

# **PARA CLIMBING**

# **CLASSIFICATION RULES**



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Part One: General Provisions.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Scope and Application.....	4
Adoption .....	4
Classification .....	4
Application .....	4
International Classification .....	4
Interpretation and Relationship to Code .....	4
2. Roles and Responsibilities.....	5
Athlete Responsibilities.....	5
Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities .....	5
Classification Personnel Responsibilities.....	5
<b>Part Two: Classification Personnel .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3. Classification Personnel .....	6
Head of Classification.....	6
Classifiers .....	6
Chief Classifiers .....	6
Trainee Classifiers .....	6
4. Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification.....	7
5. Classifier Code of Conduct .....	7
<b>Part Three: Athlete Evaluation.....</b>	<b>9</b>
6. General Provisions .....	9
7. Eligible Impairment.....	9
Assessment of Eligible Impairment.....	9
8. Minimum Impairment Criteria .....	11
9. Sport Class.....	11
10. Classification Not Completed.....	12
<b>Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel.....</b>	<b>13</b>
11. The Classification Panel.....	13
General Provisions .....	13
12. Classification Panel Responsibilities.....	13
13. Evaluation Sessions .....	13
14. Observation in Competition.....	14
15. Sport Class Status.....	15
Sport Class Status Confirmed .....	15
Sport Class Status Review .....	16
Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date .....	16
Changes to Sport Class Criteria .....	16



16.	Multiple Sport Classes.....	16
Multiple Eligible Impairments .....	16	
Athletes with Physical Impairment .....	17	
Changing Sport Class.....	17	
17.	Notification .....	17
<b>Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible.....</b>		<b>18</b>
18.	Sport Class Not Eligible .....	18
General Provisions .....	18	
Absence of Eligible Impairment .....	18	
Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria.....	18	
<b>Part Six: Protests .....</b>		<b>20</b>
19.	Scope of a Protest .....	20
20.	Parties Permitted to Make a Protest.....	20
21.	National Protests .....	20
22.	National Protest Procedure .....	20
23.	IFSC Protests .....	21
24.	IFSC Protest Procedure .....	21
25.	Protest Panel.....	21
26.	Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available .....	22
27.	Special Provisions.....	22
Application during Major Competitions.....	22	
28.	Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests .....	22
<b>Part Seven: Misconduct during Evaluation Session .....</b>		<b>23</b>
29.	Failure to Attend Evaluation Session .....	23
30.	Suspension of Evaluation Session .....	23
<b>Part Eight: Medical Review.....</b>		<b>25</b>
31.	Medical Review .....	25
<b>Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation .....</b>		<b>26</b>
32.	Intentional Misrepresentation.....	26
<b>Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information .....</b>		<b>27</b>
33.	Classification Data.....	27
34.	Consent and Processing.....	27
35.	Classification Research.....	27
36.	Notification to Athletes.....	27
37.	Classification Data Security .....	27
38.	Disclosures of Classification Data.....	28
39.	Retaining Classification Data.....	28
40.	Access Rights to Classification Data .....	28



41.	Classification Database .....	28
<b>Part Eleven: Appeals of Classification .....</b>		<b>29</b>
42.	Appeal of Classification .....	29
43.	Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal .....	29
44.	Appeals .....	29
45.	Appeal Decision.....	29
46.	Confidentiality.....	29
47.	Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals.....	30
<b>Part Twelve: Glossary .....</b>		<b>31</b>
Appendix One – Athletes with Physical Impairment.....		35
Appendix Two - Athletes with Vision Impairment.....		50
Appendix Three - Observation in Competition procedure .....		52
Appendix Four - Non-Eligible Impairment Types.....		53



## Part One: 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 IFSC to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2. These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendixes. These Appendixes form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.3. These Classification Rules form part of the IFSC Rules and Regulations.
- 1.4. The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available on the IFSC website and can be amended by the IFSC from time to time.

#### Classification

- 1.5. Classification is undertaken to:
  - a. Define who is eligible to compete in Para Climbing competitions; and
  - b. Group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised, and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious.

#### Application

- 1.6. These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who hold a license with the IFSC, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by the IFSC.
- 1.7. These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with IFSC Rules and all other applicable rules of the IFSC. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

#### International Classification

- 1.8. The IFSC 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 or Classification Not Completed) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.9. The IFSC will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and be assigned a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions (or other such locations as defined by the IFSC).

#### Interpretation and Relationship to Code

- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. References to a 'sport' in these Classification Rules refer to both a sport and an individual discipline within Para Climbing.
- 1.12. The Appendixes to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules both of which may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by the IFSC 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.

## 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:

- a. Be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b. Participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
- c. Avoid unfair manipulation of the Athlete Evaluation through intimidation, coercion, or other disruptive behaviour.
- d. Ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to the IFSC;
- e. Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and
- f. 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:

- a. Be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b. Use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c. Avoid unfair manipulation of the Athlete Evaluation through intimidation, coercion, or other disruptive behaviour.
- d. Assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- e. Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

### Classification Personnel Responsibilities

2.4. The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:

- a. Have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b. Use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c. assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
- d. Cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.



## Part Two: Classification Personnel

### 3. Classification Personnel

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

#### Head of Classification

3.2. The IFSC 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 the IFSC.

3.3. If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, the IFSC 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.

3.4. The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier.

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

3.6. 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.

#### Classifiers

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

#### Chief Classifiers

3.8. A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by the IFSC. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by the IFSC to do the following:

- a. identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;
- b. supervise Classifiers to ensure that the Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
- c. manage Protests in consultation with the IFSC.

3.9. A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified the IFSC officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

#### Trainee Classifiers

3.10. A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by the IFSC.

3.11. The IFSC 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 appointed by the IFSC.
  - 4.2. All classifiers are obliged to work on the development and improvement of the classification process and rules.
  - 4.3. The IFSC must specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The Classifier Competencies must include that a Classifier has:
    - a. A thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;
    - b. An understanding of Sport Climbing, including an understanding of the IFSC Rules;
    - c. An understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and
    - d. A professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for the IFSC. These include that Classifiers must either:
      - i. Be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which the IFSC at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment; ophthalmologist or optometrist for Athletes with a Vision Impairment; or
      - ii. Have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the particular sport(s); or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise, which the IFSC at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.
- 4.4. The IFSC may decide to exclude Classifiers if appropriate.

