

IWF RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

BOOK 4. CLASSIFICATION

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BOOK 4. CLASSIFICATION

REMARK: Throughout the Rulebook

- **IWF** stands for **IWAS Wheelchair Fencing**
- **IWF EC** stands for **IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee**
- words importing singular number or masculine gender shall include the plural number or feminine gender, as the case may be, and vice versa

INTRODUCTION

- c.1** The main topics of classification is to determine eligibility to compete and to group athletes for competitions in a transparent, regular and fair way. Therefore IWF Classification adopts the Classification Codes of IPC and IWAS. In case of unclear situation these codes may be helpful for a correct interpretation.
- c.2** This system of IWF Classification was introduced at the Olympic Games for disabled athletes in Seoul (Paralympics 88). The final version presented at the Paralympics was a summation of the system already proposed by Rita Strohm of Germany at the European Championships in Glasgow 1987, which was later partially modified.

It deals with all the effects of an integrated classification which allows athletes with different disabilities (amputee, polio's, CP's and paraplegics) the opportunity to compete together. The IWF classification system recognises any condition of disability that cause impairments in performing wheelchair fencing.

The goal of classification is to ensure that fencer's success hinges on training, skill level, talent and experience rather than grade of disability. The system of classes is based to allow any fencer to compete against opponent with similar degree of disability.

CHAPTER 1. CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL

Classifiers

- c.3** Classifiers are Officials trained and certified by IWF to determine an athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status. They should have a wide range of expertise, including medical knowledge and sport specific expertise and technical qualifications.

IWF is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect, support equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. All classifiers of IWF have the responsibility to:

- Demonstrating respect to individuals regardless of gender, ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, religion, political belief, ability / disability or economical status.
- Avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers and members.
- Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and ethical practices

Classifier Certification

- c.4** Classifier Certification establishes that an individual has met competencies and is proficient to practice as a Classifier in wheelchair fencing.

IWF offers a variety of workshops on classification matter to stimulate the growth of knowledge on classification and development of wheelchair fencing classifier throughout the world.

Classifier Levels

- c.5** The official training for classifiers is organized in the following levels:

1. Wheelchair Fencing National Classifiers (WFNC)

Those wishing to become WFNC must:

- a) be doctors or physiotherapist, or similar official degree, or
- b) be graduated in physical education, kinesiology, physiology, biomechanics or similar official degree

Those wishing to become WFNC must also:

- a) be nominated by his/her country as trainee classifier
- b) attend an official workshop on wheelchair fencing classification organized or approved by IWF, at the expense of their national sport organisation.

2. International Wheelchair Fencing Accredited Classifier (IW FAC)

Those WFNC wishing to become IW FAC must:

- a) follow classification proceedings for at least two international competitions
- b) take part directly to at least 20 international classifications, during this practice, under the supervision of a IWFSC or two IW FAC
- c) the IWFSC or two IW FAC certifies a positive and worthwhile cooperation

- d) be evaluated by the Head of Classification Commission (HoCC; see c.7) to be admitted as IWFAFAC.

WFNC candidates that are considered still not experienced to become IWFAFAC, can be asked by the HoCC to do additional practices.

To maintain the title of IWFAFAC, they must:

- a) attend to international classification proceedings, and/or workshops regularly
- b) take part as Classifier to an international wheelchair fencing competition at least every two years

3. International Wheelchair Fencing Senior Classifier (IWFSC)

IWFSC are experts nominated by the Head of Classification Commission among the IWFAFAC.

IWF Classification Commission

- c.6** The IWF Classification Commission shall be comprised of minimum three members, who are at least IWF Accredited Classifiers (IWFAFAC).

It is in the responsibility of the IWF Classification Commission to establish the contents of Classification Workshops and Courses and how to query the achievement of these workshops and courses.

Head of Classification Commission (HoCC)

- c.7** The Head of the Classification Commission (HoCC) must be IWFSC and will be nominated by the IWF EC every four years.

Classification Panel

- c.8** Classifiers do not allocate international Sport Class and Sport Class Status individually. Classifiers work as members of a Classification Panel.

The Classification Panel is a group of classifiers who allocate an athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the IWF Classification Rules.

A Classification Panel must include a minimum of two Classifiers, at least one of them being IWFAFAC or higher.

Protest Panel

- c.9** The Protest Panel is a group of classifiers who review an athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status, which is protested, in accordance with the IWF Classification Rules.

A Protest Panel must include a minimum of two Classifiers, at least one of them being IWFAFAC or higher. In case of protesting an athlete with Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C) there must be at least two members of the Protest Panel IWFAFAC or higher.

Notification of Certification

- c.10** The Head of Classification may appoint an individual authorised to certify Classifiers on their behalf.

Once a Classifier has met the requirements of the IWF Classification Certification, the Head of Classification issues a Certificate to acknowledge classification credentials. The certification information provided will be copied

to the IWAS member nation and the Classifier List of all certificated classifiers must be updated.

The Classifier will be notified of the pathway to further develop competencies and the requirements for maintaining certification.

Responsibility and Duties of Classification Personnel

- c.11** a) The Head of Classification Commission (HoCC) is appointed by IWF EC as responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination, and implementation of classification matters.

