

Classification Code

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INTRODUCTION

Since its earliest beginnings, classification has been the cornerstone of Para sport, providing criteria for determining who is eligible to compete and establishing a framework that promotes fair and meaningful competition by minimising the impact of eligible impairment types on the outcome of that competition. However, prior to the start of the 21st century, there were no agreed unifying principles to guide the establishment and development of classification systems. Classification policies and procedures were not standardised, but rather developed organically and in isolation. As a consequence, the rate at which classification systems developed, and the quality of those classification systems, varied greatly across Para sports.

The IPC Governing Board recognised that, to secure the future of the Paralympic Movement, a more harmonised approach to classification was required. In 2003, the IPC Governing Board approved the classification strategy, which ultimately led to the adoption of the first edition of the Classification Code in 2007. The second edition of the Classification Code was subsequently adopted in 2015. The overarching aim of both the 2007 and 2015 editions of the Classification Code was to ensure that classification was delivered to the highest possible standard across all Para sports to ensure that Paralympic stakeholders - including athletes, coaches, administrators, the public, and the media - could have confidence in the classification process and its outcomes.

The 2024 Classification Code seeks to keep pace with the rapid development of the Paralympic Movement, and so builds on the first two editions of the Classification Code. It is the result of an extensive three-year review of the 2015 Classification Code, based around open consultation with the IPC Membership and feedback received from other stakeholders including the IPC Classification Committee, IPC Athletes' Council, IPC Medical Committee, IPC Science and Research Working Group, IPC Board of Appeal of Classification, classifiers, human rights experts, and other appropriate experts.

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CHAPTER 1: PURPOSE OF CLASSIFICATION AND SCOPE OF THE CLASSIFICATION CODE

1. What is Classification?

- 1.1 Classification is the cornerstone of Para sport. It involves:
 - 1.1.1 the determination of which Athletes are eligible to compete in Relevant Competitions; and
 - 1.1.2 the grouping of eligible Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific Para sport.
- 1.2 The purpose of Classification is to promote participation in sport by, and ensure fair and meaningful competition between, people with eligible impairments by minimising the impact of those impairments on the outcome of competition.
- 1.3 In other words, Classification within the Paralympic Movement operates on the basis of a 'selective' rather than 'performance based' system (i.e., a system where Athletes are grouped into competitive categories based on units known to impact sport performance (such as age, weight or sex), rather than on sporting performance itself, so as to minimise the impact of the selected unit on the outcome of competition). In the Paralympic Movement, the selected unit for Classification is an Athlete's impairment, and the extent to which the impairment impacts an Athlete's ability to perform the fundamental activities in the specific sport in question.

2. Classification and the IPC's vision and mission

- 2.1 The IPC is the worldwide governing body of the Paralympic Movement.
- 2.2 As set out in the Constitution:
 - 2.2.1 the IPC's *vision* is to make for an inclusive world through Para sport; and
 - 2.2.2 the IPC's *mission* is to lead the Paralympic Movement, oversee the delivery of the Paralympic Games, and support IPC Members to enable athletes to achieve sporting excellence.
- 2.3 Para sport is unique in that it provides athletes with an eligible impairment the opportunity to participate in competitive sport with a pathway to sporting excellence, the pinnacle of which is the Paralympic Games. The hallmark of

high-performance sport is fair and meaningful competition, where rigorous competitive integrity ensures (i) uncertainty of outcome, and (ii) that the outcome is determined by the factors that the sport values and wishes to celebrate and reward, and not by other extraneous factors. In this respect, Classification promotes the purpose set out in Article 1 by performing two critical functions:

- 2.3.1 by defining who is eligible to compete in Para sport, Classification ensures that athletes with permanent physical, visual, or intellectual impairments which impact on sports performance may compete separately to athletes without such impairments; and
 - 2.3.2 by grouping eligible athletes into competitive categories based on the degree to which that impairment affects their ability to perform the fundamental activities within their chosen sport, Classification minimises the impact that athletes' impairments might otherwise have had on the sporting contest, and therefore helps ensure that the outcome of each Para event is determined primarily by sporting excellence rather than any other extraneous factor.
- 2.4 Classification systems provide the framework for high-performance Para Sport, which furthers the IPC's mission of enabling athletes to demonstrate their sporting excellence to the world. This gives athletes with impairments a global platform, increases visibility for persons with disabilities worldwide, and inspires persons with disabilities to participate in sport. All of these factors break down barriers and drive social inclusion, and so advance the IPC's vision of a more inclusive world through Para sport.
- 2.5 However, Para sport does not - and is not intended to - provide competition opportunities for all persons with all disabilities in all sports. Rather, it is the high-performance Para sport model, which (as with all high-performance sport models) is by its nature exclusive, that advances the IPC's vision and mission.

3. The Classification Code and supporting framework

- 3.1 The Classification Code is the fundamental document upon which Classification in the Paralympic Movement is based and is intended to support the Paralympic Movement in developing effective Classification systems. It is intended to be specific enough to achieve harmonisation on Classification in areas where standardisation is required, and general enough in other areas to permit flexibility regarding the implementation of its principles.
- 3.2 The Classification Code is supplemented by:

- 3.2.1 three 'International Standards', which provide additional information and guidance as to the practical application and implementation of the Classification Code, namely:
- 3.2.1.1 the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training;
 - 3.2.1.2 the International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation; and
 - 3.2.1.3 the International Standard for Classification Data Protection;
- 3.2.2 Position Statements, which are conceptual models that help guide the development of Classification systems; and
- 3.2.3 models of best practice and guidelines relating to implementation of the Classification Code.

4. Scope and application of the Classification Code

- 4.1 All IPC Members are bound by and must be in compliance with the Classification Code and the International Standards.
- 4.2 Each International Federation must develop, publish, and implement their own comprehensive Classification rules that are consistent and compliant with the Classification Code and International Standards, and that bind all Participants wishing to participate in Relevant Competitions.

[Note to Article 4.2: This Code deals only with Classification conducted by International Federations so as to allow Athletes to participate in Relevant Competitions. International Federations (or National Federations or other relevant bodies) may require athletes to undergo classification in order to compete in other events or Competitions, but such classification need not necessarily be conducted in accordance with this Classification Code].

- 4.3 Classification may take place at any time or place specified by the International Federation in its Classification rules, including In-Competition at events or Competitions other than Relevant Competitions and/or Out-of-Competition.
- 4.4 All provisions of the Classification Code and International Standards are mandatory in substance. While some provisions of the Classification Code must be incorporated without substantive change by each International Federation in its own Classification rules, other provisions of the Classification Code establish mandatory guiding principles that allow flexibility in the

Commented [A1]: Alternative wording:
Each International Federation must develop, publish, and implement their own comprehensive Classification rules that: (i) are consistent and compliant with the Classification Code and International Standards; and (ii) ~~and that bind all Participants wishing to participate in Relevant Competitions~~ apply to: (a) all Relevant Competitions; and (b) any other time at which International Federation undertakes Classification in accordance with its Classification Rules in accordance with Article 4.3.

formulation of rules by each International Federation or requirements that must be followed by each International Federation but need not be repeated in its own Classification rules.

- 4.5 International Federations may extend the application of their Classification rules to sports not included on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme and/or to national or lower-level competitions, but it is not mandatory to do so.
- 4.6 As set out in the Recognised International Federation (**RIF**) Regulations, each RIF must undertake to be bound by and to comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards in relation to at least one sport that it administers. Consequently, any reference in this Classification Code or in the International Standards to:
- 4.6.1 an International Federation includes a RIF, in respect of the sports for which it has agreed to be bound by the Classification Code and International Standards;
 - 4.6.2 a National Federation includes national members of a RIF responsible for administering the relevant sport(s) at a national level; and
 - 4.6.3 a National Representative includes any person who represents and/or works on behalf of, a national member of the RIF with responsibility for administering the relevant sport(s).
- 4.7 With this approach, the IPC aims to ensure that:
- 4.7.1 the Paralympic Movement implements a harmonised approach to Classification; and
 - 4.7.2 the highest possible standard of Classification is applied at the Paralympic Games and other Relevant Competitions, whilst at the same time not hampering the development of and/or participation within sports not on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme, or at levels below Relevant Competitions.

5. Use of the IPC's 'Para' mark

- 5.1 The word 'Para' is a registered trade mark of the IPC. The IPC grants each IPC Member and RIF the right to use the 'Para' mark in relation to the organisation and promotion of competitions within sports under their jurisdiction in which they have implemented Classification rules compliant with the Classification Code and the International Standards. However, no IPC Member or RIF may use the 'Para' mark (or any other trade mark of the IPC, whether registered or unregistered) in relation to any competition or event where the Classification rules are not compliant with the Classification Code and International

Standards, and any such use by an IPC Member or RIF will constitute a breach of (amongst other things) the IPC's Intellectual Property Regulations.

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CHAPTER 2: CLASSIFICATION

PART I: INTRODUCTION

6. Fundamental Principles

Stages of Classification

- 6.1 Classification comprises four main assessment stages, each of which must be conducted by the International Federation (or its representatives):

Underlying Health Condition Assessment	Stage 1: an assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of evidence/information (including Diagnostic Information) provided by the Athlete (Underlying Health Condition Assessment) (see Part IV.A).
Evaluation Session	Stage 2: an assessment as to whether an Athlete's Underlying Health Condition leads to an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport (Eligible Impairment Assessment) (see Part IV.B.1).
	Stage 3: an evaluation as to whether an Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport (Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment) (see Part IV.B.2).
	Stage 4: the allocation to an Athlete of: (i) a Sport Class, based on an evaluation of the extent to which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment impacts on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport (Sport Class Assessment); and (ii) a Sport Class Status, to indicate whether and when an Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future (see Part IV.B.3).

Commented [A2]: During the final consultation phase, we welcome feedback on the fundamental principles and the four-staged approach.

- 6.2 The Underlying Health Condition Assessment must always be performed first and the Sport Class Assessment must always be performed last. The Eligible Impairment Assessment and Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment (i.e. stages 2 and 3) may be conducted in any order and/or combined together. However, in allocating a Sport Class (and Sport Class Status) to an Athlete, the International Federation (or its representatives) must consider the results from each stage of Classification sequentially in the order set out above.

Initiating the Classification process

- 6.3 In order to begin the Classification process an Athlete must:
- 6.3.1 notify their National Federation that they wish to undergo Classification; and
 - 6.3.2 provide their National Federation with all relevant evidence/information necessary to assist in verifying the existence of one or more Underlying Health Condition(s) that the Athlete wishes to be assessed by their International Federation as the basis for their Classification.
- 6.4 On receiving a notification from an Athlete that they wish to undergo Classification, the Athlete's National Federation must first verify that the evidence/information provided by the Athlete for the purpose of verifying their Underlying Health Condition(s) is complete and accurate.
- 6.5 Once the National Federation is satisfied that the evidence/information provided by the Athlete is complete and accurate, it must provide that evidence/information to the International Federation (or its authorised representatives) for the purposes of the Underlying Health Condition Assessment detailed in Stage 1 above.

Outcomes of Classification

- 6.6 If, following assessment, it is determined that:
- 6.6.1 an Athlete does not have a relevant Underlying Health Condition; or
 - 6.6.2 the Athlete's Underlying Health Condition(s) do not give rise to an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport,
- then they must be designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' in respect of all Eligible Impairments catered for by the sport (with the ensuing consequences set out in Article 15).
- [Comment to Article 6.6: when designating an Athlete as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', the International Federation should also record the Eligible Impairment(s) for which the Athlete was assessed as part of the Eligible Impairment Assessment - for example, 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment - Impaired Muscle Power', etc].*
- 6.7 If an Athlete does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for an Eligible Impairment within the sport, then they must be designated as 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' in respect of that Eligible Impairment within that sport (with the ensuing consequences set out in Article 22).

- 6.8 Other than in the circumstances addressed in Article 23.1, all other Athletes who undergo Classification will be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status.

Fundamental requirements of International Federations' Classification rules

- 6.9 As per Article 4.2 above, all International Federations must develop and implement Classification rules that comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards. Those Classification rules must:
- 6.9.1 state the purpose of Classification (as specified in Article 1.2);
 - 6.9.2 state that to be eligible to participate in Relevant Competitions an Athlete must:
 - (a) have an Underlying Health Condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment catered for by that sport;
 - (b) have an Eligible Impairment that meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment within that sport; and
 - (c) be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status;
 - 6.9.3 detail the Eligible Impairments catered for by the sport, which may include some or all of the Eligible Impairments listed in Article 9, but must not include any Non-Eligible Impairments;
 - 6.9.4 set Minimum Impairment Criteria for each Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport, which criteria should be based upon and assessed using objective and reliable methods;
 - 6.9.5 require that Athletes be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class Status, unless they are designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', or 'Classification Not Completed';
 - 6.9.6 set processes, procedures, and methodologies for assessing/evaluating Athletes and allocating them Sport Classes and Sport Class Statuses;
 - 6.9.7 state what Adaptive Equipment (if any) may be used by Athletes within each Sport Class, and whether such use is mandatory or optional within that Sport Class; and
 - 6.9.8 in the event that the sport permits Athletes within more than one Sport Class to compete against each other within Relevant

Competitions, state precisely: (i) which Sport Classes may be combined, and in respect of which Relevant Competitions; and (ii) any other conditions or qualifications which the sport considers relevant to the combination of those Sport Classes in respect of those Relevant Competitions.

- 6.10 Classification must take place in a manner that is consistent with the International Standards and Position Statements. Consequently, International Federation's Classification rules must also state that in the event of any discrepancy or conflict between the International Federation's Classification rules and the Classification Code and International Standards, the provisions of the Classification Code and International Standards will prevail.

