



# IBSA Judo Classification Rules

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**International Blind Sports Federation**  
**[www.ibsasport.org](http://www.ibsasport.org)**

## Part One: General Provisions

### 1 Scope and Application

#### Adoption

- 1.1 The Judo Classification Rules shall be referred to throughout this document as “The Rules”, “These Rules” or “the Judo Classification Rules”, as circumstances require. The Rules are designed to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code, the IPC International Standards on Classification and the research findings authored in 2020 by Dr. David Mann and Dr. Kai Krabben to design a new Classification System for the sport of Judo for athletes who are blind or partially sighted.
- 1.2 These Rules will take effect on January 1, 2022 when all medical documents prepared under the previous rules become outdated. Athletes wishing to compete in Judo must upload new Medical Diagnostic Information in the ISAS database to take part in classification under the new rules. Every athlete under These Rules has an immediate sport class Status of Review and must be classified before they can compete.
- 1.3 The Rules are also supported by various classification forms used to provide information to IBSA, to report classification results, and to otherwise communicate with athletes and IBSA Members. These form part of the IBSA Rules and Regulations.
- 1.4 These forms are also available from the IBSA website and in the IBSA Classification Manual for members. These classification forms may be amended by IBSA from time to time.
- 1.5 These Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code), any appendices to the Code, and IPC International Standards on Classification (the International Standards) and all other applicable rules and policies of IBSA which relate to athlete classification under These Rules.
- 1.6 The following provisions apply when interpreting These Rules:
  - (a) If there is a provision in These Rules that is more specific than a provision in either the Code or the International Standards, the more specific provision in These Rules applies.
  - (b) If there is a provision in These Rules that is inconsistent with the Code, the provision in the Code applies.
  - (c) If These Rules are silent on a particular matter and the matter is instead covered in the International Standards, the applicable provision in the International Standards applies.

(d) In the event of any conflict between These Rules and any other IBSA rules, policies, or forms, These Rules shall take precedence.

(e) References to an 'Article' mean an Article of These Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to These Rules, and capitalised terms used in These Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to These Rules.

(f) The Appendix to These Rules is part of These Rules. Both These Rules and the Appendix may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by IBSA from time to time after consulting the membership at least 45 days before the changes are made effective.

(g) Headings used in These Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.

(h) Any time periods for completing tasks under These Rules may only be extended or abridged in exceptional circumstances. IBSA will determine if the exceptional circumstances threshold is met in a particular case. Any consequences associated with an athlete or an IBSA Member providing classification documents to IBSA outside the time periods provided in These Rules are the responsibility of the IBSA Member and the athlete.

### **Classification**

1.7 Classification is undertaken to:

a) define who is eligible to compete in IBSA Judo at the Paralympic Games and other IBSA Judo sanctioned competitions; and

b) group Athletes into Sport Classes to minimise the impact of vision impairment on the outcome of the competition, maximising the chance that the ultimate victor is determined on the basis of sport performance.

### **Application**

1.8 These Rules apply to all Athletes, IBSA Members and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with IBSA to compete or support others who are competing in IBSA Judo who choose to participate in any Events or Competitions organised, sanctioned, authorised or recognised by IBSA Judo, or multi-sport games organized by IBSA where Judo competitions are held.

### **International Classification**

1.9 IBSA will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class (Not Eligible)) and designated a Sport Class Status under These Rules.

## **2 Roles and Responsibilities**

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

## **Athlete Responsibilities**

2.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include:

- a) Athletes must be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by the IBSA Classification Rules;
- b) Participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
- c) Ensure, when required, that adequate information related to Health Conditions, either General Health or Visual Health conditions, and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to IBSA within the time periods identified elsewhere in These Rules or in the rules for specific competitions, to ensure they are reviewed by the appropriate Classification Personnel;
- d) Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of These Rules; and
- e) Actively participate in the process of education and awareness and Classification research when requested. When the research relates to a specific Health Condition of an athlete, the athlete is required to give their informed consent before IBSA may use any of their health information in any research conducted.

## **Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

2.3 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include:

- a) To inform themselves about and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by These Rules;
- b) Except as otherwise provided for in These Rules, keep all information provided during the classification session confidential;
- c) Use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative attitude towards the Classification Process and encourage a culture of open and honest communication between the athlete and the classifiers;
- d) Assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- e) Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of These Rules.

## **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include:

- a) To have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by These Rules;
- b) To use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative attitude towards the Classification Process and encourage a culture of open and honest communication between the athlete and classifiers;

- c) To assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research;
- d) To remain current on all the latest classification research and classification techniques by attending professional development training opportunities either virtually or in person;
- e) To only collect, use and store any medical or other Personal Information received from athletes, IBSA Members or other individuals attending a classification session in accordance with Rule 32, below; and
- f) To cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of These Rules while respecting the privacy of the athlete (s) involved.

## **Part Two: Classification Personnel**

### **3 Classification Personnel**

3.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of These Rules. IBSA will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation, and administration of Classification.

3.2 IBSA shall appoint a Head of Classification who is the person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for IBSA.

3.3. If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, IBSA may appoint temporarily another person, or a group of persons collectively. Such a person or group of persons must agree to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct, and should have the qualifications set out in rule 3.4, at least the majority of persons if they are a group.

