



International  
**Paralympic**  
Committee

## **International Standard for Athlete Evaluation**

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**International Paralympic Committee**

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## Introduction

The fundamental purpose of the IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) is to uphold confidence in Classification and advance participation by a wide range of Athletes. To achieve this purpose, the Code details policies and procedures common across all sports and sets principles to be applied by all Para sports.

The Code is complemented by International Standards that provide technical and operational standards for specific aspects of Classification to be carried out by all Signatories in a manner that Athletes and other Paralympic stakeholders understand and have confidence in.

Compliance with these International Standards is mandatory. This International Standard for Athlete Evaluation should be read in conjunction with the Code and the other International Standards.

## Purpose

The purpose of the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation is to detail the accepted procedures for the assessment of Athletes and the allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

## Definitions

This International Standard uses the defined terms from the Code. Further defined terms specific to this International Standard are:

**Adaptive Equipment:** implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

**Chief Classifier:** a Classifier appointed by an International Sport Federation to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to that International Sport Federation Classification Rules.

**Head of Classification:** a person appointed by an International Sport Federation to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for that International Sport Federation.

**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



to allocate 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 the sport.

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

**Medical Review Request:** a request made by a National Body or National Paralympic Committee for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

**Protest Panel:** a Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest

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



## 1 General Provisions

- 1.1** Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the Classification Rules of an International Sport Federation in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.
- 1.2** International Sport Federations are required (by way of their Classification Rules) to implement and publish provisions relating to Athlete Evaluation that are consistent with this International Standard.
- 1.3** A reference to ‘sport’ in this International Standard refers to both the sport and any individual discipline within a sport.

*[Comment to Article 1.3: Sport Classes can be allocated in relation to a sport itself or for individual disciplines within a sport (for example, swimmers are allocated Sport Classes for different strokes; track and field Athletes are allocated different Sport Classes depending on their individual track or field events). The references to ‘sport’ in this International Standard encompass all of these situations.]*

- 1.4** Athlete Evaluation encompasses:
- a) an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for a sport;
  - b) an assessment of whether the Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport; and
  - c) the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 1.5** The assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for a sport must be conducted by an International Sport Federation as provided for in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.

*[Comment to Article 1.5: an Athlete will only be eligible to compete in a sport if the Athlete has a relevant Eligible Impairment. As provided for in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments, an Athlete may be required by the International Sport Federation to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment, or demonstrate the existence of an Eligible Impairment. Whether or not this is required will depend on the relevant Eligible Impairment and is explained further in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments. If an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be Not Eligible to compete in a Para sport.]*



- 1.6 The assessment of whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport, the allocation of a Sport Class and designation of a Sport Class Status must be undertaken by a Classification Panel in accordance with this International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

## 2 Classification Panel Procedures

- 2.1 International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern concerning the components of Athlete Evaluation that must be undertaken by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.

*[Comment to Article 2.1: the term 'Athlete Evaluation' refers to the entire process by which an Athlete becomes eligible to compete in a sport. This International Standard makes provision for those parts of Athlete Evaluation that must be undertaken by a Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session].*

- 2.2 At a minimum these provisions must specify that:

- 2.2.1 Classification Panels must include a minimum of two Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel consists of one Classifier only, subject to the restriction that such a Classifier must possess a medical qualification.

*[Comment to Article 2.2.1: 'Exceptional circumstances' will arise if there are genuine and unavoidable practical difficulties at a Competition (such as travel delays, Classifier illness or conflicts) that mean that there is an insufficient number of Classifiers to constitute two-person or more Classification Panels. Regardless of circumstances the Classifier who constitutes a single person Classification Panel must have a medical qualification that is relevant to the Eligible Impairments of the Athletes to be evaluated by that Classifier.*

*An International Sport Federation may require that more than two Classifiers constitute a Classification Panel.]*

- 2.2.2 Athletes have the right to choose one person, who must be a member of the Athlete's National Body or the National Paralympic Committee, to accompany them when attending an Evaluation Session. If the Athlete is a minor, a member of the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee must accompany that Athlete.



*[Comment to Article 2.2.2: in certain circumstances International Sport Federations may, if they wish, permit Athletes to attend before a Classification Panel without a member of a National Body or National Paralympic Committee being present. For example, in relation to certain sports, Competitions may not involve National Bodies or National Paralympic Committees but rather individual Athletes.]*

2.2.3 The Classification Panel must conduct its assessments in English unless otherwise stipulated by the International Sport Federation. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, the National Body or National Paralympic Committee is responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter will be permitted to accompany the Athlete in addition to the person nominated by the Athlete to accompany him or her when attending an Evaluation Session.