PART II: BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CLASSIFYING ATHLETES

7. UHC Assessor

- 7.1 International Federations are ultimately responsible for conducting Underlying Health Condition Assessments, but they may delegate that responsibility (on a permanent or ad hoc basis) to any of the following persons or bodies (each referred to hereafter a **UHC Assessor**):
- 7.1.1 a person (or persons) who represent(s) and/or work(s) on behalf of the International Federation;
 - 7.1.2 a Classification Panel; and/or
 - 7.1.3 an internal or external body appointed by the International Federation,
- provided that:
- 7.1.4 in each case the International Federation is satisfied that the UHC Assessor has the experience and expertise required to verify that an Athlete has an Underlying Health Condition; and
 - 7.1.5 its Classification rules specify: (i) the person(s) or body/ies to whom such Underlying Health Condition Assessments may be delegated; and (ii) if Underlying Health Condition Assessments may be delegated to more than one person or body, the circumstances that will determine to which person or body individual Underlying Health Condition Assessments will be delegated.
- 7.2 Any person or body acting as a UHC Assessor must sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings.

8. Classification Panel

- 8.1 International Federations must arrange for Classification Panels to conduct Evaluation Sessions. Classification Panels are responsible for conducting Evaluation Sessions, and must record their assessments at each stage of Classification.
- 8.2 Each Classification Panel must consist of a minimum of two Classifiers, and at least one member of the Classification Panel must be of a different nationality to the Athlete being assessed.
- 8.3 Members of the Classification Panel should also be of different nationalities to each other.
- 8.4 In exceptional circumstances, an International Federation may authorise a Classification Panel to consist of:
- 8.4.1 a sole Classifier; and/or
 - 8.4.2 Classifiers who are each of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed,
- provided that:
- 8.4.3 in such circumstances, any Sport Class issued to the Athlete is accompanied by the Sport Class Status 'R - NAO', with the ensuing consequences set out at Article 26.5.2(a); and
 - 8.4.4 any sole Classifier is a health professional with experience relevant to the Eligible Impairment of the Athlete being evaluated.
- 8.5 *[Comment to Article 8.5: For example, 'exceptional circumstances' will arise if there are genuine and unavoidable practical difficulties at a Competition (such as travel delays, Classifier illness, or Conflicts of Interest) that result in an insufficient number of Classifiers being available to constitute Classification Panels with two or more persons, or of differing nationalities to the Athlete being assessed.]*
- 8.6 If a Chief Classifier is a member of a Classification Panel, they cannot exercise responsibilities on behalf of an International Federation under Part II of Chapter 3 (Protests) in relation to a Protest of a decision of that Classification Panel.
- 8.7 All members of the Classification Panel must sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings.

PART III: ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS

9. Eligible Impairments

9.1 There are currently seven 'Eligible Impairments' in the Paralympic Movement (five 'Physical Impairments'; 'Visual Impairment'; and 'Intellectual Impairment'), as set out below:

9.1.1 Physical Impairments

9.1.1.1 Impaired Muscle Power

Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and physiology of the central or peripheral nervous system or the muscles (including the muscle origin and muscle insertion) that reduces or eliminates their ability to generate force to contract their muscles in order to move a joint.

Commented [A3]: Alternative proposed wording: change the word 'physiology' to 'function' to be consistent with ICF classification.

9.1.1.2 Impaired Passive Range of Movement

Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have an Underlying Health Condition affecting a structure of bones, joints, connective tissue, or soft tissues resulting in a permanent inability of the joint to be moved over the normal amplitude.

9.1.1.3 Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference

Athletes with Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference have an Underlying Health Condition resulting from trauma, illness, or congenital causes affecting the bones or joints which leads to a total or partial absence of a limb or anatomically irregular dimensions.

Eligible Impairments falling into this category may fall within the following further sub-groups:

- (a) limb deficiency (congenital or as a result of trauma);
- (b) leg length difference; and/or
- (c) arm length difference.

9.1.1.4 Short Stature

Athletes with Short Stature have an Underlying Health Condition resulting in reduced length of the bones of the upper limbs, lower

limbs, and/or trunk, which in turn leads to restricted standing height not as a result of limb deficiency.

9.1.1.5 Coordination Impairments

Athletes with a Coordination Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and/or physiology of the central nervous system, resulting in one of the following three movement disorders that adversely affects the ability to voluntarily produce a full range of skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately.

[Comment to Article 9.1.1.5: Coordination is the ability to voluntarily produce skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately (Connick et al., 2015; Runciman & Derman, 2018).]

A Coordination Impairment may arise from one or more of the following sub-types:

(a) Hypertonia/Spasticity

Athletes with Hypertonia/Spasticity have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in an increase in muscle tension with increasing angular velocity and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

(b) Motor Ataxia

Athletes with Motor Ataxia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.

(c) Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea)

Athletes with Dyskinesia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in continual involuntary movements that interfere with the velocity and accuracy/direction of voluntary movements.

9.1.2 Vision Impairment

Athletes with Vision Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition causing damage to the eye structure, optic nerves or pathways, or visual cortex of the brain resulting in reduced or no vision that cannot be fully compensated through equipment or surgery or other intervention. International Federations must specify in their Classification rules whether a Vision Impairment must be present in one or both eyes.

Commented [A4]: Alternative wording: 'produce and/or control'

Commented [A5]: Alternative wording: Athletes with Hypertonia/Spasticity have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in an abnormal pattern of posture and pathological reflexes causing an increase in muscle tension, with increasing angular velocity and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

Commented [A6]: Alternative wording: Athletes with Motor Ataxia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system and loss of orderly muscular coordination, resulting in limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.

Commented [A7]: Alternative wording: Athletes with Dyskinesia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in continual involuntary, uncontrolled, recurring and occasionally stereotyped movements that interfere with the velocity and accuracy/direction of voluntary movements.

Commented [A8]: Alternate wording: Athletes with Vision Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition causing damage to the structure and/or physiology of the anterior and/or posterior segments of the eye, optic nerve or pathway, or visual cortex of the brain, resulting in reduced or no visual function, even when using the best possible refractive correction. International Federations must specify in their Classification rules whether a Vision Impairment must be present in one or both eyes.

9.1.3 Intellectual Impairment

Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment have a restriction in general mental functions required to understand and constructively integrate the various mental functions including all cognitive functions and their development over the life span.

10. Non-Eligible Impairments

10.1 Any impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Article 9 is a '**Non-Eligible Impairment**'.

10.2 Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to, the following:

- pain
- hearing impairment
- low muscle tone
- hypermobility of joints
- joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint or recurrent dislocation of a joint
- impaired muscle endurance
- impaired motor reflex functions
- impaired cardiovascular functions
- impaired respiratory functions
- impairment metabolic functions
- tics and mannerisms, motor stereotypies, and motor perseverations
- vestibular impairment
- impairments in muscle metabolism resulting in fatigue
- functional impairments stemming from psychological and/or psychosomatic causes

11. Rationale for Eligible Impairments

11.1 Eligible Impairments do not include all impairment types. Instead, they are limited to those that have historically been part of the Paralympic Movement.

11.2 The list of Eligible Impairments may only be expanded with the approval of the General Assembly, following consideration of the following criteria:

- 11.2.1 the impairment must be based on those listed in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (known more commonly as ICF, i.e. the World Health Organization framework for measuring health and disability at both individual and population levels), as updated from time to time;
- 11.2.2 the impairment must be the result of one or more verifiable Health Conditions that are listed in the International Classification of Diseases (known more commonly as ICD, i.e. the World Health Organization diagnostic tool that is used to classify and monitor diseases and disorders);
- 11.2.3 there is scientific evidence to indicate that the impairment can lead to an activity limitation in one or more Para sports;
- 11.2.4 the impairment can be measured objectively and reliably;
- 11.2.5 the impairment must be Permanent. The impairment can be further characterised as Stable or Progressive for a defined period of no less than the duration of a Competition;
- 11.2.6 the application for including the impairment on the list of Eligible Impairments must be conducted by an international organisation acting as a representative of people with the impairment;
- 11.2.7 there must be sufficient demand for competition opportunities from people with the impairment (such that competitions based around that class of competitor would be viable);
- 11.2.8 the sport specific Classification system must be based on impairment type, and the degree to which that impairment impacts the athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;
- 11.2.9 the system of Classification for the impairment must be based on a robust foundation of well researched and evidenced practice; and
- 11.2.10 the methods for establishing and measuring the impairment type and the Classification process must be compliant with the Classification Code.

PART IV: CLASSIFYING ATHLETES

Commented [A9]: During the final consultation phase, we welcome feedback to the process outlined in the draft Code in respect to Stages 1 and 2.

A. Underlying Health Condition Assessment**12. Requirement**

- 12.1 The UHC Assessor must verify that the Athlete has a medically/clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition based on the information/evidence provided to it by the Athlete's National Federation.

13. Information/evidence

- 13.1 A National Federation must (on behalf of the Athlete) provide the UHC Assessor with the following evidence/information by the specified deadline:

- 13.1.1 evidence (including any Diagnostic Information) that the Athlete has an Underlying Health Condition; and
- 13.1.2 any further information (including any Diagnostic Information) requested by the UHC Assessor(s) to conduct the Underlying Health Condition Assessment.

- 13.2 Where the UHC Assessor requests further information from the Athlete's National Federation, it must explain what evidence is required and why.

- 13.3 Information and evidence provided to the UHC Assessor must be provided in original format (i.e., the original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language), unless the UHC Assessor specifies otherwise.

- 13.4 The National Federation will be responsible for ensuring that all evidence/information provided by the Athlete is accurate and complete before providing it to the UHC Assessor.

14. Conducting the assessment

- 14.1 The UHC Assessor will conduct the Underlying Health Condition Assessment based only on the information and evidence provided to it pursuant to Article 13.

- 14.2 Where the UHC Assessor appointed by the International Federation consists of more than one member:

- 14.2.1 The individual members of the UHC Assessor will review the information and evidence provided to it pursuant to Article 13

independently and determine whether it establishes the existence of an Underlying Health Condition.

- 14.2.2 If they are unable to reach a majority decision, an additional member with appropriate professional qualifications will be appointed to determine the matter. If the additional member is unable to determine the matter because their view is inconclusive, the person appointed as the head of the UHC Assessor will determine the most appropriate course of action.
- 14.3 If the UHC Assessor is satisfied that the information and evidence provided to it pursuant to Article 13 establishes the existence of an Underlying Health Condition:
 - 14.3.1 the UHC Assessor must notify the Athlete's National Federation; and
 - 14.3.2 the Athlete's National Federation must then promptly provide all of the same information and evidence to the Classification Panel, unless notified by the International Federation that such evidence/information has already been, or will be, made available to the Classification Panel by other means.
- 14.4 If the UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the information and evidence provided to it pursuant to Article 13 establishes the existence of an Underlying Health Condition:
 - 14.4.1 The UHC Assessor must notify the Athlete's National Federation of its decision and provide a written explanation setting out the basis upon which it is not satisfied that the information and evidence provided to it establishes the existence of an Underlying Health Condition.
 - 14.4.2 The Athlete's National Federation must be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information for review.
- 14.5 If, following a review of any further information or evidence provided to it by the Athlete's National Federation pursuant to Article 14.4.2:
 - 14.5.1 the UHC Assessor is satisfied that the further information or evidence establishes the existence of an Underlying Health Condition, the UHC Assessor must notify the Athlete's National Federation, and the Athlete's National Federation must then promptly provide all of the information and evidence made available to the UHC Assessor to the Classification Panel, in accordance with Article 14.3 above; or

14.5.2 the UHC Assessor is still not satisfied that the evidence and information provided to it establishes the existence of an Underlying Health Condition:

14.5.2.1 the UHC Assessor must notify the Athlete's National Federation of its decision and provide a written explanation setting out the basis upon which it has reached that decision;

14.5.2.2 the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' in respect of all Eligible Impairments catered for by that sport (with the consequences specified in Article 15); and

14.5.2.3 the Athlete retains the right to submit a new request for Classification based on any additional Underlying Health Conditions they possess or later develop that have not already been assessed by the UHC Assessor.

15. Designation of 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment'

15.1 Subject to Articles 39 (Medical Review) and 62.5 (changes to Classification systems), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' ('NE - EI') for a particular Eligible Impairment:

15.1.1 will not be permitted to compete in Relevant Competitions based on that Eligible Impairment in any Para sport; and

15.1.2 has no right to be re-assessed for the same Eligible Impairment in any Para sport, other than in the context of a new request for Classification based on an Underlying Health Condition not previously assessed by a UHC Assessor submitted in accordance with Article 14.5.2.3 above.

15.2 The designation of an Athlete as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part III of Chapter 3.

15.3 The International Federation must include all designations of 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 37.

B. Evaluation Session(s)

B.1 ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENT ASSESSMENT

16. Requirement

- 16.1 An Athlete's Underlying Health Condition(s) must lead to an Eligible Impairment that is catered for by the sport.
- 16.2 The Classification Panel must conduct the Eligible Impairment Assessment in person, except in respect of Intellectual Impairments where the Eligible Impairment Assessment may be conducted based on an evaluation of the evidence/information provided pursuant to Part IV.A.

17. Eligible Impairment Assessment Criteria

- 17.1 Each International Federation must specify in their Classification rules how a Classification Panel will evaluate whether an Athlete's Underlying Health Condition(s) lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by that sport. At a minimum these provisions must:
 - 17.1.1 require that, as a preliminary step, the Classification Panel: (i) review the evidence/information establishing the existence of the Athlete's Underlying Health Condition(s) provided pursuant to Part IV.A; and (ii) assess the Athlete to verify that they have the Underlying Health Condition(s) documented in that evidence/information; and
 - 17.1.2 set out full details of any impairment-based testing and/or other clinically recognised testing that will be used as the basis for the remainder of the Eligible Impairment Assessment, and how the results of such testing will be evaluated.

18. Verifying the Athlete's Underlying Health Condition

- 18.1 Where, having assessed the Athlete in accordance with Article 17.1.1, the Classification Panel:
 - 18.1.1 is satisfied that the Athlete has the Underlying Health Condition(s) documented in the evidence/information provided pursuant to Part IV.A, it will proceed to conduct any impairment-based testing and/or other clinically recognised testing required to complete the Eligible Impairment Assessment, following which one of the outcomes in Article 19 will apply.
 - 18.1.2 is satisfied that the Athlete does not have the Underlying Health Condition(s) documented in the evidence/information provided pursuant Part IV.A, it will designate the Athlete as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', with the ensuing consequences set out at Article 15.

