

World Para Nordic Skiing Classifier Training and Recertification Programme

Physical Impairments

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World Para Nordic Skiing

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1 Introduction and classifier candidate profile

WPNS certifies classifiers who have abilities and qualifications relevant to conduct athlete evaluation in respect of athletes with physical impairment. (Classifiers for VI classification follow a separate training, not organised by the WPNS)

1.1 Participants profile medical classifier

Candidates must have ALL of the following:

- Medical certification as a physician, physiotherapist or equivalent;
- A requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise in the sport of (adaptive) Nordic skiing;
- Business level English;
- Interest in Paralympic sports, specifically Nordic skiing;
- **Complete the IPC Academy online course “IPC Introduction to Para Sport”;** and
- Recommendation by the NPC or National Federation.

Participants profile technical classifier

Candidates must have ALL of the following:

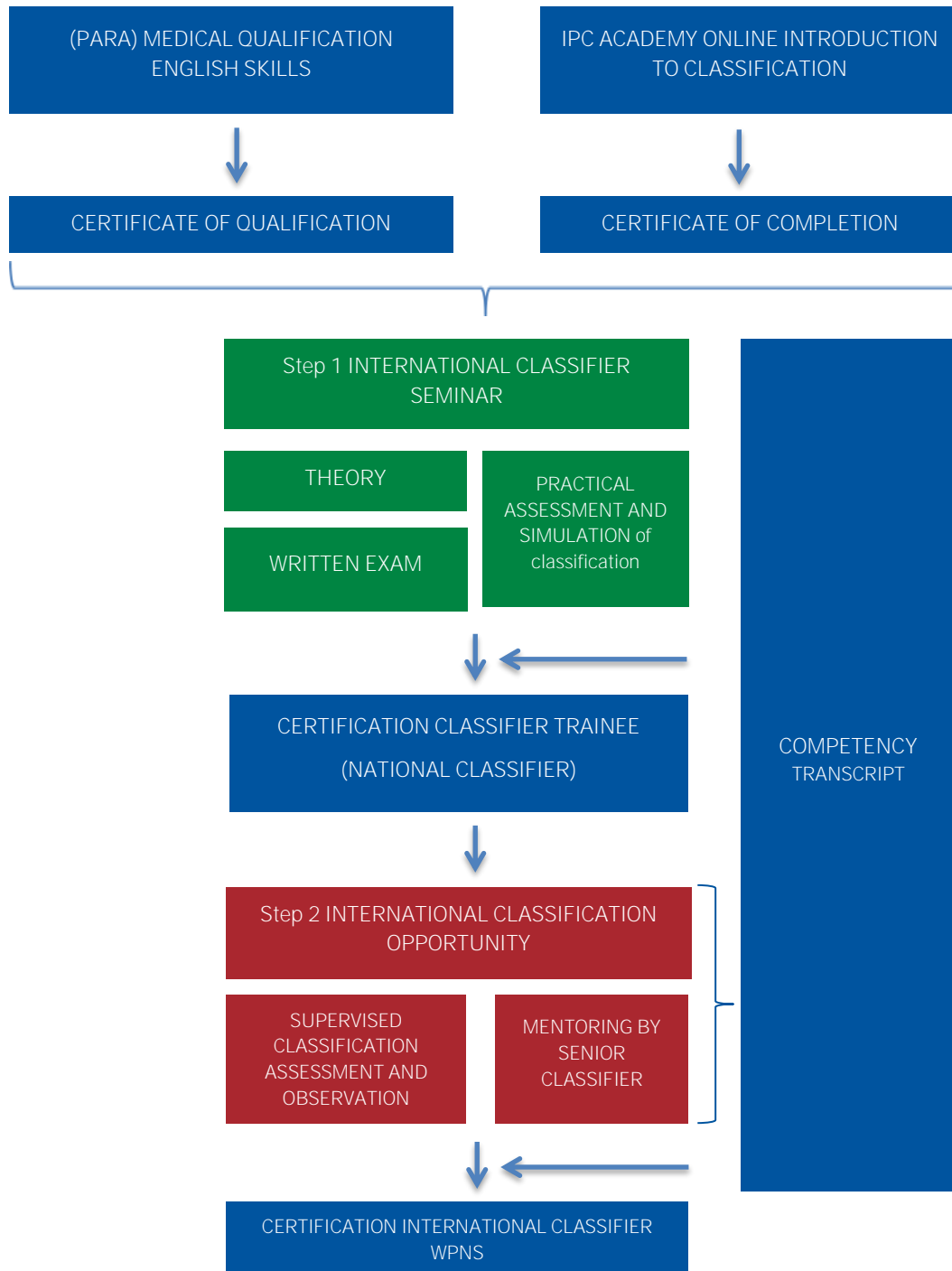
Physical/sports-technical education as a coach, trainer or equivalent;

- A requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise in the sport of (adaptive) Nordic skiing;
- Business level English;
- Interest in Paralympic sports, specifically Nordic skiing;
- **Complete the IPC Academy online course “IPC Introduction to Para Sport”;** and
- Recommendation by the NPC or National Federation.