2.2.4 A Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion, with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier. This expertise may only be sought if the Classification Panel feels that such expertise is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class.

2.2.5 An Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.

2.2.6 An Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

**2.3** A Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Body, National Paralympic Committee and International Sport Federation when allocating a Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 2.3: it is important that a Classification Panel has access to all the evidence that it considers necessary for the allocation of a Sport Class. This includes the making of and/or reference to audio-visual evidence. Caution must be exercised when using audio-visual evidence and care taken to ensure that such use does not infringe any third party rights. It is recommended that International Sport Federations develop and publish policies regarding the use of third party material so as to avoid any potential misuse.]*

**2.4** Athlete Evaluation must take place in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Data Protection and consistent with the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training.



### 3 Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 3.1 The assessment of whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken as provided for in the International Standard for Eligible Impairments.

### 4 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 4.1 The Classification System used by an International Sport Federation must define the minimum level of impairment required to participate in a sport. This is referred to as 'Minimum Impairment Criteria'.

*[Comment to Article 4.1: when defining the Minimum Impairment Criteria, the International Sport Federation must clearly state which sport will be adversely affected by Eligible Impairments. This may be the Para sport or an equivalent sport for Athletes without an Impairment. For example, an International Sport Federation can set Minimum Impairment Criteria so that Athletes will be eligible if they have a Permanent Impairment; and are unable to participate in an equivalent sport for Athletes without an Impairment, without experiencing a significant adverse effect on their ability to conduct the relevant activities in this equivalent sport.]*

- 4.2 Minimum Impairment Criteria must ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, the International Sport Federation must set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:
- 4.4.1 for Eligible Impairments other than Vision Impairment, Minimum Impairment Criteria must *not* consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;
  - 4.4.2 for Vision Impairment, Minimum Impairment Criteria must consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.



*[Comment to Article 4.4: the role of Adaptive Equipment in defining Minimum Impairment Criteria is different to the role of Adaptive Equipment in the allocation of a Sport Class (see Article 5.2). The difference in approach for Athletes with Vision Impairment must be seen within the historical context of Classification for these Athletes, which is an assessment with 'best correction' as used in the context of medical diagnostics for visual acuity.]*

- 4.5** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding the process by which a Classification Panel will assess whether or not an Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria after an International Sport Federation has verified an Eligible Impairment. At a minimum these provisions must include:
- 4.5.1 A clear description of the Minimum Impairment Criteria applied to each relevant Eligible Impairment for each sport.
  - 4.5.2 A stipulation that compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria must be assessed by a Classification Panel.
  - 4.5.3 The means by which compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel.
  - 4.5.4 A stipulation that compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria be assessed on the basis of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
  - 4.5.5 A stipulation that the assessment of Minimum Impairment Criteria must be consistent with Article 4.4.
- 4.6** A determination that an Athlete who does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport will result in the Athlete being allocated Sport Class Not Eligible for that sport as provided for in this International Standard.

## **5 Sport Class Allocation**

- 5.1** An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Sport Class, subject to the provisions of Article 10 and Article 11 of this International Standard.
- 5.2** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding the methods by which a Classification Panel will assess the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.





*[Comment to Article 5.2: the use of Adaptive Equipment permitted by the rules of an International Sport Federation is an integral component of the tasks and activities required by a sport. Therefore, Athletes must attend Athlete Evaluation with the equipment they will use in competition. Consequently, Sport Class allocation must take into consideration the (optimal) use of such technical aids and equipment (such as strapping, gloves) during competition. For example, if the rules of the sport permit wheelchair athletes to use abdominal strapping, and an Athlete with poor sitting balance does not use such strapping and performs poorly as a result, this Athlete should not be allocated a Sport Class for Athletes with either (a) more severe impairments; or (b) impairments causing more difficulty with sport specific tasks and activities.]*

*The current criteria for assessment of Athletes with Vision Impairment (see the International Standard for Eligible Impairments) is not currently sport specific and does not include a requirement that Athletes be assessed in respect of the ‘extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport’. International Sport Federations must develop such proposed criteria, and provide these criteria to their membership and the IPC by no later than 31 December 2017.]*

- 5.3** The allocation of a Sport Class must be based on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete’s Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 5.4** A Sport Class must be allocated based solely on the impact that Eligible Impairment has on the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.