#### 5. Classifier Code of Conduct

##### 5.1. General principles

- a. The role of Classifiers is to act as impartial evaluators in determining an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The integrity of Classification in the Paralympic Movement rests on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual Classifier.
- b. All Classifier Personnel must adhere to the IPC Code of Ethics (IPC Handbook).
- c. The Classifier Code of Conduct includes
  - Recognition of the need to preserve and encourage confidence in the professionalism of Classification Rules and the Classification Personnel.
  - Description of transparent and agreed-upon standards of practice and provide a meaningful set of guidelines for professional conduct of classification personnel.
  - Provision to others (including, but not limited to Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, administrators, Organising Committees, media and the public) criteria by which to assess the professional conduct of classification personnel.

##### 5.2. Classifier compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct

- a. Classifiers should value and respect the Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel and
- b. Classifiers should respect the Classification Rules and:
  - Treat Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel with understanding, patience, and dignity.



- Be courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing their classification duties for all Athletes, regardless of team affiliation or national origin.
- Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Protest and Appeals, and the IFSC competition rules.

### 5.3. IFSC Classifier Code of Conduct

- a. IFSC Classifiers shall:
  - Perform classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
  - Maintain confidentiality of Athlete information whenever possible, according to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Protest and Appeals.
  - Accurately and honestly represent their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting classification appointments to competitions.
  - Understand the theory and practical aspects of the Classification Rules and make them widely known and understood by Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel.
  - Continuously seek self-improvement through study of the Sport, Classification Rules, mentoring lesser-experienced classifiers and developing trainee classifiers.
  - Perform duties without yielding to any economic, political, sporting or human pressure.
- b. IFSC Classifiers shall respect their colleagues, and:
  - Recognise that anything that may lead to a Conflict of Interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided.
  - Disclose any relationship with a team, Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest.
  - Treat all discussions with colleagues as confidential information.
  - Explain and justify decisions without showing anger or resentment.
  - Treat other Classifiers with professional dignity and courtesy, recognising that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to criticize other Classifiers, or other IFSC Officials in public.
  - Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision-making process of fellow Classifiers, and other IFSC Officials whether there is agreement or not.
  - Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills with less experienced Classifiers and assist with the training and development of IFSC Classifiers.



## Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

### 6. General Provisions

- 6.1. The IFSC has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology 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 encompasses a number of steps, and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
  - a. An assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport;
  - b. An assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport; and
  - c. The allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class 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’)

### 7. Eligible Impairment

- 7.1. Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by the IFSC must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2. Appendixes One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in a sport governed by the IFSC.
- 7.3. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendixes One and Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Four includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

#### Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.4. The IFSC must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
  - a. In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the IFSC may require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Four lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
  - b. The means by which the IFSC determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of the IFSC. The IFSC may consider that an Athlete’s Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment.
  - c. If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the IFSC 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 IFSC will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Federation and/or National Paralympic Committee.



- 7.5. An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply the IFSC with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:
- a. The relevant National Federation and/or National Paralympic Committee must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to the IFSC, upon completing the registration of an Athlete.
  - b. The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a licensed physician.
  - c. The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information, in English, if required by the IFSC.
  - d. Supportive Diagnostic Information must be sufficiently complete and consistent to explain the presence of the underlying health condition and eligible impairment being evaluated.
- 7.6. The IFSC may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if the IFSC, at its sole discretion, considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7. The IFSC, informed by the head of classification, must approve the Medical Diagnostics Form and any supporting documentation. Only once this approval has occurred will an Athlete be allocated an Athlete Evaluation appointment with a Classification Panel.
- 7.8. If the IFSC 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.
- 7.9. The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- a. The Head of Classification will notify the relevant National Federation or National Paralympic Committee 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.
  - b. The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.
  - c. 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.
  - d. If the Head of Classification believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
  - e. Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
  - f. 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.
  - g. 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 National Federation or National Paralympic Committee. The National Federation or National Paralympic Committee 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 National Federation or National Paralympic Committee.

- h. If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee.
- i. The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.

7.10. The IFSC 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 a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2. The IFSC 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. Appendixes 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.
- 8.4. Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- 8.5. 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 submit to the IFSC that he or she has an Eligible Impairment by sending the Medical Diagnostic Form documentation.
- 8.6. In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, the IFSC has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:
  - a. for Eligible Impairments other than Vision Impairment, Minimum Impairment Criteria must not consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;
  - b. for Vision Impairment, Minimum Impairment Criteria must consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

## **9. Sport Class**

- 9.1. A Sport Class is a category defined by the IFSC 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 a sport.
  - a. An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of these Classification Rules.



- b. An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
  - c. Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by the IFSC (in accordance with Article 18. 1), the allocation of a Sport Class 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.
- 9.2. Appendixes One and Two of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

#### **10. Classification Not Completed**

- 10.1. If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation, the IFSC or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class 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 Sport Class 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 IFSC Classification Master List.
- 10.3. An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in the sport of the IFSC.



## Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

### 11. The Classification Panel

11.1. A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by the IFSC to conduct some or all 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 Classifiers. 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.

11.3. 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.

### 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:

- a. Assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
- b. Assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and
- c. Conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.

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 the IFSC, unless the IFSC 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.

- a. Although other factors such as fitness level, technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.

12.5. 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 Sport Class.

12.6. The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendixes One, Two and Three.

### 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:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by the IFSC.
- d. The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card or event accreditation.
- e. 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 Sport Class.
- f. The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
- g. The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

13.4. In respect of the Classification Panel:

- a. The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.
- b. The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by the IFSC. 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.
- c. 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 Sport Class.
- d. 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, National Paralympic Committee and the IFSC (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- e. The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

**14. Observation in Competition**

14.1. A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class 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 Appendix Three.



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 Sport Class 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 Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.

14.5. Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

14.6. To finalise the Athlete Evaluation, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class 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 Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.

14.7. If an Athlete is:

- a. Subject to a Protest requiring or following an Observation in Competition; and
- b. The second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and
- c. Pursuant to the second Evaluation Session the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition, Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA).

14.8. The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results is detailed in the IFSC Rules and Regulations.

## 15. Sport Class Status

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

15.2. 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 competition eligible statuses:

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

### Sport Class Status Confirmed

15.3. An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class 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).

- a. An Athlete with Sport Class 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 Sport Class criteria (Article 15.7)).



- b. 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).

#### **Sport Class Status Review**

15.4. An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.

- a. 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 IFSC; has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment (Impairment/s that is/are permanent but not stable); and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.
- b. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition, unless the IFSC specifies otherwise.

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

15.5. 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.

