

This email is being sent on behalf of the researchers in the Vision & Motor Performance Lab, School of Optometry & Vision Science.

Dear IPC Alpine Skiing Community,

Participants are needed for research in the development and validation novel visual function tasks for classification of elite visually impaired athletes. This study will facilitate the improvement of the current VI classification system in order to minimise the impact of classification on competition. The novel visual function tasks to be validated in this specific study are 1) a dynamic visual acuity task, 2) a low contrast visual acuity task, 3) a contrast sensitivity task and 4) a revised visual field scoring system.

We are seeking male and female participants for this study who are visually impaired and competing in IPC Alpine Skiing competition in Landgraaf, the Netherlands (17-20 November 2015). All athletes who meet these criteria are eligible to participate.

The study will involve one visit that will last approximately 30 minutes. Assessment will involve a number of tests of vision including a traditional visual acuity measure, a dynamic visual acuity measure, a low contrast visual acuity measure, a contrast sensitivity measure. Additionally, investigators will ask you a few questions about your training and background status and investigators will ask your permission for the IPC information custodian to provide your current classification data from the IPC database to the investigators.

The results of these new measures of vision will be compared with your performance in the race to determine whether they explain the performance more accurately, and would therefore, be better measures to use for classification in the future.

Participation in this study will not impact your classification for competition in any way.

There is no monetary remuneration for participating in this study.

We would appreciate your assistance in recruiting participants for this study. If you know of any athlete who meets any of the inclusion criteria listed above, we would ask that you mention the study to the athlete and ask them to contact Marieke Creese directly (mabcrees@uwaterloo.ca or +1 519 888 4567 ext. 39189) to schedule an appointment or for more information.

We thank you in advance for your help!

Research Team

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This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Committee.