The duties of the HoCC include:

- Examine the current status of IWF Classification on a regular basis.
- Lead the design, planning and recommendation of programs and policies to the IWF to ensure that Classification Rules comply with IWF / IWAS / IPC Rules and Regulations.
- Administer and co-ordinate the classification matters related to IWF.
- Appoint Classifiers for appropriate composition of Classification Panels for competitions, including appointment of Chief Classifiers
- Organise and conduct Classifier training and certification
- Maintain and regularly update a secure classification database to ensure classification records are accurate, or appoint an individual to maintain and update the database
- Maintain and regularly update a Classifier database to track classifier activity and certification
- Maintain and regularly update the Classification Master List.
- Inform Classifiers of any changes in the Classification Rules and consult for feedback on issues which affect the sport and classification rules
- Liaise with all relevant external parties, such as the IWAS and IPC Classification Committee and IWAS and IPC Medical and Scientific Department, and Organizing Committees.

- b) The Chief Classifier is appointed for a specific competition and must be IW FAC or higher. This position may be filled by the Head of Classification Commission.

The duties of the Chief Classifier include:

- Administer and co-ordinate classification matters related to IWF for a specific competition according with the IWF Classification Rules
- Liaise with Organizing Committees and teams before a competition to identify and notify athletes who require evaluation for Sport Class and Sport Class Status
- Liaise with Organizing Committees before a competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics which are provided for Classifiers
- Supervise Classifiers to ensure that Classification Rules are applied appropriately during a specific competition

- Supervise Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification or Protest Panels, and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies.
- c) Classifiers are appointed as members of a Classification or Protest Panel at specific competitions.
- The duties of the Classifiers include:
- Work as a member of a Classification Panel to allocate athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status according to IWF Classification Rules.
 - Work as a member of a Protest Panel as required according to IWF Rules.
 - Attend classification meetings at competitions
 - Assist in Classifier Training and Certification (for example being involved in organizing and teaching at classification seminars) as requested by the Head of Classification Commission or the Classifier appointed to be in charge of training at the competition.
- d) Additionally the duties of WFNC to become IWFC include:
- Active participation and observation to learn Classification Rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies for Certification
 - Attend classification meetings at events.

It should be ensured that WFNC have no responsibilities as a member of a National Delegation (except physiotherapist or medical staff) at the event where classification training takes place. Having no such official duties allows WFNC to participate fully in their classification training.

Classifier Code of Conduct

- c.12** The role of Classifiers is to act as impartial evaluators in determining an athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

The integrity of IWF Classification rests on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual Classifier.

All Classifier Personnel must adhere to the IPC Code of Ethics.

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. This confidence must be inherent within all those involved in IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, the Paralympic Movement and within the general public
- 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, Organizing Committees, media and the public) of criteria by which to assess the professional conduct of Classification Personnel.

Classifier compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct

c.13 a) Classifiers should value and respect the athletes and Athlete Support Personnel 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 IWF Rules including Athlete Evaluation, Protests and Appeals and Competition Rules.
- 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 of the IWF Regulations.

b) Classifiers should respect the Classification Rules and:

- 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
- Recognize 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.

c) Classifiers should respect their colleagues, and:

- 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, recognizing that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to criticize other Classifiers, Games Officials or Technical Advisers in public
- Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision making process of fellow Classifiers, Games Officials and Technical Advisers whether you agree or not
- Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills with less experienced Classifiers and assist with the training and development of Classifiers in accordance with the IWF Classifier Training and Certification.

Consequences of Non-compliance with Classifier Code of Conduct

- c.14** In case of non-compliance with the Classifier Code of Conduct, IWF may take disciplinary action against Classifiers. Therefore IWF EC is the legal authority.

Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action against them may include a variety of sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revoking their certification as a Classifier in IWF.

CHAPTER 2. SPORT CLASSES AND SPORT CLASS STATUS

Functional Tests

- c.15** Functional tests, to be effected in the wheelchair, consist of an evaluation of the extension and lateral inclination ability of the chest in different positions, with or without the use of a weapon. The tested movements repeat specific technical moves, e.g. lunge, i.e. a sudden and improvised lateral inclination of the trunk with the weapon in the hand, with simultaneous extension of the elbow, or as many fast return movements of the chest into its original position (or inclination from the opposite side) as for a "point of measurement" (in order to avoid hits by the opponent). A point score as follows is attributed during the tests:

0 Point -	no function, movement cannot be put into effect
1 Point -	very weak execution, minimum movement
2 Point-	weak execution, fair movement
3 Point -	normal execution

Test N° 1

consists of an evaluation of the extension of dorsal musculature: the subject, seated in the wheelchair, from a forward position of the trunk, tries to return to an upright position, contracting the dorsal muscles and maintaining the upper limbs retroflexed.

Test N° 2

Is an evaluation of lateral balance with abducted upper limbs: the athlete has to move his own centre of gravity laterally to the right and left to the point where he would lose balance, thereby the lateral muscle function of the trunk and of the oblique abdominal can be evaluated as well as the lumbar muscle.

Test N° 3

(similar to test no 1) evaluates the extension of the trunk, but more specifically the lumbar muscles. The exercise is executed with the hands on the back of the neck, thus excluding both the inertial component of upper limb movement (violently retroflexive in test no 1) and the aid of the upper dorsal muscles of the trunk.

Test N° 4

Is similar to test no 2, but presents more difficulties, since it must be executed holding the weapon, the weight of which significantly reduces the possibility of lateral inclination of the trunk without losing balance.

It is essential, during the execution of tests No 2 and 4 that the limb on the opposite side (on the side towards which the athlete does not move), does not hold either the wheelchair, nor the hand rim, nor the arm rest in order not to discredit the validity of the exercise.

