose Grade is being Protested.
- 27.11.3 Details of the Decision being Protested.
- 27.11.4 The reason for the Protest.
- 27.11.5 Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest.
- 27.11.6 A fee of CHF 150 (one hundred fifty Swiss Francs) or equivalent.

27.12 Upon receipt of the Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form, the FEI Head Classifier shall conduct a review to determine whether all necessary information is included. If it appears to the FEI Head Classifier that the Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form has been submitted without all necessary information, the FEI Head Classifier shall dismiss the Protest and notify all relevant parties.

27.13 If the Protest is accepted, the FEI Head Classifier shall notify all relevant parties within 28 days of receipt of the Protest of the time and date for any subsequent Athlete Evaluation.

27.14 Protest Panel for Protests submitted out of Competition

27.15 The FEI Head Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct an evaluation of the Athlete. The Protest Panel shall consist of at minimum the same number of Para Equestrian Classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification, as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Grade.

27.16 Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Grade, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 12 months prior to the Protest being submitted.

27.17 All documentation submitted with the Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. The Protest Panel should conduct the Athlete evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel, which allocated the Athlete's most recent Grade.

27.18 The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Grade.

27.19 All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Decision in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation of the International Paralympic Committee. Each Party should bear their own costs of the process

## **28 Application during Major Competitions**

28.1 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests.

The IPC may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games.

## The Protest Pathway

The following section describes the various stages of a Protest conducted during Competition. They are intended to provide a recommended framework for the organisation and handling of a Protest.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Step 1.<br/>Pre-Competition<br/>Tasks</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate details on the Protest Procedures to the relevant NFs</li> <li>• Make available the Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form</li> <li>• Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Protests should be submitted</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Step 2.<br/>Protest<br/>Submission in<br/>accordance with<br/>the Rules of the<br/>FEI</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para Equestrian Classification Protest Form submitted by the appropriate person</li> <li>• Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Para Equestrian Classification Rules - Classification Protest Form</li> <li>• Payment of the Protest Fee (where necessary) to the Chief Classifier or President of the Ground Jury</li> <li>• All documents need to be submitted to the FEI Head Classifier or Chief Classifier for the relevant Event/Competition</li> </ul> |
| <b>Step 3.<br/>Protest<br/>Submission<br/>Review</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FEI Head Classifier and/or Chief Classifier reviews the submission</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Step 4.<br/>Decision by the<br/>FEI Head<br/>Classifier and/or<br/>Chief Classifier</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If rejected: Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier should notify the submitting party, explaining the reason(s) for rejection</li> <li>• If the Protest is accepted: proceed with <b>Step 5</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Step 5.<br/>Preparation of<br/>Protest<br/>Resolution</b>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appoint a Protest Panel</li> <li>○ Advise all relevant parties about when, where and how the Protest will be handled</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| <b>Step 6.<br/>Protest<br/>Resolution</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Classification Protest Panel will:</li> <li>• Review of all documentation and information</li> <li>• Conduct the Athlete evaluation</li> <li>• Allocate of the Athlete to a Grade</li> <li>• Advise the Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier as to the resolution of the Protest</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Step 7.<br/>Administrative<br/>follow-up</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Classifier and/or FEI Chief Classifier will:</li> <li>• Advise all parties involved as to the outcome of the Protest, providing, if requested, a written explanation for its Decision</li> <li>• Communicate the Decision to the relevant FEI Sports Department, to the Organiser and to all other relevant parties to ensure the continuation of the Event/Competition</li> <li>• The FEI will update the FEI Classification Master List</li> </ul>                                     |

## **Chapter VII: Misconduct during Evaluation Session**

### **29 Failure to Attend Evaluation Session**

29.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.

29.2 An Athlete's National Federation must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.

29.3 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities at a Competition (or Out of Competition where applicable), specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.

29.4 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Grade will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete until Classification has been completed.

### **30 Suspension of Evaluation Session**

30.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Grade to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:

30.1.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;

30.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;

30.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct its determination in a fair manner;

30.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner,

30.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;

30.1.6 the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner such behaviour shall be referred to as a case of non-cooperation; and/or

30.1.7 the Athlete presents their abilities in an inconsistent way during the course of Athlete Evaluation (e.g. pain);

30.1.8 the Athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

30.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:

30.2.1 an explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant National Federation;

30.2.2 if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and

30.2.3 if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the determination is completed.

30.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules.

30.4 A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.



## **Chapter VIII: Medical Review**

### **31 Medical Review**

31.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Grade with Grade Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).

31.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.

31.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's National Federation (together with a €40 non-refundable fee and any supporting documentation), or by the Head of Classification. The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport has changed.

31.4 The Medical Review request must be signed by the NF representative and signed by an appropriately qualified medical health professional and include all relevant supporting documentation in English or with a certified English translation.

31.5 A Medical Review Request must be received by the FEI as soon as reasonably practicable.

31.6 The Head of Classification must, in conjunction with the Classification Working Group, decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.

31.7 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 31.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Federation or to the FEI may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

31.8 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Grade Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect on the FEI Classification Master List and a note made in the comments section; or the Athletes previously allocated Fixed Review Date will be amended and the Athlete will be requested to undertake Athlete Evaluation at the next available opportunity.

## **Chapter IX: Intentional Misrepresentation**

### **32 Intentional Misrepresentation**

32.1 It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) their skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Grade. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'. Intentional Misrepresentation can arise Post Evaluation, where the Athlete has been allocated a Grade Status of Confirmed (C), as a result of Medical Intervention or for other reasons, the Athlete demonstrates a change in their skills, abilities or the degree of their Impairment and the Athlete fails to provide details of the Medical Intervention to the FEI

32.2 It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.

32.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation a hearing will be convened by the FEI to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.

32.4 The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:

32.4.1 disqualification from all Competitions at the Event at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Events at which the Athlete competed;

32.4.2 being allocated with Grade Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Grade Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;

32.4.3 suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and

32.4.4 publication of their names and suspension period.

32.5 Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Grade Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.

32.6 Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period of time from four years to life.

32.7 If another International Sports Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by the FEI.

32.8 Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of the FEI.

32.9 Any disciplinary action taken by the FEI pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.

32.10 The investigation of any allegations of Intentional Misrepresentation shall be undertaken by the FEI in accordance with the FEI General Regulations.

## **Chapter X: Use of Athlete Information**

### **33 Classification Data**

33.1 The FEI may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.

33.2 All Classification Data Processed by the FEI must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### **34 Consent and Processing**

34.1 Subject to Article 34.3, the FEI may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates. An Athlete who does not consent in this way cannot be evaluated or allocated a Grade.

34.2 If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.

34.3 The FEI may only Process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

### **35 Classification Research**

35.1 The FEI may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.

35.2 The use by the FEI of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.

35.3 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to the FEI solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.

35.4 The FEI may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If the FEI wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

### **36 Notification to Athletes**

36.1 The FEI must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

36.1.1 that fact that the FEI is collecting the Classification Data; and

36.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and

36.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

36.1.4 The notification to Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel of the information referred to in Article 36.1.1-36.1.3 may be withheld if providing the information might compromise an on-going or imminent investigation into an act of misconduct associated with Classification.

36.1.5 The FEI will provide the above information in an easily comprehensible and accessible manner to National Federations, Athletes and support personnel.