3.4 The Head of Classification must be a registered ophthalmologist with significant experience in low vision diagnosis and treatment.

3.5 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated International Classifiers, or other qualified persons authorised by IBSA. These tasks must be specifically assigned in writing. The responsibility to ensure that all classification related tasks are performed correctly (including administrative tasks) rests with IBSA.

3.6 Nothing in These Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as an IBSA international classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

### **International Classifiers**

- 3.7 An international Classifier is a person authorised as an IBSA classifier to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel. Classifiers act in the capacity of a sport official, and their sole functions are to determine whether athletes are eligible to compete in Judo, and if so, in which sport class and status, by conducting classification in the form prescribed by These Rules.

### **Chief Classifiers**

- 3.8 A Chief Classifier is an international Classifier appointed by IBSA to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by IBSA. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by IBSA to do the following:
- 3.8.1 Identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session in accordance with These Rules;
  - 3.8.2 Ensure that all classification documents received by IBSA either from the IBSA Member and/or the athlete are correct and complete;
  - 3.8.3 Supervise Classifiers to ensure that These Rules, the Classification Code and related International Standards are properly applied during Classification;
  - 3.8.4 Manage Protests in consultation with IBSA
  - 3.8.5 Liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.
- 3.9 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other IBSA qualified Classifiers, other accredited qualified IBSA officers or representatives, and/or qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition where IBSA has approved their qualifications. These persons must be qualified for the tasks they are required to perform and the tasks need to be specifically described.
- 3.10 In advance of the Classification event, check the MDFs and other medical documents provided by IBSA Members or athletes for a specific classification event and send an alert feedback for needed corrections and missed tests in due time before the event.

### **Trainee Classifiers**

- 3.11 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by IBSA.
- 3.12 IBSA 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. This appointment must be approved by the Head of Classification and the Chief Classifier.

- 3.13 A trainee classifier cannot be included on a panel as a substitute for either of the two designated accredited international classifiers appointed by IBSA to each panel in a classification event.
- 3.14 One panel at an International classification event cannot work with more than one designated trainee classifier when an athlete is classified at a classification appointment.
- 3.15 The Chief Classifier must provide the Head of Classification with a written report concerning the trainee classifier's performance during the classification event.
- 3.16 Trainee classifiers must always have a license to practise their profession in their own country and an agreement to participate from their respective IBSA Member.

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

- 4.1 VI International Classifiers are IBSA accredited officials and are able to perform the vision assessment of Visually Impaired Athletes
- 4.2 IBSA must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3 The Head of Classification must specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The Classifier Competencies must include that a Classifier has:
  - 4.3.1 A thorough understanding of These Rules, the Classification Code and related International Standards; and
  - 4.3.2 The necessary professional qualifications, skills, competencies and experience to act as an International Classifier for IBSA. These include that Classifiers must be international VI classifiers certified by IPC and/or IBSA.
- 4.4 IBSA must establish a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process must include:
  - 4.4.1 A process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers; IBSA must specify Entry- Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. IBSA will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers
  - 4.4.2 Competency assessment of existing classifiers 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 the Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.5 IBSA must provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.6 IBSA may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
  - 4.6.1 A limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
  - 4.6.2 the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;
  - 4.6.3 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
  - 4.6.4 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if - after careful examination - IBSA is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
  - 4.6.5 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if IBSA is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.
  - 4.6.6 The decision on a change in a classifiers' status must be fully explained, in writing.
  - 4.6.7 No classifier may act as an International Classifier to an athlete to whom they have provided medical treatment in the past or for whom they have completed Medical Diagnostic Information (MDF and other supportive tests and medical reports) in advance of a classification event.

## **5 Classifier Code of Conduct**

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in IBSA depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. IBSA has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 5.3 Everyone involved in athlete classification must carry out their responsibilities in a fashion that is respectful of the interests of the athlete while adhering to the rules of classification.
- 5.4 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 IBSA.
- 5.5 If IBSA receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures. Discipline may include any



sanction up to and including the removal of a classifier's certification to classify athletes at future competitions.

- 5.6 IBSA has the discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest. As a general rule, no classifier shall classify an athlete from their own country unless special circumstances exist.
- 5.7 In the specific circumstances of a Protest, classifiers from the country of the athlete in question should be avoided at the Second Panel.
- 5.8 At any time, an International Classifier can state a conflict of interest. It is then up to the Chief Classifier at the event to accept it or not.

## **Part Three: Athlete Evaluation**

### **6 General Provisions**

- 6.1 IBSA has specified the process, assessment criteria and methodology in These Rules whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This Process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2 Athlete Evaluation includes:
  - 6.2.1 an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport in which they are scheduled to compete;
  - 6.2.2 an assessment of whether an Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport; and
  - 6.2.3 the allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

### **7 Eligible Impairment**

- 7.1 Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by IBSA must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent and be listed in Appendix 1 of These Rules;
- 7.2 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix 1 is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment.

#### **Assessment of Eligible Impairment**

- 7.3 IBSA must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.3.1 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the onus is on the Athlete to prove on the balance of probabilities that they have an Underlying Health Condition leading to an Eligible Impairment.

