



IBSA Classification Rules

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Part One: General Provisions

1 Scope and Application

Adoption

- 1.1 The IBSA Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the IBSA Classification Rules. They have been prepared to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2 The IBSA Classification Rules were adopted by IBSA on 14 December 2018.
- 1.3 The IBSA Classification Rules form part of the IBSA Rules and Regulations.
- 1.4 The IBSA Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that are to be used during the athlete evaluation process. These forms are available from the IBSA website and can be obtained from the IBSA classification manual for members, sent to every IBSA Member and available on the IBSA website. These classification forms may be amended by IBSA from time to time. Members will be informed at least 45 days before any changes take effect
- 1.5 The IBSA Classification Rules are the classification rules for all sports governed by IBSA. They shall remain in force in each sport until such time as the sport develops and implements a sports specific classification system. Any modifications to the classification process and the applicable rules thereunder will be communicated at that time.

Classification

- 1.6 Classification is undertaken to:
 - a) define who is eligible to compete in IBSA sports and consequently who has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; 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

- 1.7 The IBSA Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with IBSA, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by IBSA.
- 1.8 The IBSA Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with the IPC Athletes Classification Code 2015, (The Classification Code), any appendices to the Classification Code and International Standards, all IBSA classification forms, all other applicable rules and policies of IBSA which relate to classification of athletes. In the event of a conflict between these Rules and the Classification Code and any related International Standards developed under the Classification Code, the Classification Code and related International Standards shall prevail. In the event of any conflict between the IBSA Classification Rules and any other IBSA rules, policies or forms, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

International Classification

- 1.9 IBSA will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 1.10 IBSA will provide classification opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with the IBSA Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions or other such locations as defined by IBSA. IBSA will advise Athletes, and IBSA Members at least three months in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).

Interpretation and Relationship to the Code

- 1.11 References to an 'Article' mean an Article of the IBSA Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to the IBSA Classification Rules, and capitalised terms used in the IBSA Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 1.12 References to a 'sport' in the IBSA Classification Rules refer to both a sport and an individual discipline within a sport.
- 1.13 The Appendix to the IBSA Classification Rules is part of the IBSA Classification Rules. Both these Rules and the Appendix may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by IBSA from time to time after consulting the membership at least 45 days before the changes are made effective.
- 1.14 Headings used in the IBSA Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 1.15 The IBSA Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner that is consistent with the Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of the IBSA 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 the IBSA Classification Rules;
 - b) participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
 - c) ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to IBSA in sufficient

- time prior to a competition for it to be reviewed by the appropriate classification personnel;
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of the IBSA Classification Rules; and
 - e) actively participate in the process of education and awareness and Classification research when requested. When the research relates to a specific health condition of an athlete, the athlete is required to give their informed consent before any of their health information is used in the research.

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 the IBSA Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative attitude towards the Classification process and encourage a culture of open and candid communication between the athlete and the classifiers;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of the IBSA 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 the IBSA Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence foster a positive and collaborative attitude towards the Classification process and encourage a culture of open and candid communication between the athlete and the classifiers;
- 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 the IBSA Classification Rules.

Part Two: Classification Personnel

3 Classification Personnel

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

Head of Classification

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

3.3 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, IBSA may appoint 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 must be a registered ophthalmologist.

3.5 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or the transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other qualified persons authorised by IBSA. These tasks need to be specifically described in writing.

3.6 Nothing in the IBSA 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 IBSA as an accredited International classifier 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 by IBSA to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by IBSA. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by IBSA to do the following:

3.8.1 identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;

3.8.2 supervise Classifiers to ensure that the IBSA Classification Rules, the Classification Code and related international standards are properly applied during Classification;

3.8.3 manage Protests in consultation with IBSA; and

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

- 3.9 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, other appropriately qualified IBSA officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition. These persons need to be qualified for the tasks they are required to perform and the tasks need to specifically be described in writing.

Trainee Classifiers

- 3.10 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by IBSA
- 3.11 IBSA may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.
- 3.12 A trainee classifier cannot be included on a panel as a substitute for either of the two designated accredited international classifiers appointed by IBSA to each panel in a classification event.
- 3.13 One panel at an International classification cannot work with more than one designated trainee classifier
- 3.14 Trainee classifiers can only be ophthalmologists or optometrists and must always have a license to practise their profession in their own country.