18.1.3 considers that it requires further evidence/information (including further Diagnostic Information) before it can be satisfied that the Athlete has the Underlying Health Condition(s) documented in the evidence/information provided pursuant to Part IV.A:

18.1.3.1 the Classification Panel will detail the further evidence/information that it requires, and specify the deadline by which such evidence/information must be provided;

18.1.3.2 the National Federation must (on behalf of the Athlete) provide - by the deadline specified by the Classification Panel - the evidence/information requested by the Classification Panel. All such information and evidence must be provided in original format (i.e. the original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language), unless the Classification Panel specifies otherwise;

18.1.3.3 the Eligible Impairment Assessment will only continue (either before the same or a new Classification Panel) once the National Federation provides the further evidence/information requested by the Classification Panel; and

18.1.3.4 the Classification Panel may, at its discretion, require the Athlete to undergo a further Underlying Health Condition Assessment once any further information/evidence requested has been provided by the Athlete's National Federation, in which case the National Federation must ensure that the additional information/evidence is provided to the relevant UHC Assessor.

18.2 If:

18.2.1 the National Federation fails, or is unable, to provide the further evidence/information requested by the Classification Panel within the timeframe specified; or

18.2.2 the Classification Panel considers that, despite the provision of the further evidence/information, it does not have sufficient evidence to verify that the Athlete has the relevant Underlying Health Condition(s),

the Classification Panel must suspend the Evaluation Session in accordance with Article 31.

19. Outcomes of the Eligible Impairment Assessment

19.1 If, on assessing the results of the Eligible Impairment Assessment, the Classification Panel is satisfied that:

19.1.1 the Athlete has the Underlying Health Condition(s) documented in the evidence/information provided pursuant to Part IV.A; and

19.1.2 at least one such Underlying Health Condition leads to an Eligible Impairment catered for by that sport,

it will then proceed to consider whether the Minimum Impairment Criteria relevant to that Eligible Impairment within the sport are satisfied (see Part IV.B.2).

19.2 If the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete has the Underlying Health Condition(s) documented in the evidence/information provided pursuant to Part IV.A, but is not satisfied that such Underlying Health Condition(s) lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by that sport, the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' in respect of all Eligible Impairments catered for by that sport with the ensuing consequences as set out in Article 15.

B.2 MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA

20. Requirement

20.1 An Athlete must have an Eligible Impairment that meets the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment (or, in the case of: (i) Coordination Impairments; and/or (ii) Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference, the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the relevant sub-types of that Eligible Impairment) within the relevant sport.

20.2 The Classification Panel must conduct the Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment in person.

21. Minimum Impairment Criteria

21.1 Each International Federation must in their Classification rules define the Minimum Impairment Criteria for each Eligible Impairment (and, in the case of: (i) Coordination Impairments; and/or (ii) Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference, the Minimum Impairment Criteria for all relevant sub-types of that

Eligible Impairment) catered for by the sport, which criteria must be based on and assessed using accurate and reliable methods.

21.2 International Federations must also specify in their Classification rules how a Classification Panel will assess whether an Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets those Minimum Impairment Criteria. At a minimum these provisions must set out the following:

21.2.1 The assessment will be determined solely based on an evaluation of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment (i.e. impairment-based testing) and not based on an assessment of tasks or activities performed in the sport, nor any other aspect of the Athlete's sport performance. The International Federation's Classification rules must also specify the specific means by which that testing will be conducted and how the results will be evaluated.

21.2.2 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. However, the Minimum Impairment Criteria must consider the extent to which the use of audio and/or visual aids (including eye glasses or corrective lenses) might affect how the Athlete is able to execute those same tasks and activities.

[Comment to Article 21.2.2: 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 24).]

22. Designation of 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria'

22.1 If a Classification Panel determines that:

22.1.1 an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that is catered for by the sport; but

22.1.2 does not meet the sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria in respect of that Eligible Impairment,

the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' ('NE - MIC') in respect of that Eligible Impairment within that sport, and the consequences in Article 22.4 below will apply.

22.2 An Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' is entitled to undergo a second Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment before a second Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable. The Athlete cannot compete in Relevant Competition based on that Eligible Impairment

within that sport pending the outcome of the second Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment.

22.2.1 If the second Classification Panel determines that an Athlete meets the sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria for the relevant Eligible Impairment, it will continue to assess the results of the Athlete's Sport Class Assessment (see Part IV.B.4).

22.2.2 If the second Classification Panel determines that an Athlete does not meet the sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria for the relevant Eligible Impairment, or the Athlete declines to be reviewed by the second Classification Panel, the Athlete will remain designated as 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' in respect of that Eligible Impairment for that sport, and, the consequences in Article 22.4 below will continue to apply.

22.3 Where an Athlete:

22.3.1 has not yet undergone a second Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment pursuant to Article 22.2, the Classification Panel may add '(Subject to Re-evaluation)' to the Athlete's designation; and

22.3.2 has (i) undergone a second Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment pursuant to Article 22.2, and the second Classification Panel has confirmed that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment does not meet the sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria in respect of that Eligible Impairment, or (ii) declined to be reviewed by a second Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may add '(Re-evaluation Completed)' to the Athlete's designation.

22.4 Subject to Articles 39 (Medical Review) and 62.5 (Changes to Classification systems), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' in respect of an Eligible Impairment for a particular sport:

22.4.1 will not be eligible to compete in Relevant Competitions based on that Eligible Impairment within that sport; and

22.4.2 has no right to be re-assessed for the same Eligible Impairment type in that sport, other than in the context of a new request for Classification based on an Underlying Health Condition not previously assessed by a UHC Assessor submitted in accordance with Article 14.5.2.3.

22.5 However, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in Relevant Competitions:

22.5.1 in the same sport based on a different Eligible Impairment if: (i) the sport caters for that other Eligible Impairment; and (ii) the Athlete

meets the sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria in respect of that other Eligible Impairment; or

22.5.2 in a different sport based on the same Eligible Impairment if: (i) the other sport caters for that same Eligible Impairment; and (ii) the Athlete meets the other sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment.

22.6 The designation of an Athlete as 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part III of Chapter 3 (Appeals).

22.7 The International Federation must include all designations of 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' on its Classification Master List in accordance with Article 37.

B.3 SPORT CLASS AND SPORT CLASS STATUS

23. Requirement

23.1 If an Athlete has been assessed to have an Eligible Impairment that meets the sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria, they must then be allocated a Sport Class, unless:

23.1.1 they fail to attend an Evaluation Session (Article 27), or

23.1.2 their evaluation is suspended (Article 28).

23.2 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Athlete must also be allocated a Sport Class Status. A Sport Class Status indicates whether and when an Athlete will be required to undergo Classification in the future.

24. Sport Class

24.1 The Classification Panel must conduct the Sport Class Assessment in person.

24.2 Sport Classes must be defined by reference to the extent to which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment impacts their ability to execute specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. The Classification Panel's assessment of the impact of the Eligible Impairment on the Athlete must be Para sports-specific and evidence-based.

24.3 The International Federation must specify in its Classification rules:

24.3.1 what Sport Classes are available for the sport(s) that it governs, and the assessment methodology and assessment criteria that the Classification Panel will use in evaluating which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete; and

- 24.3.2 what Adaptive Equipment (if any) may and may not be used by Athletes within each Sports Class, and whether the use of such Adaptive Equipment is mandatory or optional within that Sport Class. The International Federation's decision as to whether or not to allow use of Adaptive Equipment in any Sport Class must be based on a detailed assessment of the impact of the Adaptive Equipment on the competitive abilities of Athletes within that Sport Class.

[Comment to Article 24.3: Sport Classes may be allocated in relation to a sport or individual disciplines within a sport (for example, Sport Classes are allocated in swimming for different strokes, and in athletics for individual track or field events).]

Sport Class Assessment

- 24.4 When evaluating which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete, the Classification Panel must:

24.4.1 base its evaluation solely on the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment impacts on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

24.4.2 discount the following factors so that they do not affect the Sport Class allocated: low fitness level, poor technical proficiency, exceptionally good technical proficiency, and/or aging;

[Comment to Article 24.4.2: To determine the extent to which these 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 in determining the influence of these factors on the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport that might affect the allocation of Sport Class.]

24.4.3 conduct the Sports Class Assessment in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

Use of Adaptive Equipment

- 24.5 Subject to Article 24.3.2, the Classification Panel must evaluate the Athlete when they are using the Adaptive Equipment that they will use in competition (if any), taking into account the (optimal) use of such equipment (such as strapping or gloves) during competition.

[Comment to Article 24.5: For example, if the rules of the sport permit Athletes

competing in a wheelchair to use abdominal strapping, and an Athlete opts not to use such strapping, which as a result leads to poor sitting balance, this Athlete should not be allocated a Sport Class reserved for Athletes with impairments that may have a greater impact on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.]

24.6 [The Classification Panel must, when conducting the Sports Class Assessment, assess whether equipment proposed to be used by the Athlete in competition (if any) complies with the sport's Classification rules and/or other rules (e.g. the sport's technical rules) on the use of Adaptive Equipment. If the Classification Panel considers that the Athlete's equipment does not comply with such rules, then the Athlete will not be permitted to use that equipment as part of the Sport Class Assessment, and the Classification Panel will not take use of that equipment into consideration when making their determination as to the Athlete's Sport Class. A decision made by the Classification Panel under this Article 24.6 may be Appealed by the Athlete's National Federation in accordance with Article 49.]

24.7 Where an Athlete's election of whether to use Adaptive Equipment may affect their allocated Sport Class, the International Federation must:

24.7.1 establish a mechanism for the Classification Panel to record this information (for example by allowing for the words 'Adaptive Equipment' to be added to the Athlete's designation); and

24.7.2 take steps to ensure that it has an appropriate system in place for ensuring that the Athlete uses the same Adaptive Equipment (or, if they have been allocated a Sport Class on the basis that they will not use any or certain Adaptive Equipment, that they do not use such Adaptive Equipment, for example by using Athlete Classification cards, etc).

Allocation of Sport Class

24.8 Following its assessment of the results of the Sports Class Assessment, the Classification Panel will either:

24.8.1 allocate the Athlete a *provisional* Sport Class that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment, using the tracking code 'OA' for 'Observation Assessment'; or

24.8.2 allocate the Athlete a *final* Sport Class, in which case the Athlete must also be allocated a Sport Class Status.

24.9 If the Athlete has more than one Eligible Impairment for which they meet the required Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Classification Panel must consider

Commented [A10]: For discussion. This may be useful where, for example, an athlete could be eligible to compete in multiple sports classes, depending on what adaptive equipment they use.

each Eligible Impairment separately, and if necessary, assign the Athlete with a different Sport Class in respect of each Eligible Impairment. The Athlete must then notify their International Federation of the Sport Class in which they wish to compete.

Sport Classes and Competition **Formats**

- 24.10 An Athlete must only compete within the Sport Class allocated to them in each sport (or, in the event that an Athlete could be assigned a number of different Sport Classes in a sport based on different Eligible Impairments, the Sport Class in which they have elected to compete pursuant to Article 24.9).
- 24.11 While the IPC Classification Code and the principles and scientific rationale behind Classification in the Paralympic Movement imply that Athletes are grouped for competition with Athletes from the same Sport Class, the IPC acknowledges that this may not always be possible in practice (for example where there are an insufficient number of Athletes within a single Sport Class to ensure that competition within a Relevant Competition remains viable, in addition to being fair and meaningful). Consequently, International Federations may (exceptionally) choose to allow Athletes with different Sport Classes to compete against each other (**Combined Class Events**), provided that the International Federation's Classification rules make clear:
- 24.11.1 which Sport Classes may be combined, and in respect of which Relevant Competitions;
- 24.11.2 any conditions or criteria applicable to such Combined Class Events (for example, provisions around specific combinations of Sport Classes being allowed, a maximum number of Athletes within certain Sport Classes, or, in case of Team Sports, a maximum point score based on the sum of Sport Classes, etc); and
- 24.11.3 the reasons why the International Federation considers that those Sport Classes should be combined in respect of those Relevant Competitions and subject to those criteria.
- 24.12 International Federations which have historically included a performance compensation mechanism must cease such approach at Relevant Competitions by the end of the Transition Period stated in Article 71. The use of such performance compensation mechanism (e.g., factor system, staggered start) directly conflicts the principles and purpose of Classification, whereby the Eligible Impairment is the unit of Classification, rather than performance.

Commented [A11]: This is the starting point for discussions and not a finalised view. Further discussion is scoped with Members, especially in relation to performance compensation mechanism and alternative solutions. Transition Period timeframes will be discussed with the impacted Members.

Further discussion also required as to whether there are any differences in approach for PI, VI and II.

25. Observation Assessment

25.1 A Classification Panel may require an Athlete to undergo an Observation Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.

[Comment to Article 25.1: An Observation Assessment is used to confirm that the Athlete has been allocated the correct Sport Class by observing and evaluating the Athlete in a competitive environment. By contrast, the preceding components of an Evaluation Session are carried out in a controlled non-competitive environment.]

25.2 The Classification Panel must, pursuant to Article 34.1, conduct the Observation Assessment in person.

25.3 An International Federation must specify in its Classification rules whether or not (and, if so, in what circumstances) an Observation Assessment will be required, what a Classification Panel will observe, and how the Observation Assessment will be conducted.

25.4 If an Observation Assessment is required:

25.4.1 The same Classification Panel that conducted the preceding components of the Evaluation Session in relation to an Athlete must also conduct the Observation Assessment, except in exceptional circumstances in accordance with Article 28.1.3(a).

25.4.2 The Observation Assessment must be conducted at the Competition where the Athlete competes in a Sport Class for the first time (**First Appearance**). The Athlete may compete at First Appearance with their provisional Sport Class.

25.4.3 The Classification Panel may require the Athlete to be observed at one or more events during their First Appearance:

(a) First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all events within the same Sport Class.

[Comment to Article 25.4.3(a): For example, in Para swimming, the Sport Class with the prefix "S" encompasses events in three different strokes - freestyle, butterfly and backstroke. If an Athlete has been provisionally allocated such a Sport Class, the Classification Panel may observe that Athlete at one or more events in any or all of the strokes in which the Athlete is competing.]