To serve as an International classifier one may not have a conflict of interest (Such as national team physician or physiotherapist or coach/trainer)

The costs of the training will be with the responsibility of the candidate and/or its NPC/NF

1.2 Pathway WPNS classifier training



2 The WPNS classifier pathway consist of 2 steps

2.1 Step 1: Participate in WPNS International Classifier Seminar

2.1.1 Teaching Models

- Theoretical sessions (about the classification steps, rules, assessments, procedures);
- Practical assessment training;
- Simulated Classification situations;
- Video observation;
- Assessment through written exam and competency transcript.

2.1.2 Learning outcomes

The following learning outcomes should be achieved

- Know the role of Classifier;
- Understand and apply the conceptual basis of classification;
- Understand and conduct relevant medical tests/functional assessments for Physical Impairment;
- Know all Minimal Disability Criteria (MDC) and where to locate it within the WPNS Classification Rules and Regulations;
- Understand Observation assessment on snow;
- Learn how to properly communicate classification outcomes;
- Understand risks in classification;
- Understand and be able to follow the proper procedures of classification of athletes with Physical Impairments to the IPC Nordic standards, including all paperwork.

2.1.3 Program outcomes

- Participant will receive a certificate of completion; and
- Can serve as a National Classifier for their home NPC (if regulations of the NPC allows it).

2.2 Step 2: Participate in WPNS International classification opportunity

2.2.1 Participants profile

- Medical certification as a physician, physiotherapist or equivalent or sports-technical certification;
- Have successfully completed Step 1;
- Have no conflict of interest (e.g. not working as an National team physician or therapist);
- Business level English;
- Intermediate to good skiing and
- Have experience as a National Classifier.

2.2.2 Teaching Models

- Observation of classification assessments by (Senior) Classifiers, including paperwork, communication, athlete assessment, decision making;
- Conduct classification assessments under supervision, including all paperwork etc.;
- Observation on snow of the classified athletes will complete the classification assessments;
- Participate/observe in all other classifier activities, like attending team-captains-meeting, handling protests, educational sessions for coaches and athletes.
- The International Classifier trainee will be mentored by Senior Classifiers and assessed by the competency transcript.

2.2.3 Learning outcomes

The following learning outcomes should be achieved:

- Know the role of Classifier;
- Understand and apply the conceptual basis of classification to a high standard;
- Know and be able to complete all relevant medical tests/functional assessments for Physical Impairment to a high standard of validity and reliability;
- Know all Minimal Disability Criteria (MDC) and where to locate it within the WPNS Classification Rules and Regulations rapidly, accurately and efficiently;
- Know and conduct an in competition Observation assessment on snow to high standard;
- Know how to properly communicate classification outcomes accurately and efficiently;
- Understand and demonstrate leadership in the management of risks in classification;
- Ability to classify athletes with Physical Impairments to the World Para Nordic Skiing standards, including all paperwork;
- Know the requirements for an athlete evaluation.

2.2.4 Program outcomes

- Participant will receive an World Para Nordic Skiing International Classifier Certificate of Competency; and
- Be eligible for appointment as a Junior WPNS International Classifier at sanctioned competitions.

3 Maintaining certification

To maintain WPNS International Classifier certification a Classifier must:

- Classify at least once every 2 seasons at an International classification opportunity; and
- Follow yearly update workshops or update calls.

4 Recertification after period of inactivity (more than two seasons)

The recertification process is dependent on the classifier's experience before the period of inactivity and performed classification activities during inactivity

The inactive Classifier who wants to recertify must send a letter to the Head of Classification of World Para Nordic Skiing with reason of absence and performed activities. Decision on the recertification pathway will be made by the IPC management and the STC/HoC

An experienced Classifier (senior, level 2) can have a gap of 3 years, but must have an update session (on new rules etc.) with a senior classifier before recertification.

A less experienced Classifier (junior, level 1) can have a gap of 2 years, will need an update session (on new rules etc.) with an senior classifier AND also supervised classification at an International Classification Opportunity, a competency transcript will be used as assessment tool (step 2 of the pathway).

After longer periods of inactivity the inactive classifier will have to follow both steps of classifier pathway, starting with the WPNS Classifier Seminar.

5 Junior International Classifier

Junior International Classifier is a Classifier who has successfully completed all steps of the World Para Nordic Skiing Classifier training program and has been certified as a member of a Classification Panel at the International Competition. He/She will be mentored by Senior Classifiers and reports to the Chief Classifier

The duties of a Junior Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- being part of a Classification Panel at WPNS sanctioned or recognised events;
- being part of a Protest Panel at WPNS sanctioned or recognized events;
- attending classification meetings at Competitions; and
- assisting in Classifier training and certification as requested by the Head of Classification.

6 Senior International Classifier

A Senior Classifier acts in a leadership capacity at International competitions and reports to the Chief Classifier. Senior Classifiers have completed World Para Nordic Skiing classifier training,

show leadership, participate in research and development of the classification system, and have sufficient experience to implement the WPNS Classification Regulations at a Competition.

The duties of a Senior Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- assisting in the research;
- development and clarification of the Classification Regulations and profiles for WPNS;
- participation in Classifier workshops;
- assisting in regular reviews of Classification Regulations and Sport Profiles; and
- supervising and evaluating Junior/ recertifying Classifiers.