- a. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date.
- b. 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 relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
- c. A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

#### **Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

15.6. If the IFSC changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendixes to these Rules, then:

- a. The IFSC 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
- b. The IFSC may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- c. in both instances the relevant National Federation or National Paralympic Committee shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

### **16. Multiple Sport Classes**

16.1. This Article applies to Athletes who are potentially eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class.

#### **Multiple Eligible Impairments**

16.2. An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment may be eligible to be allocated more than one Sport Class in relation to those Eligible Impairments. In such instances:



- a. The Athlete's National Federation or National Paralympic Committee must notify the IFSC as to the Athlete's Eligible Impairments and the Athlete's eligibility to be allocated more than one Sport Class in respect of those Impairment types, and provide all necessary medical diagnostic information as required;
- b. The Athlete must be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each Sport Class relevant to his or her multiple Impairments, either at the relevant Competition or the subsequent Competition;
- c. At the conclusion of the Evaluation Sessions referred to in Article 16. 2. 2 the Athlete must choose the Sport Class that he or she wishes to compete in ('the preferred Sport Class'). If the allocation of any Sport Class is subject to Observation in Competition the Athlete must select the preferred Sport Class before making any First Appearance;
- d. The selection of Sport Class will be subject to all applicable IFSC Rules and Regulations (including but not limited to those in relation to the use of equipment, the weight of equipment, and the use of guides); and
- e. The Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Sport Class and details of the Athlete's preferred Sport Class will be published.
- f. The athlete is subject to competition rules relevant to the preferred Sport Class.

#### **Athletes with Physical Impairment**

16.3. An Athlete who has a Physical Impairment may be allocated more than one Sport Class relevant to that Physical Impairment subject to any applicable IFSC Rules and Regulations.

#### **Changing Sport Class**

16.4. An Athlete who has a Physical and Vision Impairment or is eligible for more than 1 Physical impairment sport class may request to change his or her preferred Sport Class:

- a. At the end of the season when the Athlete's first Evaluation Session was completed; or
- b. After the close of the Paralympic Summer and before the start of the next season thereafter.

16.5. A request to change a preferred Sport Class must be made to the IFSC by the Athlete's National Federation or National Paralympic Committee. The application must be submitted to the IFSC in accordance with the timeframe identified under Article 16. 6.

16.6. Nothing in this Article 16 precludes an Athlete from making a Medical Review Request at any time in respect of any Sport Class.

#### **17. Notification**

17.1. The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be provided to the Athlete and/or National Federation or National Paralympic Committee and published as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.

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



## Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible

### 18. Sport Class Not Eligible

#### General Provisions

18.1. If the IFSC determines that an Athlete:

- a. Has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
- b. Does not have an Underlying Health Condition,

the IFSC must allocate that Athlete Sport Class 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 Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

#### Absence of Eligible Impairment

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

- a. will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
- b. will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by the IFSC.

18.4. If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment the IFSC 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 Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by the IFSC or a Classification Panel (if delegated by the IFSC) because that Athlete has

- a. an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
- b. a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;

has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any sport.

#### 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 Sport Class 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.

- a. Pending 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.
- b. 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); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- c. An athlete may choose to forfeit a second Evaluation Session and will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).



- 18.7. 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.
- 18.8. If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class 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 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 the sport of the IFSC.



## Part Six: Protests

### 19. Scope of a Protest

19.1. 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.

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

### 20. Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

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

- 20.1. a National Federation (see Articles 21-22); or
- 20.2. a National Paralympic Committee (see Articles 21-22); or
- 20.3. the IFSC (see Articles 23-24).

### 21. National Protests

21.1. A National Federation or a National Paralympic Committee may only make a Protest with respect to an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.

21.2. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (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 fifteen (15) minutes of that outcome being published.

21.3. If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Federation or a National Paralympic Committee 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 or a National Paralympic Committee must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by the IFSC at the Competition and via the IFSC website, and must include the following:

- a. The name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
- b. The details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
- c. An explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
- d. Reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
- e. The Protest Fee set by the IFSC.

22.2. The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the time frames specified by the IFSC. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with the IFSC (Head of Classification), of which there are two possible outcomes:



- a. 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 22; or
- b. The Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in this Article 22.

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

22.4. If the Protest is accepted:

- a. 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 is already Review(R);
- b. 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 the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and
- c. The IFSC must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

### **23. IFSC Protests**

23.1. The IFSC 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
- b. A National Federation or National Paralympic Committee makes a documented request to the IFSC. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of the IFSC.

### **24. IFSC Protest Procedure**

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

24.2. The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Federation or National Paralympic Committee 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 IFSC makes a Protest:

- a. The Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
- b. 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
- c. 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 25 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.



## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

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

- a. Made the Protested Decision; or
- b. 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, National Paralympic Committee or the IFSC (whichever is relevant).

25.4. 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.

25.5. The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.

25.6. 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 notification in these Classification Rules.

25.7. The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an IFSC Protest is final. A National Federation, National Paralympic Committee or the IFSC may not make another Protest at the relevant Competition.

## 26. Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

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

- a. 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
- b. All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

## 27. Special Provisions

27.1. The IFSC may decide (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, the IFSC 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

## 28. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

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



## Part Seven: 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 or National Paralympic Committee 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, 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 Sport Class will be allocated, and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

### 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 Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
- a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
  - a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 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;
  - 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;
  - the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 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
  - 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.
  - The Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel refuses to comply with the Responsibilities outlined in Articles 2. 2 and 2. 3.
- 30.2. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 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 or National Paralympic Committee;



- b. 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
- c. if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the time frame 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.



## Part Eight: Medical Review

### 31. Medical Review

- 31.1. 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).
- 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 or National Paralympic Committee (together with a €100 non-refundable fee 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 by a sport has changed.
- 31.4. A Medical Review Request must be received by the IFSC as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 31.5. The Head of Classification must decide whether the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 31.6. 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, National Paralympic Committee or the IFSC may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 31.7. If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.



## Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation

### 32. Intentional Misrepresentation

- 32.1. 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 disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 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 IFSC 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:
- a. disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
  - b. 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 1 to 4 years;
  - c. suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
  - d. 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 Sport Class 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 IFSC.
- 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 IFSC.
- 32.9. Any disciplinary action taken by the IFSC pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.



## Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

### 33. Classification Data

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

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

### 34. Consent and Processing

34.1. Subject to Article 34. 3, the IFSC may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.

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

34.3. The IFSC 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 IFSC may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.

35.2. The use by the IFSC 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 IFSC solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.

35.4. The IFSC may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If the IFSC 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 IFSC must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

- a. That fact that the IFSC is collecting the Classification Data; and
- b. The purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
- c. The duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

### 37. Classification Data Security

37.1. The IFSC must:

- a. 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



- b. 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 IFSC 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 IFSC 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 IFSC 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 IFSC must publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.
- 39.3. The IFSC 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 IFSC:

- a. Confirmation of whether or not that the IFSC Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- b. A copy of the Classification Data held by the IFSC; and/or
- c. Correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by the IFSC.