4 Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by IBSA as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 IBSA must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3 IBSA must specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The Classifier Competencies must include that a Classifier has:
- 4.3.1 a thorough understanding of the IBSA Classification Rules, the Classification Code and related international standards; and
 - 4.3.2 the necessary professional qualifications, skills, competence and experience to act as an International Classifier for IBSA. These include that Classifiers must either be an ophthalmologist or optometrist currently licensed to practice their profession in the local area where they reside.
- 4.4 IBSA must establish a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process must include:
- 4.4.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers
 - 4.4.2 quality assessment for the period of certification;
 - 4.4.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and

- 4.4.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.5 IBSA must specify Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. IBSA will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
- 4.6 IBSA must provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.7 IBSA may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
 - 4.7.1 a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.7.2 the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;
 - 4.7.3 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
 - 4.7.4 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if -after careful examination- IBSA is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
 - 4.7.5 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if IBSA is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.
 - 4.7.6 The decision on a change in a classifiers' status must be fully explained, put in writing and will need ratification of the IBSA Executive Board.

5 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in IBSA depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. IBSA has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to IBSA.
- 5.4 If IBSA receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures. Discipline may include any sanction up to and including the removal of a classifier's certification to classify athletes at future competitions.
- 5.5 IBSA has the discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

6 General Provisions

- 6.1 IBSA has specified in the IBSA 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 includes:
 - 6.2.1 an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport in which they are scheduled to compete;
 - 6.2.2 an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport; and
 - 6.2.3 the allocation of a Sport Class.

7 Eligible Impairment

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

Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.3 IBSA must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
 - 7.3.1 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the onus is on the Athlete to prove on the balance of probabilities that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition.
 - 7.3.2 The means by which IBSA determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of IBSA.
- 7.4 An Athlete must supply IBSA with Diagnostic Information at IBSA's request to prove an underlying health condition. This documentation may include:
 - 7.4.1 The relevant IBSA Member must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to IBSA, upon completing the registration of an Athlete in the ISAS database, at least 60 days prior to the classification.
 - 7.4.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English, dated and signed by a certified ophthalmologist licensed in the jurisdiction where the athlete resides.
 - 7.4.3 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by IBSA such as VEP or ERG tests. IBSA may publish policies from time to time specifying the types of medical test results it requires athletes to provide prior to competing at a competition.

- 7.5 IBSA may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if IBSA at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.6 If IBSA requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information, it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so.
- 7.7 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.7.1 The Head of Classification will notify the relevant IBSA Member that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
- 7.7.2 The Head of Classification will set reasonable timelines for the production of the Diagnostic Information.
- 7.7.3 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. None of the members in the Eligibility Assessment Committee can be from the athlete's nationality, neither can they be- or have been- involved in the athletes' upcoming or prior classification.
- 7.7.4 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.
- 7.7.5 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 7.7.6 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant IBSA Member. The IBSA Member will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the IBSA Member.
- 7.7.7 If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the IBSA Member.

- 7.7.8 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. If the Head of Classification chooses to exercise her or his veto, this should be explained in the final letter of decision.
- 7.8 IBSA may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

8 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 8.1 An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2 IBSA 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 Appendix One of the IBSA Classification Rules specifies the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to all IBSA sports and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 8.4 A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy IBSA that he or she has an Eligible Impairment in accordance with article 7 of the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 8.5 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.

9 Sport Class

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by IBSA in the IBSA 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.
- 9.1.1 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 16 of the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 9.1.2 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in the IBSA Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).

- 9.1.3 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IBSA (in accordance with Article 16.1), the allocation of a sport class must be based solely of an evaluation by one classification panel of the extent to which the athlete's eligible impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows the tests and observation of an athlete's level of vision. To confirm an athlete's sport class as not eligible, a finding that an athlete is not eligible must be confirmed by two classification panels.
- 9.2 Appendix One of the IBSA Classification Rules specifies 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 IBSA or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete at any stage of the athlete evaluation process, the Head of Classification or the relevant Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 10.2 The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in the IBSA Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will however be recorded for the purpose of the IBSA Classification Master List.
- 10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in IBSA sports until they have a confirmed sport class status which allows the athlete to compete.

Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

11 The Classification Panel

- 11.1 A Classification Panel is a group of international Classifiers appointed by IBSA to conduct some 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. At least one of the classifiers in a panel must be an ophthalmologist. In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a valid medical qualification as an ophthalmologist.
- 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 under supervision of two certified international classifiers. Only one trainee classifier can take part in each classification panel.

12 Classification Panel Responsibilities

- 12.1 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
- 12.1.1 assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
 - 12.1.2 assess the visual impairment in relation to the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 12.2 Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 12.3 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by IBSA, unless IBSA requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.4 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities to allow the classifiers to evaluate the athlete's visual impairment.
- 12.4.1 Although other factors such as low fitness level, fatigue and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks, 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. For example, IBSA may classify an athlete with a vision impairment and a learning disability if such learning disability does not prevent the athlete from fully participating in the classification process.