Commented [A12]: Multiple questions are put forward for further consultation in respect to Observation Assessment.

- (b) Whenever possible, the Observation Assessment should not take place at the final of an event.
- (c) For Team Sports, wherever possible, First Appearance should take place during the non-elimination (i.e. preliminary) rounds of a Competition. Unless the International Federation specifies otherwise, teams cannot select Athletes for participation in elimination rounds if those Athletes have not made a First Appearance in earlier non-elimination rounds.

25.5 Following an Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel may:

25.5.1 allocate the Athlete a final Sport Class (in which case the Athlete will also be allocated a Sport Class Status); or

25.5.2 require the Athlete to: (i) redo the [Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment and/or] Sport Class Assessment; and (ii) undergo a further Observational Assessment; or

25.5.3 (in the event that the Classification Panel considers for any reason that the Athlete should be required to redo any other component of the Evaluation Session), recommend that the International Federation submit a Protest, together with a written reason setting out the reasons why the Classification Panel has made that recommendation.

25.6 If the Classification Panel requires the Athlete to undergo further evaluation pursuant to Article 25.5.2, the Classification Panel may subsequently (i) allocate the Athlete a final Sport Class (in which case the Athlete will also be allocated a Sport Class Status), or (ii) designate 'Classification Not Completed'. However, and for the avoidance of doubt, the Classification Panel may not, based on the results of the Observation Assessment alone, allocate the Athlete with a Sport Class different from that which they were initially allocated.

25.7 If the final Sport Class allocated to the Athlete differs from the provisional Sport Class initially allocated to the Athlete by the Classification Panel, or the Athlete is designated as 'Classification Not Completed' when the Athlete had initially been allocated a provisional Sport Class by the Classification Panel, the change will be effective:

25.7.1 in the case of sports where Athletes compete as individuals, immediately;

25.7.2 in the case of sports where Athletes compete as part of a team:

Commented [A13]: TBC whether the Classification Panel can require the Athlete to repeat the MIC Assessment, or whether this should instead be dealt with via a Protest as per 25.5.3.

Commented [A14]: It would be helpful to get feedback from team sports on this provision during the next round of consultation.

- 25.7.2.1 if the reallocation occurs prior to or during the non-elimination (i.e. preliminary or qualifying) rounds of a Competition, immediately; and
- 25.7.2.2 if the reallocation occurs during the elimination rounds of a Competition, from the commencement of the next Competition in which the Athlete competes.

25.8 International Federations must specify in their Classification rules (or relevant sport technical rules) what impact such changes will have on the results and prizes in the Competition.

26. Sport Class Status

26.1 As noted at Article 23.2 above, if a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, a Sport Class Status must also be allocated to that Athlete.

26.2 An Athlete must be allocated one of the following Sport Class Statuses:

- 26.2.1 New (N);
- 26.2.2 Confirmed (C);
- 26.2.3 Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R – NAO);
- 26.2.4 Review with a Fixed Review Date (R – FRD); or
- 26.2.5 Lapsed (L).

26.3 Sport Class Statuses must be allocated in accordance with the below:

26.3.1 An Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status '**New (N)**' if they have not previously been classified for competition in Relevant Competitions based on the Eligible Impairment in question.

[Comment to Article 26.3.1: If an Athlete has previously been classified for competition in Relevant Competitions based on one Eligible Impairment, but subsequently elects to compete (and undergoes Classification) based on a different Eligible Impairment for which they have not previously been allocated a Sport Class, they will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status 'New (N)' in respect of the Sport Class relating to the newly assessed Eligible Impairment.]

26.3.2 A Classification Panel may allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status '**Confirmed (C)**' if it is satisfied that the Athlete's Sport Class is unlikely to change given the nature of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment impacts their

ability to execute specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

26.3.3 Pursuant to Article 8.4.3, an Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status '**Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R - NAO)**' where, in exceptional circumstances, their Classification Panel consisted of:

26.3.3.1 a sole Classifier; or

26.3.3.2 Classifiers who were each of the same nationality as the Athlete.

26.3.4 A Classification Panel may also elect to allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status '**Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R - NAO)**' if:

(a) they are 'borderline' (i.e. their Eligible Impairment narrowly meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria set by that sport, or the Athlete is on the boundary of two Sport Classes); and/or

(b) the Classification Panel believes that a further Evaluation Session will be required within less than one year.

[Comment to Article 26.3.4(b): A further Evaluation Session might be required for a number of reasons, including where the Athlete has only recently started competing in Relevant Competitions, has one or more fluctuating and/or Progressive impairment(s) that is/are Permanent but are not Stable, and/or has not reached full (muscular skeletal) or sports maturity.]

Next Available Opportunity in this context means the next available opportunity at which the Athlete can undergo Classification, as determined by the International Federation.

26.3.5 A Classification Panel may allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status '**Review with a Fixed Review Date (R - FRD)**' where it believes that a further Evaluation Session will be required, but not for at least one year after the evaluation. The Classification Panel must set a date (no earlier than one year after the Evaluation Session) *after* which the Athlete must attend a new Evaluation Session (the **Fixed Review Date**). The Fixed Review Date will typically be no more four years after the Athlete's previous Evaluation Session took place.

26.3.6 An Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status '**Lapsed (L)**' where they retire, or do not compete in any Relevant

Competitions for a continuous period, in accordance with the International Federation's Classification rules. The International Federation must specify in its Classification rules: (i) the requirements for an Athlete to retire; and (ii) the length of the continuous period of time after which an Athlete will be considered inactive in respect of Relevant Competitions.

26.3.7 International Federations may also elect to use the Sport Class Status '**Lapsed (L)**' where the Athlete does not complete an Evaluation Session within the time period specified in the International Federation's Classification rules. In such circumstances, the International Federation must specify in its Classification rules: (i) the maximum period of time for which the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity' will remain valid; and (ii) the maximum period of time for which the Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date' will remain valid after the Fixed Review Date has passed.

26.4 Where an Athlete:

26.4.1 has been allocated the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity', an International Federation or Classification Panel may defer an Evaluation Session to a date later than the Next Available Opportunity.

26.4.2 has been allocated the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity' pursuant to Article 62.5.3 (Changes to Classification systems) or Article 37 (Medical Review), and the Athlete does not complete a further Evaluation Session within a year of being allocated that Sport Class Status, an International Federation may determine that the Athlete should retain the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity' if the Athlete's failure to complete an Evaluation Session is due to the lack of Classification opportunities provided by the International Federation.

26.5 Impact of Sport Class Status on participation in Relevant Competitions:

26.5.1 An Athlete allocated the Sport Class Status 'Confirmed' is not required to undergo any further Classification, except where (i) their Sport Class is the subject of a Protest or Appeal, and/or (ii) they are subject to a Medical Review pursuant to Article 39. An Athlete with Sport Class Status 'Confirmed' may also be required to undergo further Classification pursuant to Article 62.5 (Changes to Classification rules).

- 26.5.2 Unless the International Federation specifies otherwise, where an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status:
- (a) 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity', the Athlete must complete an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any Relevant Competition.
 - (b) 'Review with a Fixed Review Date', the Athlete must complete an Evaluation Session on or after the Fixed Review Date prior to competing at any Relevant Competition.
- 26.5.3 Where an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status 'Lapsed':
- (a) an International Federation must remove the Athlete's allocated Sport Class; and
 - (b) the Athlete is not permitted to compete in any Relevant Competition, unless and until the Athlete undergoes a new Evaluation Session and obtains a Sport Class Status that enables the Athlete to compete.

27. Eligibility for multiple Sport Classes

- 27.1 Subject to Article 27.2, an Athlete may only be allocated one Sport Class for a sport per Paralympic cycle, even if they meet the criteria to be allocated two or more Sport Classes for that sport.

[Comment to Article 27.1: Some Athletes are in a position to be allocated more than one Sport Class within a sport. This might be the case if an Athlete has a combination of Physical, Vision, and/or Intellectual Impairments. If, for example, an Athlete is allocated a Sport Class in a sport for their Physical Impairment in one Paralympic cycle, they cannot be allocated a Sport Class for their Vision Impairment in the same sport until the following Paralympic cycle (and vice versa).]

- 27.2 An Athlete may be allocated one Sport Class for each discipline within a sport.

[Comment to Article 27.2: For example, in Para athletics, an Athlete may be allocated a 'T' Sport Class (for track events) and a 'F' Sport Class (for field events). In Para swimming, an Athlete may be allocated a 'S' Sport Class (for freestyle, butterfly and backstroke events) and a 'SB' Sport Class (for breaststroke events), as well as an 'SM' entry index (for individual medley events) calculated using the Athlete's 'S' and 'SB' Sport Classes.]

- 27.3 Where a sport provides that an Athlete may compete in a particular discipline in one of two different formats (e.g., sitting or standing; wheelchair or

prosthetics), an Athlete may only be allocated a Sport Class for one of those formats per Paralympic cycle.

[Comment to Article 27.3: For example, an Athlete competing in Para athletics may be eligible to compete in field events in either a sitting or standing format. If an Athlete is allocated a Sport Class for field events in a sitting format in one Paralympic cycle, they cannot be allocated a Sport Class for field events in a standing format until the following Paralympic cycle (and vice versa).]

B.5 GENERAL

28. Evaluation Session procedures

28.1 International Federations must set out in their Classification rules the procedures and duties that must be complied with during an Evaluation Session. At a minimum these provisions must specify that:

28.1.1 The Athlete's National Federation is responsible for ensuring that the Athlete complies with the duties applicable to them during the Evaluation Session.

28.1.2 In respect of Athletes:

- (a) Athletes may be accompanied or assisted by (i) a person for whom the Athlete's National Federation or NPC is responsible (including, but not limited to, a duly authorised representative of the Athlete's National Federation or NPC) who has specific knowledge of the Athlete's Underlying Health Condition, and (ii) if required, by an interpreter.
- (b) Athletes who are minors or lack legal capacity in accordance with the laws applicable in their country of residence must be accompanied or assisted by a member of the Athlete's National Federation or NPC.
- (c) Unless expressly provided otherwise in the International Federation's rules, the Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire and Adaptive Equipment permitted under the International Federation's rules that they intend to use in any Relevant Competition.
- (d) An Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant (including any audio and/or visual aids) to the Classification Panel, and must attend the Evaluation Session with all items so disclosed.

- (e) An Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given to them by a Classification Panel. Failure to do so may result in the Evaluation Session being suspended and the Athlete being designated 'Classification Not Completed' (pursuant to Article 31).

28.1.3 In respect of the Classification Panel:

- (a) Save as provided for in Articles 18.1.3.3 and 22.2, or in other exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel must conduct all of the components of an Evaluation Session in relation to an Athlete.

[Comment to Article 28.1.3(a): 'Exceptional circumstances' will arise if there are genuine and unavoidable practical difficulties (such as Classifier illness) that mean the same Classification Panel is not available to conduct all aspects of the Evaluation Session.]

- (b) The Classification Panel must conduct Evaluation Sessions in English, unless specified otherwise in the International Federation's Classification rules. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, the Athlete's National Federation must arrange for (and pay the costs of) an interpreter.
- (c) At any stage of an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation (including Diagnostic Information) relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session. If the Athlete provides such documentation within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session may continue. If the Athlete is unable or fails to provide such documentation within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may suspend the Evaluation Session in accordance with Article 31.
- (d) At any stage of an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel may seek medical, technical, and/or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of the International Federation, if it considers that such expertise is necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session.
- (e) When conducting an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel may only consider the information or evidence supplied

to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation, or International Federation, and the opinions obtained under paragraph (d) above. If relevant evidence becomes available (such as through social media or whistleblowers) that might be relevant to an ongoing Evaluation Session, it will be for the International Federation to assess that evidence and (if relevant) provide it to the Classification Panel. Failure by the International Federation to provide relevant evidence to the Classification Panel will constitute a failure to comply with the Classification Code, and may be pursued by the IPC in compliance proceedings.

- (f) The Classification Panel must make records (either in writing or in any other format approved by the International Federation) of their assessments in each Evaluation Session, and provide these to the International Federation following completion of the Evaluation Session.

28.1.4 Where the Classification Panel is evaluating an Athlete who has previously undergone one or more Evaluation Sessions:

- (a) The Classification Panel must review all information provided to it as part of the Athlete's previous Underlying Health Condition Assessments (together with any additional information/evidence provided to previous Classification Panels to verify the existence of the Athlete's Underlying Health Condition(s)), and thereafter conduct their own assessment of the Athlete in a further Evaluation Session. Following the completion of the further Evaluation Session (excluding any Observational Assessment), the Classification Panel must review the applicable forms completed by the Classification Panel(s) that conducted the prior Evaluation Session(s) before either (i) designating the Athlete as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' or 'Classification Not Completed', or (ii) allocating the Athlete a Sport Class and Sport Class Status (as applicable).
- (b) The Classification Panel must not speak to or consult with any of the members of the Classification Panel(s) who conducted the prior Evaluation Session(s) regarding their evaluation of the Athlete. However, the Classification Panel remains able to seek medical, technical and/or scientific opinion(s) in accordance with Article 28.1.3(d), including from any persons who provided equivalent opinions to previous Classification Panels.

- (c) The Classification Panel may, having reviewed the applicable forms, require the Athlete to redo any or all of the components of the Evaluation Session that the Classification Panel deems necessary.

28.2 An Athlete who has both an Eligible Impairment and a Non-Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of their Eligible Impairment, provided that their Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session and allocate a Sport Class.

[Comment to Article 28.2: For example, an Athlete with osteoarthritis might have Impaired Passive Range of Movement (an Eligible Impairment) and pain (a Non-Eligible Impairment). If the presence of pain restricts a Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session the Athlete might not be allocated a Sport Class, notwithstanding that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.]

29. Recording the Evaluation Session

29.1 Subject to Article 29.2, no photography or audio or video recording of the Evaluation Session is permitted. Where an Athlete or other person insists on photographing or recording the session in violation of this provision, the Evaluation Session may be suspended and the Athlete designated 'Classification Not Completed'.