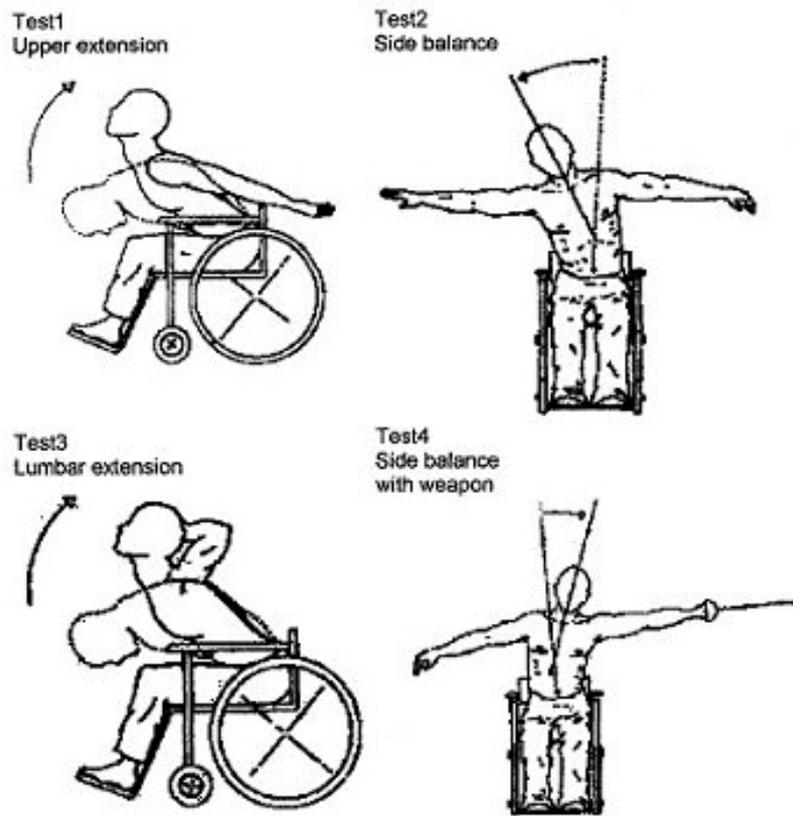


Figure 18. Tests No. 1 - 4

Test N° 5

evaluates a trunk movement directed half the way between test 1/3 and 2/4 ; the exercise is executed holding the chair with the opposed limb. Fencers of class 2 normally can't lean forward in this direction without helping themselves pushing the fencing arm against their leg

Test N°6

is similar to test no 1; evaluates the extension of the trunk, lumbar and dorsal muscles, the exercise is executed holding the position leaning forward at 45°

Bench Test

- c.16 For an athlete affected by a spinal disability (paraplegia or polio) the muscle strength is evaluated by a point score from 0 - 5 as for IWAS actions following the bench test card (see Figure 19)

BENCH TEST						
JOINT	MOVEMENT	Full R.O.M.	Paralysis Muscle Test		R.O.M. Dysfunction	
			Right	Left	Right	Left
Shoulder	Flexion	170				
	Extension	40				
	Abduction	180				
	Adduction	40				
	Ext. rotation	70				
	Int. rotation	70				
Elbow	Flexion	150				
	Extension	10				
	Pronation	90				
	Supination	90				
Wrist	Flexion	50				
	Extension	60				
	Ulnar flexion	40				
	Radial flexion	30				
Fingers	Flexion	90				
	Extension	10				
	Abduction					
	Adduction					
Trunk	Flexion upper					
	Flexion lower					
	Extension upper					
	Extension lower					
	Lateral flexion					
	Rotation					
Hip	Flexion	130				
	Extension	10				
	Abduction	40				
	Adduction	30				
Knee	Flexion	150				
	Extension	5				
Ankle	Plantar flexion	50				

Figure 19. Bench Test Card

For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or athetosis, points are awarded for each controlled action as follows:

- 1 point non functional movement, motory co-ordination is minimal or non-existent.
- 2 points sequence of movement can only happen very slowly and with difficulty. If effected with rapid repetition, it will not exceed 25% of the normal range of movement.
- 3 points as above, up to 50% of full range of movement.
- 4 points slight unco-ordination of movements and/or not more than 75% of normal range of movement.
- 5 points normal motory co-ordination.

In the case of the injury being of orthopaedic origin, and therefore one is faced with problems of ankylosis or even a latent pathology in a reduction of range of movement, the pointscore (from 0 to 5) is expressed as follows:-

- 0 point no range of movement
- 1 point minimal range of movement
- 2 point 1/4 of normal range of movement
- 3 point 1/2 of normal range of movement
- 4 point 3/4 of normal range of movement
- 5 point normal range of movement

Sport Classes

- c.17** After the analytical evaluation and functional tests (c.15; c.16), a classification into Sport Classes is given according to the following criteria:

Eligibility to compete

An athlete must have a minimal handicap, that means: any fencer that, due to a permanent disability, cannot fence standing as an able body fencer is eligible for wheelchair fencing. Otherwise the athlete gets the Sport Class "Ineligibility to Compete".

Athletes, who are eligible to compete are classified into the following Sport Classes.

Class 1A

Athletes with no sitting balance who have a handicapped playing arm. No efficient elbow extension against gravity and no residual function of the hand which makes it necessary to fix the weapon with a bandage. Such a class is comparable to the old ISMGF 1A, or tetraplegics with spinal lesions level C5/C6.