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

### **41. Classification Database**

- 41.1. The IFSC 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. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 41.2. The IFSC must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Bodies on the IFSC website.



## Part Eleven: Appeals of Classification

### 42. Appeal of Classification

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:

- a. A National Federation; or
- b. A National Paralympic Committee.

### 44. Appeals

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

44.2. The Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.

44.3. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable BAC Bylaws.

44.4. An Appeal Body does not have any power to modify, alter or otherwise change any Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status decision, for example by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

44.5. An 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.

### 45. Appeal Decision

45.1. The Appeal Body must issue a written reasoned decision resolving any Appeal within the timeframe set by the IFSC after the hearing. The decision must be provided to the Appellant, the Respondent, and the IFSC. In case of an appeal in connection with a Competition, the outcome of the decision must be communicated to the competition organising committee.

45.2. The Appeal Body must either affirm the decision appealed or set aside the decision.

45.3. In its written decision, the Appeal Body must issue a ruling stating the reasons for its decision, including evidence relied on, and the actions that are required as a result. If the decision is set aside, the Appeal Body must specify the procedural error(s) committed.

45.4. The decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal.

### 46. Confidentiality

46.1. All Appeal proceedings are confidential and not open to the public.



#### **47. Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals**

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



## Part Twelve: Glossary

**Adaptive Equipment:** 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 that the IFSC has made an unfair decision 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 IFSC) 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 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.

**BAC:** The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

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

**Classification:** Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes 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 made available by the IFSC that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

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

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

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by the IFSC, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class 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 Rules:** Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by the IFSC in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification System:** The framework used by the IFSC to develop and designate Sport Classes within Para Climbing.

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

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



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

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

**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 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 IFSC to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

**Diagnostic Information:** Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables the IFSC 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 IFSC Para Climbing, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

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

**Entry Criteria:** Standards set by the IFSC relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may be, for example, former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

**Entry-level Education:** the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by the IFSC 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 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. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

**Event:** A single race, match, game or singular sport contest.

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

**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 save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

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

**Health Condition:** A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma. Impairment: A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

**Intellectual Impairment:** A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills that originates before the age of eighteen (18).

**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 Sport Class.



## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

**International Competitions:** A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**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 Parasport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

**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.

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

**Medical Diagnostics Form:** a form that a National Federation or National Paralympic Committee 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 IFSC 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 a National Federation or National Paralympic Committee for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

**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:** means any National Federation that is a member of the IFSC; **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 or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

**Non-Competition Venue:** Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by the IFSC 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.

**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.

**Paralympic Games:** Umbrella term for both 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 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 allocated 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 the IFSC, payable by the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee when submitting a Protest.

**Protest Form:** The form on which a National 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 the IFSC must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

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

**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 Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

**Sport Class:** A category for Competition defined by the IFSC 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.

**Team Sport:** a sport in which substitution of players is permitted during a Competition.

**Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA):** a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class 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 One – Athletes with Physical Impairment

### I. Sport Classes for Physical Impairment

*Sport Climbing offers competitions for Athletes with physical impairments covering all 8 of the IPC's eligible physical impairment types over 7 sport classes for each gender. The following are general definitions: see individual classification criteria for more details.*

1. AU2: Moderate Upper Limb impairment - One upper limb has reduced function below the athletes elbow and does not have a functional wrist joint.
2. AU3: Hand impairment - One hand or multiple digits across both hands are absent or have reduced function
3. AL1: Bilateral Lower Limb impairment - Significantly reduced functional use for climbing or absence of bilateral lower limbs.
4. AL2: Unilateral Lower Limb impairment or leg length difference - Impairment in a single lower limb.
5. RP1: "Range, Power" severe impairment, inclusive of other impairment types - Impairment across all eligible impairment types with severe impairment to function affecting at least 2 limbs or a single upper limb is absent or has severely limited functional use.
6. RP2: "Range, Power" moderate impairment, inclusive of other impairment types - Impairment across all eligible impairment types with moderate impairment to function affecting the trunk and/or limbs.
7. RP3: "Range, Power" mild impairment, inclusive of other impairment types - Impairment across all eligible impairment types with mild impairment to function affecting the trunk and/or limbs.

### II. Eligibility

An athlete is eligible to compete in Para Climbing if they meet both below criteria:

1. The athlete demonstrates one of the eligible impairments defined in section 3 and has submitted a completed Medical Diagnostics Form signed by a physician.
2. The athletes Eligible Impairment meets the minimum Impairment criteria defined in section 4.

### III. Eligible Impairment Types

The following impairments are Eligible Impairments for Para Climbing.

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<b>Impaired Muscle Power</b> Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a reduced (or no) ability to contract their muscles to generate force that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central or peripheral nervous system or the muscles (including the muscle origin and muscle insertion).	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.
<b>Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference</b> Athletes with Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference have a total or partial absence of a limb or anatomically irregular limb dimensions that are consistent with an Underlying Health Condition resulting from trauma, illness, or congenital causes affecting the bones and/or joints. This Eligible Impairment can be further divided	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).



into the following sub-categories: (a) limb deficiency; (b) leg length difference; and/or (c) arm length difference.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Length Difference include: dysmelia and congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth.
<b>Short Stature</b> Athletes with Short Stature have reduced total body length (including head, trunk, and legs) as a result of congenitally or developmentally reduced length of the bones of the upper and lower limbs (and may also have reduced trunk length) that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition. Athletes will not be considered to have Short Stature if their reduced total body length is the result of Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference only.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.
<b>Coordination Impairments</b> Athletes with a Coordination Impairment have one or more of the following three movement disorders that (i) adversely affects the ability to voluntarily produce a full range of skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately; and (ii) is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central nervous system: (a) Hypertonia/Spasticity: an increase in muscle tension that may be velocity-dependent and/or a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch. (b) Motor Ataxia: limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement. (c) Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea): involuntary movements that interfere with voluntary movements.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia/Spasticity include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.  Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to motor ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.  Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Dyskinesia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
<b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b> Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a reduced ability for a joint to be passively moved that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting a structure of bones, joints, connective tissue, or soft tissues.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.

#### IV. Minimum Impairment Criteria

To be eligible to compete in Para Climbing, the athlete's eligible impairment must meet one (1) or more of the following minimum impairment criteria.

##### 1. Impaired Muscle Power

Impaired muscle power in one (1) or more limbs with at least one muscle group scoring 3 or less. Must have a cumulative deficit of at least six (6) points in muscle power testing.

