



World Para Athletics Guidelines for MASH Verification in the Call Room

30 October 2020

Introduction

Pursuant to the World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations, athletes with bilateral below, through or above knee amputation or equivalent limb deficiency and who compete standing with bilateral prostheses (Sport Classes T/F61-62) are assigned a Maximum Allowable Standing Height (“MASH”) by qualified World Para Athletics (“WPA”) International Classifiers during the classification process.

In accordance with Rule 6.13 of the [World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations](#), the actual height of an athlete in their Competition leg prostheses shall not exceed their MASH in accordance with the [WPA Classification Rules and Regulations](#). The height of athletes shall be measured in the Call Room by Call Room Judges. If an athlete fails to comply with this Rule, then the athlete will not be permitted to start the event and shall be shown in the results as “DNS” in accordance with Rule 6.21.

These guidelines have been developed for use by Local Organising Committees (“LOCs”) and Call Room Judges to outline the equipment to provide and procedure to follow in the Call Room in order to verify an athlete is in compliance with their MASH. World Para Athletics may update this document from time-to-time as required.

This document does not form part of the World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations and in the event of any conflict, the wording of the World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations and Classification Rules and Regulations shall prevail.

1 Call Room Equipment

The following equipment is necessary (to be provided by the LOC) in order to allow for an athlete’s height to be measured in the Call Room:

1.1 Stadiometer (or other suitable measurement device)

A stadiometer is a piece of equipment used for measuring height. It usually consists of a ruler and a sliding horizontal headpiece which is adjusted to rest on the top of the head. There are various types of free-standing or wall-mounted stadiometers available, examples of which can be found in Figure 1.


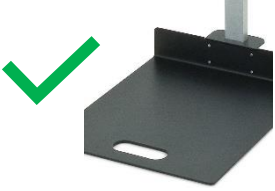



Free-standing Stadiometer		Wall-mounted Stadiometer	
	 <p>Example of an acceptable baseboard</p>		
	 <p>Example of a baseboard which is raised and too narrow</p>		

Figure 1: Stadiometer Examples

Regardless of the type being used, the stadiometer must be positioned in such a way to allow the athlete to be correctly positioned with the head, shoulder girdle and buttocks in contact with the vertical pole. To achieve this position, the most posterior part of the blades of the prostheses may need to be positioned behind the pole, as seen in Figure 2. If using a wall-mounted stadiometer, the stadiometer must be fixed to a rigid vertical column (rather than the wall), and the column will need to be narrow enough to allow for part of the blades to be positioned behind the pole while the athlete is standing with feet shoulder width apart (see 2.2.2.a below).

If using a free-standing stadiometer, the base board must be large enough to allow the athlete to stand with their prostheses directly below the hips, that is approximately 15 cm apart. The vertical measure must be marked in centimetres and millimetres.



Figure 2: Athlete standing against a rigid pole, rather than a wall, which allows the most posterior part of the blades to be positioned behind the pole

1.2 Metal Measurement Tape

A metal measurement tape helps to ensure the accuracy of measurements when erecting the stadiometer, especially when fixing a wall-mounted stadiometer.

1.3 Spirit Level

A spirit level helps to ensure that the stadiometer is truly vertical, and the measurement bar placed on top of the athlete's head is truly horizontal.