Class 1B

Athletes without sitting balance and affected fencing arm. Functional elbow extension but no functional finger flexion. The weapon has to be fixed with a bandage. Comparable to complete tetraplegics level C7/C8 or higher incomplete lesion.

Class 2

Athletes with fair sitting balance and normal fencing arm, paraplegic type D1 - D9 (Functional tests 1 and 2 - not totalling more than 4 points) or incomplete tetraplegics with minimally affected fencing arm and good sitting balance.

Class 3

Athletes with good Sitting balance, without support of legs and normal fencing arm, e.g. paraplegics from D10 to L2 (Functional tests 1 and 2 positive - with a pointscore from 5 to 9). Subjects with double above the knee amputation with short stumps, or incomplete lesions above D10 or comparable disabilities can be included in this class, provided that the legs can help in maintaining the sitting balance.

Class 4

Athletes with good sitting balance with the support of lower limbs and normal fencing arm, e.g. with lesion below L4 or comparable disability (tests 3 and 4 positive with at least 5 points).

In the case of cerebral lesion or even in the case of doubt, it is necessary to complete the evaluation by observing the athlete whilst fencing. The

involvement of the athletes themselves in the classifying procedure is most important, which in fact the signature of an athlete (or technician) provides within the scope of the classification commission.

Sport Class Status

- c.18** A Sport Class Status is allocated to each athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and protest opportunities.

There are three different Sport Class Status types:

NEW (N)

- Sport Class Status N is assigned to an athlete that has not been previously evaluated by an IWF Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport Class verified by the IWF.
- Sports Class Status N athletes include athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their National Federation for entry purposes
- Sports Class Status N athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at official IWF competitions.

REVIEW (R)

- Sport Class Status R is assigned to an athlete who has been previously evaluated by an IWF Classification Panel, but for reasons requires a review of their Sport Class
- The athlete's current Sport Class is valid, but the athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during competition
- Sports Class Status R Athletes include:
 - Requiring further observation during competition to confirm their Sport Class
 - Fluctuating impairments
 - Sports Class is still subject to protest in accord with the First Appearance requirements

CONFIRMED (C)

- Sport Class Status C is assigned to an athlete if he has been previously evaluated by an IWF Classification Panel and the Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change
- The IWF recognises that the Athlete's assigned Sport Class is valid and will not be altered before or during competition, except in the case of a Protest according to c.XXX

Categories

- c.19** At official IWF competitions, the Sport Classes are joined for reducing the number of events and for increasing the number of participants per event.

There will be three Categories for each event:

Category A: Sport Classes 3 and 4.

Category B: Sport Class 2

Category C: Sport Classes 1A and 1B

CHAPTER 3. ATHLETE EVALUATION

General Principles

- c.20** Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an athlete is assessed in order to be allocated to a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status in accordance with IWF Classification Rules.

Classification is an on-going process whereby all athletes are under regular observation by classifiers to ensure consistency and fairness for all athletes.

Classifiers, athletes, coaches and other team members involved in the classification process should follow the IPC Code of Ethics.

Official Classification can be organized at all official IWF events, training camps and teaching courses. It must be ensured that official classification will take place at any IWF fencing competition.

Athlete Evaluation process is divided into three phases:

- Pre-Competition Tasks
- Athlete Assessment
- Post-Competition Tasks

Pre-Competition Tasks

- c.21** Before competition a Chief Classifier must be nominated by IWF for the competition in accord with the Classification Rules. The Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the competition will be informed by the IWF EC of the Chief Classifier contact details at least three months prior to the event.

The LOC must provide the required facilities and infrastructure and must send information of the forthcoming classifications to the Chief Classifier in accordance with the IWF Rules and Specifications.

- c.22** The Chief Classifier's duties and responsibilities will follow IWF Rules and Regulations. Especially he has to
- Create an execution plan for the needs to be agreed with the LOC, including facilities, technology support, travel and transportation details etc.
 - Cross-check athlete registrations and entry information with the Classification Master List.
 - Allocate a Sport Class Status N to non-listed fencers and add them to the Master List.
 - Identify Sport Class Status R athletes for athlete evaluation during the Classification Evaluation Period.
 - Prepare the Classification Evaluation Period schedule.
 - Disseminate all relevant information to the nations and has the right to request detailed medical documentation, which must be written in or translated into English.

It is the national federation's responsibility to ensure the availability of required documents. In case of missing documents the Chief Classifier has the discretion to not allocate a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

- c.23** Once the Chief Classifier has identified the athletes requiring evaluation, a Classification Evaluation Period schedule is prepared in consultation with the LOC.

Athletes with N or R Sport Class Status must be included on the Classification Evaluation Period schedule before competition.

Assigned times and venues should be communicated by the Chief Classifier in advance of arrival to all relevant parties.

Adequate time must be provided for Athlete Evaluation depending on the number of athletes requiring evaluation.

Athlete Assessment

Principles

- c.24** Athletes shall present themselves following these rules:

- a) in good health conditions, not tired from travelling etc.
- b) appropriately dressed.
- c) with all their documents regarding disability, medication and surgical operations.
- d) with passport for identification purpose
- e) with fencing wheelchair and other fencing devices needed.
- f) Protheses and/or ortheses used.

The athlete may be accompanied by an interpreter and – not more than one – representative of the athlete’s national federation.

