

= LW6 / 8 =

LW6 / 8 is a para @-@ Alpine and para @-@ Nordic standing skiing sport class , a classification defined by the International Paralympic Committee ( IPC ) for people with an upper extremity issue who have paralysis , motor paresis affecting one arm , a single upper arm amputation or CP8 classified cerebral palsy . LW6 / 8 skiers use two skis and one pole in both para @-@ Alpine and para @-@ Nordic skiing .

Skiers in this class include 2006 New Zealand Winter Paralympian Anthony Field , Germany 's Thomas Oelsner and Australia 's Mitchell Gourley .

= = Definition = =

This classification is used in para @-@ Alpine and para @-@ Nordic standing skiing , where LW stands for Locomotor Winter . Designed for people with an upper extremity issue , a skier may be classified as LW6 / 8 if they have paralysis , motor paresis affecting one arm , or a single upper arm amputation .

The International Paralympic Committee ( IPC ) defined this classification for para @-@ Alpine as " Competitors with disabilities in one upper limb , skiing with two normal skis and one pole ... " The disability shall be such that the functional use of more than one pole is not possible . Typical disability profile of the class is single @-@ arm amputation . " In 2002 , the Australian Paralympic Committee described this classification as a standing skiing classification with " Two skis , one pole , disability in one arm or hand . " For para @-@ Nordic skiing , the IPC defines this class as for " those with impairment in one entire limb . "

For international para @-@ Alpine skiing competitions , classification is done through IPC Alpine Skiing . A national federation such as Alpine Canada handles classification for domestic competitions . For para @-@ Nordic skiing events , classification is handled by IPC Nordic Skiing Technical Committee on the international level and by the national sports federation such as Cross @-@ Country Canada on a country by country level . When being assessed into this classification , a number of things are considered including reviewing the skiers medical history and medical information on the skier 's disability , having a physical and an in person assessment of the skier training or competing .

= = = LW6 = = =

LW6 is used in para @-@ Nordic skiing for skiers with above the elbow amputations for paralysis affecting the whole arm . Cross Country Canada described LW6 as " Impairment in one entire upper limb . The athlete must not use a prosthesis . " in 2012 .

= = = LW8 = = =

LW8 is for skiers with below the elbow amputations or lacking functional use below the elbow . Cross Country Canada described LW8 as " Impairment in one upper limb below the elbow . The athlete must not use a prosthesis or use the affected arm to aid in poling in any way . "

= = Equipment and technique = =

LW6 / 8 skiers use two skis and one pole in both para @-@ Alpine and para @-@ Nordic skiing . The two types of skiing differ in that in para @-@ Nordic a skier cannot use a prosthesis while use prostheses or orthoses are allowed in para @-@ Alpine . FIS rules for ski boots and binding heights are followed for this class . Socks and other materials are used to pad and protect the stump of the arm as the use of a prosthesis is not allowed . Sometimes , a mitten or cork is used to protect the stump . If the limb is not properly protected , it may get frostbitten .

Lateral balance is an issue for LW6 / 8 skiers resulting from the missing arm , so skiing techniques

are worked on by the skier to correct this . One technique used compensates for balance issues by using knee drives or hip motions . Unlike other para @-@ Alpine disciplines , in slalom skiers are more likely to use a partial ski pole or a prosthetic to hold a ski pole .

In the Biathlon , all Paralympic athletes shoot from a prone position . Athletes with amputations can use a rifle support while shooting .

= = Sport = =

A factoring system is used in the sport to allow different classes to compete against each other when there are too few individual competitors in one class in a competition . The factoring system works by having a number for each class based on their functional mobility or vision levels , where the results are calculated by multiplying the finish time by the factored number . The resulting number is the one used to determine the winner in events where the factor system is used .

In para @-@ Nordic skiing , which includes the cross @-@ country skiing and biathlon events , this classification is grouped with other standing classes . For the 2003 / 2004 para @-@ Nordic skiing season , the percentage for LW6 using the classic technique was 91 % and percentage for free was 96 % , and for LW8 using the classic technique was 92 % and percentage for free was 97 % . The percentage for the 2008 / 2009 and 2009 / 2010 ski seasons was 92 % for classic and 97 % for free . The percentage for LW6 the 2012 / 2013 par @-@ Nordic ski season was 91 % for classic and 96 % for free , and for LW8 was 92 % for classic and 97 % for free .

In para @-@ Alpine skiing events , this classification is grouped with standing classes , who are seeded to start after visually impaired classes and before sitting classes in the slalom and giant slalom . In downhill , Super @-@ G and Super Combined , this same group competes after the visually impaired classes and sitting classes . For alpine events , a skier is required to have their ski poles or equivalent equipment planted in the snow in front of the starting position before the start of the race . The IPC advises event organisers to run the men 's standing ski group after the blind men 's group and before the blind women 's group . Women 's standing classes are advised to go last . During the 2005 / 2006 para @-@ Alpine ski season , the giant slalom had a factor of 1 @. @ 000 . The 2011 / 2012 alpine @-@ skiing season factoring for LW6 / 8 @. @ 1 was 0 @. @ 9902 for Slalom , 0 @. @ 995 for Giant Slalom , 0 @. @ 9969 for Super @-@ G and 0 @. @ 998 for downhill , and for LW6 / 8 @. @ 2 was 0 @. @ 9926 for slalom , 1 for giant slalom , 1 for Super @-@ G and 1 for downhill .

If a skier in this class has an arm that is not functional , the rules require the limb be strapped to their body during competition . For Nordic events , LW8 skiers are not allowed to use the stump of their arm for paddling or to help in poling . In the biathlon , the skier is required to make sure " that the rifle touches the support in between the marked zone ( 5cm in front of / behind the balance point ) . " If a skier has partial use of their other arm or hand , the rules do not allow them to use it to site or support the rifle . The skier is not permitted to move the support from its upright position .

= = Events = =

At the 1984 Winter Olympics Exhibition Competition , 1986 World Disabled Ski Championships , 1988 World Winter Games for the Disabled , 1990 Disabled Alpine World Championships and 2002 Winter Paralympics , disciplines included on the programme were downhill and giant slalom and LW6 / 8 skiers were not grouped with others classes for medal events for men . At the 1998 Winter Paralympics , the women 's LW1 , LW3 , LW4 , LW5 and LW6 classes competed in one group . At the 2004 IPC Alpine World Championships , LW3 , LW6 / 8 and LW9 classified women all skied in the same group against each other during the downhill event . At the 2005 IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships , this class was grouped with other standing skiing classifications . In cross country , this class was eligible to compete in the men and women 's 5 km , 10 km and 20 km individual race . In the men and women 's biathlon , this classification was again grouped with standing classes in the 7 @. @ 5 km race with two shooting stages , and the 12 @. @ 5 km race , which had four shooting stages . At the 2009 IPC Alpine World Championships , there were four women and nine

men from this class in the standing downhill event .

= = Competitors = =

Paralympic skiers in this class include 2006 New Zealand 's Anthony Field , Germany 's Thomas Oelsner , and Australia 's Mitchell Gourley .