- 7.3.2 The means by which IBSA determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of IBSA.

### **Diagnostic Information**

- 7.4 An Athlete must supply IBSA with Medical Diagnostic Information at IBSA's request to prove an Underlying Health Condition. This documentation may include:
- 7.4.1 The relevant IBSA Member must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to IBSA, upon completing the registration of an Athlete in the ISAS database, at least six weeks prior to an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel irrespective of where the Evaluation is held;
  - 7.4.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English, dated and signed by a certified ophthalmologist licensed in the jurisdiction where the athlete resides. It also must be signed by the IBSA member representing the athlete, stating that practising judo is not a health risk for the athlete.
  - 7.4.3 The Medical Diagnostics form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information described in Appendix 1 when necessary. IBSA may publish policies from time to time specifying the types of medical test results it requires athletes to provide prior to an Evaluation Session with a Classification Panel.
  - 7.5 IBSA may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if IBSA at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostics form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
  - 7.6 If IBSA requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information, it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so. Any diagnosis provided must be a diagnosis universally regarded as valid. Diagnoses must be descriptive and may not include general descriptions of an athlete's vision loss. Terms like low vision and amblyopia are not acceptable without an underlying cause. The underlying cause of the Vision Impairment must be stated as part of the diagnosis.

### **Eligibility Assessment Committee**

- 7.7 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.7.1. The Head of Classification will notify the relevant IBSA Member 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. He can delegate this task to the Chief Classifier and/or to the other VI international classifiers

appointed to the specific athlete's assessment event. The Head of Classification will set reasonable timelines for the production of the Diagnostic Information and all the required supplementary information must be uploaded in ISAS well before the classification assessment event starts

- 7.7.2 The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality undertakings. Members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will not be permitted to evaluate athletes from their own country. No classifier shall classify an athlete that they have assessed as a member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee for two years following that assessment. Any member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must refuse to assess any athlete they have classified in the previous two years. The Head of Classification supported by IBSA Assist is responsible for ensuring these requirements are met.
- 7.7.3 Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.7.4 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 7.7.5 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee 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 IBSA Member and the Athlete through the IBSA Member. The IBSA Member and the athlete, through their IBSA Member, will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the IBSA Member and the athlete.
- 7.7.6 If the decision is not changed, IBSA will issue a final decision letter to the IBSA Member.
- 7.7.7 The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, they may veto any decision if he does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment. If the Head of Classification chooses to exercise their veto, this should be explained in the final letter of decision.
- 7.8. IBSA may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

## **8 Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 8.1 An Athlete who wishes to compete in an IBSA sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2 IBSA has set a Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 8.3 Appendix 1 in These Rules specifies the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to Judo and the process by which an Athlete's Compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 8.4 A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete's impairment meets the 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 IBSA that he or she has an Eligible Impairment in accordance with article 7 of These Rules.

## **9. Sport Class**

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by IBSA in These 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 competing in judo.
- 9.2 An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for judo must be allocated a Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for judo in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of These Rules.
- 9.3 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for judo must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in These Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
- 9.4 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IBSA (in accordance with Article 16.1), the allocation of a sport class must be based on an evaluation by one classification panel of the extent to which the athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to judo.
- 9.5 To confirm an athlete's sport class as not eligible, a finding that an athlete is not eligible must be confirmed by the second Classification Panel in accordance with article 16 of These Rules.

- 9.6 Appendix One of These Rules specifies the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.
- 9.7 This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows an evaluation of an athlete's level of vision.

## **10 Classification Not Completed**

- 10.1 If IBSA or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete at any stage of the Athlete Evaluation Process, 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 Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in These Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will however be recorded for the purpose of the IBSA Classification Master List.
- 10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in judo until they have a Sport Class Status which allows the athlete to compete. An athlete who has three successive findings of Classification Not Completed may (at IBSA's sole discretion) receive a Sport Class of Not Eligible.

## **Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel**

### **11 The Classification Panel**

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

#### **General Provisions**

- 11.2 A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least two certified international Classifiers. At least one of the classifiers in a panel must be an ophthalmologist. In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, a Chief Classifier may decide that a Classification Panel can comprise only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a valid medical qualification as an ophthalmologist. When possible, this should also have the agreement of the Head Classifier.
- 11.2.1 When this does happen, the Chief Classifier should write a report and send it with the classification documents to IBSA Assist.

- 11.3 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified International Classifiers, and may participate in Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a certified international classifier. Only one trainee classifier can take part in each Classification Panel when classifying an athlete at any one classification opportunity.

## **12 Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 12.1 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting Evaluation Sessions. As part of the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must:
  - 12.1.1. Confirm the Eligible impairment
  - 12.1.2. Assess whether an Athlete's impairment meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
  - 12.1.3. Assess the visual Impairment in relation to the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to judo.
- 12.2 Following the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class 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 IBSA unless, IBSA 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 to allow the classifiers to evaluate the athlete's visual Impairment.
  - 12.4.1 Although other factors such as low fitness, fatigue and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors. The athlete needs to be calm, not anxious, and with enough rest before the assessment session in order to cooperate in the best possible conditions.
- 12.5 An Athlete who has both 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 Sport Class. For example, IBSA may evaluate an athlete with a Vision Impairment and a developmental disability if such developmental disability does not prevent the athlete from fully participating in the Classification Process.
- 12.6 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix 1.