29.2 The Classification Panel may make, create, and/or use photographs and/or audio-visual technology to assist it during an Evaluation Session, including during any Observation Assessment. Copies of any such materials must be provided to the Athlete or their National Federation on request. Such materials must be dealt with in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.

[Comment to Article 29.2: Caution must be exercised when using video evidence not to infringe third-party rights. It is recommended that International Federations develop and publish policies regarding the use of third-party material to avoid any potential misuse.]

30. Failure to attend an Evaluation Session

30.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending all stages of their Evaluation Session(s). Without limiting the Athlete's personal responsibility, an Athlete's National Federation must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends their Evaluation Session(s).

- 30.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session as required, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the International Federation. The International Federation may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend the Evaluation Session, specify a revised date and time for the Evaluation Session.
- 30.3 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for their failure to attend the Evaluation Session or if the Athlete fails to attend the rescheduled Evaluation Session, the Athlete will be designated as 'Classification Not Completed'.

[Comment to Article 30: International Federations are under no obligation to provide unlimited opportunities for an Athlete to attend an Evaluation Session.]

31. Suspension of an Evaluation Session

- 31.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the International Federation, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session for any reason, including in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 31.1.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the applicable Classification rules;
 - 31.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any information or evidence that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - 31.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that any medical procedure or use (or non-use) of any medication or medical device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect their ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in accordance with the applicable Classification rules;
 - 31.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition or impairment that limits or prevents them from complying with the requests of the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct an Evaluation Session in accordance with the applicable Classification rules;
 - 31.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel even in the presence of an interpreter;
 - 31.1.6 in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel, the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;

- 31.1.7 the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by Classification Personnel; and/or
- 31.1.8 the Athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with other information available to the Classification Panel.
- 31.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel:
- 31.2.1 the Classification Panel must designate the Athlete as 'Classification Not Completed'; and
- 31.2.2 the following steps must be taken:
- (a) the Classification Panel must record on the applicable form (among other things) (i) why the designation has been applied, (ii) details of the remedial action (to the extent such action can be taken) that is required on the part of the Athlete for the Evaluation Session to be resumed, and (iii) whether the Classification Panel has any concerns about inconsistencies in the Athlete's performance or possible International Misrepresentation that led to the designation being applied;
 - (b) an explanation for the suspension of the Evaluation Session and details of the remedial action (to the extent that such action can be taken) that is required on the part of the Athlete for the Evaluation Session to be resumed must be provided to the Athlete and/or their National Federation;
 - (c) if an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the International Federation, the Evaluation Session will be rescheduled as soon as reasonably practicable and resumed; and
 - (d) if (i) remedial action cannot be taken, or (ii) an Athlete fails to or otherwise does not take the specified remedial action to the satisfaction of the International Federation, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete will remain designated as 'Classification Not Completed'.
- 31.3 An International Federation must keep an internal record of the form completed by the Classification Panel pursuant to Article 31.2.2(a), which may be provided by the International Federation to future Classification Panels who evaluate the Athlete.

31.4 A suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation pursuant to the International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation.

31.5 An International Federation may bring disciplinary proceedings in respect of (i) any Athlete whose improper behaviour resulted in the suspension of an Evaluation Session, and/or (ii) any person bound by the International Federation's Classification rules who was complicit in any such improper behaviour or failed to take reasonable steps to avoid the suspension of the Evaluation Session.

32. Designation of 'Classification Not Completed'

32.1 If a Classification Panel designates an Athlete as 'Classification Not Completed' ('CNC') following the suspension of an Evaluation Session, the Athlete cannot compete in Relevant Competitions until they complete the suspended Evaluation Session.

32.2 If a Classification Panel designates an Athlete as 'Classification Not Completed' following the termination of an Evaluation Session, the Athlete cannot compete in Relevant Competitions until they complete a new Evaluation Session.

32.3 A designation of 'Classification Not Completed' is not subject to Protest or Appeal.

32.4 Where an Athlete has been designated as 'Classification Not Completed' on three or more consecutive occasions, the International Federation may determine that the Athlete is not entitled to undergo any further Evaluation Sessions for a specified period of time.

33. Location of Evaluation Sessions

33.1 Evaluation Sessions may take place either In-Competition or Out-of-Competition.

[Comment to Article 33.1: Evaluation Sessions may take place Out-of-Competition to provide Athletes with the greatest possible opportunity to be evaluated by a Classification Panel and allocated a Sport Class]

33.2 All Evaluations Sessions, whether they take place In-Competition or Out-of-Competition, must be conducted in a manner that complies with the Classification Code and the International Standards.

- 33.3 International Federations must specify in their Classification rules:
- 33.3.1 which parts of an Evaluation Session must take place In-Competition and which parts (if any) may take place Out-of-Competition; and
 - 33.3.2 which impairment types must be evaluated In-Competition and which impairments types (if any) may be evaluated Out-of-Competition.
- 33.4 An Evaluation Session may take place Out-of-Competition in two different ways:
- 33.4.1 an Evaluation Session is conducted at a Competition in which the Athlete is not competing; or
 - 33.4.2 an Evaluation Session is conducted at a place and time other than at a Competition.
- 33.5 Where an International Federation decides to allow some or all parts of an Evaluation Session to be conducted at a place and time other than at a Competition, the venue at which the Evaluation Session takes place must be properly equipped to conduct all necessary aspects of the Evaluation Session (such as a sports science institute or a low vision expertise centre) without compromising the standard of the Evaluation Session. The International Federation must specify the certification procedure for such 'other location'.
- 33.6 If an International Federation intends to conduct any part(s) of an Evaluation Session Out-of-Competition, it must (on reasonable notice) advise the relevant National Federations:
- 33.6.1 of the location at which, and the date(s) on which, the Evaluation Sessions will take place; and
 - 33.6.2 the sports and impairment types in respect of which the Evaluation Sessions will be made available.
- 33.7 If the allocation of a Sport Class in respect of a sport might require an Observation Assessment, and the International Federation decides that some part(s) of the Evaluation Session may take place Out-of-Competition, the International Federation must (in advance of the Evaluation Session) advise the relevant National Federations that a Classification Panel may conclude that it is unable to allocate a final Sport Class without an Observation Assessment, in which case:
- 33.7.1 the Athlete may be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity' and be required to undergo a further

Evaluation Session (comprising the full procedure set out in Part IV.B) at a later date; or

- 33.7.2 the Athlete may be designated 'Classification Not Completed' and be required to undergo a further Evaluation Session (comprising the full procedure set out in Part IV.B) at a later date, unless the same Classification Panel is available at a future Competition to conduct the Observation Assessment (in accordance with Article 28.1.3(a)).

34. Virtual attendance permitted during Evaluation Sessions

- 34.1 Save as specified otherwise in this Code, the Athlete and the members of the Classification Panel must attend Evaluation Sessions in person.
- 34.2 The following persons may attend Evaluation Sessions virtually, whether by telephone or video (or other virtual technology), provided that they can do so without adverse impact on the Evaluation Session:
- 34.2.1 any person entitled to attend an Evaluation Session pursuant to Article 28.1.2(a);
- 34.2.2 any person from whom the Classification Panel seeks medical, technical, or scientific advice in accordance with Article 28.1.3(d); and/or
- 34.2.3 any person the Classification Panel needs to consult with during an Evaluation Session; and/or
- 34.2.4 any independent observer or Trainee Classifiers authorised by the Classification Panel to attend the Evaluation Session

[Comment to Article 34.2: An Evaluation Session would be adversely impacted if (for example) the internet connection of the person attending the Evaluation Session virtually was so weak or intermittent that the Evaluation Session was continually interrupted.]

PART V: NOTIFICATION AND PUBLICATION

35. Notification of Classification outcome

- 35.1 International Federations must notify the outcome of Classification to the Athlete concerned and/or their National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of Classification. International Federations must identify the means by which such notification will be made in their Classification rules.

35.2 In the context of a Competition, a Chief Classifier must notify all relevant International Federation technical delegates and event organising committee representatives of the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete. If Observation Assessment has been required, this notification should take place as soon as reasonably practicable after the event in which First Appearance took place.

36. Publication of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

36.1 International Federations must make available the following information to participants at the venue for a Relevant Competition:

36.1.1 any provisional Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete entered in the Relevant Competition after completion of the initial components of an Evaluation Session; and

36.1.2 the final Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete entered in the Relevant Competition as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of their Classification.

37. Classification Master List

37.1 To assist in the process of Classification, International Federations must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include (at a minimum) each Athlete's name, sex, year of birth, nationality, Sport Class and Sport Class Status, any designations (including 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', and 'Classification Not Completed'), any tracking codes (such as 'OA' for Observation Assessment), and whether or not the Athlete uses any Adaptive Equipment in competition (and if so, what that Adaptive Equipment consists of).

37.2 International Federations must make their Classification Master List available to their respective National Federations and to the IPC.

37.3 International Federations must update their Classification Master Lists following any Classification.

37.4 Classification Master Lists must be dealt with in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.

38. Data sharing

38.1 International Federations may share Classification data with other International Federations, provided that such sharing is done in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection and applicable laws. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes any Classification

data regarding Athletes who have been designated as 'Not Eligible', such as the data reviewed as part of the Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment Assessments and the outcomes of those assessments.

PART VI: CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

39. Medical Review

- 39.1 A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's impairment might mean that a review is needed either (i) to re-assess an Athlete previously designated as 'Not Eligible', or (ii) to ensure that the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete is correct (**Medical Review**).

[Comment to Article 39.1: Examples of situations where a Medical Review Request would be appropriate include where the effect of surgery, a new medication or device, or some other medical procedure has resulted in changes to 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 Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment.]

- 39.2 International Federations must set out the procedures for requesting and conducting Medical Reviews in their Classification rules.
- 39.3 A Medical Review must be requested if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness, and proficiency.
- 39.4 A request for Medical Review must be made by a National Federation on behalf of an Athlete, unless the International Federation provides in its Classification rules that an Athlete may also submit such request where it would be impractical for the National Federation to do so.
- 39.5 A request for Medical Review must explain in detail why the request is being made (including how and to what extent the Athlete's relevant impairment has changed and/or why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate, as applicable) and provide all relevant supporting documentation. Medical personnel associated with the National Federation may complete and submit a request for Medical Review on behalf of an Athlete, provided that they have not authored any medical documentation (including Diagnostic Information) supporting the request.

[Comment to Article 39.5: It will generally be the case that any request for

Medical Review will need to be accompanied by reasonably detailed medical records.]

- 39.6 The request for Medical Review must be made in English, and any accompanying documentation must be provided in original format (i.e., the original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language), unless the International Federation's Classification rules specify otherwise.
- 39.7 International Federations may require National Federations to pay a non-refundable fee when submitting a request for Medical Review.
- 39.8 If an Athlete, Athlete Support Person, or National Representative becomes aware of changes in their/the Athlete's circumstances that would require a Medical Review but fails to draw these changes to the attention of their International Federation, the Athlete, Athlete Support Person and/or National Representative may be investigated in respect of a possible Intentional Misrepresentation violation.
- 39.9 The International Federation must decide whether to grant a request for Medical Review as soon as reasonably practicable following receipt of the request.
- 39.10 If the request for Medical Review is granted by the International Federation, the Athlete's Sport Class Status must be amended to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity' with immediate effect.
- 39.11 If the request for Medical Review is dismissed by the International Federation, the relevant decision-maker must produce a written explanation setting out the basis upon which the request for Medical Review is dismissed. The International Federation must notify the Athlete's National Federation of the decision and provide a copy of the written explanation.

CHAPTER 3: PROTESTS AND APPEALS

PART I: OVERVIEW

40. Overview

40.1 International Federations must provide processes in their Classification rules that permit for challenges to the outcome of Classification, by way of Protest and Appeal.

40.1.1 A '**Protest**' is a challenge filed against the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete.

40.1.2 An '**Appeal**' is a challenge to any aspect of a Classification process on the grounds that:

- (a) a breach of an International Federation's Classification rules occurred during a Classification process; and
- (b) that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

PART II: PROTESTS

41. Scope of Protests

41.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete.

41.2 For the avoidance of doubt, no Protest can be made in respect of (i) an Athlete's Sport Class Status, (ii) any designation of 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', or 'Classification Not Completed', or (iii) any other matter where Protests are expressly excluded under the Classification Code.

42. Parties permitted to make a Protest

42.1 A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:

42.1.1 a National Federation; or

42.1.2 an International Federation.

42.2 For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete cannot make a Protest themselves; rather, a Protest may only be made on behalf of the Athlete by one of the bodies listed under Article 42.1.

43. National Federation Protest

43.1 A National Federation Protest may be made where the National Federation has a reasonable basis to believe that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class. To establish a 'reasonable basis', the National Federation must provide evidence (if any) in support of that basis and identify a specific mandatory rule (or rules) that were not applied or misapplied.

43.2 National Federation Protests will be upheld where the International Federation determines that the National Federation has complied with the requirements of Article 43.7 and is satisfied that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

43.3 A National Federation may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. It cannot make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated to an Athlete from another Country/Territory, but can present any concerns about the Sport Class allocated to such Athletes to its International Federation so that the International Federation may consider if it wishes to make an International Federation Protest.

43.4 A National Federation Protest must be submitted in connection with an Evaluation Session, whether conducted In-Competition or Out-of-Competition. The International Federation must specify the period during which National Federation Protests may be made.

43.5 Where an Athlete is allocated a provisional Sport Class that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment, the National Federation may:

43.5.1 make a Protest both prior to and following the Observation Assessment, in which case the Protest made following the Observation Assessment cannot relate to any aspect of the Evaluation Session that preceded the Observation Assessment; or

43.5.2 make a Protest only following the Observation Assessment, in which case the Protest may relate to both the aspects of the Evaluation Session that preceded the Observation Assessment and the Observation Assessment itself.

43.6 If an Athlete is required to undergo an Observation Assessment, and a National Federation Protest is made and accepted before the Athlete's First Appearance, the Athlete cannot compete at the Competition until the National Federation Protest has been resolved.