### **37 Classification Data Security**

37.1 The FEI must:

37.1.1 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

37.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

### **38 Disclosures of Classification Data**

38.1 The FEI must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.

38.2 The FEI may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

### **39 Retaining Classification Data**

39.1 The FEI must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.

39.2 The FEI must publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.

39.3 The FEI must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

### **40 Access Rights to Classification Data**

40.1 Athletes may request from the FEI

40.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that the FEI Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;

40.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by the FEI; and/or

40.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by the FEI

40.2 A request may be made by an Athlete or a National Federation on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

### **41 The FEI Classification Master List**

41.1 The FEI must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Grade and Grade Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Events.

41.2 The FEI must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Federations on the FEI website.

41.3 The FEI is responsible for maintaining the FEI Classification Master List, with relevant details only, for each Para Dressage and Para Driving with the guidance of the Classification Working group. Both are available on the FEI website.

[Para Dressage Masterlist](#)

[Para Driving Masterlist](#)

41.4 The interim result will remain current until the specified valid to date or the Athlete's Classification result has been approved by the FEI Classification Working Group and added to or updated on the FEI Classification Master List. The written notification will be signed by the Chief Classifier and detail the following:

41.4.1 The Athlete's Profile, Grade and Grade Status.

41.4.2 The standard compensating aids the Athlete is allowed for FEI Para Equestrian Events.

41.4.3 Valid to date, this may be for that Event only or for a longer period if the Athlete's next Event is within a short timeframe, for example, the following week.

41.5 The Chief Classifier for the Event will complete and send all Athlete Evaluation documentation to the FEI within two weeks of the completion of the Event.

41.6 The FEI Classification Working Group will review the documentation and results and determine if the results can be added to the FEI Classification Master List for the relevant Para – equestrian discipline or further information is required before approval.

41.7 The FEI add to or amend the Athlete's details on the relevant FEI Classification Master List once approved by the Classification Working Group.

41.8 The FEI will make available to the Head of Classification and Chief Classifiers an excel copy of the relevant FEI Classification Master List on request prior to an Event or at other times as required.

41.9 An Athlete with a Status Review (R), Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) or Confirmed (C), will be removed from the FEI Classification Masterlist if they have not competed in a Para Equestrian competition in a period of four (4) years. To return to competition they must make a new Classification request.

## **Chapter XI: Appeals**

### **42 Appeal**

42.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

### **43 Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal**

43.1 An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:

43.1.1 a National Federation

### **44 Appeals**

44.1 If a National Federation considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Grade and/or Grade Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Grade or Grade Status, it may submit an Appeal.

44.2 The Appeal Body will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.

44.3 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with these Classification Rules.

44.4 The term "Appellant" as used in these Classification Rules refers to the party submitting the Appeal on behalf of the Athlete.

44.5 The term "Respondent" used in these Classification Rules refers to the FEI, as being responsible for the procedures and Decision which are being appealed to.

44.6 A Decision will be considered with procedural errors if it has been made in contravention of the procedures set out in the Classification Rules and there is some manifest unfairness associated with the Decision such that it must be set aside.

44.7 The Appeal Body for the hearing and resolution of Appeals.

44.7.1 An Appeal Body should consist of two FEI Classifiers and a member of FEI Para Equestrian Technical Committee. The Appeal Body is appointed by the FEI. The FEI will also appoint the Chair of the Appeal Body.

44.7.2 An Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review Classification Decisions in order to:

44.7.2.1 Ensure that all appropriate Grade allocation procedures have been followed.

44.7.2.2 Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.

44.7.3 No Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of the Grade or Grade Status. Under no circumstances shall the Appeal Body modify a Classification Decision by allocating an Athlete a new Grade and/or Grade Status.

44.7.4 The Appeal Body shall hear Appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have been exhausted.

44.7.5 The Appeal Body shall have the power to either rule that the relevant Decision must be upheld, or to set the Decision aside. The Appeal Body shall have no power to amend any Decision and in particular has no power to amend a Grade or Grade Status.

44.7.6 The Appeal Body will only review the process by which these Decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been fair and in accordance with the Classification Rules.

44.7.7 The Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.

## 44.8 Appeal Process

44.8.1 A National Federation may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to the FEI. A Notice of Appeal should be submitted to the FEI by e-mail or ordinary mail. The FEI shall promptly transmit a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the opposing party.

44.8.2 A Notice of Appeal must:

44.8.2.1 Be made within fifteen (15) days of the Decision being complained of unless the FEI agrees otherwise;

44.8.2.2 Specify the party who is requesting the Appeal (the Appellant).

44.8.2.3 Provide the name and nation of the Athlete whose Grade or Grade Status is the subject of the Appeal.

44.8.2.4 Identify the Decision being Appealed, by attaching a copy of the Decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;

44.8.2.5 Specify the grounds for the Appeal;

44.8.2.6 Indicate what, or that all, remedies have been used to resolve the case.

44.8.2.7 Identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal;

44.8.2.8 To the extent possible, identify the person or persons responsible for the Decision being appealed against ("the Respondent").

44.8.2.9 Be submitted with the fee of CHF 500 (Five hundred Swiss Francs) or equivalent. Proof of payment must be included in the Notice of Appeal.

44.8.3 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, the FEI must refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.

44.8.4 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if all other available remedies have not been exhausted, the FEI shall issue a written Decision dismissing the Appeal.

44.8.5 If a National Federation could have made a Protest in respect of the allocation of a Grade, but fails to do so, it cannot make any Appeal if it was aware of the grounds upon which it wishes to make an Appeal at the time that it could have made a Protest. An Appeal may be made if a National Federation becomes aware of such grounds after the time frames for making a Protest have expired.

44.8.6 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person save to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal.

44.8.7 If all other available remedies have been exhausted, the FEI shall:

44.8.7.1 Advise all relevant parties that an Appeal Body will be constituted for the purpose of hearing the Appeal.

44.8.7.2 Send a copy of the Notice of Appeal and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to the party named in the Notice of Appeal (The Opposing Party).

44.8.7.3 Advise the Opposing Party that it must, within 28 calendar days of receiving the Notice of Appeal submit to the Appeal Body a list of all documents, evidence, and expert witnesses to be offered by the Opposing Party in relation to the Appeal.

44.8.7.4 Set a Hearing location and date: The Appeal Body shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a Hearing live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

#### 44.9 Appeal Hearing

44.9.1 The Appeal Body, all of whose members shall comply with and have signed a conflict of interest agreement, will comprise of no less than three individuals who have at no stage been involved with or informed of the dispute brought before the Appeal Body.

44.9.2 The Appeal Body may designate counsel to assist in the Hearing.

44.9.3 The FEI, and the relevant parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel and if necessary to engage an interpreter.

44.9.4 Not more than two representatives of any party excluding the Athlete and any interpreter shall be entitled to participate in the Hearing.

44.9.5 Each party shall have the right to offer documentary evidence, to submit a hearing memorandum or brief, and (subject to the Appeal Body's discretion) to call witnesses.

44.9.6 Each Party should bear their own costs of the process.

#### 44.10 Appeal Decision

44.10.1 As soon as is practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeal Body must issue a written Decision regarding the Appeal. The Appeal Body shall either affirm the Decision appealed from or set aside the Decision. The Appeal Body shall have no further power in respect of its Decision.

44.10.2 If the Appeal Body sets aside a Decision it may if appropriate make recommendations as to the steps to be taken by the FEI in light of that Decision.

44.10.3 The Decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal. The Appeal Body shall issue a written Decision resolving any Appeal after the Hearing. The Decision shall be provided to all parties, to the FEI and to the relevant National Federation(s). The Event organising committee shall be also informed about the outcome of the Appeal (in the case of Appeals conducted in connection with an Event).