Incorrect presentation at Evaluation is subject to c.35ff

Athlete Failure to Attend Evaluation

- c.25** If an athlete fails to attend Evaluation, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that competition.

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Evaluation an athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend the Evaluation.

Failure to attend Evaluation includes:

- Not attending the Evaluation at the specified time or place
- Not attending the Evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation
- Not attending Evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

Preparations

- c.26** The Chief Classifier or designated representative will meet the athlete and their accompanying support staff in a reception area to:

- Verify the accreditation of the athlete and any accompanying support staff (if not done by a representative of the LOC)
- Check that the athlete has met all of the attire and equipment requirements for athlete evaluation in accordance with the IWF Classification Rules

- Collect any of the required documentation that was requested to be brought by the athlete.

A Classification Panel member may additionally request information on the health of an athlete prior to Evaluation. Failure to provide this information may be deemed to constitute non-co-operation during evaluation.

If an athlete has a health condition that causes pain that limits or prohibits full effort during Evaluation, they may not be appropriate for Evaluation at that time. The Chief Classifier may, time permitting, re-schedule the Evaluation. However, ultimately if the athlete does not have a Sports Class and a Sports Class Status then he will not be eligible to compete at the competition.

Classification Process Briefing

- c.27** Prior to the Athlete Assessment a Classification Panel member will brief the athlete and their accompanying support staff regarding the procedures involved in the classification process.

Completion of Consent Forms

- c.28** Athletes must consent to evaluation by signing a Classification Consent Form to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full effort and co-operation throughout the classification process.

The Classification Consent Form shall remind athletes that failing to cooperate with classifiers or failure to complete the classification process may be subject to sanctions in accordance with IWF Classification Rules. (cf. c.35 ff)

Assessments

- c.29** The Athlete Assessment includes the Physical, the Technical and the Observation Assessment.

Athlete Assessment will be done by the Classification Panel of the competition (c.8).

Physical and Technical Assessment

The Physical Assessment and the Technical Assessment take place during the Classification Evaluation Period. They consist of specific functional tests that are stipulated in c.15, c.16.

Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the athlete in order to observe how the athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions.

Classifiers must be confident that the athlete has performed to the best of his capacity during the Physical and Technical Assessment and may request greater effort to ensure optimal observation opportunity.

Observation Assessment

- c.30** The Observation Assessment takes place during the Classification Evaluation Period (in case of Official Training Sessions) and/or the Classification Competition Period (see "First Appearance" in c.39).

The Classification Panel may observe the athlete performing the specific skills during training practices and/or in an event, or during First Appearance (c.39) in accordance with the IWF Classification Rules.

Video footage and/or photography may be utilized by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the competition.

Ineligibility Re-evaluation

- c.31** In circumstances where the determination of Eligibility involves evaluation by a Classification Panel at a competition, and a Sport Class Status of "Ineligible to Compete" is allocated, the athlete will be required to be examined by a Protest Panel in accordance with IWF Protest and Appeal Rules for Classification (cf. Chapter 4). If the second Classification Protest Panel confirms that the athlete's Sports Class is Ineligible, the athlete will not be permitted to compete, and will have no further protest option.

Assignment of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

- c.32** a) The athlete is assigned an initial Sport Class and Sport Class Status after the Physical and Technical Assessment has taken place.
- b) In the exceptionally case, that only one classifier is present, an athlete with entry Status NEW (N) cannot receive Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C). This athlete must be evaluated by a second Classification Panel at the next appearance.
- c) Once the Classification Panel has made a decision on the athlete's Sport Class, a member of the Classification Panel shall inform the athlete of the panel's decision. It is expected that this will occur as soon as possible after the decision being taken. The athlete's Sport Class Status will also need to be updated accordingly.
- c.33** In case the Classification Panel requires Observation Assessment to confirm the athlete's Sport Class, the athlete is informed about this decision at this stage.

At the end of Classification Evaluation Period the athlete should receive Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C). Exception will be c.32 b)

If the most functional class is the Sport Class "Ineligibility to Compete", the athlete has to be assessed by a Protest Panel as soon as possible.

- c.34** Written notification must be provided to the athlete including:

- The Athlete's assigned Sport Class
- The Athlete's updated Sport Class Status
- Associated Protest procedures/options.

Non-Cooperation during Evaluation

- c.35** An athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in Athlete Evaluation shall be considered Non-Cooperative during evaluation.

If the athlete fails to co-operate during Athlete Evaluation, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at the respective competition.

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation, an athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.

IWF does not permit any athlete found to have been non-cooperative during an evaluation to undergo any further IWF Evaluation for one forthcoming IWF competition, starting from the date upon which the athlete failed to co-operate.

Intentional Misrepresentation of Skills and/or Abilities

- c.36** An athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities shall be considered in violation of the Classification Rules.

If the athlete intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that competition.

In addition, the IWF will:

- Not allow the athlete to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of two years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities
- Remove any Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to the athlete from its Classification Master List
- Designate the athlete as IM (intentional misrepresentation) in its Classification Master List

An athlete who, on a second separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from all official IWF Events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate by the IWF.

Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel

- c.37** IWF will enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an athlete to fail to attend Athlete Evaluation, to fail to cooperate, intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

Those who are involved in advising athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions enforced on the athlete.

Notification to third parties

- c.38** The LOC has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of outcomes of Athlete Evaluation after being so advised by the Chief Classifier. This should include clear information to teams that they will require for viewing any athlete that entered the event with N or R Sports Class Status. Teams require this information so that they can determine to protest any newly assigned Sports Classes in accord with the First Appearance requirement.