*[Comment to Article 5.3 and Article 5.4: in order to determine how much these other factors affect an Athlete’s performance in the sport, a Classification Panel should consider an Athlete’s training history, technical skills and age. Consideration of these factors will assist the Classification Panel to determine the influence of these factors on the Athlete’s ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport that may affect the allocation of Sport Class Status. For Athletes with Vision Impairment, the Comment to Article 5.2 above also applies.]*



## 6 Observation in Competition

- 6.1** International Sport Federations must provide that a Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertakes Observation in Competition before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete. The International Sport Federation must specify what a Classification Panel is to observe, how Observation in Competition is to take place and by whom.
- 6.2** Observation in Competition must take place during First Appearance. First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class. First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to all participation in other events within the same Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 6.2: Wherever possible, Observation in Competition Assessment must not take place at a final of an event.]*

- 6.3** If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition, the Athlete is permitted to compete at First Appearance with the Sport Class that is allocated to that Athlete by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 6.4** For team sports First Appearance must take place during the preliminary rounds of a Competition. Teams must not be permitted to select Athletes for participation in elimination rounds if those Athletes have not made a First Appearance in earlier non-elimination rounds.
- 6.5** The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance. If changes to an Athlete Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately. International Sport Federations must make clear provision as regards to the impact of any such changes on results and prizes.
- 6.6** If the Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible following Observation in Competition, the provisions of this International Standard apply.



## 7 Sport Class Status

- 7.1** 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 in accordance with the International Standard for Protest and Appeals.
- 7.2** The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel will be one of the following:
- 7.2.1 Confirmed (C);
  - 7.2.2 Review (R); or
  - 7.2.3 Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD).

*[Comment to Article 7.2: an International Sport Federation may designate Athletes who are entered for an International Competition but who have not competed at an International Competition previously (or are returning to International Competition) with Sport Class Status 'New', meaning that the Athlete will be assessed by a Classification Panel at that Competition. This is addressed in Article 7.8 below.]*

- 7.3** 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. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation.

*[Comment to Article 7.3: the only circumstances in which an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation will be as provided in the International Standard for Protests and Appeals or as provided in Article 7.9.]*

- 7.4** A Classification Panel that consists of one Classifier may only designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 7.5** An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required. This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:
- 7.5.1 has only recently entered Competition in Para sports;
  - 7.5.2 has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or
  - 7.5.3 has not reached full (muscular skeletal) or sports maturity.



- 7.6** An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any International Competition unless the International Sport Federation specifies otherwise.
- 7.7** A Classification Panel may designate an Athlete's Sport Class with Sport Class Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD). An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (FRD) is required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed date.
- 7.8** An Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class by an International Sport Federation prior to undertaking Athlete Evaluation. Any such Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status New (N). An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition, unless the International Sport Federation specifies otherwise.
- 7.9** If an International Sport Federation changes the criteria or methodology used to allocate Sport Classes, it may re-designate Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) and Athletes with Sport Class Status with Fixed Review Date (FRD) as being Sport Class Status Review (R).

## **8 Athletes who are Not Eligible**

**8.1** If an International Sport Federation determines that an Athlete has:

- 8.1.1 a Health Condition that will not lead to an Eligible Impairment; or
- 8.1.2 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment,

the International Sport Federation must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

*[Comment to Article 8.1: these provisions are explained further in International Standard for Eligible Impairments. If it is determined that an Athlete does not have an Underlying Health Condition (if such determination is required), or an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE). The Athlete has no right to have this determination reviewed. This does not affect the Athlete's right to make an Appeal as provided for in the International Standard for Protests and Appeals].*

**8.2** If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).



*[Comment to Article 8.2: a Classification Panel will be in a position to assess compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria if the relevant International Sport Federation has established that an Athlete has a relevant Eligible Impairment. In its sole discretion, a Classification Panel may also review a decision of an International Sport Federation as to the whether or not an Athlete does, in fact, have an Eligible Impairment.]*

- 8.3** If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria that Athlete may be eligible to compete within another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 8.4** If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), it must not be inferred from this that the Athlete does not have any Impairment.
- 8.5** If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete must be reviewed by a second Classification Panel. This must take place as soon as is practicable. Pending any such second assessment, 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.
- 8.6** If a second Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete fails to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or if the Athlete declines to be reviewed by a second Classification Panel at that Competition, Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) will be allocated and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at that Competition or in any future Competitions.