##### 2. Limb Deficiency

Upper Limb: Unilateral amputation or deficiency of 6 DIP or PIP joints in one or across both hands.

Lower Limb: Unilateral amputation or deficiency through the distal limb with the absence of a functional ankle joint.



### 3. Limb Length Difference

Leg length difference as a minimum of 20% reduction in limb length compared with the longer limb. Lower limb measurements are to be taken from the anterior superior iliac spine to the tip of the ipsilateral medial malleolus. Upper limb measurements are to be taken from the acromion to the most distal part of the upper limb and will follow any postural deformity.

### 4. Short Stature

Standing height must be less than or equal to 140cm.

### 5. Hypertonia/Spasticity

Hypertonia must be present at least one (1) long bone joint in at least one (1) limb with a minimum Modified Ashworth Scale score of two (2). Where dystonia is present variability in Modified Ashworth Scale score is acceptable. Hypertonia must impact on climbing ability.

### 6. Motor Ataxia

Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement in one (1) or mild-level involvement in at least two (2) limbs. Ataxia must impact on climbing ability.

### 7. Dyskinesia

Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement in one (1) or mild-level involvement in at least two (2) limbs. Dyskinesia must impact on climbing ability.

### 8. Impaired Passive Range of Movement

Athletes must demonstrate Impaired Passive Range of Movement in at least (1) one joint in at least one (1) limb. This impairment must be significant enough to score them a score of six (6) using the weighted value of ROM impairments as it applies to climbing performance.

## V. Assessment Methodology

*Athletes with eligible impairments will be assessed using the following methodology.*

Athletes will be asked:

- When they started climbing
- How frequently they train for climbing
- If they cross train in other sports
- How long they have been competing for
- If an impairment is acquired, whether they commenced climbing before or after the injury

### 1. Impaired Muscle Power

1.1. All affected muscle groups shall be identified on the submitted Medical Diagnostics Form with supporting and relevant medical documentation. An MRC scale is used to assess muscle power in all key muscle groups. The following table converts MRC scale into scores used for the purpose of classification.

MRC Scale	Definition	Classification points	Deficit Conversion
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0	Complete lack of voluntary muscle contraction	0	5
1	Faint or “flicker” muscle contraction without any movement of the limb	0	5
2	Very weak muscle contraction with movement through complete range of motion in a position that eliminates or minimizes the force of gravity.	2	3
3	Muscle can complete a full range of motion against only the resistance of gravity.	3	2
4	Able to complete the full range of motion against gravity and can tolerate strong resistance without breaking the test position. The Grade 4 muscle clearly breaks with maximal resistance.	4	1
5	Able to complete full range of motion and maintain end point range position against maximal resistance	5	0

- 1.1.1. If an athlete with an absent limb or appendage is assessed under the muscle power impairment criteria, muscle power scores in their absent joints are scored as zero (0) muscle power classification points.
- 1.1.2. If an athlete with a fixed joint is assessed under the muscle power impairment criteria muscle power scores in their fixed joints are scored as four (4) muscle power classification points.
- 1.1.3. Strength testing may include compensatory muscle function that enables the functional movements described



1.2. The following muscle groups will be evaluated for the purpose of classification

	<b>Upper limb (10)</b>	<b>Total / 100</b>
1	Shoulder flexion	Score / 5
2	Shoulder abduction	Score / 5
3	Shoulder adduction	Score / 5
4	Elbow flexion	Score / 5
5	Elbow extension	Score / 5
6	Wrist flexion	Score / 5
7	Wrist extension	Score / 5
8	Finger abduction	Score / 5
9	Finger PIP/DIP flexion	Score / 5
10	Thumb opposition	Score / 5

	<b>Lower limb (7)</b>	<b>Total / 70</b>
1	Hip flexion	Score / 5
2	Hip extension	Score / 5
3	Hip abduction	Score / 5
4	Hip adduction	Score / 5
5	Knee flexion	Score / 5
6	Knee extension	Score / 5
7	Ankle plantarflexion	Score / 5

	<b>Trunk (2)</b>	<b>Total / 10</b>
1	Abdominal flexion	Score / 5
2	Back extension	Score / 5

<b>Total combined score</b>	<b>Score / 180</b>
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## 2. Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference

### 2.1. Limb Deficiency

- 2.1.1 Affected limbs and joints are identified on the submitted medical form
- 2.1.2 Limb observation accompanied by medical letter. Consideration of prosthetic use is done at this time but will not affect an athlete's classification. Prosthetics may not generate artificial power that confer advantage whilst climbing relative to their allocated sport class. Where delineation of limb deficiency is unclear an X-Ray should be provided for review.
- 2.1.3 Where non-functional joints are present in the context of limb deficiency these joints will be considered towards the tally of "deficient" joints.

### 2.2 Limb Length Difference

- 2.2.1 Affected limbs should be identified on the submitted medical form
- 2.2.2 Limb length measurements are to be taken from the anterior superior iliac spine to the tip of the ipsilateral medial malleolus for the lower limb and upper limb measurements are to be taken from acromion to the most distal part of the upper limb and will follow any postural deformity. Measurements are to be taken twice and the mean of these two measurements used.

## 3. Short Stature

- 3.1 Standing height should be identified on the submitted medical form with supporting medical documentation related to the diagnosis. Standing height must be measured barefoot with feet flat.

## 4. Coordination impairments

### 4.1 Spasticity / Hypertonia

- 4.1.1 Hypertonia, including spasticity and dystonia, in all affected joints is identified on the submitted medical form with supporting medical documentation related to the diagnosis.
- 4.1.2 Athletes may be asked to perform some functional tests designed to highlight the impact of hypertonicity impairment on climbing. The outcome of this test will be used alongside the spasticity assessment to determine the appropriate sport class. A modified ashword scale is used for the assessment of spasticity as described in the following table.

Scale	Descriptor
0	No increase in tone
1	Catch and release at end of range – minimal resistance throughout ROM
2	Clear and consistent marked catch – increased tone through ROM but passive movement achievable
3	Clear and consistent catch – increase tone through ROM, passive movement difficult
4	Limb rigid in flexion or extension

- 4.1.2.1 Muscle with a scale of 2,3,or 4 are tallied to determine a total number of muscles in this scoring range,
- 4.1.2.2 For a limb to be effected for the purpose of classification it must contain a muscle that score 2,3 or 4 on the modified ashworth scale as described above.