At the end of each session during the Classification Evaluation Period, the Chief Classifier must convey the outcomes of the assigned Sports Class and updated Sports Class Status to the LOC so that they can prepare start lists and make associated event management arrangements.

First Appearance

- c.39** First Appearance for all Sports Class Status athletes is generally defined as the first time the athlete competes during the competition and is considered for each event that requires technically different skills.

During First Appearance the Classification Panel has the time for Observation Assessment.

Also, First Appearance is the time allowed for other competitors/Nations to:

- Observe the athlete in competition
- Potentially protest the allocated Sports Class without protest fee.

The First Appearance Status / Classification Evaluation Period generally ends with the end of the competition. After this period an athlete should receive the Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C), if there is no other regulation (see c.32 b)

Changes resulting from Observation Assessment

c.40 If any changes to an athlete's assigned Sports Class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of the Observation Assessment during the Classification Competition Period, then:

- A member of the Classification Panel shall inform the athlete, the nation and the LOC of the panel's decision as soon as it is logistically possible.
- Results may need to be adjusted by the LOC in accordance with the IWF Rules.
- The LOC will have to make adjustments to start lists and schedule in accordance with the IWF Rules.
- The LOC must advise other teams/nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as possible in accordance with the IWF Rules

Written notification of any changes resulting from Observation Assessment during the Classification Competition Period must be provided to the athlete, including:

- The Athlete's assigned Sport Class
- The Athlete's updated Sport Class Status
- Associated Protest procedures/options.

Handling Athlete Protests

c.41 Athlete Protests must be conducted by a Protest Panel in accordance with the IWF Regulations for Protests and Appeals.

The Chief Classifier should attempt to schedule any Athlete Protests against an assigned initial Sport Class during the Classification Evaluation Period.

The Chief Classifier should attempt to schedule a Protest against a newly assigned Sport Class as soon as is logistically possible. If the logistics do not allow for this Protest to take place before the athlete's next appearance, then the athlete should compete in their most recently assigned Sport Class.

IWF Classification Card

c.42 As soon as an athlete is allocated the Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C), he will receive an IWF Classification Card (Figure 20), which must be shown at any official IWF competition in copy. The original of the IWF Classification Cards remains in the Chief Classifier's possession. He will hand out a copy to the athlete and/or the athlete's national representative, to the Head of Classification Commission and to the IWF Chairman.

Functional Test	Grade	Reclass	Amputation
Test 1 upper extension			Colour the amputation
Test 2 Side balance			
Test 3 lumbar extension			
Test 4 Side balance with weapon			
Test 5 45° rotated extension			
Test 6 hold 45° inclination			
Total points			

Reclassification (place and date):

New Class

CLASSIFIERS : names and signatures	Athlete: signature

IWAS
WHEELCHAIR FENCING
CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. Luca Michelini (ITA)

Members:

Ms. Laura Avaro (ITA)	Ms. Anita Laszlo (HUN)
Mr. Cheung Kin Ching Michael (HKG)	Mr. Law Ying Man Angus (HKG)
Mr. Chung Wai Man (HKG)	Ms. Leung Yee Ling (HKG)
Dr. Esteban Coltell (ESP)	Mr. Ivan Penkin (RUS)
Dr. Donald De Fabio (USA)	Mr. Marek Podsiadlinski (POL)
Dr. Valeria De Mello (USA)	Dr. Basaam Qasrawi (KUW)
Ms. Sonia Faubert Seguin (CAN)	Dr. Daniel Rosado Velazquez (ESP)
	Dr. Rita Strohm (GER)

WHEELCHAIR FENCING CLASSIFICATION CARD

FAMILY NAME: _____ SEX: M F

GIVEN NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

DIAGNOSIS: _____

PREVIOUS CLASS: _____ SINCE FENCING SINCE: _____

FENCING ARM: _____ RIGHT _____ LEFT _____

CLASS: _____

CLASSIFIERS : names and signatures	Athlete: signature

Observation in competition yes no protest yes no

Figure 20: IWF Classification Card

Post-Competition Tasks

c.43 The Chief Classifier must complete and forward a Post Competition Report to the Head of Classification and the IWF EC in accordance with the IWF Rules.

The Chief Classifier must correspond and liaise with the Head of Classification to ensure that the Classification Master List and the corresponding data bases are updated in accord with the IWF Rules.

Ad hoc Rules for the Paralympic Games

c.44 Athlete Evaluation during the Paralympic Games will be subject to the provisions of IPC International Standard as amended by the Classification Guide for the relevant Paralympic Games. The IPC will detail procedures specific to timelines and venues at the relevant Paralympic Games.

Athletes with an N status prior to an event will not be allowed to participate at the Paralympic Games. Exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the IPC Governing Board.

CHAPTER 4. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

Terminology

- c.45** The term “Protest” as used in these Rules refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete’s Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.

The term “Appeal” as used in these Rules refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Protests

General Principles

- c.46** Protest can only be submitted by
- a designated representative of an IWAS nation
 - an IWF Chief Classifier

Protests should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on competition participation, and Competition schedules and results.

A Protest should not be resolved by the Classification Panel that was involved in the allocation of the Sport Class that is being protested, except if a protest is submitted on a date 18 months or more after the most recent allocation of the Sport Class. In that case, the classifiers involved with the original allocation may be part of the Protest Panel. But at least one classifier of the Protest Panel must be different to the Classification Panel.