*[Comment to Article 8.5 and Article 8.6: if an Athlete is allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because a Classification Panel finds that the Athlete does not comply with relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria, that Athlete will have an automatic right to a re-assessment by a further Classification Panel. This right also applies in situations involving Protests. For example, if an Athlete is allocated a Sport Class that permits participation in sport, and makes (or is subject to) a Protest in respect of that allocation, if the Protest Panel allocates the Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), the Athlete will have the right to a re-assessment by a further Classification Panel].*



## 9 Eligibility for Multiple Sport Classes

- 9.1** An Athlete can only hold one Sport Class for a sport, even if he or she is eligible for two or more Sport Classes within that sport.

*[Comment to Article 9.1: some Athletes are in a position to be allocated more than one Sport Class within a sport. This might, for example, be the case if an Athlete has a combination of physical Impairment, vision Impairment and/or intellectual Impairment. Further, an Athlete might have a physical Impairment which would make him or her eligible for a Sport Class in two different disciplines (for example sitting and standing in sports like archery/alpine skiing/Nordic skiing). International Sport Federations must specify within their Classification Rules (and/or any other relevant rules) how to deal with such scenarios].*

## 10 Failure to Attend Evaluation Session

- 10.1** An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.

*[Comment to Article 10.1: where appropriate, an Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends Athlete Evaluation.]*

- 10.2** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent provisions for each of the sports that they govern regarding failure to attend an Evaluation Session. In this regard the failure to attend relates solely to any failure to participate in an appointment set for the Athlete to meet with a Classification Panel for the purposes of Athlete Evaluation.
- 10.3** 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 the Evaluation Session, specify a revised date and time for a further Evaluation Session at the relevant Competition.
- 10.4** 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, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

*[Comment to Article 10.4: International Sport Federations are under no obligation to provide unlimited opportunities for an Athlete to undertake Athlete Evaluation. Article 10.4 does not preclude an International Sport Federation from offering an Athlete any further opportunities to attend Athlete Evaluation, but the International Standard makes it clear that two failures to attend at a Competition are enough to preclude participation at that Competition.]*



## 11 Suspension of Athlete Evaluation

- 11.1** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent provisions regarding suspension of Athlete Evaluation.
- 11.2** A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including, but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 11.2.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;
  - 11.2.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 11.2.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedure/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
  - 11.2.4 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 an Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
  - 11.2.5 if an Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 11.2.6 if, in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel, the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
  - 11.2.7 the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that an Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
  - 11.2.8 the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that an Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.
- 11.3** If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 11.3.1 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 relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee;



- 11.3.2 if an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
- 11.3.3 if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within any timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed.

**11.4** A suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

*[Comment to Article 11: an International Sport Federation may implement disciplinary measures in respect of any Athlete Support Personnel who are complicit in any Athlete behaviour resulting in suspension of an Evaluation Session, or fail to take reasonable steps to avoid a suspension taking place.]*

## 12 Medical Review

**12.1** A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment may mean that a review is needed to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct. This review is referred to as 'Medical Review'. A Medical Review is commenced by way of a 'Medical Review Request'.

*[Comment to Article 12.1: Examples of situations where a Medical Review Request would be appropriate include where the effect of surgery or some other medical procedure has resulted in an Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities relevant to a sport, either positively or negatively. They also include situations where an Athlete appears to have a new Health Condition or Eligible Impairment.]*

**12.2** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent provisions regarding Medical Review.

**12.3** 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 perform 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. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes in ability to perform but fails to draw these to the attention of their National Body or National Paralympic Committee may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

**12.4** A National Body or National Paralympic Committee must make a Medical Review Request on behalf of an Athlete. An Athlete must not make a Medical Review Request.





*[Comment to Article 12.4: an International Sport Federation may permit an Athlete to make a Medical Review Request if it is impractical for this to be made by a National Body or National Paralympic Committee.]*

**12.5** A Medical Review Request must be completed by a National Body or National Paralympic Committee and must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed, and why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate. This must include all relevant supporting documentation.

*[Comment to Article 12.5: it will generally be the case that any Medical Review Request will of necessity need to be accompanied by reasonably detailed medical records.]*

**12.6** The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request must be upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.