- 43.7 To submit a Protest, a National Federation must:
- 43.7.1 complete a Protest Form in the form prescribed by the International Federation, which must at a minimum require the following:
- (a) the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
 - (b) the details of and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
 - (c) a detailed explanation of the basis for the National Federation's belief that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class, including (i) any supporting evidence for that belief, and (ii) details of any specific mandatory rule(s) that the National Federation considers were not applied or were misapplied;
- [Comment to Article 43.7.1(c): An example of a non-mandatory (i.e. discretionary) rule includes where a Classification Panel is assessing Ataxia: tests that may be useful for determining this include finger-to-nose test; finger-to-finger test; toe-to-finger test; heel shin test; tandem walk; gait. If a Classification Panel exercises its discretion, and, in this example, chooses to use only the finger-to-nose test to assess ataxia, a National Federation Protest cannot be made on the basis that the Classification Panel chose to conduct the finger-to-nose test and none of the other identified tests. However, a National Federation Protest may be made on the basis that the Classification Panel allegedly conducted the finger-to-nose test in a way that is inconsistent with the applicable rules.]*
- 43.7.2 submit a duly completed Protest Form by the deadline set by the International Federation; and
- 43.7.3 pay the applicable Protest Fee (which will be refunded if the Protest is upheld and will not be refunded if the Protest is rejected).
- 43.8 A Protest that does not comply with the requirements of Article 43.7 will be dismissed. Upon receipt of the Protest Form, the International Federation must conduct a review of the Protest in accordance with Article 43.2.
- 43.9 The International Federation must (as soon as reasonably practicable) notify the National Federation of the outcome of the Protest, and (where the Protest is dismissed) they must also provide a written explanation for the dismissal.

44. International Federation Protest

44.1 International Federation Protests may be made where the International Federation considers that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

[Comment to Article 44.1: As per Article 43.3 above, National Federations may request that their International Federation make an International Federation Protest if they consider an Athlete from another Country or Territory has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.]

44.2 An International Federation may make a Protest at any time.

44.3 If an International Federation submits a Protest, it must:

44.3.1 notify the relevant National Federation of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable; and

44.3.2 provide a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which it considers that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.

45. Protest Panel procedures

45.1 International Federations must provide processes in its Classification rules to enable Protests to take place at the location where an Evaluation Session is conducted, whether In-Competition or Out-of-Competition.

45.2 If a National Federation Protest is accepted or if an International Federation Protest is made:

45.2.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, and their Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to 'Review - Next Available Opportunity' (unless that is already their Sport Class Status);

45.2.2 the International Federation must appoint a Protest Panel in accordance with Article 46 to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as reasonably practicable, and notify all relevant parties of the time and date that the new Evaluation Session will be conducted by the Protest Panel; and

45.2.3 if the Protest is made In-Competition, the Evaluation Session should be conducted at that Competition if reasonably practicable.

45.3 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with Part IV.B. For these purposes, any reference to the Classification Panel in

Part IV.B will be deemed to include the Protest Panel (which will fulfil the role of the first Classification Panel). Furthermore, the reference to 'applicable forms' in Article 28.1.4 will be deemed to include the Protested Decision and any document submitted as part of the Protest.

- 45.4 All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's final decision as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 45.5 Where a National Federation Protest is accepted, and/or where an International Federation Protest is made prior to the expiry of the deadline for National Federation Protests to be made under the International Federation's Classification rules, the decision of a Protest Panel in relation to the Protest is final, and not subject to further Protest by a National Federation or the International Federation. However, the decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed by a National Federation if the requirements in Article 48 are satisfied.
- 45.6 Where an International Federation makes a Protest after the expiry of the deadline for National Federation Protests to be made under the International Federation's Classification rules, the decision of a Protest Panel in relation to the Protest is not final and may be subject to further Protest by a National Federation or the International Federation. In these circumstances, the decision of a Protest Panel will be treated as if it were a decision of a Classification Panel. The decision of a Protest Panel may also be Appealed by a National Federation if the requirements in Article 48 are satisfied.
- 45.7 International Federations must specify in their Classification rules (or relevant sport technical rules) the consequences to any results and prizes where an Athlete's Sport Class is changed following a Protest.

46. Protest Panel composition

- 46.1 The International Federation must appoint a Protest Panel in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in Article 8.
- 46.2 A Protest Panel must not include any person who:
- 46.2.1 was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision;
 - 46.2.2 in the case of a National Protest, was the representative of the International Federation who conducted a review of the Protest; or
 - 46.2.3 was involved in any assessment or evaluation of the Protested Athlete for Classification purposes (whether at the national or international level) within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested

Decision, except where both the National Federation and International Federation agree to proceed despite the conflict.

47. Circumstances where a Protest Panel is not available

47.1 If a Protest is made following an Evaluation Session but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved promptly following that Evaluation Session:

47.1.1 the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest, pending resolution of the Protest; and

47.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that a Protest Panel is appointed, and the Protest is resolved, as soon as reasonably practicable.

[Comment to Article 47.1: This Article reflects the reality that it might not be possible to resolve a Protest promptly following an Evaluation Session. This might happen where there are a limited number of Classifiers or Evaluation Session slots available or the Classifiers who are available to participate in a Protest Panel are precluded from participating in a Protest Panel due to a Conflict of Interest.]

PART III: APPEALS

48. Scope of Appeals

48.1 An Appeal will be upheld if a National Federation establishes that:

48.1.1 a breach of an International Federation's Classification rules occurred during the Classification process; and

48.1.2 that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status or incorrectly be designated 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' (as applicable).

[Comment to Article 48: The limited scope of review available to the Appeal Body is a fundamental aspect of an Appeal. The allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status or designation as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' is a sport decision and must be made by persons who are authorised and certified by an International Federation to do so. Those decisions should not be changed except by other persons who are similarly authorised and certified. In particular, the right to submit an Appeal must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion

of the relevant experts. The Appeal Body will only review the process by which the decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been conducted in accordance with the International Federation's Classification rules.]

49. Making an Appeal

- 49.1 An Appeal cannot be submitted whilst a Protest is ongoing.
- 49.2 An Appeal may only be submitted by a National Federation in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. An Athlete cannot submit an Appeal.
- 49.3 The applicable time period within which an Appeal must be submitted (as specified by the relevant Appeal Body) must commence on:
 - 49.3.1 (where no Protest has been made) the date on which the Athlete was allegedly (i) allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status, or (ii) incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria'; or
 - 49.3.2 (where a Protest has been made) the date on which the relevant parties were notified of the Protest Panel's final decision.

50. Appeal Body

- 50.1 Each International Federation must designate an Appeal Body to hear and determine Appeals.
- 50.2 The parties to an Appeal must be provided with, at a minimum, a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a fair and impartial Appeal Body that meets the criteria in Article 50.3. The parties to an Appeal have the right to be heard before the Appeal Body.
- 50.3 Each International Federation must ensure that its Appeal Body:
 - 50.3.1 is Operationally Independent from the International Federation; and
 - 50.3.2 comprises at least three members (i) with the appropriate skills and experience to objectively hear the Appeal, and (ii) who were not involved in any way with any of the procedures that are the subject of the Appeal, or whose impartiality or independence could otherwise be reasonably questioned.
- 50.4 The IPC has established the Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) to hear and determine Appeals. Subject to agreement with the IPC, International Federations may designate the BAC as their Appeal Body.

[Comment to Article 50.4: The BAC has been established by the IPC as a specialist dispute resolution body to adjudicate on Appeals. The IPC may make the BAC available to any International Federation that wishes to utilise it as its resolution body for Appeals, subject to an agreement between that International Federation and the IPC on the costs that are payable by the International Federation in respect of the BAC.]

50.5 Where the BAC is the Appeal Body, it will hear and determine the Appeal in accordance with its procedural rules. In all other instances, an Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the Classification Code and the relevant rules of the International Federation.

50.6 International Federations may require appellants to pay an appeal fee.

51. Appeal decision

51.1 The Appeal Body must either affirm or set aside the decision under Appeal. It does not have the power to modify that decision or to allocate an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

51.2 The Appeal Body must issue a written reasoned decision within the timeframe set by the International Federation after the hearing. The written decision must include the reasons for Appeal Body's decision, including the evidence relied on, and the actions that are required as a result. If the decision is set aside, the Appeal Body must specify the error(s) committed.

51.3 The decision must be provided to the appellant and the respondent. In the case of an Appeal in connection with a Competition, the outcome of the decision must also be communicated to the organising committee of the Competition.

51.4 The decision of the Appeal Body is final and not subject to any further appeal or challenge.

CHAPTER 4: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

52. Intentional Misrepresentation

- 52.1 The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation:
- 52.1.1 a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead an International Federation or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or
 - 52.1.2 a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of Article 52.1.1.
- 52.2 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 52.1.1 include (without limitation) a Participant:
- 52.2.1 submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment that they do not have;
 - 52.2.2 deliberately underperforming during an Evaluation Session;
 - 52.2.3 intentionally undergoing an Evaluation Session without the Adaptive Equipment they intend to use intend to use in competition;
 - 52.2.4 otherwise misrepresenting their skills, abilities, and/or the existence, nature, and/or degree of their impairment before, during or after an Evaluation Session;
 - 52.2.5 disrupting an Evaluation Session, or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
 - 52.2.6 not providing accurate information as to their identity or having another person attend an Evaluation Session in their place; and/or
 - 52.2.7 deliberately failing to notify the relevant International Federation of any relevant Classification-related information, including that they have previously undergone Classification (for example in the context of another Para sport) and/or that there has been a change in the nature or degree of their impairment that may necessitate a Medical Review.

- 52.3 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 52.1.2 include (without limitation):
- 52.3.1 where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets or conspires with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, Intentional Misrepresentation; and/or
 - 52.3.2 where, having discovered that a Participant has committed or intends to commit Intentional Misrepresentation, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information which would assist an International Federation in the investigation or prosecution of that offence.
- 52.4 Intentional Misrepresentation presents a major threat to the integrity of Classification and Para sport. It is a very serious offence because it constitutes an attempt to deceive an International Federation and/or achieve an unfair advantage that undermines meaningful competition. Consequently, potential incidents of Intentional Misrepresentation must be investigated thoroughly, and if evidence indicates that Intentional Misrepresentation has occurred, disciplinary action must be taken.
- 52.5 Each International Federation must include in its Classification rules procedures regarding the identification, investigation, and prosecution of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation violations that are at least equivalent to those in the International Standard on Intentional Misrepresentation[and the Model Rules].

CHAPTER 5: COMPLIANCE

53. Intelligence gathering and investigations

- 53.1 Each International Federation must have policies and procedures in place to ensure that Classification Intelligence captured or received is handled securely and confidentially, taking into account the nature of the source and the circumstances in which the intelligence has been received, and that the sources of intelligence are protected.
- 53.2 Classification Intelligence must be dealt with in accordance with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.

54. Monitoring Compliance with the Classification Code

- 54.1 IPC Members:
- 54.1.1 Subject to [transitional provisions], pursuant to Article 13.1.6 of the Constitution, each IPC Member must be in compliance with the Classification Code and the International Standards.
- 54.1.2 The IPC, with the support of the Classification Compliance and Oversight Committee, will monitor the Compliance of IPC Members. To facilitate such monitoring, each IPC Member must, at the request of the IPC, report on its Compliance and explain the reasons for any non-Compliance.
- 54.1.3 The IPC will consider any such explanation for non-Compliance and, in extraordinary circumstances, may grant the IPC Member a temporary extension to seek to remedy the non-Compliance. In such circumstances, the non-Compliant IPC Member must submit an action plan to the IPC detailing the specific steps to be taken, and the timeframe within which those steps will be taken, to achieve Compliance. This action plan will be subject to the approval of the Governing Board.
- 54.1.4 The Governing Board may impose sanctions on IPC Members for non-Compliance with the Classification Code and/or the International Standards pursuant to Article 15 of the Constitution.
- 54.1.5 The decision to sanction an IPC Member may be challenged by that IPC Member exclusively by appeal to the Appeals Tribunal pursuant to Article 18.2 of the Constitution.

54.2 RIFs:

54.2.1 Pursuant to Articles [2.4.5 and 4.1.3] of the RIF Regulations, each RIF is required to undertake be bound by and to comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards in relation to at least one sport that it administers, and comply with all provisions of this Classification Code applicable to International Federations in relation to its administration of such sport(s).

54.2.2 The IPC may monitor the Compliance of RIFs on an ad hoc basis [in accordance with [placeholder for reference to RIF compliance standards/RIF Regulations?]] but is under no obligation to do so. To facilitate any such monitoring, each RIF must, at the request of the IPC, report on its Compliance and provide reasons for any non-Compliance.

54.2.3 Pursuant to Article 20.2 of the Constitution, the Governing Board has absolute discretion to remove RIF status at any time with or without reasons.

54.3 The IPC may issue regulations or guidelines from time to time to facilitate Compliance monitoring.

54.4 [Placeholder to insert compliance timeframes/separate regulation that will provide such details]

Commented [A15]: For IPC Members and RIFs that govern sports outside the Paralympic Games programme, what elements of the Code should allow for more relaxed compliance provisions?

CHAPTER 6: GOVERNANCE – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

55. Overview

55.1 The roles and responsibilities listed in this Chapter 6 apply in addition to any specific obligations imposed in the Classification Code and the International Standards.

56. IPC

56.1 The roles and responsibilities of the IPC include to:

56.1.1 develop, maintain, and monitor the implementation of the Classification Code and the International Standards;

56.1.2 develop and publish guidelines and models of best practice;

56.1.3 develop and deliver Classification education and awareness programmes for IPC Members, Athletes, Classifiers and wider stakeholders;

56.1.4 require, as a condition of membership, that all IPC Members are in Compliance with the Classification Code and the International Standards;

56.1.5 monitor IPC Member Compliance with the Classification Code and the International Standards; and

56.1.6 take appropriate action to ensure IPC Members comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards.