44.10.4 The FEI shall be responsible for ensuring the Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner.

#### 44.11 Confidentiality

44.11.1 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the Appeal:

44.11.1.1 Employees or agents of a party.

44.11.1.2 Witnesses whose testimony may be offered on Appeal.

44.11.1.3 Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the Appeal.

44.12 The Appeal Body may, in its sole discretion, require all persons who attend a Hearing to sign a statement agreeing to maintain the confidentiality of facts or information disclosed during the Hearing. Any individual refusing to sign such a statement may be excluded from the Hearing



## 45 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

45.1 The IPC and/or the FEI may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

### The Appeal Pathway

The following section describes the various stages of an Appeal-process. They are intended to provide a recommended framework for the organisation and handling of an Appeal

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Step 1. Pre-Competition Tasks</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate details on Appeal Procedures to all relevant NFs</li> <li>Identify the means (who, when, to whom) by which Appeals should be submitted</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Step 2. Submission of a Notice of Appeal</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appeal Form submitted by the appropriate person</li> <li>Submission of all relevant documents and information in annex to the Appeal Form</li> <li>Payment of the Appeal Fee</li> <li>All documents need to be submitted to the FEI</li> </ul> |
| <b>Step 3. Appeal Submission Review by the FEI</b>            |   |
| <b>Step 4. Decision over the Appeal Submission by the FEI</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If rejected: FEI should notify the submitting party, explaining the reason(s) for rejection</li> <li>If accepted: proceed with step 5</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Step 5. Notification of all relevant parties</b>           |   |
| <b>Step 6. Preparation of the Appeal Hearing</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up of an Appeal Hearing Body</li> <li>Notification of Appeal Hearing to all relevant parties</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Step 7. Appeal Hearing</b>                                 |   |
| <b>Step 8. Appeal Decision</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicated in writing</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Step 9. Administrative follow-up</b>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FEI to communicate the outcome of the Appeal</li> <li>Update Classification Master List (if applicable)</li> <li>Review Classification Rules (if applicable)</li> </ul>  |

## Chapter XII: Glossary

**Activity Limitation:** Refers to the difficulty an individual may experience when performing skills and techniques required for Para Equestrian sports.

**Compensating Aids:** Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

**Appeals:** The means by which a complaint against Decision with procedural errors during the Classification process is resolved.

**Athlete:** For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by the FEI) or national level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Grade and Grade Status.

**Athlete Support Personnel:** Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

**Chief Classifier:** A classifier appointed by the FEI to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Event according to these Classification Rules.

**Classification:** Grouping Athletes into Grades according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

**Classification Data:** Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Federation and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

**Classification Intelligence:** Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.

**Classification Master List:** A list, which is maintained and monitored by the FEI, made available by the FEI that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Grade and designated a Grade Status, and registers the Compensating Aids the Athlete is allowed to use.

**Classification Not Completed:** the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of Para Sport.

**Classification Organisation:** Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Grades and/or holds Classification Data.

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by the FEI, to determine Grade and Grade Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

**Classification Personnel:** Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

**Classification Rule:** Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by the FEI in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification System:** The framework used by the FEI to develop and designate Grades within a Para sport.

**Classifier:** A person authorised as an official by the FEI to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which the FEI must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

**Classifier Competencies:** The qualifications and abilities that the FEI deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by the FEI.

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by the FEI.

**Code:** The IPC Athlete Classification Code 2015 together with the IPC International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Classifier Personnel and Training; and Classification Data Protection.

**Competition:** Refers to each individual class in which Athletes are placed in an order of merit and for which prizes may be awarded.

**Compliance:** The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

**Continuing Education:** The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by the FEI to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

**Decision:** An authoritative determination reached or pronounced after consideration of facts and/or law

**Diagnostic Information:** Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables the FEI to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition.

**Eligible Impairment:** An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para sport, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

**Classification Working Group:** A body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

**Entry Criteria:** Standards set by the FEI relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This must be, medical doctors or physiotherapist who have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

**Entry Grade:** Refers to the Grade allocated to the Athlete by their National Federation prior to an FEI Para Equestrian Event. An Entry Grade is indicative only and is subject to change upon Athlete Evaluation for International Level Events.

**Entry-level Education:** the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by the FEI to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

**Evaluation Session:** the session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport; and allocation of a Grade and Grade Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to that sport. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

**Event:** A complete meeting, "Show", "Championship" or "Games". Events may be organised for one or more than one FEI Discipline. An Event shall include the Classification Evaluation period.

**FEI:** Fédération Equestre Internationale

**FEI Rules and Regulations:** Any rule and regulation duly approved by an appropriate body of the FEI, including but not limited to Statutes, General Regulations, and Sport Rules.

**First Appearance:** The first time an Athlete competes in a Competition during an Event in a particular Grade.

**Fixed Review Date:** A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Grade Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

**Head of Classification:** A person appointed by the FEI to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for the FEI.

**Health Condition:** A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

**IBSA:** International Blind Sports Federation

**Impairment:** A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

**ICF:** International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Federation as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para sport and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Grade.

**International Events:** An Event where the IPC, the FEI or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Event.

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

**IPC International Standards:** A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

**Maintaining Certification:** The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** a form that a National Federation must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

**Medical Review:** The process by which the FEI identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Grade allocated to that Athlete is correct.

**Medical Review Request:** A request made by a National Federation for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

**Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC):** The minimum standard set by the FEI in relation to the Eligible Impairment that must present in order for the Athlete is deemed eligible to compete in Para Equestrian Sport.

**IPC Models of Best Practice:** An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

**National Federation (NF):** Refers to the national member of the FEI.

**National Laws:** The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.

**National Paralympic Committees:** The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC.

**National Protest:** A Protest made by a National Federation in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

**Non-Competition Venue:** Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by the FEI as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Grade and designated with a Grade Status.

**Observation in Competition:** The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Organising Committee (OC):** An organisation that functions as the ruling body for a nominated International Event.

**Paralympic Games:** Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

**Para Equestrian Sport (PE):** An overarching description for FEI disciplines relating specifically to Athletes with Impairments.

**Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in the IPC Athletes Classification Code and IPC International Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principle effects are lifelong.

**Personal Information:** Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

**Physical Impairment:** an Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Leg Length Difference and Short Stature.

**Process/Processing:** The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

**Protested Athlete:** An Athlete whose Grade is being challenged.

**Protested Decision:** The Grade Decision being challenged.

**Protest Fee:** The fee prescribed by the FEI, payable by the National Federation when submitting a Protest.

**FEI Protest Form:** The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.

**Protest:** The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Grade is submitted and subsequently resolved.

**Protest Panel:** A Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest

**Re-certification:** The process by which the FEI must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

**Recognised Event:** an Event that is sanctioned or approved by the FEI

**Research Purposes:** Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

**Signatories:** Any organisation that accepts the IPC Classification Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

**Grade:** A category for Competition defined by the FEI by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

**Grade Status:** A designation applied to a Grade to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

**Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA):** a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Grade Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