4.1.3 Key muscle groups assessed for the purpose of classification are:

**Upper limb**

- Finger flexors (Flexor digitorum longus or Flexor digitorum superficialis)
- Wrist flexors (Flexor carpi ulnaris or flexor carpi radialis)
- Pronators (Pronator teres or Pronator Quadratus)
- Elbow Flexors (Biceps, Brachialis or Brachioradialis)
- Elbow extensors (Triceps)
- Shoulder Adductors (Pectoralis Major/Minor, Latissimus Dorsi, or Subscapularis)

**Lower limb**

- Dorsiflexors (Tibialis anterior or peroneal)
- Foot investors (Tibialis posterior)
- Plantar flexors (Gastrocnemius or soleus)
- Knee flexors (Hamstrings)
- Knee Extensors (Quadriceps)
- Hip adductors
- Hip flexors (Iliopsoas, sartorius)

Assessment of clonus and/ or tendon reflexes may also be used to confirm the underlying health condition.



#### 4.2 Motor Ataxia

- 4.2.1 Body area(s) affected by ataxia should be identified on the submitted medical form with supporting medical documentation related to the diagnosis.
- 4.2.2 Athletes will be asked to perform some functional tests designed to highlight the impact of ataxia impairment on climbing.

#### 4.3 Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea)

- 4.3.1 Body area(s) affected by athetosis should be identified on the submitted medical form with supporting medical documentation related to the diagnosis.
- 4.3.2 Athletes will be asked to perform some functional tests designed to highlight the impact of athetosis impairment on climbing.

### 5. Impaired Passive Range of Movement

- 5.1 Affected limbs and joints are identified on the submitted medical form with supporting medical documentation related to the diagnosis.
- 5.1.1 Upper limb and lower limb joint range of motion will be measured using inclinometers and goniometers. Trunk measurements will be taken using surface anatomy landmarks and a tape measure, some trunk measurements may also use an inclinometer.
- 5.1.2 If an athlete with an absent limb or appendage is assessed under the ROM impairment criteria, ROM scores in their absent joints are scored as 0 points.
- 5.1.3 Compensatory movement from adjacent joints allowing a functional range of motion will be considered as range of motion about the joint being tested
- 5.1.4 ROM measurements are then weighted, and these values added to determine a ROM score. The weighting of ROM limitations for each joint is described as follows:

Shoulder flexion	Score
131° - 150°	1
91° - 130°	2
< 90°	4
Fixed Shoulder (flexion or abduction)	12

Shoulder extension	Score
Cannot achieve neutral (arm by side)	2

Shoulder abduction	Score
131° - 150°	1
91° - 130°	2
< 90°	4

Shoulder horizontal adduction	Score
< 45°	1
Cannot achieve neutral (shoulder flexion at 90°)	3

Shoulder rotation range Measured in 90 degrees of abduction, scapula stabilized	Score
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46° - 90° of movement	1
< 45° of movement	2
Fixed	3

Elbow flexion	Score
61° - 90°	2
< 60°	3
Fixed Elbow (flexion or extension)	5

Elbow extension	Score
-30° to -90°	3
-90° to -135°	4

Supination (neutral = thumb up)	Score
31° - 60°	1
0° - 30°	2
< 0°	3

Pronation	Score
31° - 60°	2
0° - 30°	3
< 0°	4

Wrist Flexion (with finger flexion)	Score
0° - 20°	1
< 0°	2
Fixed Wrist (flexion or extension)	4

Wrist Extension (with finger flexion)	Score
0° - 20°	1
< 0°	2

MCP (one score per hand, must affect at least 2 MCP joints)	Score
Flexion 0° to 45°	1
Extension (starting point 90° flexion) 90° to 45° or fixed joint	3

Finger Flexion (digits 2-5, PIP and DIP combined, at least 2 fingers; one score per hand)	Score
45° to 90°	2
45° to 0°	3
Fixed Fingers (flexion or extension)	5

Finger extension (digits 2-5, PIP and DIP combined, at least 2 fingers; one score per hand, starting position at max flexion/180°)	Score
-90° to -135°	2
-135° to -180°	3



<b>Thumb opposition</b>	<b>Score</b>
Cannot achieve thumb to base of 4 <sup>th</sup> finger	1
Cannot achieve thumb to base of 2 <sup>nd</sup> finger	2
Fixed	3

<b>Hip flexion</b>	<b>Score</b>
61° - 90°	3
31° - 60°	4
< 30°	5
Fixed (flexion or extension)	8

<b>Hip extension (lacking ability to achieve neutral)</b>	<b>Score</b>
-20° to -45°	3
> -45°	4

<b>Hip abduction</b>	<b>Score</b>
< 20°	3
Can only achieve neutral	4
-1° to -30°	5
Fixed (abduction or adduction)	5

<b>Hip adduction</b>	<b>Score</b>
Cannot achieve neutral (0°) – hip in abduction	1

<b>Combined Hip rotation range</b>	<b>Score</b>
21° - 45°	2
1° - 20°	3
Fixed	4

<b>Knee flexion</b>	<b>Score</b>
46° - 90°	2
15° - 45°	3
0° - 15°	4
Knee fixed (flexion or extension)	8

<b>Knee extension (lacking ability to achieve neutral)</b>	<b>Score</b>
-10° to -30°	3
-31° to -45°	4
> -45°	5

<b>Ankle dorsiflexion / plantarflexion (ankle neutral = 0 DF or PF) Measured in knee flexion</b>	<b>Score</b>
< 15° PF	1
Lacking dorsiflexion >0	1
Fixed ankle at any position 10° DF – 15° PF	2



Fixed ankle between 15° - 30° PF	3
Fixed ankle in > 10° DF or > 30° PF	4

Ankle inversion / eversion	Score
Fixed in subtalar neutral position	1
Unable to achieve subtalar neutral position (including fixed)	2

Neck Range in Sagittal Plane (Flex/Ext)	Score
11°-30° of movement	1
< 10° of movement	2
Fixed position	3

Neck rotation	Score
Cannot achieve neutral (midline)	1

Combined Thoracolumbar extension (assessed in sitting and lacking ability to achieve neutral)	Score
0° to -10°	1
-10° to -30°	3
> -30°	4

Combined Thoracolumbar rotation range available (assessed in sitting)	Score
10° - 40°	2
< 10°	4

## 6. Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status

Eligible impairments will be assessed according to impairment distribution and severity and allocated to a sport class.