57. International Federations and Recognised International Federations

57.1 The roles and responsibilities of International Federations and Recognised International Federations include to:

57.1.1 develop, implement, and regularly review and publish Classification rules in Compliance with the Classification Code and the International Standards;

57.1.2 develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards (to the extent applicable) and establish procedures to address non-Compliance;

57.1.3 develop and deliver (with the involvement of Athletes) Classification education and awareness programmes for Athletes and Athlete

Support Personnel, which must, at a minimum, explain the International Federation's Classification rules and explain that those rules must comply with the Classification Code and the International Standards;

- 57.1.4 initiate and/or review Classification Research;
- 57.1.5 develop, implement, and maintain a clear Classifier recruitment, training, and development pathway;
- 57.1.6 provide the relevant Classification Panel with any relevant information/evidence that becomes available to it (such as via social media or whistleblowers) that might be relevant to an ongoing Evaluation Session; and
- 57.1.7 ensure that their National Federations are subject to obligations within the International Federation's Classification rules to:
 - 57.1.7.1 provide the UHC Assessor and/or Classification Panel appointed by the International Federation with all relevant evidence (including Diagnostic Information) in relation Athletes' Underlying Health Conditions, and in so doing confirm with the relevant Athlete that that information is complete and accurate; and
 - 57.1.7.2 otherwise ensure that Athletes comply with the duties applicable to them during Evaluation Sessions (including ensuring their attendance at such sessions).

58. NPCs

- 58.1 The roles and responsibilities of NPCs include to:
 - 58.1.1 increase awareness of the principles, purpose and scientific rationale behind Classification amongst the general public in their respective nations;
 - 58.1.2 promote the development of a national Classification strategy, including by **[INSERT]**;
 - 58.1.3 act as a liaison between Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, and their National and International Federations;
 - 58.1.4 disseminate classification information and education resources to their National Federations, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel; and

Commented [A16]: Steps to be implemented for discussion.

- 58.1.5 ensure that Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel are aware of their roles and responsibilities under: (i) this Code; and (ii) the Classification rules imposed by their International Federation, prior to the Athlete submitting diagnostic information to and/or attending an Evaluation Session sanctioned by their International Federation.

59. Classification Personnel

- 59.1 An International Federation must appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for the International Federation, in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.
- 59.2 International Federations must have within their Classification rules (and/or other relevant rules) a clear set of professional conduct standards which all Classification Personnel must comply with. These standards are referred to as a 'Classification Code of Conduct' in accordance with the International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.
- 59.3 International Federations must have within their Classification rules (and/or other relevant rules) procedures for reporting and investigating complaints of non-compliance with the Classification Code of Conduct and procedures for taking disciplinary measures against Classification Personnel in respect of any violation of the Classifier Code of Conduct.

60. Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel

- 60.1 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
- 60.1.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable regulations, policies, rules, and processes adopted pursuant to the Classification Code;
 - 60.1.2 participate in, and cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any Classification process and/or related procedure;
 - 60.1.3 ensure that adequate, accurate, and complete information (including Diagnostic Information) relating to their Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment is made available to the International Federation, and that the International Federation is informed of any changes to that information;
 - 60.1.4 cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any investigations concerning violations of the Classification Code and/or the International Standards;

- 60.1.5 support and facilitate Classification education and research; and
- 60.1.6 provide information upon request that will assist the International Federation in the development, management, and implementation of Classification systems.

60.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:

- 60.2.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable regulations, policies, rules, and processes adopted pursuant to the Classification Code;
- 60.2.2 use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative attitude regarding the Classification process and those involved in the Classification of Athletes (e.g. Classifiers);
- 60.2.3 cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any investigations concerning violations of the Classification Code and/or the International Standards;
- 60.2.4 facilitate and encourage Athletes to participate in Classification education and research; and
- 60.2.5 provide information upon request that will assist the International Federation in the development, management, and implementation of Classification systems.

61. Other Participants

61.1 The roles and responsibilities of other Participants include to:

- 61.1.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable regulations, policies, rules, and processes adopted pursuant to the Classification Code; and
- 61.1.2 cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any investigations concerning violations of the Classification Code and/or the International Standards.

CHAPTER 7: CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM CHANGES, DATA, AND RESEARCH

62. Changes to Classification systems

- 62.1 Before making any substantive changes to their Classification systems or any other change(s) that might have an impact on Classification, International Federations must:
- 62.1.1 consider the Paralympic Games cycle, their sport's quadrennial competition cycle, and the qualification periods for the Paralympic Games and their sport's quadrennial competition, including in particular: (i) what impact any changes will have on Athletes, National Federations, and NPCs; and (ii) how many Athletes, National Federations, and NPCs will be so impacted;
 - 62.1.2 provide National Federations with:
 - (a) appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, the proposed timelines for implementation, and any transitional rules, as applicable;
 - (b) an opportunity to submit feedback and comments on any substantive changes before they are adopted.
 - 62.1.3 provide the IPC with:
 - (a) appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, the proposed timelines for implementation, and any transitional rules, as applicable, and an overview of the consultation undertaken as part of the review process;
 - (b) an opportunity to submit feedback and comments on any substantive changes before they are adopted.
- 62.2 Where a National Federation is notified by an International Federation of anticipated changes pursuant to Article 62.1.2, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are (i) notified about such changes, and (ii) invited to provide feedback about such changes. Where a National Federation is then notified by an International Federation that such changes will be implemented, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are notified about such changes.
- 62.3 International Federations may change the assessment methodology and/or assessment criteria used for allocating Sport Classes. International Federations must specify in their Classification rules that this is the case. If an International Federation changes the assessment methodology and/or

assessment criteria used to allocate Sport Classes, it must reallocate Sport Class Statuses in accordance with Article 62.5.3 below.

- 62.4 If an International Federation implements changes to its Classification rules after the start of the qualification period for the next Paralympic Games that would have an impact upon an Athlete's Sport Class (for example changes to the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or the assessment methodology for the allocation of a Sport Class), the Athlete will retain their existing Sport Class until the end of the relevant Paralympic Games cycle and will only be allocated their new Sport Class under the revised Classification rules at the commencement of the new Paralympic Games' cycle.
- 62.5 Subject always to Article 62.4, if an International Federation changes its Classification rules relating to:
- 62.5.1 how an Underlying Health Condition Assessment and/or Eligible Impairment Assessment is/are conducted, it must identify any Athletes that it has designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' whose designation might be subject to change as a result of the rule changes and notify those Athletes (through their National Federations) that they are entitled to undergo a new Evaluation Session;
 - 62.5.2 the defined Minimum Impairment Criteria for an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport and/or how a Classification Panel will assess whether or not an Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria, it must identify any Athletes that it has designated as 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria' whose designation might be subject to change as a result of the rule changes and notify those Athletes (through their National Federations) that they are entitled to undergo a new Evaluation Session; or
 - 62.5.3 the assessment methodology and/or assessment criteria to be used in evaluating which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete, it must identify any Athletes with a Sport Class that it considers may be impacted by those changes and allocate those Athletes the Sport Class Status 'Review - Next Available Opportunity' (unless that is already their Sport Class Status).
- 62.6 If a National Federation considers that changes to an International Federation's Classification rules will impact the Classification of any Athletes under its jurisdiction who are designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', it must notify the International Federation accordingly.

63. Data storage and data protection

- 63.1 Each International Federation must ensure that processes and procedures are in place whereby Athlete data is stored and protected. These processes and procedures must comply with the International Standard for Classification Data Protection.

64. Classification Research

- 64.1 International Federations must develop sports-specific Classification systems based on multidisciplinary Classification Research (whether conducted by the International Federation itself, or by a third party).

- 64.2 Any Classification Research relied upon by International Federations in developing their Classification systems must:

64.2.1 be evidence-informed and focus on the relationship between impairment and key performance determinants (i.e. must accord with the 'selective' Classification system used in the Paralympic Movement (as explained in Article 1.3); and

64.2.2 comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.

[Comment to Article 64.2: Classification Research should also be informed by the conceptual framework for Classification Research as presented in David L. Mann, Sean M. Tweedy, Robin C. Jackson & Yves C. Vanlandewijck (2021), Classifying the evidence for evidence-based classification in Paralympic sport, Journal of Sports Sciences, 39:sup1, 1-6].

- 64.3 Athlete input must be solicited to assist in:

64.3.1 improving the sports Classification systems; and

64.3.2 conducting any Classification Research organised by the International Federation itself.

65. Education

- 65.1 The ongoing development of Classification is critical to the continued success of the Paralympic Movement. It is essential that all stakeholders have an understanding and an appreciation of Classification. Education programs will raise awareness, provide accurate information, and develop decision-making capability, to support Para sport's audience to better recognise its sporting excellence, help secure the resources and achieve buy-in from key decision

makers that make Code compliance possible, as well as prevent and deter practices that may lead to Intentional Misrepresentation.

- 65.2 All members of the International Paralympic Committee must, within their scope of responsibility and in cooperation with each other, plan, implement, monitor, evaluate and promote Education programs in line with the requirements set out in Chapter 6 of this Code (GOVERNANCE - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES).

DRAFT

CHAPTER 8: IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

66. Implementation of the Classification Code

66.1 This Classification Code takes effect in full as of _____ (Effective Date).

Commented [A17]: January 2025 for summer sports; July 2026 for winter sports.

66.2 Each International Federation must adopt Classification rules that comply with this Classification Code by no later than _____, to take effect on _____, and that have been reviewed and approved by the IPC. International Federations must implement any subsequent applicable amendment(s) to the Classification Code within one year of approval by the General Assembly, unless specified otherwise by the General Assembly.

66.3 International Federations must implement applicable Classification Code provisions through policies, statutes, rules, or regulations according to their authority and within their relevant spheres of responsibility.

66.4 In implementing the Classification Code, International Federations are encouraged to use the models of best practice recommended by the IPC.

67. Modifications to the Classification Code

67.1 The Governing Board is responsible for overseeing the evolution and improvement of the Classification Code. Athletes, IPC Members, and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in such process.

67.2 The Governing Board will initiate proposed amendments to the Classification Code and ensure a consultative process to both receive and respond to recommendations and to facilitate review and feedback from Athletes, IPC Members, and other stakeholders on proposed amendments.

67.3 Amendments to the Classification Code must, after appropriate consultation, be approved by the General Assembly. Unless provided otherwise, amendments will take effect three months after such approval.

Commented [A18]: Include carve out for minor amends?

68. Modifications to the International Standards

68.1 The Governing Board is responsible for approving any amendments to the International Standards. The International Standards any amendments thereto will be published on the IPC website and will take effect on the date specified in the International Standard.

69. Supplementary regulations

69.1 The IPC may issue supplementary regulations applicable during the Paralympic Games and any other competition organised by or on behalf of the IPC to supplement the Classification Code.

70. Interpretation

70.1 The official text of the Classification Code and International Standards will be maintained by the IPC and published in English.

70.2 The comments annotating various provisions of the Classification Code and the International Standards must be used to interpret the Classification Code and the International Standards.

70.3 The Classification Code must be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of IPC Members, RIFs, or governments.

70.4 Defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) in the Classification Code have the meaning given to them in Appendix 1. The rules of interpretation set out in Appendix 1 to the Constitution apply to the Classification Code and the International Standards.

70.5 A reference to 'sport' in the Classification Code or International Standards refers to both the sport and any individual discipline within the sport.

70.6 This Classification Code does not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the Effective Date.

71. Transitional provisions

71.1 [Under consideration]

APPENDIX 1: DEFINITIONS

Terms used in the Classification Code that begin with capital letters have the meanings set out below. Defined terms from the Constitution are shown in underline. In the event of any inconsistency between a definition below and a definition in the Constitution, the version in the Constitution will prevail.

Adaptive Equipment means any implement, apparatus, and/or technical aid adapted to the special needs of an Athlete to reduce the impact of their impairment that is permitted by the International Federation's Classification rules, save that audio and visual aids (including eyeglasses or corrective lenses) are not considered to be Adaptive Equipment.

Appeal has the meaning given to that term in Article 40.1.2, i.e. a challenge to any aspect of a Classification process on the grounds that:

- (i) a breach of an International Federation's Classification rules occurred during a Classification process; and
- (ii) that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

Appeal Body means a body designated by an International Federation for hearing and determining Appeals.

Appeals Tribunal means the tribunal described in Article 66 of the Constitution.

Athlete means any athlete competing, or seeking to compete (i.e. where the athlete has not yet undergone Classification), in any Relevant Competition.

Athlete Support Person means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent, or any other person working with, treating, and/or assisting an Athlete.

Athletes' Council means the body described in Part IX of the Constitution.

BAC means the Board of Appeal of Classification, defined below.

Board of Appeal of Classification means the body described in Article 67 of the Constitution: 'The Board of Appeal of Classification will hear and determine classification appeals (and, where specified, other classification disputes) for international federations in accordance with the IPC Classification Code and the related International Standards, where those international federations have entered into an agreement with the IPC for such services.'

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the IPC appointed in accordance with Article 41.1.20 of the Constitution, with the responsibilities set out in Article 48 of the Constitution.

Chief Classifier means a Classifier appointed by an International Federation to direct, administer, co-ordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to Classification rules of that International Federation.

Classification means the: (i) determination of which Athletes are eligible to compete in Relevant Competitions; and (ii) the grouping of eligible Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific Para sport, based on the assessments and evaluations set out in Part IV of Chapter 2.

Classification Intelligence means information obtained and used by an International Federation in relation to Classification.

Classification Master List has the meaning given to that term in Article 37.1, i.e. the list to be maintained by each International Federation, which must include (at a minimum) each Athlete's name, sex, year of birth, nationality, Sport Class and Sport Class Status, any designations (including 'Not Eligible - Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible - Minimum Impairment Criteria', and 'Classification Not Completed'), any tracking codes (such as 'OA' for Observation Assessment), and whether or not the Athlete uses any Adaptive Equipment in competition (and if so, what that Adaptive Equipment consists of).

Classification Panel means a specified number of Classifiers, appointed by an International Federation, to conduct Evaluation Sessions and determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification rules of that International Federation.

Classification Personnel means Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification organisation in relation to Classification, for example administrative officers.

Classification Research means any systematic scientific evaluation, analysis, or investigation, which aims to enhance or understand Para sport classification systems.

Classifier Code of Conduct means the behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by an International Federation.