**Underlying Health Condition:** a Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.

**Vision Impairment:** an Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete's vision.

## Appendix I - Athletes with Physical Impairment

### Eligible Impairment Types, Assessment Methodology and Minimum Impairment Criteria

| Eligible Impairment   | Examples of Health Conditions   | Assessment Methodology                                       | Minimum Impairment Criteria   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Impaired Muscle Power</b></p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.</p> | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.</p> | <p>Muscle power</p>  | <p>Greater than 15% loss of power, in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>   |
| <p><b>Limb Deficiency</b></p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma.</p>   | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).</p>                 | <p>Muscle power and range of movement<br/>Stump length</p>   | <p>Greater than 15% loss of power, or range of movement in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>                          |
| <p><b>Leg Length Difference</b></p> <p>Athletes with Leg Length Difference have a difference in the length of their legs.</p>   | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Leg Length Difference include: dysmelia and congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth.</p>  | <p>Muscle power and range of movement</p>                    | <p>Greater than 15% loss of power, or range of movement in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>                          |
| <p><b>Short Stature</b></p> <p>Athletes with Short Stature will have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk.</p>  | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.</p>   | <p>Muscle power and range of movement<br/>Height<br/>Age</p> | <p>The FEI MIC standard is greater than 15% loss of power, range or coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p> |

|  |  |                          |  |
|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Hypertonia</b><br/>Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p> | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>   | <p>Coordination</p>      | <p>Greater than 15% loss of coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>      |
| <p><b>Ataxia</b><br/>Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>   | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.</p>  | <p>Coordination</p>      | <p>Greater than 15% loss of coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>      |
| <p><b>Athetosis</b><br/>Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>   | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>  | <p>Coordination</p>      | <p>Greater than 15% loss of coordination in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p>      |
| <p><b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b><br/>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>  | <p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include Arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.</p> | <p>Range of movement</p> | <p>Greater than 15% loss of range of movement in at least one upper and/or lower limb.</p> |

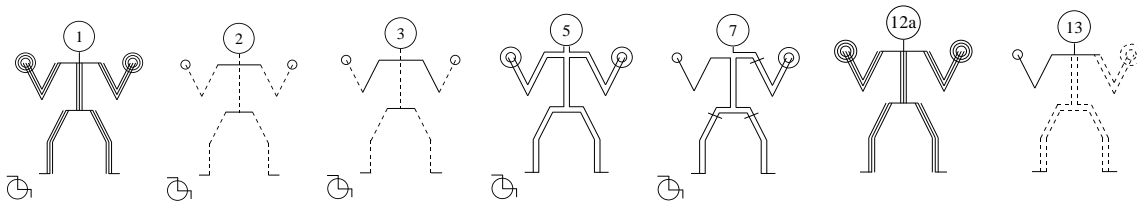
### Grades and Profiles for Athletes: Para Equestrian Dressage

|   |                           |                             |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| — Normal function or minimal disadvantage | ⊥ Absence of limb         | ≡≡≡ Paresis or incoordinate |
| - - - Paresis                             | ≡ Incoordinate            | ≡≡≡ Deformity               |
|   | ≡≡≡ Severely incoordinate | ♿ Wheelchair user           |

#### Grade I Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade I have severe impairments affecting all limbs and trunk. The Athlete usually requires the use of a wheelchair. They may be able to walk with an unsteady gait. Trunk and balance are severely impaired.

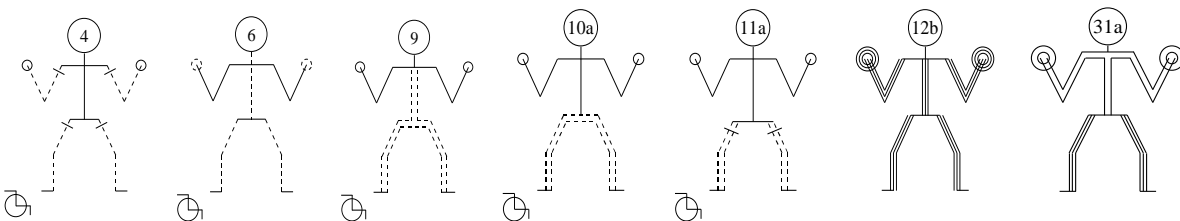
**Profiles: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12a, 13**



#### Grade II Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade II have either a severe impairment of the trunk and minimal impairment of the upper limbs or moderate impairment of the trunk, upper and lower limbs. Most Athletes in this Grade use a wheelchair in daily life.

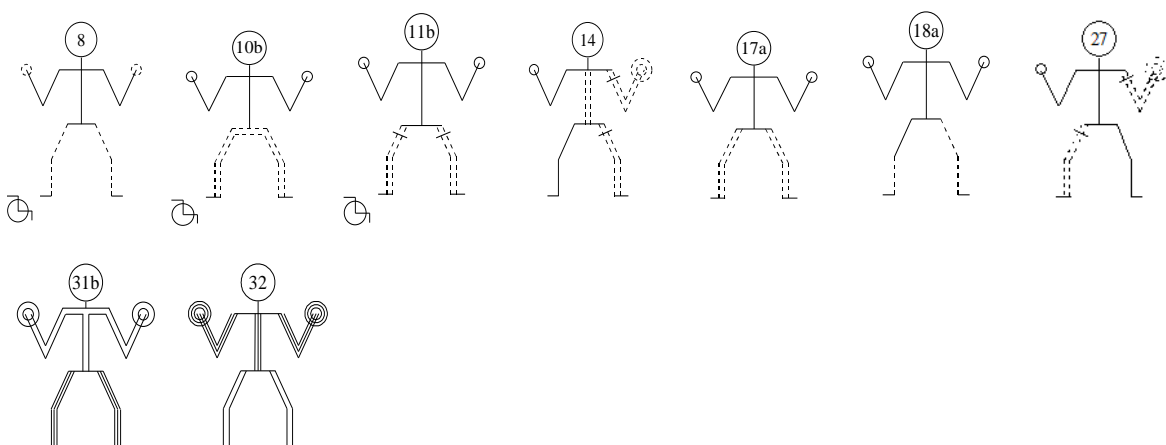
**Profiles: 4, 6, 9, 10a, 11a, 12b, 31a**



#### Grade III Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade III have severe impairments in both lower limbs with minimal or no impairment of the trunk or moderate impairment of the upper and lower limbs and trunk. Some Athletes in this Grade may use a wheelchair in daily life.

**Profiles: 8, 10b, 11b, 14, 17a, 18a, 27, 31b, 32**

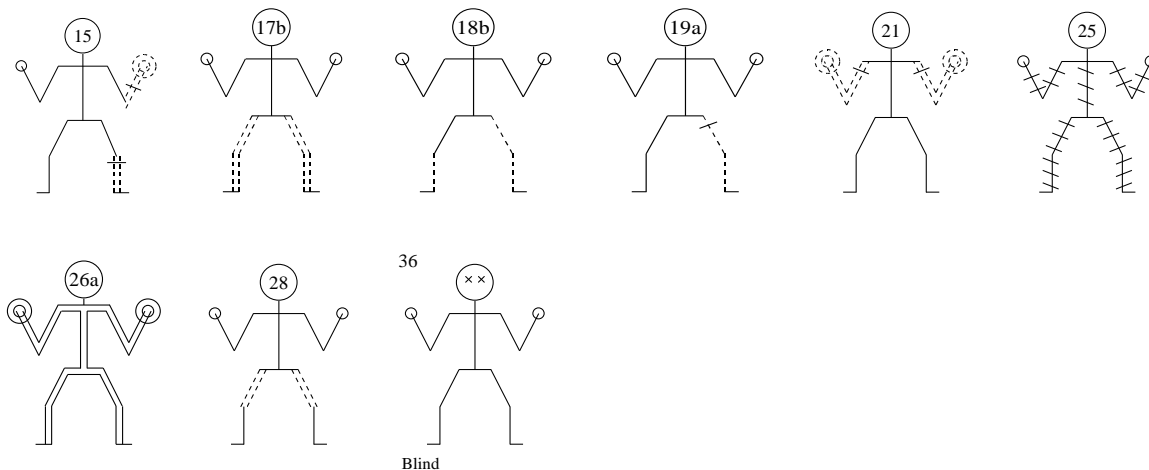




### Grade IV Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade IV have a severe impairment or deficiency of both upper limbs or a moderate impairment of all four limbs or short stature. Athletes in Grade IV are able to walk and generally do not require a wheelchair in daily life. Grade IV also includes Athletes having a visual impairment equivalent to B1 with very low visual acuity and/or no light perception.