### 1. Sport classes by impairment

#### 1.1. Impaired muscle power

- a. AU2 athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 25 points all retracted from their score of a single upper limb.
- b. AU3 athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 6 points retracted from their score of a single hand or 8 points across both hands.
- c. AL1 athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 50 points retracted from their score exclusively in their lower limbs
- d. AL2 athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 20 points all retracted from the score of a single lower limb
- e. RP1 athletes must have a total muscle power deficit of at least 40 points affecting all 4 limbs with at least one muscle group scoring 3 or less., OR a muscle power deficit of at least 35 points all retracted from the score of a single upper limb, OR
- f. RP2 athletes must have a total muscle power deficit of at least 20 points affecting at least 2 limbs with at least one muscle group scoring 3 or less.
- g. RP3 athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 6 points regardless of limb distribution with at least one muscle group scoring 3 or less.



1.2.1. Limb Deficiency

- a. AU2 athletes with a minimum deficiency of limb from the forearm and without functioning wrist joint.
- b. AU3 athletes have a minimum deficiency of 6 DIP or PIP joints in one hand or across both of their hands.
- c. AL1 athletes have a minimum deficiency of loss of limb through both knee joints
- d. AL2 athletes have a minimum deficiency of loss of limb through the distal limb with the absence of a functional ankle joint.
- e. RP1 athletes have a minimum deficiency of loss of limb through the elbow joint with no residual limb below this point

1.2.2. Limb Length Difference

- a. AL2 athletes have a leg length difference as a minimum of 20% reduction in limb length compared with the longer limb.
- b. AU3 athletes have an arm length difference as a minimum of 20% reduction in limb length compared with the longer limb.

1.3. Short Stature

RP3 athletes must have a standing height of less than or equal to 140 cm.

1.4. Hypertonia/Spasticity

- a. RP1 athletes must have hypertonia present in minimum of 4 key muscle groups with a minimum MAS score of two (2), AND at least 2 of these score must be registered in upper limb muscle groups OR 6 key muscle groups with a minimum MAS score of two (2),
- b. RP2 athletes must have hypertonia present in a minimum of 2 keys muscle groups across 2 limbs with a minimum MAS score of two (2) or 4 muscle groups with a minimum score of two (2) in a single limb.
- c. RP3 athletes must have hypertonia present in a key muscle group in at least one (1) limb with a minimum MAS score of two (2).

1.5. Motor Ataxia

- a. RP1 Athletes must demonstrate an observable severe-level involvement in at least three (3) limbs or moderate-level involvement in all four (4) limbs.
- b. RP2 Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement in at least two (2) limbs or mild-level involvement in all four (4) limbs
- c. RP3 Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement in one (1) limb mild involvement in at least two (2) limbs.

1.6. Dyskinesia

- c. RP1 Athletes must demonstrate an observable severe-level involvement in at least three (3) limbs or moderate-level involvement in all four (4) limbs.
- d. RP2 Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement in at least two (2) limbs or mild-level involvement in all four (4) limbs
- e. RP3 Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement in one (1) limb mild involvement in at least two (2) limbs.

47.2. Impaired Passive Range of Motion



- a. RP1 athletes must have a ROM score of 36 or more with involvement of 4 body areas, considering the limbs and trunk.
- b. RP2 athletes must have a ROM score of 18 or more with involvement of 2 body areas, considering the limbs and trunk.
- c. RP3 athletes must have a ROM score of 6 or more regardless of limb/trunk distribution.



#### 48. Sport classes defined across impairment types

##### 48.1. AU2: Moderate Upper limb impairment

- a. Athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 25 points all retracted from the score of a single upper limb, OR
- b. Athletes with a minimum deficiency of limb from the forearm and without a functioning wrist joint, OR

##### 48.2. AU3: Hand impairment

- a. Athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 6 points retracted from the score of a single hand or 8 points across both hands, OR
- b. Athletes have a minimum deficiency of 6 DIP or PIP joints in one or across both of their hands
- c. Athletes with an arm length difference as a minimum of 20% reduction in limb length compared with the longer limb.

##### 48.3. AL1: Bilateral Lower limb impairment

- a. Athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 50 points all retracted from the score of their lower limbs, OR
- b. Athletes have a minimum deficiency of loss of limb through both knee joints

##### 48.4. AL2: Unilateral Lower limb impairment or leg length difference

- a. Athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 20 points all retracted from the score of a single lower limb
- b. Athletes have a minimum deficiency of loss of limb through the distal limb with absence of a functional ankle joint OR
- c. Athletes may have a Leg length difference as a minimum of 20% reduction in limb length compared with the longer limb

##### 48.5. RP1: "Range, Power" severe impairment, inclusive of other impairment types

- a. Athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 40 points affecting all 4 limbs with at least one muscle group scoring 3 or less., OR a muscle power deficit of at least 35 points all retracted from the score of a single upper limb, OR
- b. Athletes with a minimum deficiency of loss of a limb through the elbow joint with no residual limb below this point, OR
- c. Athletes must have hypertonia present in minimum of 4 key muscles groups with a minimum MAS score of two (2), AND at least 2 of these score must be registered in upper limb muscle groups OR 6 key muscle groups with a minimum MAS score of two (2),
- d. Athletes must demonstrate an observable severe-level involvement of motor ataxia in at least three (3) limbs or moderate-level involvement of motor ataxia in all four (4) limbs. OR
- e. Athletes must demonstrate an observable severe-level involvement of dyskinesia in at least three (3) limbs or moderate-level involvement of dyskinesia in all four (4) limbs. OR
- f. Athletes must have a ROM score of 36 or more with involvement of 4 body areas, considering the limbs and trunk.

##### 48.6. RP2: "Range, Power" moderate impairment, inclusive of other impairment types

- a. Athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 20 points affecting at least 2 limbs with at least one muscle group scoring 3 or less., OR
- b. Athletes must have hypertonia present in a minimum of 2 keys muscle groups across 2 limbs with a MAS score of 2. or 4 muscle groups with a minimum score of two (2) in a single limb, OR
- c. Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement of motor ataxia in at least two (2) limbs or mild-level involvement of motor ataxia in all four (4) limbs



- d. Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement of dyskinesia in at least two (2) limbs or mild-level involvement of dyskinesia in all four (4) limbs
- e. Athletes must have a ROM score of 18 or more with involvement of at least 2 body areas, considering the limbs and trunk.

