



NPCs and IOSDs widely and regularly practicing Para athletics

Bonn, 14 December 2016

World Para Athletics Classification 2017

Dear NPC President/Secretary General,

World Para Athletics would like reinforce the requirements that must be adhered to in order for an athlete to be eligible to undergo International Classification at a World Para Athletics International Classification opportunity in 2017.

Athlete Classification

An athlete will only be permitted to undergo International Classification if he or she:

- Is registered and/or licensed with Para Athletics pursuant to the relevant provisions in the World Para Athletics Rules and Regulations;
- Has been entered into the Recognised Competition where International Classification is to take place;
- Has submitted Medical Diagnostics information to the Sport Data Management System (SDMS).

Where a classification schedule is full:

- Athletes who are licensed will take priority over registered athletes¹ followed by;
- New Athletes will take priority over Review Athletes.

At competitions where classification is offered, World Para Athletics will schedule all athletes with a New or Review Sport Class Status (with the exception of athletes with a Review 2018+ status) pursuant with the above regulations.

¹ Athletes must be licenced prior to the final entry deadline of the respective competition where classification is taking place. Licencing an athlete after the final entry deadline will not give an athlete priority where the schedule is full or has been completed with registered athletes.

If an Athlete is required to attend Athlete Evaluation but fails to do so, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant competition.

Medical Diagnostics Information

In order to be eligible to compete in Para athletics, all Athletes must have an Eligible Impairment and must meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) set by World Para Athletics. Athletes are therefore required to demonstrate the existence of an Eligible Impairment and/or establish they have a Health Condition that can give rise to an Eligible Impairment prior to Athlete Evaluation. This is to be done through the submission of Medical Diagnostic Information that relates to the relevant Health Condition and Eligible Impairment.

Medical Diagnostic Form – Athletes with a Physical or Visual Impairment

The Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) serves the purpose of guiding NPCs in the submission of the required Medical Diagnostic Information for classification.

An MDF must be submitted to the Sport Data Management System (SDMS) for all athletes with a New (N) Sport Class Status at the time of registration in order to complete Athlete Registration and be eligible for licensing (please refer to the 2017 IPC Athlete Registration and Licensing Programme).

For Athletes with a Review (R) Sport Class Status, Medical Diagnostic Information which is no longer than 12 months old must be submitted to SDMS at least 4 weeks prior to athlete evaluation.

Depending on the athlete's health condition and impairment, additional medical information is to be attached to the Medical Diagnostic Form. Medical Diagnostic Forms will be reviewed by the Chief Classifier ahead of a competition and, if required, further information may be requested. If an athlete fails to produce sufficient medical documentation and the classification panel considers that the absence of such medical documentation will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner, classification will be suspended as per rule 4.7 of the Para Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations (January 2016).

Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment (II)

Prior to Athlete Evaluation, Athletes must comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- Inclusion on the INAS Classification Master list
- Completion of the Training History and Sport Limitation Questionnaire (TSAL-Q)

Medical Diagnostics Forms (PI and VI) and the TSAL-Q (II) can be found using the following link: <https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classification/rules-and-regulations>

Failure to provide the required Medical Diagnostic Information will lead to an athlete not being scheduled for classification.

Classification at a Competition

If an Athlete is required to attend Athlete Evaluation, Athletes must arrive at the competition prior to the start of the classification period. World Para Athletics will schedule athletes in accordance with the classification period **and not** the arrival dates of athletes.

If an athlete fails to attend Classification at the scheduled time, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

Athletes should take note of the Athlete Evaluation Requirements outlined in Article 4 (Athlete Evaluation) of the Para Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations (<https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/classification/rules-and-regulations>). Failure to comply with these rules may lead to the suspension of Athlete Evaluation.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "高哲" (Gao Zhe).

Haozhe Gao
World Para Athletics Senior Manager
International Paralympic Committee

Cc.

Ryan Montgomery IPC Summer Sports Director

Laura Danning World Para Athletics Competition Manager