Protest Opportunities

- c.47** Protests will generally be submitted during competitions, but may also be submitted at any other time.

An IWAS nation may protest the Sport Class of an athlete from its own or another nation, in accordance with IWF Rules.

The Sport Class Status that is allocated to an Athlete indicates the Protest Regulations that are available in respect of that athlete’s Sport Class.

- c.48** The following opportunities are available to Classifiers and IWAS Nations:
- a) IWF Chief Classifier:
 - The IWF Chief Classifier may protest any athlete’s Sport Class with any Sport Class Status at any time. Athletes with Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C) should only be protested under exceptional circumstances as described in c.49
 - b) Athlete’s IWAS Nation:
 - A National Federation may protest the Sport Class of an athlete of its own nation within 60 minutes after the classification decision being communicated to the athlete without Protest Fee.
 - For protests after this dead line, the National Federation must submit a Protest Fee (cf c.50). In case of a valid protest the Protest Fee will be refunded.

c) Other IWAS Nations:

- An IWAS member nation may protest a Sport Class relating to an athlete of a different member country if the Sport Class Status of that athlete is NEW (N) or REVIEW (R) without Protest Fee. Also Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C) may be protested without Protest Fee at the athlete's First Appearance (c.39)
- All other protests against a Sport Class Status CONFIRMED (C) can only be made by submitting a Protest Fee (cf. c.50). In case of a valid protest the Protest Fee will be refunded.

The regulations with regard to athletes with Sport Class Status 'Ineligibility' are outlined in c.31.

Exceptional Circumstances

- c.49** Exceptional circumstances will arise if a Chief Classifier believes that an athlete's Confirmed Sport Class no longer reflects that athlete's ability to compete equitably within that Sport Class.

Exceptional circumstances may result from:

- A change in the degree of impairment of an athlete.
- An athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition which does not reflect the athlete's current Sport Class.
- An error made by a Classification Panel, which has led to the athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the athlete's ability.
- Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the athlete's most recent evaluation.

Protest Fee

- c.50** The Protest Fee which might be paid in association with a classification Protest is regulated by IWAS Standards. In case of a valid protest the Protest Fee will be refunded.

Protest Procedure

- c.51** Protests may be submitted by an IWAS member nation or the IWF Chief Classifier.

The Chief Classifier is authorised to receive Protests on behalf of IWF at a competition. Protests out of competition must be sent to the Head of the Classification Commission (HoCC)

Protests must be submitted to the Chief Classifier / HoCC in English in written form.

The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest Form should include the following:

- The name and nation of the athlete whose Sport Class is being protested
- Details of the decision being protested
- The reason for the Protest
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest

- The signature of the authorised nation's representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable.
- The Protest Fee, if needed according to IWF Rules (c.48; c.50)

Upon receipt of the Protest Form, the Chief Classifier / HoCC shall conduct a review to determine whether all necessary information is included. If it appears to the Chief Classifier / HoCC that the Protest Form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier/ HoCC shall dismiss the protest and notify all relevant parties.

If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier / HoCC shall notify all relevant parties of the time and date for any subsequent evaluation of the athlete, referred to as "Protest Evaluation".

IWF shall ensure the possibility of Protest Panels at World Championships, Paralympics and at least one World Cup per year.

If possible, protests during competition will be dealt within the competition. Otherwise the Chief Classifier will send all documents to the HoCC, who will notify all relevant parties within 28 days of the time and date for the Protest Evaluation which, following consultation with all relevant parties, may take place at an agreed event.

As long as the protest lasts, the Sport Class Status of the athlete will be changed to REVIEW (R).

Protest Panel

- c.52** The Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a Protest Evaluation. The composition of a Protest Panel is described in c.9.

All documentation submitted with the Protest Form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. Protest Panels should conduct the Protest Evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel, which allocated the athlete's most recent Sport Class.

The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an athlete's Sport Class.

Resolution of Protest

- c.53** All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision in accordance with the IWF Rules.

If the athlete has been classified into a Sport Class different to his prior Sport Class, he

- Must start in competitions for the new Sport Class from this moment on.
- Cannot keep ranking points in his old category in case of change of category.
- Will maintain ranking points in higher categories that he earned prior to the protest.
- May ask IWF for exceptional slot at Paralympics, World or Zonal Championships ("Wild Card") if there is not enough time for collecting enough ranking points.

If there is no doubt, that the athlete has intentionally misrepresented himself at his first classification, IWF will penalise the athlete and may reclaim medals and prizes.

In case of allocating a different Sport Class (“positive protest”), the protest fee will be refunded to the protesting federation.

Protest Procedure at Paralympic Games

- c.54** The submission of protests shall be in accordance with the provisions of IPC International Standard as amended by the Classification Guide for the relevant Paralympic Games. The IPC will detail procedures specific to timelines and venues at the relevant Paralympic Games.

Appeals

Appeal Body

- c.55** To avoid problems with prejudice and independence of the Appela Body for deciding about appelas, IWF agrees that IWAS Appeal Body may act also as Appeal Body for IWF. Therefore appeals must follow IWAS Regulations concerning appeals.

Appeal Jurisdiction

- c.56** The Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to:
- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed
 - Ensure that all appropriate protest procedures have been followed.

No Appeal Body shall have jurisdiction to review the merits of an allocation of Sport Class or Sport Class Status. Under no circumstances shall the Appeal Body modify a classification decision by allocating an athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

The Appeal body shall hear appeals only in cases in which all other available remedies, including but not limited to protest procedures, have been exhausted.