## **13 Evaluation Sessions**

- 13.1 This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 13.2 The Athlete's IBSA Member 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 The Athlete must be accompanied by a representative of the Athlete's IBSA Member or a person designated by the IBSA Member when attending an Evaluation Session.
  - 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 Consent Form for Evaluation as specified by IBSA and sign it. This consent form is part of the official Classification Form used in the Classification Process.
  - 13.3.4 The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel by providing a document with a photo such as a passport, government issued ID card, IBSA license card, or event accreditation.
  - 13.3.5 Athletes must attend the Evaluation Session with the current optical correction and / or optical aids already prescribed to them and the related prescription order, not older than one year. Prescriptions provided must include prescriptions for glasses and contact lenses that are used both in everyday use and in competition to reconfirm the information previously provided on the Medical Diagnostics form. Classifiers will assess if the optical aids improve visual acuity or visual fields in the classification environment and therefore could impact the classification outcome. Optical aids if used will be noted on the classification form.
  - 13.3.6 The optical correction (glasses and contact lenses) or other optical aids when used at a competition, must be written in the Classification Form, and confirmed by the athlete and the support person when he/she signs the Classification Form.
  - 13.3.7 The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel which may either affect the level or quality of the Athlete's vision or affect the Athlete's ability to undergo any test or procedure that is part of a normal classification appointment.
  - 13.3.8 The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

13.3.9 If the athlete's first language is not English, the athlete may be accompanied by an interpreter for the purposes of translating the classifier's questions and the athlete's responses. The presence of the interpreter must be arranged by the IBSA Member and could be in addition to the representative of the athlete's IBSA Member previously described in These Rules. The Interpreter must also sign in advance of the assessment the form about the confidentiality of all subjects related to the athlete's assessment and medical documents

13.4 In respect of the Classification Panel:

13.4.1 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by IBSA and agreed with the classifiers and the athlete.

13.4.2 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation in English, over and above what was provided in the Medical Diagnostics Form, that is relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and/or to prove the minimum disability criteria, if the Classification Panel believes that this information is necessary for the panel to allocate a Sport Class.

13.4.3 In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.2, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete's IBSA Member (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.

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

13.4.5 The Classification Form must be signed by the two Classifiers as well as the athlete. If he does not agree with the class given, he can always submit a protest but if he does not sign the Classification Form, it will be noted.

13.4.6 The composition of the classifiers for the panels for a classification event is defined by the Chief Classifier before the classification event starts.

## **14 Sport Class Status**

14.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status.

14.2 Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future.

14.3. The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:

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



### **Sport Class Status New**

- 14.4. An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by IBSA prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition.

### **Sport Class Status Confirmed**

- 14.4.1 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is and will remain stable.
- 14.4.2 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (except as may be pursuant to the provisions in These Rules concerning Protests (Article 17), changes to any of the provisions of These Rules regarding eligible medical Impairment or boundaries of any sport class that may result in an athlete being classified into a different sport class, Medical Review Request (Article 29) and changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 14.7).
- 14.4.3 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 14.4.4 A first Classification Panel cannot designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the athlete is found not eligible, but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R). For this to be confirmed the NE athlete needs to be assessed by a second panel with the conclusion of NE.

### **Sport Class Status Review**

- 14.5. An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
- 14.5.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition where VI classification is available.

## **Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date**

- 14.6 An Athlete may be designated Sport Class 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.
- 14.6.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first classification opportunity in the year mentioned in the relevant Fixed Review Date.
- 14.6.2 An Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the first classification in the year mentioned in the relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest or the circumstances stated in 14.4.2.
- 14.6.3 In the event that the IPC creates a zero-classification policy for an upcoming IPC sanctioned event, IBSA may permit athletes with a Fixed Review date to be classified earlier provided that there are no classification opportunities scheduled to take place in the year of the competition covered by the zero-classification policy requirements.

## **Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

- 14.7 If IBSA changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to These Rules, then:
  - 14.7.1 IBSA may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
  - 14.7.2 IBSA may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
  - 14.7.3 in both instances the relevant IBSA Member shall be informed as soon as it is practicable and at least 90 days prior to the competition where he/she has the opportunity to be reassessed.

## **15 Notification of an Athlete Evaluation**

- 15.1 The outcome of an Athlete Evaluation must be provided to the Athlete, the designated member of the Local Organising Committee of the competition, and the relevant IBSA Member and be published stating the hour of publication, in a public place as soon as practically possible after completion of the Athlete Evaluation and before the competition starts.
- 15.2 The classification results must be also sent by the Chief Classifier

to IBSA Assist by email to [ibsaassist@gmail.com](mailto:ibsaassist@gmail.com)

- 15.3 The outcomes must be made available post Competition via the Classification Master List on the IBSA website up to 30 days after the competition ends.