Figure 3: Spirit Level

1.4 Area with a level surface

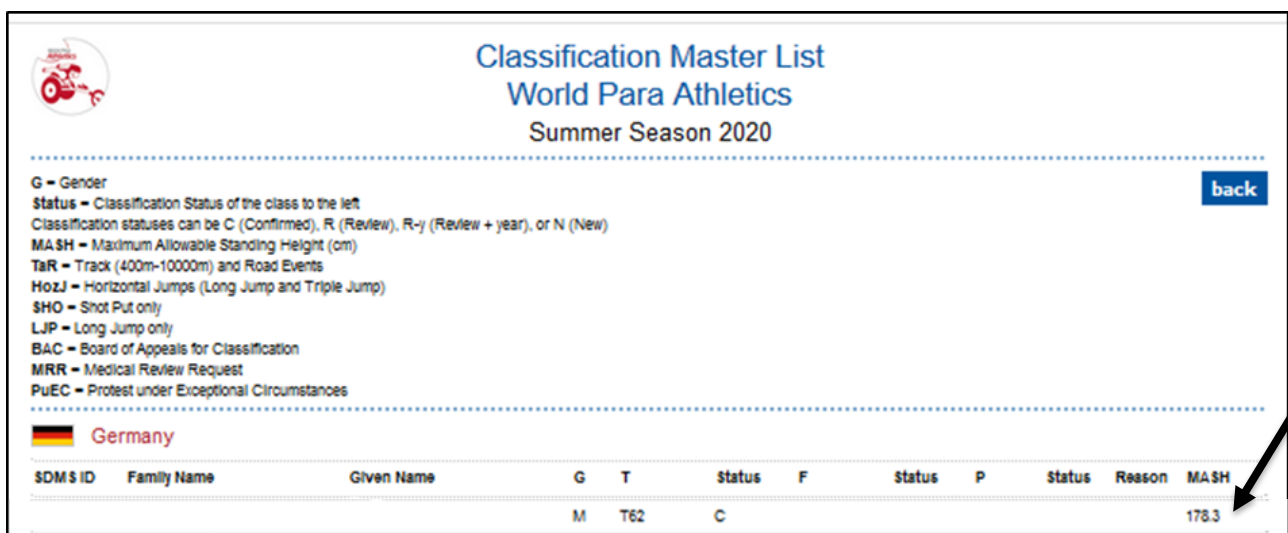
The stadiometer must be placed in an area of the Call Room with a level surface. Where the surface (base of the stadiometer or ground) is solid, a suitable surface (for example a piece of synthetic track or rubber matting) must be placed on the surface so athletes can stand without damaging the spikes attached to their prosthesis. The pathway from the athletes' waiting area to the measurement device, if set up in a separate section of the call room, must also be suitable for spikes.

2 Guideline Procedure for conducting MASH verification in the Call Room

2.1 Prior to competition

Prior to the competition, the Call Room Chief Judge must:

1. Review the start lists to:
 - a. identify all athletes in Sport Classes T/F61-62;
 - b. confirm the events (date, time) in which those athletes are going to compete and the times they will be entering the Call Room; and
 - c. prepare a list with the MASH of those athletes. Their respective MASH can be found in the WPA Classification Master List: <https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classified-athletes>.



Classification Master List
World Para Athletics
Summer Season 2020

G - Gender
 Status - Classification Status of the class to the left
 Classification statuses can be C (Confirmed), R (Review), R-y (Review + year), or N (New)
 MASH - Maximum Allowable Standing Height (cm)
 TaR - Track (400m-10000m) and Road Events
 HoZJ - Horizontal Jumps (Long Jump and Triple Jump)
 SHO - Shot Put only
 LJP - Long Jump only
 BAC - Board of Appeals for Classification
 MRR - Medical Review Request
 PuEC - Protest under Exceptional Circumstances

Germany

SDMS ID	Family Name	Given Name	G	T	Status	F	Status	P	Status	Reason	MASH
			M	T62	C						178.3

2. Ensure that the space and equipment is set up in the Call Room in order to conduct MASH verification (see section 1 of this document).
3. Assign a panel consisting of at least two Call Room Judges responsible for verifying the athlete does not exceed his MASH. In the panel of two, one acts as the measurer and recorder and the other acts as a supporter of the athlete while keeping the balance. In the panel of three, one acts as the measurer, second as recorder and third as supporter of the athlete. The Call Room Chief Judge may be one of the members in the panel.