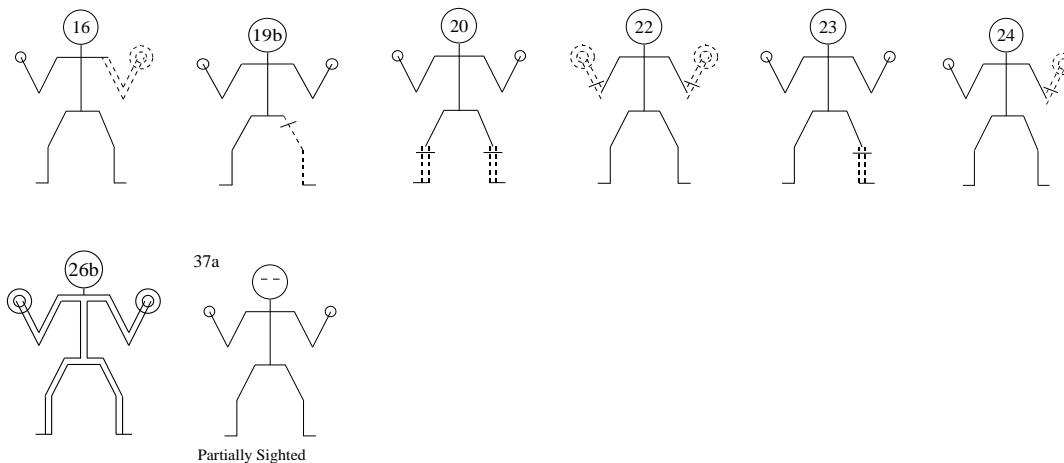
**Profiles: 15, 17b, 18b, 19a, 21, 25, 26a, 28, 36**



### Grade V Para Equestrian Dressage

Athletes in Grade V have a mild impairment of movement or muscle strength or a deficiency of one limb or mild deficiency of two limbs. Grade V also includes Athletes with visual impairment equivalent to B2 with a higher visual acuity than visually impaired Athletes competing in Grade IV and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees radius.

**Profiles: 16, 19b, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26b, 37a**



### Not Eligible

**Profiles: 29, 30, 37b, 38, 42, 48, 39**

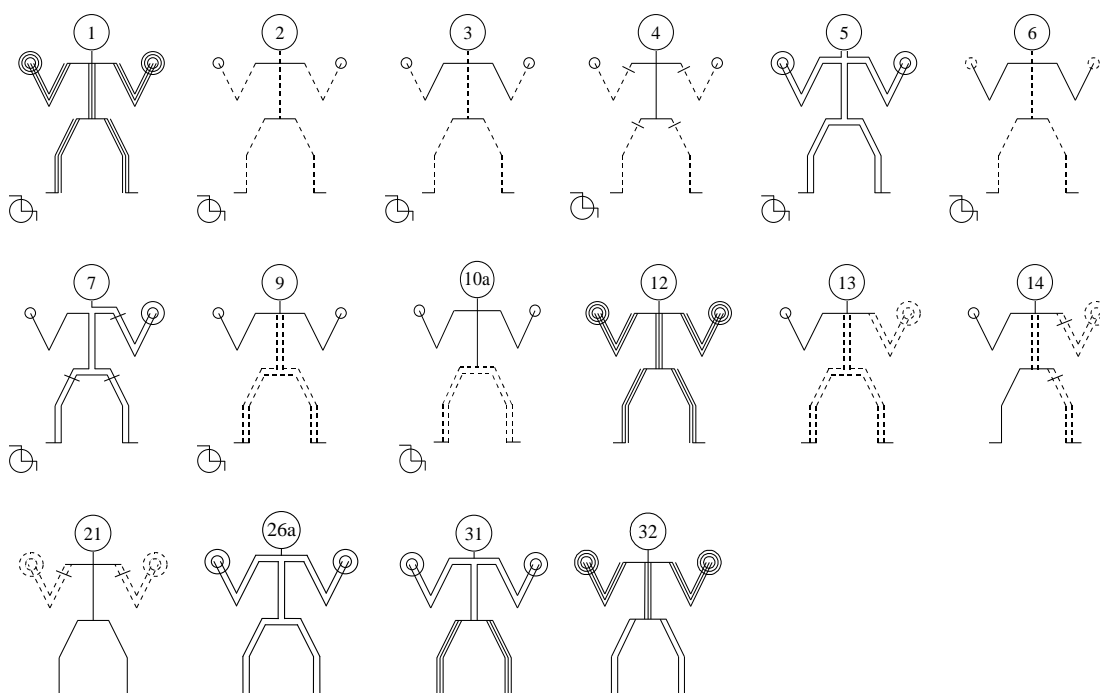
### Grades and Profiles for Athletes: Para Equestrian Driving

|   |                           |                             |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| — Normal function or minimal disadvantage | ⊥ Absence of limb         | ≡≡≡ Paresis or incoordinate |
| - - - Paresis                             | ≡ Incoordinate            | ≡≡≡ Deformity               |
|   | ≡≡≡ Severely incoordinate | ♿ Wheelchair user           |

#### Grade I Para Equestrian Driving

This Grade includes a range of impairments including: Moderate to severe Impairment in all four limbs and trunk and who may or may not be able to walk; Moderate to severe Impairment in three limbs and trunk; Severe Impairment in two unilateral limbs and trunk; Severe Impairment in upper limbs and trunk; Severe impairment in upper limbs with mild impairment in lower limbs; Severe Impairment in the upper limbs; Most Athletes in this Grade will use a wheelchair in daily life for some or all mobility.

#### Profiles: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10a, 12a, 12b 13, 14, 21, 26a, 31, 32

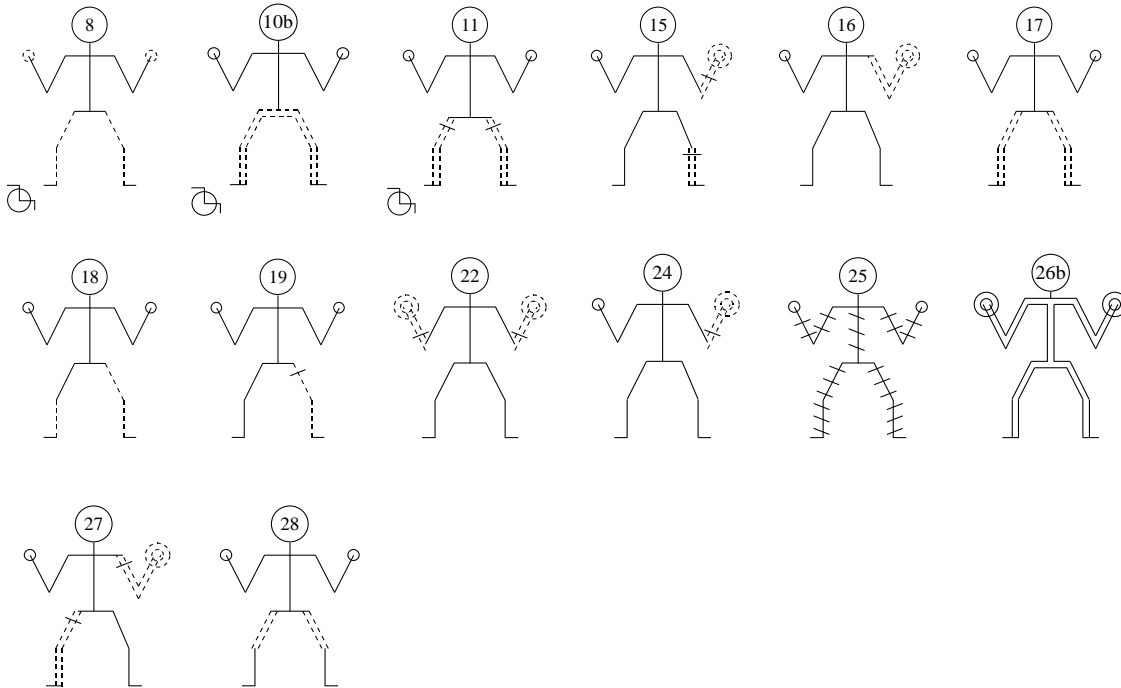


## Grade II Para Equestrian Driving

This Grade includes a range of impairments including: mild impairment in all four limbs and trunk, severe to moderate impairment in one or two lower limbs; two limbs on the same side; moderate to mild impairment of one or two upper limbs.