## **Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible**

### **16. Sport Class Not Eligible**

#### **General Provisions**

- 16.1. IBSA must allocate a Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for judo if the classifiers determine an Athlete:
- a) has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment as defined in Appendix 1; or
  - b) does not have an Underlying Health Condition leading to an Eligible Impairment.
- 16.2. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Judo, that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for Judo.

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

- 16.3 If the athlete has been unable to provide sufficient evidence to IBSA that they have an Eligible Impairment, the impairment is permanent and that their Impairment is due to an Underlying Health Condition leading to Vision Impairment defined in Appendix 1, that Athlete:
- 16.3.1 Will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and will not be permitted to participate in Judo Competitions sanctioned by IBSA. This will be done in advance of the classification panel assessment
  - 16.3.2 Will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by IBSA for the sport of Judo.
  - 16.3.3 Will not be permitted to participate in Judo Competitions sanctioned by IBSA.

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

- 16.4 A second Classification Panel must conduct an Evaluation Session on any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete's impairment does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.

- 16.5 Until the time of the second Evaluation Session, the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 16.5.1 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 16.6 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class 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 Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 16.7 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for judo, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 16.8 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class 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 Judo.

## **Part Six: Protests**

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

- 17.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 17.2 A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) either with Review or Confirmed status.

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

- 18.1 A Protest may only be made by the IBSA Member that has licensed the Athlete.

### **19 IBSA Member Protests**

- 19.1 An IBSA Member may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.

- 19.2 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 15 of These Rules). An IBSA Member Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published. When the publication of the results is after 9 PM, then the protest time ends at 9 AM the following morning.

## **20 IBSA Member Protest Procedure**

- 20.1 To submit a Protest, the IBSA Member must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form that must be made available by IBSA at the Competition and via the IBSA website, and must include the following:
- 20.1.1 the name of the Protested Athlete;
  - 20.1.2 the details of the Decision which was being protested and/or a copy of the Decision.
  - 20.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the IBSA Member believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
  - 20.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
  - 20.1.5 the Protest Fee set by IBSA. (see article 20.4.5).
- 20.2 The Protest Documents must be submitted with the Protest Fee to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified by IBSA. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with IBSA, of which there are two possible outcomes:
- 20.2.1. The Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this Article 20; or
  - 20.2.2. The Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in Article 20.
- 20.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the IBSA Member as soon as it is practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 20.4 If the Protest is accepted:
- 20.4.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status was already Review (R);
  - 20.4.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the

Competition/location the Protest was made or at the next classification opportunity where the athlete is eligible to attend. Classification opportunities following the filing of a protest may be held either at the next competition where the athlete is eligible to compete or at another opportunity for classification out of competition.

- 20.4.3. This Protest Panel will consist of different classifiers other than the first panel and must not be from the same country as the athlete.
- 20.4.4 IBSA must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 20.4.5 If the Protest is successful, the Protest Fee will be reimbursed to the IBSA Member.
- 20.4.6 IBSA may change the amount of the Protest Fee from time-to-time. Any changes to the Protest Fee will be published by IBSA on its website 90 days before they take effect.

## **21 IBSA Protests**

- 21.1 IBSA may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
  - a) it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or incorrect sport class status;
  - or
  - b) any IBSA Member makes a request with evidence to IBSA. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of IBSA.

## **22 IBSA Protest Procedure**

- 22.1 If IBSA decides to make a Protest, IBSA must advise the Athlete's IBSA Member of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 22.2 The Head of Classification must provide the IBSA Member 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.
- 22.3 If IBSA makes a Protest:
  - 22.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
  - 22.3.2 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
  - 22.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

## **23 Protest Panel**

- 23.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article 23 if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 23.2 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 Rules.
- 23.3. A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
  - 23.3.1. Made the decision which is being protested; or
  - 23.3.2. conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Athlete involved in the original protest within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Decision which is being protested, unless otherwise agreed by the IBSA Member or IBSA (whichever is relevant).
  - 23.3.3. The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.
  - 23.3.4. The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with These Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
  - 23.3.5. The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for the outcome of classification at an event included in These Rules;
  - 23.3.6. Subject to any rights the athlete may have, by way of an Appeal, the decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an IBSA Protest is final.

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

- 24.1 If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
  - 24.1.1 The Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and
  - 24.1.2 All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

## **25. Special Provisions**

- 25.1. IBSA may make arrangements (subject to the approval of the IPC) 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, IBSA must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

## **Application during Major Competitions**

### **26. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests and Appeals**

- 26.1. The IPC and/or IBSA may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other major Competitions. In the event there is any conflict between the ad hoc provisions and These Rules, the ad hoc provisions shall govern.