**12.7** If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) with immediate effect.

## **13 Notification of Outcomes of Athlete Evaluation**

**13.1** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules clear and transparent provisions for the publication of Sport Classes.

**13.2** International Sport Federations must ensure that the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is notified to the Athlete and/or National Body or National Paralympic Committee and published as soon as practically possible after Athlete Evaluation. International Sport Federations must identify the means by which such notification will be made.

*[Comment to Article 13.2: the International Sport Federation must publish an interim outcome of Athlete Evaluation prior to the start of Competition detailing the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete after the conclusion of the initial components of Athlete Evaluation: assessment of an Eligible Impairment; assessment of Minimum Impairment Criteria; and the assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the Athlete's sport in a non-competitive environment.]*

*In the context of a Competition, a Chief Classifier must advise any International Sport Federation technical delegate and/or any event organising committee representative as to the Sport Classes and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete. If Observation in Competition Assessment has been required this notification should take place immediately after the event in which First Appearance took place.]*



- 13.3** Following a Competition, a Chief Classifier must liaise with the International Sport Federation Head of Classification, so that Classification ‘Master Lists’ can be updated.

## **14 Athlete Evaluation Location**

- 14.1** International Sport Federations must have within their Classification Rules provisions for the components of Athlete Evaluation that this International Standard requires to be undertaken by a Classification Panel at a Competition.
- 14.2** International Sport Federations may have within their Classification Rules provisions for the components of Athlete Evaluation that this International Standard requires to be undertaken by a Classification Panel at a place and time other than at a Competition. This is referred to as a ‘Non-Competition Venue’ in this International Standard.

*[Comment to Article 14.1 and Article 14.2: Athlete Evaluation comprises two distinct elements: the establishment of Eligible Impairment by the relevant International Sport Federation, and the remaining matters which are required to be completed by a Classification Panel. This International Standard permits International Sport Federations to authorise Classification Panels to conduct Athlete Evaluation either at or away from a Competition.]*

### **Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue**

- 14.3** Athlete Evaluation may take place at a location, referred to as a Non-Competition Venue, and/or time other than at a Competition in order to provide Athletes with the greatest possible opportunity to undergo Athlete Evaluation by a Classification Panel and be allocated a Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 14.3: an International Sport Federation may decide to have all or parts of Athlete Evaluation done at a Competition venue for another sport or at any other location properly fitted to conduct all necessary parts of the process (such as a sports science institute or a low vision expertise centre) without compromising the standard of Athlete Evaluation. The International Sport Federation must specify the certification procedure for such ‘other location’.]*

- 14.4** If an International Sport Federation wishes to make Athlete Evaluation available at a Non-Competition Venue it must (on reasonable notice) advise the National Bodies the National Paralympic Committees:
- 14.4.1** as to the location of the Non-Competition Venue and the date upon which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available;
  - 14.4.2** the sports in respect of which Athlete Evaluation is to be made available.



- 14.5** Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue must be undertaken in a manner that complies with this International Standard and the Code.
- 14.6** An International Sport Federation must ensure that there is an opportunity to make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by a Classification Panel at a Non-Competition Venue. A Protest Panel at the Non-Competition Venue must handle this Protest, failing this the relevant Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class and designated with Sport Class Status Review (R) and the Protest resolved at the earliest available opportunity (which may be at another Non-Competition Venue).
- 14.7** If an International Sport Federation provides that the allocation of a Sport Class in respect of a certain sport is potentially subject to Observation in Competition Assessment this does not preclude the International Sport Federation from making Athlete Evaluation in respect of that sport available at a Non-Competition Venue, provided:
- 14.7.1 it advises National Bodies or National Paralympic Committees prior to any Athlete Evaluation taking place at a Non-Competition Venue that a Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue may conclude that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation in Competition Assessment; and
- 14.7.2 it specifies the consequences if a Classification Panel undertakes Athlete Evaluation at a Non-Competition Venue and concludes that it is unable to complete Athlete Evaluation without undergoing Observation in Competition Assessment.

*[Comment to Article 14.7.2: an International Sport Federation must make clear what happens in these circumstances. For example, it may specify that in such instances the Evaluation Session will be void and have no effect. Any Sport Class held by the Athlete prior to the Evaluation Session would then be retained and the Athlete will undergo Athlete Evaluation at the first available opportunity at a Competition.]*