**48.7. RP3: "Range, Power" mild impairment, inclusive of other impairment types**

- a. Athletes must have a muscle power deficit of at least 6 points regardless of limb distribution with at least one muscle group scoring 3 or less, OR
- b. Athletes must have a standing height of less than or equal to 140cm.
- c. Athletes must have hypertonia present in a key muscle group in at least 1 limb with a minimum MAS score of 2., OR
- d. Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement of motor ataxia in one (1) limb mild involvement of motor ataxia in at least two (2) limbs., OR
- e. Athletes must demonstrate an observable moderate-level involvement of dyskinesia in one (1) limb mild involvement of dyskinesia in at least two (2) limbs. OR
- f. Athletes must have a ROM score of 6 or more regardless of limb distribution

**7. Sport specific test**

- 1. The sport specific test will be carried out on a climbing wall. The athlete will be asked to climb at the limit of their ability. Classifiers will observe the athlete throughout the sport specific testing, on and off the wall. The observations of the classifiers will encompass climbing style, impact of impairment, compensation strategies and performance.
- 2. The climbing route/s will be selected by the classifiers, it will not be a pre-determine route. The route selected will be appropriate for the sport classes under consideration. An athlete should be prepared to climb at the limit of their ability at the start of the sport specific testing time, any warm-up required should be complete by the athlete prior to their allocated sport specific test time.
- 3. A sport specific test may take place on a top rope or boulder wall, if a boulder wall is used it must be agreed between the athlete, coach and classifier that there are no safety issues.
- 4. A climber should expect to make establish attempts on approximately 2 top rope climbs or 5 boulder problems. This may vary between athletes due to different observation requirements however the athlete should expect approximately 30 minutes of assessment.
- 5. Climbers will be allowed sufficient time to rest between attempts whilst ensuring the test can still be completed in the reasonable time.
- 6. Observations made during the sport specific testing will inform an athletes' sport class in conjunction with any other information gathered during the process of classification.



## Appendix Two - Athletes with Vision Impairment

### I. 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.

### II. Minimum Impairment Criteria

Minimum Impairment Criteria for Athletes with a Vision Impairment have been set based on the Athlete's corrected vision. (The difference in approach for Athletes with Vision Impairment must be seen within the historical context of Classification for these Athletes, which is an assessment with 'best correction' as used in the context of medical diagnostics for visual acuity.)

1. To be eligible to compete in Sport Classes B1-B3 in IFSC Para Climbing, the Athlete must meet both of the criteria below:

- 1.1. The Athlete must have at least one of the following Impairments:

- a. Impairment of the eye structure;
- b. Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways;
- c. Impairment of the visual cortex.

- 1.2. The Athlete's Vision Impairment must result in a visual acuity of less than or equal to LogMAR 1.0 or a visual field restricted to less than 40 degrees diameter.

2. It is the responsibility of the Athlete and National Federation to provide sufficient evidence of the 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.
3. The medical diagnostic information must comprise the completed Medical Diagnostics Form (available on the IFSC Website) and additional medical documentation as indicated on the Medical Diagnostics Form. Failure to present with complete medical diagnostic information may lead to Athlete Evaluation being suspended in accordance with Article 10 of these Rules.
4. Medical Diagnostic Information must be submitted in English and may not be older than 12 months prior to the date of Evaluation Session.

### III. Assessment Methodology

1. All Athlete Evaluation and Sport Class allocation must be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the eye with better visual acuity when wearing the best optical correction.
2. Depending on an Athlete's visual acuity, visual acuity is tested using the LogMAR chart for distance visual acuity testing with Illiterate „E“ and/or the Berkeley Rudimentary Vision Test.
3. Athletes who compete using any corrective devices (e. g. glasses, lenses) must attend classification with these devices and their prescription.
4. An Athlete found to be using corrective devices during Competition that were not declared during Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article 30).
5. Athletes must declare any change in their optical correction to the IFSC before any Competition. If the Athlete has a Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date or Confirmed, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review. The Athlete will then undergo Athlete Evaluation prior to the next Competition under the provisions of these Rules. Failure to do so may result in an investigation of Intentional Misrepresentation (see Article 30).



6. Any Athlete Support Personnel accompanying the Athlete during the Evaluation Session must remain out of sight of the visual acuity charts during assessment.
7. Under the current provisions set out in this Appendix, Observation in Competition does not apply to Athletes with Vision Impairment.
8. The IFSC will inform the local organising committee of the equipment and room requirements for the assessment of Athletes with Vision Impairment after the Classification Panels have been appointed. It is the local organising committee responsibility to provide all equipment required by the IFSC.
9. Failure to provide all equipment required by the IFSC may result in the classification decisions not being accepted by the IFSC.

**IV. Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status**

**1. Sport Class B1**

- 1.1. Visual acuity is poorer than LogMAR 2. 60.

**2. Sport Class B2**

- 2.1. Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1. 50 to 2. 60 (inclusive), and/or
- 2.2. the visual field is constricted to a radius of less than 10 degrees diameter.

**3. Sport Class B3**

- 3.1. Visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1. 40 to 1 (inclusive), and/or
- 3.2. The visual field is constricted to a radius of less than 40 degrees diameter.



### Appendix Three - Observation in Competition procedure

The classification panel may observe the whole event with all relevant components such as:

- a. Warm up area
- b. Isolation
- c. Qualification(s)
- d. Final round(s).

After finishing all qualification rounds, the classification panel will finalise decisions on the Sport Class Status.

The classification panel may use video footage or other records to assist in observation in competition.

If the classification panel has evidence that the athlete's behaviour and/or performance in competition fits to the medical assessment results and assigned sport class, the Sport Class Status C (confirmed) or FRD (fixed review date) in case of expected changing conditions will be granted.

If the classification panel has evidence that the athlete's behaviour and/or performance in competition does not fit to the medical assessment results and assigned sport class, the classification panel may assign the status R (Review) and the athlete will undergo a medical assessment at the next possible occasion. Without this medical reassessment, the athlete may not compete in any further IFSC event.

If an athlete would benefit from a wrong Sport Class designation, the classification panel may decide to designate the Sport Class Status Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. The classification panel may further decide to start investigations in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation in accordance with Article 32 of these Rules. An Athlete with the Status CNC is not allowed to compete in finals and no results are granted for this competition. The athlete will undergo a medical assessment at the next possible occasion. Without this medical reassessment, the athlete may not compete in any further IFSC event.

All qualification results are published together with the Classification panel decisions on the Sport Class Status.



## Appendix Four - Non-Eligible Impairment Types

### 1. Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes

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

- a. Pain;
- b. Intellectual Impairment;
- c. Hearing impairment;
- d. Low muscle tone;
- e. Hypermobility of joints;
- f. Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- g. Impaired muscle endurance;
- h. Impaired motor reflex functions;
- i. Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- j. Impaired respiratory functions;
- k. Impairment metabolic functions; and
- l. Tics and mannerisms, stereotypies, and motor perseveration.

### 2. 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 Appendixes Appendix One and/or Appendix Two) but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in IFSC Para Climbing.

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.