Appeal Submission

- c.57** Appeals may be commenced at any time, by submitting a Notice of Appeal to IWF. IWF promptly transmits a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the opposing party.

Only an IWAS member nation has the right to submit an appeal.

A Notice of Appeal must:

- Specify the party who is requesting the appeal
- Provide the name and nation of the athlete whose Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status is the subject of the appeal
- Identify the decision being appealed, by attaching a copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it
- Specify the grounds for the appeal
- Identify all documents, evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the appeal.

Appeals must be accompanied by a fee, as determined by IWAS. Proof of payment must be included in the Notice of Appeal.

Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, IWF conducts a review to determine whether all other available remedies have been exhausted by the party bringing the appeal. If all other available remedies have not been exhausted, IWF issues a written decision dismissing the appeal.

Appeal Procedures

c.58 If all other available remedies have been exhausted, the IWF will:

- Advise all relevant parties that an Appeal Body will be constituted for the purposes of hearing the Appeal
- Send a copy of the Notice of Appeal, and all documents, evidence and details of witnesses to the party named in the Notice of Appeal (the Opposing Party)
- Advise the Opposing Party that it must, within 28 calendar days of receiving a Notice of Appeal, submit to the Appeal Body a list of all documents, evidence and expert witnesses to be offered by the Opposing Party in relation to the appeal
- Set a Hearing location and date in agreement with all parties and the Appeal Body. The Appeal Body has the right, in its sole discretion, to conduct a Hearing live, by telephone conference or by video conference.

Appeal Hearing

c.59 The Appeal Body, all of whose members shall comply with and have signed a conflict of interest agreement, will comprise of no less than three individuals who have at no stage been involved with or informed of the dispute brought before the Appeal Body.

In order to ensure a level of independence of decisions, a majority of the members of the Appeal Body should not have any other official responsibility in IWF.

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

IWF and the applicable IWAS member nation have the right to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to engage an interpreter approved by the Appeal Body.

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

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

Appeal Decision

c.60 The Appeal Body shall issue a written decision resolving any appeal after the Hearing. The decision shall be provided to all parties, IWF, IWAS and to the Competition Organising Committee (in the case of appeals conducted in connection with a competition).

The Appeal Body shall either affirm the decision appealed from or overrule the decision. If the decision is overruled, the Appeal Body's written opinion shall specify the procedural error committed and shall direct the appropriate party to reconsider the decision in a manner consistent with Appeal Body's instructions.

IWF is responsible for ensuring that the Appeal Body's directives are followed in a timely manner.

Appeal decisions are final and are not subject to any further appeal.

Confidentiality

c.61 Appeal proceedings are confidential. The parties and the Appeal Body shall not disclose facts or other information relating to the dispute or the proceedings to any person or entity excluding, to the extent necessary to prosecute or defend the appeal:

- Employees or agents of a party
- Witnesses whose testimony may be offered on appeal
- Counsel, consultants or interpreters engaged for purposes of the appeal.

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

Appeal Procedure at Paralympic Games

c.62 The Appeal Body for all appeals submitted during a Paralympic Games shall be the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC). The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws. The BAC will have jurisdiction over relevant appeals for all sports that take part in the Paralympic Games.

- ANNEXE A TO THE CLASSIFICATION

**CLASSIFICATION CONSENT FORM
CLASSIFICATION PROTEST FORM
CLASSIFICATION SPORT CLASS ALLOCATION FORM**

- ANNEXE B TO THE CLASSIFICATION

ACCREDITED CLASSIFIERS (updated February 2008):

IW FCC		Dr. Luca Michelini (ITA)
IWFAC	IWFSC	Dr. Esteban Collell (ESP) Dr. Basam Qasrawi (KUW) Dr. Rita Strohm (GER)
	Other IWFAC	Ms Laura Avaro (ITA) Mr. Michael Cheung (HKG) Mr. Chung Wei Man (HKG) Dr. Donald De Fabio (USA) Dr. Valeria de Mello (USA) Ms. Anita Laszlo (HUN) Mr. Law Ying Man Angus (HKG) Mr. Ivan Penkin (RUS) Mr. Marek Podlasiński (POL) Dr. Daniel Candido Rosado Velazquez (ESP) Ms. Sonia Faubert Seguin (CAN) Ms. Yee Ling Leung (HKG)
WFNC		Ms. Elena Belkina (RUS) Ms. Micaela Biava (ITA) Dr. Genaro Calatayud (ESP) Mr. Ngai Man Victor Chan (HKG) Dr. Valeria de Mello (USA) Dr. Edison Duarte (BRA) Ms. Wie Guen Fok (HKG) Mr. Janus Galinski (POL) Ms. Marina Grigorian (BLR) Dr. James Lam (HKG) Ms. Helga Lautenberg (GER) Ms. Yee Ling Leung (HKG) Dr. Florence Pik Sze Mok (HKG) Ms. Nicola Wai Kuen Mok (HKG) Dr. Dominique Pailler (FRA) Ms. France Paquine (CAN) Ms. Belinda Payne (GBR) Dr. Vladimir Pokatilov (UKR) Dr. Anton Pollard (GBR) Dr. Maria Concepcion Ruiz (ESP) Ms. Olga Turczyńska (POL) Ms. Virginia Vermeersch (ARG) Ms. Ekaterina Voinova (RUS)