Classifier means a person authorised as an official and certified by an International Federation to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

Code of Ethics means the IPC's Code of Ethics as in force from time to time.

Combined Class Event means events where Athletes with different Sport Classes compete against each other, in accordance with Article 24.11.

Competition means a series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

Compliance means the implementation of rules, regulations, policies, and processes that adhere to the text, spirit, and intent of the Classification Code and International Standards. Where terms such as 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Classification Code they will have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

Conflict of Interest has the meaning given to it in the Code of Ethics, namely: an undisclosed direct or indirect interest in or any relationship with any outside organisation or person that might affect, or be reasonably misunderstood by others to be affecting his/her objectivity, judgement, or conduct in carrying out the duties and responsibilities that he or she has in conjunction with the Paralympic activities. This also applies to spouses, family members, businesses, or organisations to which members of the Paralympic Family may belong.

Coordination Impairment has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.5, which is as follows '*Athletes with a Coordination Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and/or physiology of the central nervous system, resulting in one of the following three movement disorders that adversely affects the ability to voluntarily produce a full range of skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately.*'

Country means a self-governing geographical area of the world recognised as an independent state by international law and international governmental bodies.

Diagnostic Information means medical records and/or any other documentation that enables the International Federation to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition.

Dyskinesia has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.5(c), which is as follows: '*Athletes with Dyskinesia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in continual involuntary movements that interfere with the velocity and accuracy/direction of voluntary movements.*'

Effective Date has the meaning given to that term in Article 66.1, i.e. [DATE]

Commented [A19]: Alternative wording: 'produce and/or control'

Commented [A20]: For each of these where the reader is referred to an article, the definition in my opinion should be in this appendix, along with reference to relevant articles. And there are a lot more after this comment.

Eligible Impairment means the impairments listed in Articles 9.1.1.1 to 9.1.3, i.e. the five forms of Physical Impairment, Visual Impairment and Intellectual Impairment.

Eligible Impairment Assessment has the meaning given to it in Article 6.1, i.e. an assessment as to whether an Athlete's Underlying Health Condition leads to an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport.

Evaluation Session means the Eligible Impairment Assessment, Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment and Sport Class Assessment, as further defined in Article 6.1.

First Appearance has the meaning given to that term in Article 25.4.2, i.e. the Competition where an Athlete competes in a Sport Class for the first time.

General Assembly has the meaning given to that term in Article 30.1 of the Constitution: *'The General Assembly is the general meeting of the IPC Members, represented by their respective delegates.'*

Governing Board means the body described in Part VI of the Constitution.

Fixed Review Date has the meaning given to that term in Article 26.3.5, i.e. a date set by the Classification Panel (no earlier than one year after the Evaluation Session) after which the Athlete must attend a new Evaluation Session.

Health Condition means a disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury, or trauma.

Hypertonia/Spasticity has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.5(a), which is as follows: *'Athletes with Hypertonia/Spasticity have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in an increase in muscle tension with increasing angular velocity and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.'*

Impaired Muscle Power has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.1, which is as follows: *'Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and physiology of the central or peripheral nervous system or the muscles (including the muscle origin and muscle insertion) that reduces or eliminates their ability to generate force to contract their muscles in order to move a joint.'*

Impaired Passive Range of Movement has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.2, which is as follows: *'Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have an Underlying Health Condition affecting a structure of bones, joints, connective tissue, or soft tissues resulting in a permanent inability of the joint to be moved over the normal amplitude.'*

Commented [A21]: ALTERNATIVE

Athletes with Hypertonia/Spasticity have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in an abnormal pattern of posture and pathological reflexes causing an increase in muscle tension, with increasing angular velocity and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

Commented [A22]: Alternative proposed wording: change the word 'physiology' to 'function' to be consistent with ICF classification.

In-Competition means the period commencing from the day on which the International Federation offers Classification opportunities in relation to a Competition in which the Athlete is scheduled to compete through to the day such Competition ends.

Intellectual Impairment has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.3, which is as follows: *'Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment have a restriction in general mental functions required to understand and constructively integrate the various mental functions including all cognitive functions and their development over the life span.'*

Intentional Misrepresentation has the meaning given to it in Article 52.1, i.e. where:

- (i) a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead an International Federation or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or
- (ii) a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of part (i) above.

International Federation has the meaning given to that term in Article 10.1.2 of the Constitution: *'an international sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a specific Para sport'*. For the avoidance of doubt, the IPC or an International Organisation of Sport for the Disabled may act as the International Federation for certain sports.

International Organisation of Sport for the Disabled has the meaning given to that term in Article 10.1.3 of the Constitution: *'an international organisation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a specific disability group'*.

International Federation Protest means a Protest made by an International Federation pursuant to Article 44.

International Standard means a standard adopted by the IPC to supplement the Classification Code, as amended from time to time.

IPC means the International Paralympic Committee e.V.

Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.3, which is as follows: *Athletes with Limb Deficiency or Limb Length Difference have an Underlying Health Condition resulting from trauma, illness, or*

congenital causes affecting the bones or joints which leads to a total or partial absence of a limb or anatomically irregular dimensions.

Management Team means any person who is employed as a staff member by the IPC to undertake work for it or on its behalf under the direction of the CEO.

Medical Device means any device and/or implant that is commonly used in society in order to lessen the effect of a Health Condition, including: (i) eye glasses or corrective lenses; (ii) hearing aids, and equivalent devices.]

Commented [A23]: Definition to be further considered during the final consultation phase. There could be other medical devices included, for example prostheses and orthoses.
In the meantime, defined term not currently used but visual and audio aids carved out of the definition of Adaptive Equipment.

Medical Review has the meaning given to that term in Article 39, i.e. a review required in response to a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's impairment, either (i) to re-assess an Athlete previously designated as 'Not Eligible', or (ii) to ensure that the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete is correct.

Minimum Impairment Criteria means the minimum level of impairment resulting from an Eligible Impairment required in order for an Athlete to be eligible to participate in a Para sport, as determined by the International Federation in its Classification rules.

Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment has the meaning given to it in Article 6.1, i.e. an evaluation as to whether an Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport

Motor Ataxia has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.5(b), which is as follows: *'Athletes with Motor Ataxia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.'*

Commented [A24]: ALTERNATIVE
Athletes with Dyskinesia have an Underlying Health Condition causing structural damage to the central nervous system resulting in continual involuntary, uncontrolled, recurring and occasionally stereotyped movements that interfere with the velocity and accuracy/direction of voluntary movements.

National Federation means (i) a national member of an International Federation (excluding where the IPC is acting in its capacity as an International Federation), and (ii) NPCs when acting in their role as a national federation.

National Federation Protest means a Protest made a National Federation pursuant to Article 43.

National Representative means any person who is an office-holder or member of staff of, or who otherwise represents and/or works on behalf of a National Federation or NPC.

Next Available Opportunity has the meaning given to that term in Article 26.3.4, i.e. the next available opportunity at which the Athlete can undergo Classification, as determined by the International Federation.

Non-Eligible Impairment has the meaning given to that term in Article 10, i.e. any impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment.

National Paralympic Committee (NPC) has the meaning given to that term in Article 10.1.1 of the Constitution: 'a national organisation recognised by the IPC as the sole representative of the Paralympic Movement in the NPC's Country or Territory'.

NPC means a National Paralympic Committee, defined above.

Observation Assessment means the observation of an Athlete in Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination regarding the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

Operational Independence (or **Operationally Independent**) means that (a) board members, staff members, commission members, consultants and officials of the International Federation, as well as any Person involved in the investigation and pre-adjudication of the matter, cannot be appointed as members and/or clerks (to the extent that such clerk is involved in the deliberation process and/or drafting of any decision) of the relevant body, and (b) the relevant body must be in a position to conduct the hearing and decision-making process without interference from the International Federation or any third party. The objective is to ensure that members of the relevant body, or individuals otherwise involved in the decision of the relevant body, are not involved in the investigation of, or decisions to proceed with, the case.

Out-of-Competition means any period that is not In-Competition.

Para athlete means any athlete competing in a Para sport

Para sport means any sport in which persons with a disability participate in accordance with classification rules that are compliant with the IPC Classification Code and the related International Standards.

Paralympic Games means the major international event owned and sanctioned by the IPC comprising summer and winter editions usually held in alternating biennial cycles where Para athletes compete in Para sports that are on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

Paralympic Games Sport Programme means the Para sports on the programme for the Paralympic Games.

Paralympic Movement has the meaning given to that term in Article 2.1 of the Constitution: 'The Paralympic Movement comprises the IPC, the IPC Members, the Recognised International Federations, and any other Persons that participate in Para sport or are involved in the promotion, organisation, and/or delivery of Para sport'.

Commented [A25]: Suggestion to amend wording to: means any sport which has a classification system that complies with the IPC Classification Code and the related International Standards.

but this would require a change to the Constitution.

Participant means:

- (i) Athletes;
- (ii) Athlete Support Personnel;
- (iii) National Representatives;
- (iv) any other persons under the jurisdiction of an International Federation who participate in any aspect of Classification in relation to Relevant Competitions; and
- (v) any other persons who agree in writing to be bound by an International Federation's Classification rules.

Permanent means an impairment that is unlikely to be resolved, meaning that the principal effects are lifelong.

Person means natural persons, corporate bodies, and unincorporated bodies (whether or not having separate legal personality), and also includes the legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns of such person, as the context so requires. For the avoidance of doubt, the term Person does not include the IPC.

Physical Impairment means the Eligible Impairments listed in Articles 9.1.1.1 to 9.1.1.5 (i.e. (i) Impaired Muscle Power; (ii) Impaired Passive Range of Movement; (iii) Limb Deficiency and/or Limb Length Difference; (iv) Short Stature; and (v) Coordination Impairments arising from one or more of the following: (a) Hypertonia/Spasticity; (b) Motor Ataxia; and/or (c) Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea).

Progressive means an impairment that is deteriorating.

Protest has the meaning given to that term in Article 40.1.1, i.e. a challenge filed against the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete

Protest Fee means the fee prescribed by an International Federation, payable by a National Federation when submitting a Protest.

Protest Form means the form on which a National Federation Protest must be submitted.

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

Protested Athlete means an Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

Protested Decision means the Sport Class decision being challenged.

Recognised International Federation (RIF) has the meaning given to that term in Article 20.1 of the Constitution: 'The IPC recognises the importance of creating a Paralympic family network of recognised international federations that are not eligible to become IPC Members but contribute to the development of the Paralympic Movement. Accordingly, the Governing Board may, in its absolute discretion, grant the status of 'Recognised International Federation' (RIF) to an international federation that is not part of the Paralympic Games Sport Programme and so is not eligible to become an IPC Member as an International Federation, but still contributes to the development of the Paralympic Movement. For the avoidance of doubt, RIFs are not IPC Members.'

Relevant Competition means:

- (i) in respect of sports on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme:
 - a. the Paralympic Games;
 - b. any Competition that is part of the qualification pathway to participate in the Paralympic Games (as determined by the relevant International Federation); and
 - c. any other event or Competition specified by the International Federation in its Classification rules; or
- (ii) in respect of Classification Code-compliant sports administered by a RIF (pursuant to Article 4.6):
 - a. the World Championships of that sport;
 - b. any Competition that is part of the qualification pathway to participate in the World Championships of that sport (as determined by the RIF in question); and
 - c. any other event or Competition specified by the RIF in its Classification rules.

Commented [A26]: Definition to be further reviewed during the final consultation phase, and to be considered in parallel with provisions under article 4.

Short Stature has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.1.4, which is as follows: *'Athletes with Short Stature have an Underlying Health Condition resulting in reduced length of the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs, and/or trunk, which in turn leads to restricted standing height not as a result of limb deficiency'*

Sport Class means a category for competition defined by each International Federation in their Classification rules, in which Athletes are categorised by

reference to the extent to which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment impacts their ability to execute specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. Sport Classes should be Para-sport specific and evidence-based.

Sport Class Assessment has the meaning given to it in Article 6.1, i.e. an evaluation of the extent to which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment impacts on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport

Sport Class Status means a status applied to a Sport Class to indicate whether and when an Athlete may be required to undergo an Evaluation Session in the future.

Stable means that an impairment will not change for a defined period of no less than the duration of the Competition. Minor fluctuations in the impairment are acceptable except where they would change the assessment of whether or not the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment that meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria.

Team Sport means a sport in which the substitution of players is permitted during a competition.

Territory means a geographical territory or region that is not recognised as an independent state by international law and international governmental bodies but that has certain aspects of self-government, at least to the extent of being autonomous in the control of sport in its territory or region, and which is recognised as such by the IPC.

Trainee Classifier means a person who is in the process of formal training to become a Classifier for that International Federation.

UHC Assessor refers to any person or body to whom an International Federation has delegated responsibility for conducting Underlying Health Condition Assessments in accordance with Article 7.1.

Underlying Health Condition means a verifiable Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by the sport.

Underlying Health Condition Assessment means the assessment described in Article 6.1, i.e. an assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of evidence/information (including Diagnostic Information) provided by the Athlete in accordance with Part IV.A of Chapter 2 of the Classification Code

Vision Impairment has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.1.2, which is as follows: *'Athletes with Vision Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition causing damage to the eye structure, optic nerves or pathways, or visual cortex*

Commented [A27]: Alternative wording: a permanent impairment will not change for a defined period of not less than two weeks. Minor fluctuations in the impairment are acceptable except where they would change the Athlete's eligibility or Sport Class.

Commented [A28]: Alternative wording: Athletes with Vision Impairment have an Underlying Health Condition causing damage to the structure and/or physiology of the anterior and/or posterior segments of the eye, optic nerve or pathway, or visual cortex of the brain, resulting in reduced or no visual function, even when using the best possible refractive correction. International Federations must specify in their Classification rules whether a Vision Impairment must be present in one or both eyes.

of the brain resulting in reduced or no vision that cannot be fully compensated through equipment or surgery or other intervention'.

World Championships means the highest-level international Competition(s) or event(s) owned or sanctioned by a RIF.

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APPENDIX 2: CLASSIFICATION FLOWCHART

[To be inserted]