Those in this Grade have less Impairment than Grade I and are considered to be functionally disadvantaged against able bodied Drivers.

### Profiles: 8, 10b, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 25, 26b, 27, 28



### Not Eligible

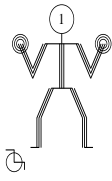
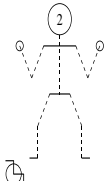
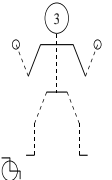
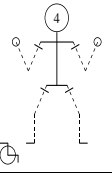
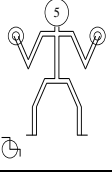
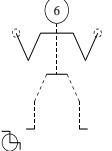
Profiles: 20, 23, 29, 30, 36, 37a, 37b, 38, 39, 42, 48

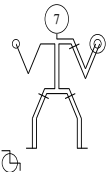
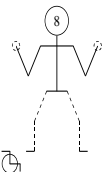
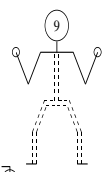
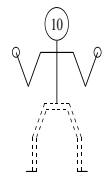
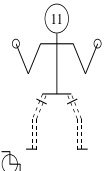
## Para Equestrian Profile Definitions

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Movement and mobility Impairment: | Profiles 1-32  |
| Sensory Impairment:               | Profiles 36-38 |
| Intellectual Impairment:          | Profile 39     |
| Other Impairment:                 | Profile 42     |
| Able Bodied:                      | Profile 48     |

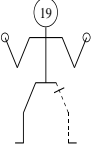
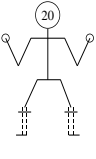
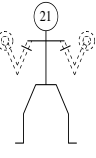

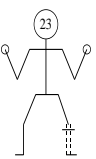
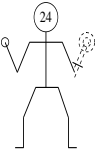
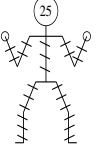
### Guide to Profiles

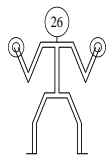
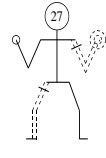
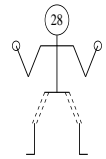
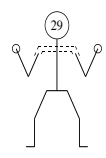
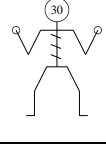

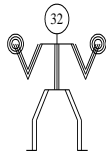
|   |                             |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| — Normal function or minimal disadvantage | + Absence of limb           | === Paresis or incoordinate |
| - - - Paresis                             | ==== Incoordinate           | --- Deformity               |
|   | ===== Severely incoordinate | ♿ Wheelchair user           |

| Profile  | Graphic   | Grade     | Description  |
|----------|---|-----------|--|
| <b>1</b> |    | <b>I</b>  | <p><b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia or paresis present in all limbs and trunk.</p> <p>Results in little or no use in all four limbs and very poor trunk control.</p> <p>Needs a powered wheelchair or pushed in a manual wheelchair and personal assistant during daily life.</p>   |
| <b>2</b> |   | <b>I</b>  | <p><b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia, paresis or impairment present in all limbs and trunk. Poor control of the trunk and almost no use in four limbs but can bend the elbows. Triceps muscle is non-functional against resistance e.g. complete Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) at C5/6 level.</p> <p>May push a manual wheelchair and may need a powered wheelchair for long distances.</p> |
| <b>3</b> |  | <b>I</b>  | <p><b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate hypertonia or athetosis or ataxia present in all limbs and trunk; poor trunk control; very poor balance and inability to grip and release objects. Complete SCI at C6/7 level. The finger flexors, extensors and intrinsic muscles of the hand may be severely impaired Wheelchair user.</p>  |
| <b>4</b> |  | <b>II</b> | <p><b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia, paresis or impairment present in all limbs; absence of all limbs; almost no use in all four limbs but good trunk control. Mainly use their seat to control the movement of the horse. May push a manual wheelchair in some way.</p>  |
| <b>5</b> |  | <b>I</b>  | <p><b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia or paresis present in all limbs and trunk; may have moderate trunk control with difficulty; either with arms or legs. Able to push a manual wheelchair with difficulty using arms or legs. Difficulty controlling the limbs in any activity.</p>  |
| <b>6</b> |  | <b>II</b> | <p><b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate hypertonia, athetosis, ataxia or paresis in lower limbs and trunk with poor trunk control. May have a complete SCI at C8/T1 or moderate quadriplegia. Minimal Impairment in upper limbs with mildly weak hands or lack of control in the arms. Wheelchair user.</p>   |

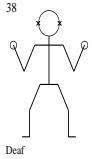
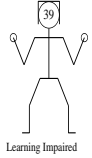
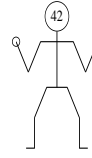
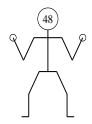
| Profile   | Graphic   | Grade                   | Description   |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>7</b>  |    | <b>I</b>                | <b>THREE LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment or limb deficiency of three limbs. Some difficulty with trunk control. One limb may be only minimally affected and has good function. Wheelchair user and may need to use a powered wheelchair.  |
| <b>8</b>  |    | <b>III</b>              | <b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to severe hypertonia paresis, athetosis, ataxia, or impairment of the lower limbs. Minimal hypertonia paresis, athetosis, ataxia, or impairment in upper limbs with slightly weak hands or arms; the intrinsic muscles of hands may be severely affected. Good trunk control. Wheelchair user.  |
| <b>9</b>  |    | <b>II</b>               | <b>LOWER LIMBS AND TRUNK REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment present in both lower limbs and trunk. Upper trunk control present but no lower trunk control. Complete SCI at T1 – T5 level. Unable to perform a pelvic tilt. Unable to balance when sitting unsupported. Wheelchair user with good use in arms.   |
| <b>10</b> |   | <b>II</b><br><b>III</b> | <b>LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment present in both lower limbs and moderate trunk involvement. Complete SCI at T5 – T10 Wheelchair user with good use of arms.<br><b>10a:</b> Unable to move outside own base of support and total sensory loss below umbilicus. Significant difficulty with balance in sitting.<br><b>10b:</b> Able to move outside own base of support and able to perform a pelvic tilt with difficulty. Difficulty with trunk control and unable to use hips to assist trunk movement.   |
| <b>11</b> |  | <b>II</b><br><b>III</b> | <b>LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment present in both lower limbs and trunk or limb deficiency of both legs. Some control of the hips with good pelvic tilt. Good control of the trunk and arms. SCI at T10 – L3 level. Must have some power in hip flexors and extensors.<br>May stand or walk but uses a wheelchair for activities of daily living.<br><b>11a:</b> Those with bilateral limb deficiency, no prosthesis and residual limb less than 6" (15cm) measured from the greater trochanter.<br><b>11b:</b> Those defined in Profile 11 above including a residual limb longer than 6" (15cm) |