## **Part Seven: Failure to Attend An Evaluation Session**

- 27.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending a designated Evaluation Session.
- 27.2 The IBSA Member must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.
- 27.3 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier, under very exceptional circumstances, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend, and subject to practicalities, may specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 27.4 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 Sport Class will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition until a sport class has been allocated



## **28 Suspension of Evaluation Session**

- 28.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if the Panel cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete for any reason including:
- 28.1.1. a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of These Rules;
  - 28.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 28.1.3 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;
  - 28.1.4 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;
  - 28.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel and/or does not have an interpreter;
  - 28.1.6 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; and/or
  - 28.1.7 the Athlete's representation of his or her 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;
  - 28.1.8 Fails to upload Medical Documentation in ISAS required prior to the Classification or does not bring the optical corrections used by the athlete either in daily life and or at competition to the Evaluation Session.
- 28.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 28.2.1 The athlete must be given an explanation of 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 IBSA Member in writing;
  - 28.2.2. If the Athlete corrects their behaviour or remedies the deficiencies provided to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed as soon as possible, but never with priority over the other athletes scheduled for the classification event; and

- 28.2.3. If the Athlete refuses to comply with the reasonable requests of the Classification Panel to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier, or does not remedy the deficiencies or change their conduct within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the Evaluation Session is completed.
- 28.3 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 Rules.
- 28.3.1 If the athlete or the IBSA member fails to upload all the supplementary tests requested in a previous classification the athlete is designated CNC and cannot be scheduled for a classification event.
- 28.4 The Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **Part Eight: Medical Review**

### **29 Medical Review**

- 29.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).
- 29.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment results in an improvement or a decrease in the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required to compete in judo in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 29.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's IBSA Member (together with a €100 fee, non refundable, and any supporting documentation). 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 in judo has changed.
- 29.3.1. The Medical Review needs to be supported by updated medical information which includes, but not only limited to: A New MDF (dated less than 90 days before the Medical Review request is received by IBSA)
- 29.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by IBSA as soon as reasonably practicable.

- 29.5 The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 29.6 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect and the athlete will be classified at the earliest opportunity.
- 29.7 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 29.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their IBSA Member may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 29.8 It is up to the Head of classification to accept or not to accept the request of a Medical Review. In the process to accept or refuse it the Head of classification can consult other international classifiers or other medical experts and specialists. He can also request further medical information from the IBSA member and athlete.

## **Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation**

### **30 Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 30.1 It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her 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 Sport Class. This also includes medical tests which can be proved to be false. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 30.2 It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete, their IBSA Member, 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.
- 30.3 An athlete, an interpreter, a support person, or the IBSA Member is guilty of misrepresentation if:
- 30.3.1 They knowingly provide or assist the athlete in providing documentation to IBSA that is false or documentation that belongs to another individual and attribute it to an athlete who is to be evaluated or intentionally omit it;
- 30.3.2 They provide test results in relation to an athlete that they know or ought to know are false;
- 30.3.3 They fail to disclose relevant information to the Classification Panel when they are requested to do so;

- 30.3.4 They fail to attend or discourage the athlete to attend an athlete evaluation session without their proper optical corrections or with corrections that do not optimise their level of visual acuity or field diameter; or
- 30.3.5 They knowingly lie or encourage an athlete to lie to the classifiers during an Evaluation Session.
- 30.4 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation, a hearing will be convened by the IBSA Legal and Ethics Committee to determine whether the Athlete, the IBSA Member, the interpreter, or the Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 30.5 The consequences to be applied to anyone who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:
  - 30.5.1 Disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
  - 30.5.2 Being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 2 to 4 years;
  - 30.5.3 Suspension from participation in Competitions in judo for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; the suspension will be noted on the athlete's record in the ISAS database;
  - 30.5.4 In respect of an IBSA Member, suspension of the member's IBSA Membership for a period not to exceed four years; and
  - 30.5.5 Publication of their names and suspension period on the IBSA website.
- 30.6 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 Sport Class Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.
- 30.7 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.
- 30.8 Any member that is found guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation is subject to a penalty of a suspension of its membership for four years up to having its membership revoked for life.

- 30.9 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 IBSA and applied to all sports under IBSA jurisdiction.

## **Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information**

### **31 Classification Data**

- 31.1 IBSA may only collect Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 31.2 All Classification Data Processed by IBSA must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### **32 Consent and Processing**

- 32.1 Subject to Article 32.3, IBSA may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 32.2 If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) then the legal representative, guardian, or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 32.3 IBSA may only Process Classification Data without the consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

### **3 Classification Research**

- 33.1 IBSA may request that an Athlete provide Personal Information for Research Purposes or to investigate a report of misrepresentation.
- 33.2 The use by IBSA of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with These Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 33.3 IBSA may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express written and informed consent of the relevant Athlete. If IBSA 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
- 33.4 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to IBSA solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.

## **34 Notification to Athletes**

- 34.1 IBSA must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data and the IBSA Member of the Athlete as to:
  - 34.1.1 the fact that IBSA is collecting the Classification Data; and
  - 34.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
  - 34.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

## **35 Classification Data Security**

- 35.1 IBSA must:
  - 35.1.1 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
  - 35.1.2 take steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with These Rules.

## **36 Disclosures of Classification Data**

- 36.1 IBSA must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Sport Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws and/or is done with the athlete's consent or for investigative proposals of misrepresentation.
- 36.2 IBSA may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with These Rules and permitted by National Laws.

## **37 Retaining Classification Data**

- 37.1 IBSA 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.
- 37.2 IBSA 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.

## **38 Access Rights to Classification Data**

- 38.1 Athletes may, through their IBSA Member, request the following items or actions from IBSA:
  - 38.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that IBSA processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
  - 38.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by IBSA and/or
  - 38.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by IBSA.
- 38.2 All requests for Athlete data made under Rule 38.1 must be complied with within one month.

## **39 Classification Master Lists**

- 39.1 IBSA must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status and ISAS number. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 39.2 IBSA must make available regular updated Classification Master Lists within 4 weeks of the end of each sanctioned competition to all relevant National Bodies on the IBSA website.

## **Part Eleven: Appeals**

- 40 An Appeal
  - 40.1 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.
- 41 Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal
  - 41.1 An Appeal may only be made by an IBSA Member.
- 42 Appeal to the IPC's Board of Appeal on Classification
  - 42.1 If the IBSA Member considers there has been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class, Sport Class Status, or an erroneous finding of misrepresentation has been made, and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, or has been inappropriately banned from competing in Judo due to misrepresentation during classification, it may submit an Appeal to the IPC Board of Appeal on Classification. The procedures of the Board of Appeal on Classification shall apply to the conduct of the Appeal.

Such an appeal must be submitted within fifteen (15) calendar days of the alleged procedural error. An athlete who has a sport class not eligible (NE) or CNC is unable to compete pending the outcome of the Appeal.

43 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

- 43.1 The IPC and/or IBSA may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions. IPC and/or IBSA will notify participants of these events before registration for these events.



## Part Twelve: Glossary

**Appeal:** The means by which a complaint that IBSA has made an unfair decision during the Classification Process is resolved.

**Athlete:** For purposes of Classification, any person who competes in IBSA judo at the international level (as defined by IBSA) or national level (as defined by each applicable 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 Rules in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class 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 IBSA to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to These Rules.

**Classification:** The process of grouping Athletes into Sport Classes and assigning Sport Class Statuses to Athletes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in judo. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

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

**Classification Intelligence:** Information obtained and used by IBSA in relation to Classification.

**Classification Master List:** A list made available by IBSA that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Classification Not Completed (CNC):** the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of IBSA.

**Classification Organisation:** Any organisation designated by IBSA that conducts the Process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by IBSA, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with These Rules.

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

**Classification Schedule:** This is a list of athletes attending a classification opportunity with times allocated to each athlete for their evaluation by International Classifiers

**Classification System:** The framework used by IBSA to develop and designate Sport Classes within a specific sport.

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

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which IBSA 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 IBSA deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by IBSA.

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

**Competition:** A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

**Compliance:** The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by IBSA. 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 IBSA to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in IBSA Judo.

**Code:** The IPC Athlete Classification Code (2015).

**Diagnostic Information:** Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables IBSA 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 IBSA competitions, as detailed in These Rules.

**Eligibility Assessment Committee:** An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

**Entry Criteria:** Standards set by IBSA relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers.

**Entry-level Education:** the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by IBSA to begin as a Classifier in IBSA Judo.

**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 Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to that sport.

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

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

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

**IBSA:** International Blind Sports Federation

**IBSA Assist:** IBSA Assist is the organisation that deals with the administration tasks of Classification in IBSA, maintains the ISAS database including the Online Registration System, and acts as a Help Line and also as a Liaison Officer for all IBSA Members and LOCs holding sanctioned competitions.

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

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** A deliberate attempt (either by act or omission) to mislead IBSA 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 Sport Class.

**Judo Classification Rules:** Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by IBSA in connection with Athlete Evaluation for the sport of IBSA Judo.

**International Competitions:** A Competition where IBSA is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by 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.

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

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

**Local Organising Committee:** The Organising Committee of a competition or conference.

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

**Major Competition Organiser:** An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** a form that the IBSA Member must upload to the ISAS database in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

**Medical Diagnostics Information:** Medical Diagnostics form and supporting medical test.

**Medical Review:** The Process by which IBSA 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 Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

**Medical Review Request:** A request made by the IBSA Member made on behalf of an Athlete to review a previous evaluation.

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

**National Body:** Refers to a national member of IBSA.

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

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

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

**Permanent:** The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved, meaning the principal effects are lifelong.

**Personal Information:** Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.  
**Process/Processing:** The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

**Protested Athlete:** An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

**Protested Decision:** The Sport Class decision being challenged.

**Protest Documents:** The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

**Protest Fee:** The fee prescribed by IBSA payable by the IBSA Member when submitting a Protest.

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

**Protest:** The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class 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 IBSA must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

**Recognised Competition:** a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by IBSA.

**Research Purposes:** Research into matters pertaining to the development of IBSA Judo including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in IBSA Judo and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

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

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

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

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

**Vision Impairment:** reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways or visual cortex of the brain

**Vision Correction:** Improvement of vision through the use of prescription eye glasses or contact lenses.

## Appendix One - Athletes with Vision Impairment For the Sport of Judo

- 1 Introduction
- 1.1 IBSA has designated Sport Classes for Athletes with Vision Impairment, that are defined in this Appendix.
- 1.2 All provisions of the Judo Classification Rules apply to the assessment of Athletes with Vision Impairment who wish to participate in IBSA Judo.

## 2 Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<b>Vision Impairment</b> Athletes with Vision Impairment have reduced or no vision caused by damage to the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the brain.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.

An athlete must have an eligible impairment in accordance with article 7 of These Rules:

- 3a. The Athlete must have at least one (1) of the following Impairments:
  - (a) Impairment of the eye structure;
  - (b) Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways; or
  - (c) Impairment of the visual cortex
- 3b. It is the responsibility of the Athlete and his National Federation to provide sufficient evidence of the Athlete's Vision Impairment. This must be done by way of submitting medical Diagnostic Information completed by an ophthalmologist as described in Article 7.5 of These Rules.
- 3c. The medical Diagnostic Information must comprise the completed Medical Diagnostics Form (available on the IBSA website) and additional medical documentation as indicated in These Rules and on the Medical Diagnostics Form. Failure to present with complete and necessary medical diagnostic Information may result in the Athlete Evaluation being suspended in accordance with Article 28 of These Rules.
- 3d. Medical Diagnostic Information must be written in black ink and in capital letters or preferably typewritten and sent with the full respective graphics and photos; it should be submitted in English and must not be older than twelve (12) months prior to the first day of the Evaluation Session.

- 3e. All documentation must be uploaded in the data base (ISAS) at least 6 weeks (42 days) before the first classification day. All data and tests not uploaded in due time will not be accepted unless a notification of problems out of their control has been given to and accepted by IBSA Assist.
- 3f. Athletes must bring to the evaluation session all the originals of the documents previously uploaded

### **3. Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 3a. If an athlete is determined to have an eligible impairment by IBSA, an athlete will be eligible to compete if they meet one of the criteria below:
  - 3a.1 The athlete's vision impairment must result in a visual acuity poorer than or equal to 1.3 logMAR, and/or;
  - 3a.2 The athlete's vision impairment must result in a binocular visual field restricted to a diameter of 60 degrees or less.

### **4. Sport Class Profiles**

#### **Sport Class J1**

- 4a. The Athlete's Vision Impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 2.6 in binocular vision.

#### **Sport Class J2**

- 4b. The Athlete's visual acuity must be within a range between LogMAR 1.3 and 2.5 with binocular vision, or with a binocular visual field of 60 degrees or less in diameter

#### **Assessment Methods**

- 4c. Unless the classification panel determines an athlete has better vision only using one eye, all Athlete Evaluation and Sport Class allocation will be based on the assessment of visual acuity and visual field using both eyes when wearing the best optical correction unless the Classification Panel determines an athlete has better vision only using one eye.
- 4d. Visual tests used for the propose of visual acuity assessment are the LogMAR chart for distance visual acuity testing, with illiterate "E" and/or the Berkele Rudimentary Vision Test. (Back light illumination tests or projection tests, either LogMAR, Snellen or other are not valid for Sport Classification purposes.)

- 4e. Visual field must be tested using a Goldmann iii 4e stimulus or the equivalent Stimulus using one of the following: Goldmann Visual Field Perimeter, Humphrey Field Analyser or Octopus Interzeag. The software in automatic perimeters must be for full range fields (80° diameter or more); documents only providing central visual fields will not be accepted.
- 4f.1 Head position either to test VA or VF should be the one that gives the best vision and not the conventional /primary position.
- 4g. Athletes using any corrective devices, either for daily life competitions (e.g. glasses, contact lenses, diaphragmatic lenses and other optical devices must attend the Evaluation Session with these devices and their prescriptions.
- 4h. An Athlete found to be using corrective devices during Competition that were not declared in the MDF and evaluated by the classification panel during the Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article 30) and will be disqualified from the current Competition; other more severe penalties can apply.
- 4i. When it improves vision or VF the Athletes must declare any change in their optical correction and devices to IBSA before any Competition. Upon any such declaration, if the Athlete has a Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date FRD) or Confirmed (C), the Athlete's Sport Class Status can be changed to Review (R). The Athlete will then undergo the Athlete Evaluation prior to the Competition under the provisions of These Rules. Failure of the athlete to do so may result in an investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article 30).
- 4j. Any Athlete Support Personnel accompanying an Athlete during an Evaluation Session must be unable to see or observe the visual acuity charts during the assessment. They also must not engage in a dialogue with the athlete, send signals or interfere in any way that can disturb or influence the athlete to misrepresent.
- 4k. Under the current provisions set out in this Appendix, Observation in Competition Assessment (Article 14) of the Code, does not apply to Athletes with Vision Impairment.
- 4l. IBSA will inform the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the Competition regarding the equipment and room requirements for the assessment of Athletes with Vision Impairment before the Classification Panels have been appointed. It is the LOC's responsibility to provide all equipment required by IBSA.
- 4m. Failure to provide all equipment required by IBSA may result in the classification decisions not being accepted by IBSA and the classification could be cancelled .



4n It is the duty of the Head VI classifier at an event to check and approve prior to the classification starts, the classification evaluation room requirements, including the environmental light in the panel rooms and the waiting area and the appropriate equipment. No classification session can start without this.

4o. The Weigh in assessment at a competition cannot interfere in any way with the classification process. The timing of the two processes must be decided beforehand together with the Head Classifier and the Technical Delegate.

Please note that alongside the new IBSA Classification Rules for Judo, the current manuals for Classifiers, Organisers of Sanctioned Competitions and IBSA members will be updated accordingly.