- 12.6 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One.

13 Evaluation Sessions

- 13.1 This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 13.2 The Athlete's IBSA Member is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 13.3 In respect of Athletes:
- 13.3.1 With the agreement of the athlete, he/she has the right to be accompanied by a representative of the Athlete's IBSA member Organisation when attending an Evaluation Session.
- 13.3.2 The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
- 13.3.3 The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by IBSA and sign the consent form before evaluation.
- 13.3.4 The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, government issued ID card, IBSA license card or event accreditation.
- 13.3.5 The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with all the optical correction and / or optical aids already prescribed to him/her and the related prescription order, not older than one year.
- 13.3.6 The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
- 13.3.7 The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.
- 13.3.8 If the athlete's first language is not English, the athlete may be accompanied by an interpreter for the purposes of translating the classifier's questions and the athlete's responses. The presence of the interpreter must be arranged by the IBSA member and is in addition to the representative of the athlete's IBSA member previously described in the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 13.4 In respect of the Classification Panel:
- 13.4.1 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation in English that is 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.
- 13.4.2 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by IBSA and agreed by the classifiers and athlete.

- 13.4.3 The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier, if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion(s) is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class. This information will be disclosed to the athlete when informing him/her about the decision. If such information is sought by the panel, the request for such information must be made as soon as practical after the panel determines that additional information is required.
- 13.4.4 In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.3, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete's IBSA Organisation (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- 13.4.5 The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

14 Sport Class Status

- 14.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. 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.
- 14.2 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:
- Confirmed (C)
 - Review (R)
 - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

Sport Class Status New

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

Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 14.4 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is- and will remain stable.
- 14.4.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (except as may be pursuant to the provisions in the IBSA Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 17), changes to any of the provisions of these rules regarding eligible medical impairment or boundaries of any sport class that may result in an athlete being classified into a different sport class, Medical Review (Article 29) and changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 14.7)).

- 14.4.2 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

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

Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date

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

- 14.7 If IBSA changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
- 14.7.1 IBSA may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
- 14.7.2 IBSA may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 14.7.3 in both instances the relevant IBSA Member shall be informed as soon as it is practicable and at least 60 days previously of the competition where he/she can be reassessed.

15 Notification

- 15.1 The outcome of an Athlete Evaluation must be provided to the Athlete, the Local Organising Committee of the competition and the relevant IBSA Member and be published as soon as practically possible after completion of the Athlete Evaluation.
- 15.2 IBSA must publish the outcome of all Athlete Evaluations, accessible for all participants, at the Competition following each day of Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the Classification Master List on the IBSA website.

Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible

16 Sport Class Not Eligible

General Provisions

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

Absence of Eligible Impairment

- 16.3 If IBSA determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment as defined in Appendix 1, that Athlete:
- 16.3.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
 - 16.3.2 will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by IBSA.
- 16.4 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IBSA or a Classification Panel (if delegated by IBSA) because that Athlete has
- a) an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment as defined in Appendix 1; 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 the sport.

Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 16.5 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.
- 16.5.1 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.
 - 16.5.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

- 16.5.3 Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not subject for protest.
- 16.6 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 16.7 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 16.8 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the specific IBSA sport.

Part Six: Protests

Protests

17 Scope of a Protest

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

18 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

- 18.1 A Protest may only be made by the IBSA Member.

19 National Protests

- 19.1 An IBSA Member may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.
- 19.2 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 15 of the IBSA Classification Rules) a National Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published, except when the publication of the results are after 9 PM, then the protest time ends at 9 AM the following morning.

20 National Protest Procedure

- 20.1 To submit a National Protest, the IBSA Member must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by IBSA at the Competition and via the IBSA website, and must include the following:
 - 20.1.1 the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
 - 20.1.2 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
 - 20.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the IBSA Member believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - 20.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
 - 20.1.5 the Protest Fee set by IBSA.
- 20.2 The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified by IBSA. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with IBSA, of which there are two possible outcomes:

- 20.2.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this Article 20; or
- 20.2.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in Article 20.
- 20.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the IBSA Member as soon as it is practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 20.4 If the Protest is accepted:
 - 20.4.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R);
 - 20.4.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition the Protest was made or at the next Competition. This Protest Panel consists of other classifiers than the first panel; and
 - 20.4.3 IBSA must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.
 - 20.4.4 If the protest is successful, the protest fee will be reimbursed to the IBSA member.