| Profile   | Graphic | Grade                   | Description  |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>12</b> |         | <b>I</b><br><b>II</b>   | <b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in all four limbs. Fair to moderate trunk control. Able to walk in an unorthodox way. Balance and co-ordination grossly affected.<br><b>12a:</b> As above with trunk impaired.<br><b>12b:</b> As above with trunk less impaired than in 12a.  |
| <b>13</b> |         | <b>I</b>                | <b>THREE LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in three limbs. Trunk control may be fair to moderate. Balance in standing is severely affected. Able to walk but has poor use of three limbs and usually uses a stick in the good hand.   |
| <b>14</b> |         | <b>III</b>              | <b>IPSILATERAL LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, limb deficiency or impairment in two limbs on the same side of the body. Trunk is involved. Able to walk and usually can balance unaided only on the non-impaired leg. The asymmetry of the body makes it difficult to balance on the horse.  |
| <b>15</b> |         | <b>IV</b>               | <b>IPSILATERAL LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Slight to moderate hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, limb deficiency or impairment in two limbs on the same side of the body. Trunk is involved. Able to walk. Balance on the horse less affected than Profile 14.   |
| <b>16</b> |         | <b>V</b>                | <b>ONE UPPER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe paresis or hypertonia; total limb deficiency of one upper limb.  |
| <b>17</b> |         | <b>III</b><br><b>IV</b> | <b>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in two lower limbs which act more like props. Able to walk with two crutches or sticks.<br><b>17a:</b> No to poor functional pelvic movement. Unable to move out of base of support. Unable to control the horse from the pelvis.<br><b>17b:</b> Fair to normal pelvic movement and control. Able to control the horse from the pelvis.            |
| <b>18</b> |         | <b>III</b><br><b>IV</b> | <b>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in one lower limb; moderate to slight Impairment of the other lower limb. Able to walk.<br><b>18a:</b> No to poor functional pelvic movement or control. Unable to move out of base of support. Unable to control the horse from the pelvis.<br><b>18b:</b> Fair to normal pelvic movement and control. Able to control the horse from the pelvis. |

| Profile   | Graphic   | Grade                 | Description   |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|---|
| <b>19</b> |    | <b>IV</b><br><b>V</b> | <p><b>ONE LOWER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or total limb deficiency of one lower limb which is used as a prop. Able to walk. No impairment present in the other leg.</p> <p><b>19a:</b> An amputee who rides without a prosthesis. Residual limb 6 inches (15cm) or less.</p> <p><b>19b:</b> Paresis or an amputee who rides with a prosthesis. Residual limb longer than 6ins (15cm.) Measured from greater trochanter.</p> |
| <b>20</b> |    | <b>V</b>              | <p><b>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or total limb deficiency of one lower limb or limb deficiency of part of both lower limbs (50% or less of the lower legs remaining).</p> <p>Able to walk and run.</p>  |
| <b>21</b> |    | <b>IV</b>             | <p><b>TWO UPPER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment or total limb deficiency of both upper limbs.</p>  |
| <b>22</b> |  | <b>V</b>              | <p><b>TWO UPPER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment of both arms or limb deficiency of part of both upper limbs -below the elbow. Able to grip reins with or without prosthesis.</p>   |
| <b>23</b> |  | <b>V</b>              | <p><b>ONE LOWER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment of one lower limb or total deficiency of one lower limb below the knee with 50% or less of lower leg remaining. May run if fit enough. Amputation through the forefoot is not eligible.</p>   |
| <b>24</b> |  | <b>V</b>              | <p><b>ONE UPPER LIMB REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment of one upper limb or total deficiency of one upper limb below the elbow. Unable to grip rein with one hand.</p>   |
| <b>25</b> |  | <b>IV</b>             | <p><b>FOUR LIMBS AND TRUNK REDUCED IN STATURE:</b> Short stature due to extreme shortness of limbs. To be eligible for Profile 25, an Athlete must be &gt; 18 years of age. Maximum Height of 129cm</p>   |

| Profile      | Graphic   | Grade                   | Description   |
|--------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>26</b>    |    | <b>IV</b><br><b>V</b>   | <b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in all four limbs. Balance and gross co-ordination affected.<br><b>26a:</b> As above, trunk impaired.<br><b>26b:</b> As above, trunk less impaired than for 26a.   |
| <b>27</b>    |    | <b>III</b>              | <b>TWO CONTRALATERAL LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment or total limb deficiency of opposite arm and leg.   |
| <b>28</b>    |    | <b>IV</b>               | <b>TWO LOWER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, impairment in both hips and lower spine. Poor or no pelvic control. Difficulty walking and may have a waddling gait.  |
| <b>29</b>    |   | <b>NE</b>               | <b>TWO UPPER LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, impairment in both upper limbs-shoulders.   |
| <b>30</b>    |  | <b>NE</b>               | <b>TRUNK REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe to moderate hypertonia, paresis, impairment in trunk or neck.  |
| <b>31</b>    |  | <b>II</b><br><b>III</b> | <b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION:</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in both lower limbs. Moderate to slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia or impairment in both upper limbs. Trunk control fair to moderate. Able to walk.<br><b>31a:</b> Trunk involved, no or poor functional pelvic movement and unable to move out of base of support.<br><b>31b:</b> Trunk less involved with fair to good pelvic control. |
| <b>32</b>    |  | <b>III</b>              | <b>FOUR LIMBS REDUCED IN FUNCTION -</b> Severe hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in both upper limbs.<br>Slight hypertonia, paresis, athetosis, ataxia, impairment in both lower limbs.<br>Trunk impaired. Able to walk.   |
| <b>33-35</b> |   |                         | AVAILABLE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROFILES  |
| <b>36-37</b> |   |                         | Athletes with Vision Impairment   |



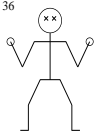
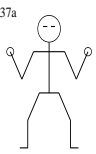
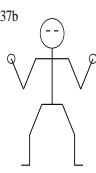
| <b>Profile</b> | <b>Graphic</b>   | <b>Grade</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|----------------|--|--------------|--|
| <b>38</b>      | <br>Deaf              | <b>NE</b>    | DEAF-Defined as a hearing loss of at least 55dB pure tone average (PTA) in the better ear (three-tone pure tone average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, air conduction, ISO 1969 Standard)  |
| <b>39</b>      | <br>Learning Impaired | <b>NE</b>    | Athletes with an intellectual Impairment have a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviours which affects conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills required for everyday life. This impairment must be present before the age of 18. |
| <b>40-41</b>   |  |              | AVAILABLE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROFILES   |
| <b>42</b>      |                       | <b>NE</b>    | A HEALTH CONDITION WHICH CANNOT BE MEASURED THROUGH THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS and thereby Not Eligible. See Appendix 3 Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes<br>-  |
| <b>43-47</b>   |  |              | AVAILABLE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROFILES   |
| <b>48</b>      |                     | <b>NE</b>    | ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE.  |