2.2 During competition

During the competition, the assigned panel must verify the MASH for every T/F61/62 athlete prior to each event (including all phases and rounds) in which the athlete competes. The MASH verification must be conducted as follows:

1. The athlete must be wearing his/her competition prostheses;
2. The athlete must be standing in the most upright position possible, as depicted in Figure 4 and as follows:
 - a. Athlete stands as erect as possible with the blades approximately shoulder width apart on a solid wooden/rubber surface, against the stadiometer or a rigid column with the stadiometer attached to it;
 - b. Athlete must be positioned in such way that they are in contact with the column at the following points:
 - i. Head (if possible)
 - ii. Shoulder girdle (scapulae)
 - iii. Buttocks



Figure 4: Athlete positioned correctly

To achieve contact with the column by these three points, it may be necessary for the most posterior part of the blades to be on either side of the column. See above Figure 4;

3. When positioning the athlete, the assigned panel must ensure that the:
 - a. neck is in neutral position (i.e. head is positioned in the Frankfort plane – lower edge of the eye socket is horizontal to the tragus of the ear. When aligned the vertex is the highest point of the skull (Figure 5);
 - b. pelvis and hips are in neutral position (Figure 6); and
 - c. knees in extension.

It might be difficult for athletes to maintain their balance while keeping this position, and consequently the athlete should be assisted to maintain balance using their arms (e.g., with a tall chair or assistance from a member of the panel). The support should be high enough so that the athlete does not have to stoop to reach it (see Figure 4).

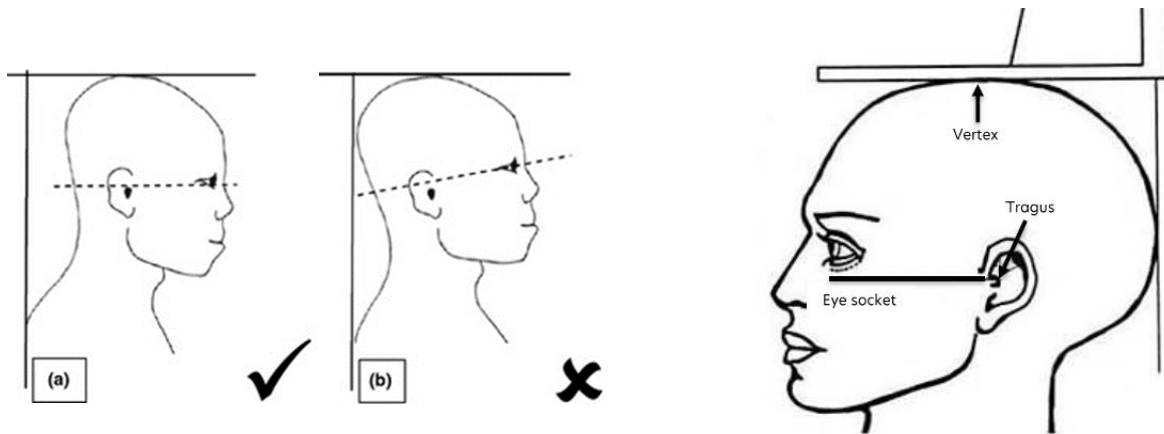


Figure 5: Example of neck in neutral position (Frankfort Plane)

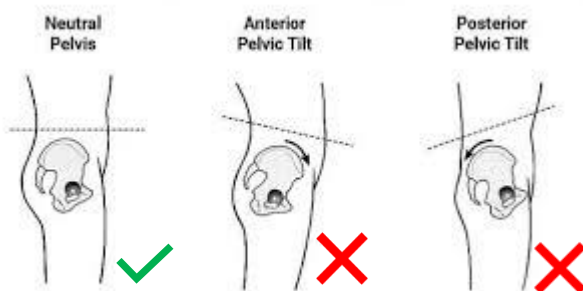


Figure 6: Example of Neutral position of pelvis.

4. The athlete's standing height must at all times be **equal to or less than** the recorded MASH on the WPA Classification Master List. If an athlete exceeds his/her MASH, this must immediately be reported to the Call Room Referee. The athlete will not be permitted to compete in the Event in accordance with WPA Rule 6.13.
5. The panel must complete a MASH Validation Form (example in Appendix A) and submit it to the Technical Delegate (TD) at the end of each day of the Competition. A template MASH Validation Form is also available on the WPA website: <https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/rules>