21 IBSA Protests

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

22 IBSA Protest Procedure

- 22.1 If IBSA decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the IBSA Member of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 22.2 The Head of Classification must provide the IBSA Member with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it is justified.
- 22.3 If IBSA makes a Protest:
 - 22.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome

- of the Protest;
- 22.3.2 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
- 22.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

23 Protest Panel

- 23.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article 23 if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 23.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 23.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
 - 23.3.1 made the Protested Decision; or
 - 23.3.2 conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the IBSA Member or IBSA (whichever is relevant).
- 23.4 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.
- 23.5 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with the IBSA Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 23.6 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 the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 23.7 Subject to any rights the athlete may have by way of an appeal, the decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an IBSA Protest is final. The IBSA Member may not make another Protest at the relevant Competition.

24 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

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

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

25 Special Provisions

- 25.1 IBSA may make arrangements (subject to the approval of the IPC) for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, IBSA must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

Application during Major Competitions

26 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

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

Part Seven: Misconduct during Evaluation Session

27 Failure to Attend Evaluation Session

- 27.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 27.2 The IBSA Member must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.
- 27.3 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier 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.
- 27.4 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

28 Suspension of Evaluation Session

- 28.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete for any reason including:
 - 28.1.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the IBSA Classification Rules;
 - 28.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - 28.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct its determination in a fair manner;
 - 28.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
 - 28.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
 - 28.1.6 the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
 - 28.1.7 the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.
- 28.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:

- 28.2.1 an explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the IBSA Member in writing;
 - 28.2.2 if the Athlete corrects their behaviour or remedies the deficiencies provided to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
 - 28.2.3 if the Athlete refuses to comply with the reasonable requests of the classification panel to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier, or does not remedy the deficiencies or change their conduct within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the evaluation session is completed.
- 28.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of the IBSA Classification Rules.
- 28.4 A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

Part Eight: Medical Review

29 Medical Review

- 29.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).
- 29.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment 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.
- 29.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's IBSA Member (together with a €100 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.
- 29.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by IBSA as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 29.5 The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 29.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 29.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their IBSA Member may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 29.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect and the athlete will be classified at the earliest opportunity. The fee will be reimbursed to the IBSA member when the Medical Review is accepted.

Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation

30 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 30.1 It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 30.2 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.
- 30.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation, a hearing will be convened by the legal and ethics committee of IBSA to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 30.4 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:
- 30.4.1 disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
 - 30.4.2 being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;
 - 30.4.3 suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
 - 30.4.4 publication of their names and suspension period on the IBSA website.
- 30.5 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.
- 30.6 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.
- 30.7 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 IBSA.

- 30.8 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 IBSA and will be described in the sport specific rules.

Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

31 Classification Data

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

32 Consent and Processing

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

33 Classification Research

- 33.1 IBSA may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 33.2 The use by IBSA of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with the IBSA Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 33.3 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to IBSA solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 33.4 IBSA may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express written and informed consent of the relevant Athlete. If IBSA wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

34 Notification to Athletes

- 34.1 IBSA must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
 - 34.1.1 that fact that IBSA is collecting the Classification Data; and
 - 34.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and

- 34.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

35 Classification Data Security

35.1 IBSA must:

- 35.1.1 protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and
- 35.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with the IBSA Classification Rules.

36 Disclosures of Classification Data

- 36.1 IBSA must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws and/or is done with the athletes consent.
- 36.2 IBSA may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with the IBSA Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

37 Retaining Classification Data

- 37.1 IBSA must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.
- 37.2 IBSA must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

38 Access Rights to Classification Data

- 38.1 Athletes may request for themselves the following items or actions from IBSA:
- 38.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that IBSA Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- 38.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by IBSA and/or
- 38.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by IBSA.

- 38.2 A request may be made by an Athlete or the IBSA Member on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

39 Classification Master Lists

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

Part Eleven: Appeals

40 An appeal

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

41 Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

- 41.1 An Appeal may only be made by an IBSA member.

42 Appeal to the IBSA Legal and Ethics committee

- 42.1 If the IBSA Member considers there has 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 to the IBSA Legal and Ethics committee, following the procedures of this committee. Such appeal must be submitted within seven (7) calendar days of the alleged procedural error. An athlete who has a sport class not eligible (NE) is unable to compete pending the outcome of the appeal.

43 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

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

Part Twelve: Glossary

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

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by IBSA) 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 The IBSA 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.

Chief Classifier: A classifier appointed by IBSA to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to The IBSA 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 an IBSA Member and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

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

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

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

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

Classification Panel: A group of Classifiers, appointed by IBSA, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with The IBSA 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 IBSA in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eligible Impairment: An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing IN IBSA competitions, as detailed in The IBSA 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 IBSA relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers.