## Appendix II - Athletes with Vision Impairment

### Eligible Impairment Types

| Eligible Impairment  | Examples of Health Conditions   | Assessment Methodology  | Minimum Impairment Criteria   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Vision Impairment</b></p> <p>Athletes here considered with Vision Impairment have very reduced vision to total blindness caused by damage of the eye structure and physiology, optical pathways (including the optic nerves), visual cortex.</p> | <p>Examples of an underlying Health Condition that can lead to such Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa, diabetic retinopathy, retinal detachment, optic nerves atrophy.</p> | <p>A basic vision assessment based on Visual Acuties and Visual Fields.</p> | <p>Minimum Impairment Criteria for Athletes with such a vision Impairment have been set based on the Athlete's best eye with the better optical correction possible vision. The Non Eligible have visual acuity equal or better than LogMAR 0.9 and / or visual field diameter equal or greater than 40 degrees tested with a III/4 stimulus in Goldmann perimeter ( or equivalent in automatic perimeters)</p> |

### Profiles and Grades for VI

|                   |   |                  |  |
|-------------------|---|------------------|--|
| <p><b>36</b></p>  | <p>36</p>  <p>Blind</p>              | <p><b>IV</b></p> | <p>TOTALLY BLIND. B1</p> <p>Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2.60</p> <p>Totally blind. (B1) -no sight in both eyes</p>   |
| <p><b>37a</b></p> | <p>37a</p>  <p>Partially Sighted</p> | <p><b>V</b></p>  | <p>PARTIAL SIGHT. B2</p> <p>Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 inclusive; and/or Visual field that is constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees</p> <p>Partially sighted (B2) Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How far they can see (visual acuity).</li> <li>• How wide they can see (visual field).</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>37b</b></p> | <p>37b</p>  <p>Partially Sighted</p> | <p><b>NE</b></p> | <p>PARTIAL SIGHT. B3</p> <p>Visual acuity ranges from 1.40 to 1.0 inclusive; and/or a visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees</p> <p>Partially sighted (B3) Athletes who have limited vision in both eyes either in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How far they can see (visual acuity).</li> <li>• How wide they can see (visual field).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>     |

## Appendix III - Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes

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

- Pain
- Hearing Impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impaired metabolic functions; and
- Intellectual impairment – a restriction in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour
- Impaired vision with IBSA classification B3 and B4
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration

### Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes

A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in the above Appendices Appendix One and/or Appendix Two) but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.

Health Conditions that primarily cause pain; primarily cause fatigue; primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature do *not* lead to an Eligible Impairment.

Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial *pain*-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.

## Appendix IV – Refractive Errors Provisions

### Preamble

This Appendix sets out provisions for active and internationally classified Athletes in the sport of Para Equestrian whose refractive error may have been considered an Underlying Health Condition leading to Vision Impairment.

In the event of conflict between any terms of this Appendix and the Para Equestrian Classification Rules and Regulations, the terms of this Appendix will prevail.

### Part One: context

Part One of this Appendix is of general application.

#### 1 Decision regarding refractive errors as an Underlying Health Condition

1.1 In accordance with the IPC's position, the FEI has made the following decision:

1.1.1 refractive errors are no longer considered an Underlying Health Condition leading to Vision Impairment; and

1.1.2 instead, when secondary pathological changes are present along with refractive errors, then the medical diagnosis should describe the specific changes causing the loss of vision. If the pathological changes are confirmed on the basis of the medical evidence provided through diagnostic testing, then the Athlete will be considered to have an Underlying Health Condition leading to an Eligible Impairment and will proceed to an Evaluation Session to determine if they meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para Equestrian.

#### 2 Implementation timeframe

2.1 The decision set out in Article 1 above is effective as follows:

2.1.1 for all new Athletes coming into Para Equestrian: 1 January 2022; and

2.1.2 for active Athletes currently in the system competing in Para Equestrian: at the start of the new Paralympic cycle, that being the cycle after the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (i.e. 1 January 2025), subject to the terms of these Provisions.

### Part Two: the Provisions

Part Two of this Appendix (the "Provisions") shall apply only for the identified period and to those Athletes specified in these Provisions.

#### 3 Provisions time period

3.1 These Provisions will apply from 17 August 2022 to 31 December 2024 (inclusive) (the "Implementation Period").

#### 4 Athletes included under these Provisions

4.1 These Provisions apply only to:

- 4.1.1 Athletes listed in Article 2.1.2 above;
- 4.1.2 Athletes who are identified by the FEI through the procedures in Articles 6.1 and 6.2 below as Athletes for whom refractive errors may have been considered an Underlying Health Condition leading to Vision Impairment; and
- 4.1.3 Athletes who are not excluded from these Provisions under Article 5 below.

## **5 Athletes excluded from these Provisions**

- 5.1 These Provisions do not apply to the following Athletes:
  - 5.1.1 Athletes who hold Sport Class Status New (N) in Para Equestrian;
  - 5.1.2 Athletes who have not been allocated a Sport Class by a Classification Panel before 1 January 2022; and
  - 5.1.3 Athletes allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) or designated Classification Not Completed (CNC) as of 1 January 2022.
- 5.2 Athletes excluded from these Provisions shall be treated for the purposes of this Appendix as a new Athlete competing in Para Equestrian, in accordance with the implementation timeframe set out in Article 2.1.1.

## **6 Procedure: Sport Class Status Change**

- 6.1 The FEI will carry out a screening process to identify Athletes for whom refractive errors may have been considered an Underlying Health Condition leading to Vision Impairment.
- 6.2 The screening process will be carried out for all Athletes allocated the following Sport Classes (other than Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated the Sport Class Status Review, Review with a Fixed Review Date or Confirmed:
  - 6.2.1 Profile 36
    - Profile 37a
    - Profile 37b
- 6.3 Athletes identified under Articles 6.1 and 6.2 of this Appendix will have their Sport Class Status re-designated to a Review with a Fixed Review Date 01.01.2025 in accordance with Article 15.17 of these Classification Rules.
- 6.4 The FEI will notify these Athletes via their National Body or National Paralympic Committee of this re-designation.
- 6.5 Following the close of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the FEI will form an Eligibility Assessment Committee to review these Athletes' Diagnostic Information as described in Article 7.10 of these Classification Rules.
- 6.6 Where the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment:
  - 6.6.1 the Athlete will be permitted to proceed to an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel, subject to their Sport Class Status i;
  - 6.6.2 pending the outcome of that Evaluation Session, the Athlete's Sport Class will remain unchanged.
- 6.7 Where the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment:

6.7.1 the Athlete will not be permitted to proceed to an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel and will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by the FEI in accordance with Article 18.3 of these Rules;

6.7.2 as with any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by the FEI or a Classification Panel (if delegated by the FEI) because the Athlete has a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition, the Athlete has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any Para sport after receiving the outcome of the Eligibility Assessment Committee on the basis of Vision Impairment in accordance with Article 18.5 of these Classification Rules;

6.7.3 the Athlete and their National Body or National Paralympic Committee may, at the discretion of the FEI, be invited to join an audio/video call with the FEI and a member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee to explain the decision.

## **7 Medical Review Requests**

7.1 Nothing in this Appendix shall prevent a National Paralympic Committee or National Body from making a Medical Review Request on behalf of their Athlete in accordance with Article 31 of these Classification Rules. In respect of Medical Review Request made in the Implementation Period on behalf of an Athlete included under these Provisions, the Provisions shall cease to apply to that Athlete upon receipt of the Medical Review Request by the FEI, and the following shall instead apply:

7.1.1 if the Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect in accordance with Article 31.8 of these Classification Rules;

7.1.2 if the Medical Review Request does not include sufficient evidence to explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed, including sufficient evidence of an Underlying Health Condition leading to Vision Impairment in the context of Article 1 of this Appendix, the Medical Review Request will not be accepted and the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by the FEI in accordance with Article 18.3.2 of these Classification Rules.