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

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

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

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

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

IBSA: International Blind Sports Federation

Impairment: A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

Intentional Misrepresentation: A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead IBSA as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a Para sport and/or the degree or

nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

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

International Sport Federation: A sport federation recognised by IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC.

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

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Body: Refers to a national member of IBSA.

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

National Protest: A Protest made by an IBSA Member in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

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

Paralympic Games: Umbrella term for both 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.

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

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

Protested Decision: The Sport Class decision being challenged.

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

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

Protest Form: The form on which a 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 IBSA must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

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

Research Purposes: Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within IBSA, 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 IBSA by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

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

Team Sport: a sport such as football or goalball in which multiple players play simultaneously and in which substitution of players is permitted during a Competition.

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 Vision Impairment

1 Introduction

1.1 IBSA has designated Sport Classes for Athletes with Vision Impairment, that are defined in this Appendix.

1.2 IBSA is currently reviewing the Sport Classes for Athletes with Vision Impairment. The objective is to create new Sport Classes for Athletes with Vision Impairment based on activity limitations that result from Impairments (i.e. a sport specific Classification system). Until such a system is finalised, the processes detailed in this Appendix apply to Athlete Evaluation in respect of Sport Classes for Athletes with Vision Impairment.

1.3 The Sport Class allocated to Athletes with Vision Impairment applies to all Events offered by IBSA.

1.4 All provisions of the IBSA Classification Rules apply to the assessment of Athletes with Vision Impairment, unless otherwise specified in The IBSA Classification Rules.

2 Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<p>Vision Impairment</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Vision Impairment include retinitis pigmentosa and diabetic retinopathy.</p>

3 Minimum Impairment Criteria

3.1 To be eligible to compete in Sport Classes B1-B3 in IBSA, the Athlete must meet both of the criteria below:

3.1.1 The Athlete must have at least one (1) of the following Impairments:

- a) Impairment of the eye structure;
- b) Impairment of the optical nerve/optic pathways; or

c) Impairment of the visual cortex.

3.1.2 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 in diameter.

3.2 It is the responsibility of the Athlete and his National IBSA member federation to provide sufficient evidence of the Athlete's Vision Impairment. This must be done by way of submitting medical Diagnostic Information completed by an ophthalmologist as described in the Article 7.5 of these Rules.

3.3 The medical Diagnostic Information must comprise the completed Medical Diagnostics Form (available on the IBSA website) and additional medical documentation as indicated on the Medical Diagnostics Form. Failure to present with complete medical Diagnostic Information may result in Athlete Evaluation being suspended in accordance with Article 28 of these Rules.

3.4 Medical Diagnostic Information must be typewritten and submitted in English and must not be older than twelve (12) months prior to the date of Evaluation Session.

4 Assessment Methods

4.1 All Athlete Evaluation and Sport Class allocation will be based on the assessment of visual acuity in the eye with better visual acuity or visual field when wearing the best optical correction.

4.2 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.

4.3 Visual field must be tested using one of the following: Goldmann Visual Field Perimeter, Humphrey Field Analyser or Octopus Interzeag. The software in automatic perimeters must be for full range fields (80° or more), not only for central visual fields. The reference stimulus/isopter must be Goldman III/4 or the equivalent on other equipment.

4.4 Athletes who compete using any corrective devices (e.g. glasses, lenses) must attend the Evaluation Session with these devices and their prescription.

4.5 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).

4.6 Athletes must declare any change in their optical correction to IBSA before any Competition. Upon any such declaration, if the Athlete has a Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) or Confirmed (C), the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R). The Athlete

will then undergo the 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).

4.7 Any Athlete Support Personnel accompanying an Athlete during an Evaluation Session must remain out of sight of the visual acuity charts during the assessment.

4.8 Under the current provisions set out in this Appendix, Observation in Competition Assessment (Article 14) does not apply to Athletes with Vision Impairment.

4.9 IBSA will inform the local organising committee of the Competition 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's responsibility to provide all equipment required by IBSA.

4.10 Failure to provide all equipment required by IBSA may result in the Classification decisions not being accepted by IBSA.

5 Sport Classes Profiles for Athletes with Vision Impairment

5.1 Sport Class B1:

5.1.1 Visual acuity is less than LogMAR 2.60.

5.2 Sport Class B2:

5.2.1 visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1.50 to 2.60 (inclusive); and/or

5.2.2 the visual field is constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees.

5.3 Sport Class B3:

5.3.1 visual acuity ranges from LogMAR 1 to 1.40 (inclusive); and/or

5.3.2 the visual field is constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees.