

IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING

RULES FOR COMPETITION



BOOK 4: CLASSIFICATION RULES

Version: February 2018

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Part One: General Provisions

1 Scope and Application

Adoption

- 1.1 These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2 The Classification Rules have been adopted by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing on [date].
- 1.3 These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.4 These Classification Rules form part of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, and can be amended by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing from time to time.

Classification

- 1.6 Classification is undertaken to:
 - a) define who is eligible to compete in IWAS Wheelchair Fencing and consequently who has the opportunity to reach the goal of becoming a Paralympic Athlete; and
 - b) group Athletes into Sport Classes which aim to ensure that the impact of Impairment is minimised and sporting excellence determines which Athlete or team is ultimately victorious.

Application

- 1.7 These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 1.8 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, including but not limited to the Technical Rules, the Material Rules and the Organisational Rules of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

International Classification

- 1.9 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.10 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions (or other such locations as defined by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing). IWAS Wheelchair Fencing will advise Athletes, National Bodies and National Paralympic Committees in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).

Interpretation and Relationship to Code

- 1.11 References to an 'Article' mean an Article of these Classification Rules, references to an 'Appendix' mean an Appendix to these Classification Rules, and Capitalised terms used in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in the Glossary to these Classification Rules.
- 1.12 References to a 'sport' in these Classification Rules refer to both a sport and an individual discipline within a sport for example Men's Epee, Women's Foil etc.
- 1.13 The Appendices to these Classification Rules are part of these Classification Rules both of which may be amended, supplemented and/or replaced by the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing from time to time.
- 1.14 Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Article or Articles to which they refer.
- 1.15 These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner, that is consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

2 Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.

Athlete Responsibilities

- 2.2 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
 - c) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - d) participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;

- e) ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to IWAS Wheelchair Fencing;
- f) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and
- g) actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and Classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities

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

- a) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel Responsibilities

2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:

- a) have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- b) use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- c) assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
- d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Part Two: Classification Personnel

3 Classification Personnel

- 3.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. IWAS Wheelchair Fencing will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Head of Classification

- 3.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 3.3 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may appoint another person, or group of persons collectively (provided such person or group of persons agrees to comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct), to act as the Head of Classification.
- 3.4 The Head of Classification is not required to be a certified Classifier.
- 3.5 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or the transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 3.6 Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (if certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

Classifiers

- 3.7 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and certified by the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

Chief Classifiers

- 3.8 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to do the following:
- 3.8.1 identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;
 - 3.8.2 supervise Classifiers to ensure that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
 - 3.8.3 manage Protests in consultation with IWAS Wheelchair Fencing; and
 - 3.8.4 liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.

- 3.9 A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified IWAS Wheelchair Fencing officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

Trainee Classifiers

- 3.10 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 3.11 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.

4 Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification

- 4.1 A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier if that Classifier has been certified by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 4.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 4.3 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must specify and publish Classifier Competencies in a manner that is transparent and accessible. The Classifier Competencies must include that a Classifier has:
- 4.3.1 a thorough understanding of these Classification Rules;
 - 4.3.2 an understanding of the sport(s) for which they seek certification to act as a Classifier, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport(s);
 - 4.3.3 an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and
 - 4.3.4 a professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies in order to act as a Classifier for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. These include that Classifiers must either:
 - a) be a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category which IWAS Wheelchair Fencing at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician or physiotherapist for Athletes with a Physical Impairment; or
 - b) have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in the particular sport(s); or a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport-specific expertise, which IWAS Wheelchair Fencing at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

- 4.4 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must establish a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process must include:
 - 4.4.1 a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
 - 4.4.2 quality assessment for the period of certification;
 - 4.4.3 a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
 - 4.4.4 a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- 4.5 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must specify Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. IWAS Wheelchair Fencing will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
- 4.6 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.7 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
 - 4.7.1 a limitation on the Impairment type for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.7.2 a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;
 - 4.7.3 a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
 - 4.7.4 the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;
 - 4.7.5 that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
 - 4.7.6 that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if IWAS Wheelchair Fencing is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
 - 4.7.7 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if IWAS Wheelchair Fencing is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.
- 4.8 Further information regarding the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Classification Certification Training Programme can be found here:
<http://www.iwasf.com/iwasf/index.cfm/sports/iwas-wheelchair-fencing/classification1/>

5 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in IWAS Wheelchair Fencing depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this to IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 5.4 If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.5 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

6 General Provisions

- 6.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 6.2 Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
 - 6.2.1 an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport;
 - 6.2.2 an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport; and
 - 6.2.3 the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

7 Eligible Impairment

- 7.1 Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2 Appendices Appendix One, and Two of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in a sport governed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 7.3 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendices One or Two is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Two includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.4 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
 - 7.4.1 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
 - 7.4.2 The means by which IWAS Wheelchair Fencing determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.

- 7.4.3 If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment IWAS Wheelchair Fencing becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances IWAS Wheelchair Fencing will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee.
- 7.5 An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply IWAS Wheelchair Fencing with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:
- 7.5.1 The relevant National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, upon completing the registration of an Athlete.
- 7.5.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional.
- 7.5.3 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 7.6 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7 If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information it may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so.
- 7.8 The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.8.1 The Head of Classification will notify the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
- 7.8.2 The Head of Classification will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.
- 7.8.3 The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality undertakings.

- 7.8.4 If the Head of Classification believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
- 7.8.5 Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.8.6 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 7.8.7 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee. The National Body or National Paralympic Committee will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.
- 7.8.8 If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the National Body or National Paralympic Committee.
- 7.8.9 The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.9 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

8 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 8.1 An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

- 8.3 Appendix One, of these Classification Rules specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to each sport and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 8.4 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- 8.5 A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.
- 8.6 In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:
 - 8.6.1 for Eligible Impairments the 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;

9 Sport Class

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to a sport.
 - 9.1.1 An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of these Classification Rules.
 - 9.1.2 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
 - 9.1.3 Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing (in accordance with Article 17.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be based solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 9.2 Appendix One, of these Classification Rules specify the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

10 Classification Not Completed

- 10.1 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation IWAS Wheelchair Fencing or a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the relevant Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 10.2 The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will however be recorded for the purpose of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Classification Master List.
- 10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in the sport of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

11 The Classification Panel

- 11.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

General Provisions

- 11.2 A Classification Panel must be comprised of at least of two certified Classifiers. In exceptional circumstances a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier holding a valid medical qualification.
- 11.3 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers, and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

12 Classification Panel Responsibilities

- 12.1 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
- 12.1.1 assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
 - 12.1.2 assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and
 - 12.1.3 conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.
- 12.2 Following the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 12.3 Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, unless IWAS Wheelchair Fencing requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.4 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 12.4.1 Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.

- 12.5 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Sport Class.
- 12.6 The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One.

13 Evaluation Sessions

- 13.1 This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 13.2 The Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 13.3 In respect of Athletes:
 - 13.3.1 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has an Intellectual Impairment.
 - 13.3.2 The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
 - 13.3.3 The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
 - 13.3.4 The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing license card or event accreditation.
 - 13.3.5 The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Sport Class.
 - 13.3.6 The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
 - 13.3.7 The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.
- 13.4 In respect of the Classification Panel:
 - 13.4.1 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.

- 13.4.2 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the person referred to in Article 13.3.1 above.
- 13.4.3 The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion(s) is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class.
- 13.4.4 In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.3, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Body, National Paralympic Committee and IWAS Wheelchair Fencing (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- 13.4.5 The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

14 Observation in Competition

- 14.1 A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 14.2 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One
- 14.3 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 14.4 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 14.5 Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:
 - 14.5.1 First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
 - 14.5.2 First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Sport Class.
 - 14.5.3 An Athlete who competes in a Team Sport must make First Appearance during the preliminary rounds of a Competition. First Appearance must not take place in the elimination rounds of a Competition.

- 14.6 If an Athlete is:
- a) subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and
 - b) the second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and
 - c) pursuant to the second Evaluation Session the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition,
- Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity within the Sport Class allocated to the Athlete by the Protest Panel with Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA).
- 14.6.1 The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and replace the Athlete's Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA) by designating a Sport Class Status upon completion of First Appearance (or completion of any Observation in Competition conducted as part of a Protest). If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.
- 14.7 The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results is detailed in the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Rules and Regulations.

15 Sport Class Status

- 15.1 If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 15.2 The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:
- Confirmed (C)
 - Review (R)
 - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

Sport Class Status New

- 15.3 An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition, unless IWAS Wheelchair Fencing specifies otherwise.

Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 15.4 An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are and will remain stable

- 15.4.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 18), Medical Review (Article 30) and changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 15.7)).
- 15.4.2 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

Sport Class Status Review

- 15.5 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
 - 15.5.1 A Classification Panel may base its belief that further Evaluation Sessions will be required based on a number of factors, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete has only recently entered Competitions sanctioned or recognised by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing; has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.
 - 15.5.2 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition, unless IWAS Wheelchair Fencing specifies otherwise.

Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date

- 15.6 An Athlete may be designated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.
 - 15.6.1 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Review Date.
 - 15.6.2 An Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
 - 15.6.3 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

Changes to Sport Class Criteria

- 15.7 If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:

- 15.7.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
- 15.7.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- 15.7.3 in both instances the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

16 Notification

- 16.1 The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the Athlete and/or National Body or National Paralympic Committee and published as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.
- 16.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must publish the outcome of Athlete Evaluation at the Competition following Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the Classification Master List at IWAS Wheelchair Fencing website.

Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible

17 Sport Class Not Eligible

General Provisions

- 17.1 If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing determines that an Athlete:
- 17.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
 - 17.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition,
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 17.2 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

Absence of Eligible Impairment

- 17.3 If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:
- 17.3.1 will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
 - 17.3.2 will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 17.4 If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.
- 17.5 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing or a Classification Panel (if delegated by [IWAS Wheelchair Fencing]) because that Athlete has
- 17.5.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
 - 17.5.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;
- has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any sport.

Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 17.6 A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.
- 17.6.1 Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
- 17.6.2 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 17.7 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 17.8 If a Classification Panel allocates Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that it has determined that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 17.9 If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Part Six: Protests

Protests

18 Scope of a Protest

- 18.1 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Sport Class Status.
- 18.2 A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

19 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

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

- 19.1 a National Body (see Articles 20-21); or
- 19.2 a National Paralympic Committee (see Articles 20-21); or
- 19.3 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing (see Articles 22-23).

20 National Protests

- 20.1 A National Body or a National Paralympic Committee may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.
- 20.2 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 16 of these Classification Rules) a National Protest must be submitted within one (1) hour of that outcome being published. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition a National Protest must be submitted within fifteen (15) minutes of that outcome being published.
- 20.3 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

21 National Protest Procedure

- 21.1 To submit a National Protest, a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing at the Competition and via IWAS Wheelchair Fencing website, and must include the following:
 - 21.1.1 the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;

- 21.1.2 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
 - 21.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Body or National Paralympic Committee believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
 - 21.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
 - 21.1.5 the Protest Fee set by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 21.2 The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the time frames specified by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, of which there are two possible outcomes:
- 21.2.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this Article 21; or
 - 21.2.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in this Article 21.
- 21.3 If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Body or National Paralympic Committee as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 21.4 If the Protest is accepted:
- 21.4.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R);
 - 21.4.2 the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and
 - 21.4.3 WAS Wheelchair Fencing must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

22 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Protests

- 22.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- 22.1.1 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or

- 22.1.2 a National Body or National Paralympic Committee makes a documented request to IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing

23 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Protest Procedure

- 23.1 If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 23.2 The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it is justified.
- 23.3 If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing makes a Protest:
 - 23.3.1 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
 - 23.3.2 the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
 - 23.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

24 Protest Panel

- 24.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article 24 if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 24.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 24.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
 - 24.3.1 made the Protested Decision; or
 - 24.3.2 conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the National Body, National Paralympic Committee or IWAS Wheelchair Fencing (whichever is relevant).
- 24.4 The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.

- 24.5 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 24.6 The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.
- 24.7 The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Protest is final. A National Body, National Paralympic Committee or IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may not make another Protest at the relevant Competition.

25 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

- 25.1 If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
 - 25.1.1 the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R), pending the resolution of the Protest; and
 - 25.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

26 Special Provisions

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may make arrangements for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

Application during Major Competitions

27 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

- 27.1 The IPC and/or IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

Part Seven: Misconduct during Evaluation Session

28 Failure to Attend Evaluation Session

- 28.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 28.2 An Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends an Evaluation Session.
- 28.3 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities at a Competition, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 28.4 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, no Sport Class will be allocated, and the Athlete will not be permitted to compete at the relevant Competition.

29 Suspension of Evaluation Session

- 29.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 29.1.1 a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
 - 29.1.2 a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - 29.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct its determination in a fair manner;
 - 29.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
 - 29.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
 - 29.1.6 the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
 - 29.1.7 the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

- 29.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
- 29.2.1 an explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant National Body or National Paralympic Committee;
 - 29.2.2 if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
 - 29.2.3 if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the determination is completed.
- 29.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules.
- 29.4 A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

Part Eight: Medical Review

30 Medical Review

- 30.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD).
- 30.2 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 30.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's National Body or National Paralympic Committee (together with a non-refundable fee, specified on the Medical Review Request Form, and any supporting documentation). The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport has changed.
- 30.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 30.5 The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 30.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 30.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Body, National Paralympic Committee or IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 30.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.

Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation

31 Intentional Misrepresentation

- 31.1 It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 31.2 It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.
- 31.3 In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation a hearing will be convened by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 31.4 The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:
 - 31.4.1 disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
 - 31.4.2 being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;
 - 31.4.3 suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
 - 31.4.4 publication of their names and suspension period.
- 31.5 Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.
- 31.6 Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period of time from four years to life.

- 31.7 If another International Sports Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 31.8 Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 31.9 Any disciplinary action taken by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.

Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

32 Classification Data

- 32.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 32.2 All Classification Data Processed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

33 Consent and Processing

- 33.1 Subject to Article 33.3, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 33.2 If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 33.3 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may only Process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

34 Classification Research

- 34.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 34.2 The use by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 34.3 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to IWAS Wheelchair Fencing solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 34.4 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If IWAS Wheelchair Fencing wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

35 Notification to Athletes

- 35.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

- 35.1.1 that fact that IWAS Wheelchair Fencing is collecting the Classification Data; and
- 35.1.2 the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
- 35.1.3 the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

36 Classification Data Security

- 36.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must:
 - 36.1.1 protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and
 - 36.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

37 Disclosures of Classification Data

- 37.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.
- 37.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

38 Retaining Classification Data

- 38.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it must be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.
- 38.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.
- 38.3 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

39 Access Rights to Classification Data

- 39.1 Athletes may request from IWAS Wheelchair Fencing:
- 39.1.1 confirmation of whether or not that IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
 - 39.1.2 a copy of the Classification Data held by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing; and/or
 - 39.1.3 correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.
- 39.2 A request may be made by an Athlete or a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

40 Classification Master Lists

- 40.1 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 40.2 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Bodies on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing website.

Part Eleven: Appeals

41 Appeal

- 41.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

42 Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal

- 42.1 An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- 42.1.1 a National Body; or
 - 42.1.2 a National Paralympic Committee.

43 Appeals

- 43.1 If a National Body or National Paralympic Committee considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been

allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal.

- 43.2 The Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.
- 43.3 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable BAC Bylaws.

44 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

- 44.1 The IPC and/or IWAS Wheelchair Fencing may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

Part Twelve: Glossary

Adaptive Equipment: Implements and apparatus adapted to the special needs of Athletes, and used by Athletes during Competition to facilitate participation and/or to achieve results.

Appeals: The means by which a complaint that IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the international level (as defined by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing) or national level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

Athlete Evaluation: The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules in order that an Athlete may be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

Athlete Support Personnel: Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

BAC: The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

Chief Classifier: A classifier appointed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

Classification: Grouping Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline. This is also referred to as Athlete Classification.

Classification Data: Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Body and/or any other person to a Classification Organisation in connection with Classification.

Classification Intelligence: Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.

Classification Master List: A list made available by the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

Classification Not Completed: the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Classification Organisation: Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

Classification Panel: A group of Classifiers, appointed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel: Persons, including Classifiers, acting with the authority of a Classification Organisation in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example administrative officers.

Classification Rules: Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

Classification System: The framework used by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to develop and designate Sport Classes within a IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Classifier: A person authorised as an official by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

Classifier Certification: The processes by which IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

Classifier Competencies: The qualifications and abilities that IWAS Wheelchair Fencing deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Classifier Code of Conduct: The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Code: The Athlete Classification Code 2015 together with the International Standards for: Athlete Evaluation; Eligible Impairments; Protests and Appeals; Classifier Personnel and Training; and Classification Data Protection.

Competition: A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

Compliance: The implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

Continuing Education: The delivery of higher knowledge and practical skills specified by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to preserve and/or advance knowledge and skills as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

Diagnostic Information: Medical records and/or any other documentation that enables IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Underlying Health Condition

Eligible Impairment: An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

Eligibility Assessment Committee: An ad hoc body formed to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

Entry Criteria: Standards set by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing relating to the expertise or experience levels of persons who wish to be Classifiers. This may be, for example, former Athletes or coaches, sports scientists, physical educators and medical professionals, all of whom have the qualifications and abilities relevant to conduct all, or specific parts of, Athlete Evaluation.

Entry-level Education: the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) under its governance.

Evaluation Session: the session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport; and allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to that sport. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

Event: A single race, match, game or singular sport contest.

First Appearance: The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

Fixed Review Date: A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

Head of Classification: A person appointed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Health Condition: A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

Impairment: A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

Intellectual Impairment: A limitation in intellectual functioning and adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social and practical adaptive skills that originates before the age of eighteen (18).

Intentional Misrepresentation: A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Body as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to a IWAS Wheelchair Fencing and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class.

International Competitions: A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

International Sport Federation: A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a IWAS Wheelchair Fencing by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

International Standards: A document complementing the Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

Maintaining Certification: The advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

Major Competition Organiser: An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

Medical Diagnostics Form: a form that a National Body or National Paralympic Committee must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

Medical Review: The process by which IWAS Wheelchair Fencing identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

Medical Review Request: A request made by a National Body or National Paralympic Committee for Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

Models of Best Practice: An ad hoc guidance document prepared by the IPC to assist in the implementation of the Code and International Standards.

National Body: Refers to the national member of an International Sport Federation.

National Laws: The national data protection and privacy laws, regulations and policies applicable to a Classification Organisation.

National Paralympic Committees: The national member of the IPC who is the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment in that country or territory. These are the national members of the IPC.

National Protest: A Protest made by a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

Non-Competition Venue: Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing as being a place or location where Athlete Evaluation is made available to Athletes in order that they may be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status.

Observation in Competition: The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination

as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

Paralympic Games: Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

Permanent: The term Permanent as used in the Code and Standards describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principle effects are lifelong.

Personal Information: Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

Physical Impairment: An Impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Leg Length Difference and Short Stature.

Process/Processing: The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

Protested Athlete: An Athlete whose Sport Class is being challenged.

Protested Decision: The Sport Class decision being challenged.

Protest Documents: The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

Protest Fee: The fee prescribed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, payable by the National Body or National Paralympic Committee when submitting a Protest.

Protest Form: The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.

Protest: The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

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

Re-certification: The process by which IWAS Wheelchair Fencing must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

Recognised Competition: A Competition that is sanctioned or approved by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Research Purposes: Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including the impact of Impairment on the fundamental activities in each specific sport and the impact of assistive technology on such activities.

Signatories: Any organisation that accepts the Code and commits to implement it and the International Standards by way of its Classification Rules.

Sport Class: A category for Competition defined by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport.

Sport Class Status: A designation applied to a Sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

Tracking Code Observation Assessment (OA): a designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

Underlying Health Condition: A Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.

Vision Impairment: An Impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an Athlete's vision.

Appendix One

Wheelchair Fencing Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment

This appendix is intended to outline the process by which an athlete will be classified and allocated to which ever wheelchair Fencing Sport Class they are eligible.

This appendix is divided into three sections:

1. Eligible Impairment Types
2. Minimum Impairment Criteria
3. Methods of assessment
4. Sports Classes

1. Eligible and Non-Eligible Impairment Types for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing

1.1 Eligible Impairment Types

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health conditions	*Relevant ICF Impairment code
Impaired Muscle Power Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra-or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.	B730
Limb Deficiency Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).	S740 S750
Hypertonia Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.	B735

Ataxia Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.	B760
Athetosis Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.	B7650
Impaired Passive Range of Movement Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.	Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include athrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.	B7100-7102

*For further information on ICF codes, including how to obtain a copy of the ICF, visit the website at <http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>.

1.2 Non-Eligible Impairments

The following Impairment types are examples of non-eligible Impairments for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing:

- Mental functions (v140-189), including impairments of psychomotor control (b1470), quality of psychomotor functions (b1471), visuospatial perception (b1565), higher-level cognitive functions required for organization and planning movement (b1641); mental functions required for sequencing and coordinating complex, purposeful movements (b176)
 - Hearing functions (b230-249)
 - Pain (b280-0289)
 - Joint instability (b715), including unstable shoulder joint and joint dislocation
 - Muscle endurance functions (b740)
 - Motor reflex functions (b750)
 - involuntary movement reaction functions (b755)
 - Tics and mannerism (b7652)
 - Stereotypes and motor perseveration (b7653)
 - Cardiovascular functions (b410-429)
 - Respiratory functions (b440-449)
 - Functions related to metabolism and the endocrine system (b540-559)
 - Short Stature (s730.343, s750.343, s760.349)
 - Visual impairment (b201)
- (ICF Codes)

1.3 Athletes, who are affected by an Eligible Impairment in combination with any of the non-eligible impairments listed in Article 1.2 of this Appendix, will be assessed against the extent of Activity Limitation resulting from the Eligible Impairment only.

1.4 The Eligible Impairment is identified by means of the Medical Diagnostics Form and attached medical documentation that must be made available to the Classification Panel before Athlete Evaluation begins

2. Minimum Impairment Criteria

In order to be eligible to compete in Wheelchair Fencing, the Athlete's Eligible Impairment as defined in Article 1.1 of this Appendix must meet one of the Minimum Impairment Criteria described below. The minimum Impairment criteria (MIC) must be demonstrated by the athlete either prior to or as part of the Athlete Assessment.

2.1 Limb Deficiency (s720-750)

Amputation through the ankle (Syme's amputation), or
Dysmelia resulting in the absence of a full ankle joint.

2.2 Impaired Muscle Power (b730)

Decrease in muscle strength of at least 20 points in one lower limb, or

A decrease of at least 25 points in both lower limbs cross ankle plantar- and dorsiflexion, inversion and eversion, knee flexion and extension, hip flexion and extension and hip adduction and abduction.

(max. 100 points in both lower limbs)

2.3 Impaired passive range of movement (b7100-7102)

Complete ankylosis in one ankle joint, or

Impaired range of movement that results in a functional deficit in the lower limbs comparable to the loss of muscle strength described in 2.2.

Decrease in the ROM of at least 20 points in one lower limb or

At least 25 points in both lower limbs cross ankle plantar- and dorsiflexion, inversion and eversion, knee flexion and extension, hip flexion and extension and hip adduction and abduction.

(max. 100 points in both lower limbs)

2.4 Hypertonia

Hypertonia is defined as increased muscle tone which is caused by central nervous system impairment and which can result in increased rigidity in muscle and increased resistance to passive lengthening of the muscle.

For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or rigidity the modified Ashworth Scale can be used, or points are awarded for each controlled action from the Range of Motion Dysfunction Score Chart.

Athletes with Hypertonia must demonstrate grade 1 or 1+ on the Modified Ashworth Scale or 4 points on the ROM dysfunction Score, and must show a functional deficit in the lower limbs restricting joint movement.

2.5 Ataxia

Ataxia is a term for a group of disorders that affect co-ordination, balance and speech.

Eligible Ataxias must result from motor nervous system dysfunction. Ataxia symptoms may develop as the result of trauma, a stroke, multiple sclerosis, a brain tumour, nutritional deficiencies or other problems that damage the brain or nervous system.

For athletes affected by ataxia, where balance, walking and coordination are affected, the ataxic movement must be clearly evident to the classification panel during the assessment. Tests that may be useful for determining this include but are not limited to:

- Finger to nose test (athlete touches classifiers finger held in front of them to own nose.)
- Alternate hand fist clenching (athletes arm outstretched in front)
- Roll of forearms around each other (arms in 90-degree elbow flexion and in rotation)
- Sitting, hands touching shoulder from knee.
- Heel shin test (draw the heel of one leg along the length of the opposite shin)
- Have a look at the walk and gait of the athlete.

Alternating movements of the pair of muscles/joints should be performed at a steady pace, and at an increasing pace. Fast movements should be used if the impairment of coordination is not obvious on moderate movements.

2.6 Athetosis

Athetosis is a symptom characterised by unwanted posturing and slow, involuntary, convoluted writhing movements of the fingers, hands, feet and in some cases arms, legs and neck. It is caused by damage to the motor control of centres of the brain. When evaluating an athlete, classifiers must satisfy itself that athetosis is clearly evident and at least one of the following should be observed:

- involuntary movement of the toes or lower extremities despite the athlete trying to remain still.
- Involuntary movement of the upper extremities that affects balance and walking.
- Inability to hold the body still – swaying of the body.
- Characteristic athetoid posturing of the limbs and/or trunk.

The athlete will not be eligible if the athetoid movements of the face are the sole impairment.

3. Methods of Assessment

Wheelchair Fencing Classification is based upon a combination of physical and technical assessment. Muscle power, range of motion and co-ordination will all be assessed including the trunk stability and muscle power in the fencing arm.

The following methods of assessment will be used during the Athlete technical and physical assessment.

- 3.1 Manual Muscle testing is conducted following Kendall, F.P., McCreary, E.K., Provance, P.G., McIntyre Rodgers, M., & Romani, W.A. (2005). *Muscles: Testing and function with posture and pain*. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- 3.2 The neurological and functional assessment of athletes with loss of muscle power will be conducted in accordance with the ASIA Classification and will be taken into consideration when provided by a medical practitioner. (Maynard (1997): *International Standards for Neurological and Functional Classification of Spinal Cord Injury*).
- 3.3 Coordination-related impairments are evaluated by means of the Modified Ashworth Scale as defined in Bohannon, R. and Smith, M. (1987). "Interrater reliability of a modified Ashworth scale of muscle spasticity." *Physical Therapy* 67(2): 206.

For range of motion dysfunction; co-ordination is the principal parameter to evaluate cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions. For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or athetosis, points are awarded for each controlled action. This is used in conjunction with the Modified Ashworth Scale, when appropriate.
- 3.4 Limitations in active and passive range of movement are assessed from anatomical reference points as identified in Berryman Reese, N., & Bandy, W.D. (2002). *Joint Range of Motion and Muscle Length Testing*. W.B. Saunders Company.

The range of motion in the case of injury being of orthopaedic origin, and may have problems of ankylosis of latent pathology in a reduction of range of movement, the point score (from 0 to 5)
- 3.5 Loss of limb is assessed by means of measurement of the anatomical reference points as identified in Berryman Reese, N., & Bandy, W.D. (2002). *Joint Range of Motion and Muscle Length Testing*. W.B. Saunders Company.
- 3.6 Muscle power and range of movement are assessed over the functional range for the sport of Wheelchair Fencing as described in Table 1 below.

The muscle power will be assessed according to the point score based upon the Daniels and Worthingham (D & W) scale published in 2002.
- 3.7 The assessment of trunk stability for the purpose of identifying the level of balance and recovery is performed using the bench test and wheelchair functional tests in Table 2 below.
- 3.8 The Classifiers may ask the Athlete to undergo a Technical Assessment. During the Technical Assessment the Athlete will be asked to perform or simulate one or more functional fencing moves, which includes but is not limited to: en garde positioning, lunge, recovery and backward lean. Such assessment should typically take place during official training and may be confirmed by the observation in competition.

3.1 Assessments Regarding the use of Adaptive Equipment:

- 3.1.1 Besides allocating a Sport Class, the Classification Panel must also determine if, and to what extent, the Athlete may use any adaptive equipment in competition.
- 3.1.2 The Athlete may only use adaptive equipment, i.e. strapping or individualised weapon handles for grip in those with impaired hand/arm function, if permitted by the Classification Panel and indicated on the Classification card. In case the Athlete would like to use further adaptive equipment, and the Athlete has a Sport Class Status Confirmed or Review with Fixed Review Date, he or she shall request for a re-assessment pursuant to the Medical Review procedures defined in these Rules.

3.2 Assessment of the Muscle Power in the Fencing Arm

3.2.1 Besides identifying the Sport Class, the Classification Panel will also assess muscle power in the fencing arm for athletes in Sport Class 1 for the purpose of identifying if the Athlete may use an adapted weapon grip or strapping to hold the weapon in place.

3.2.2 The assessment of muscle power in the fencing arm includes:

- Assessment of Pronation/supination in the forearm
- Assessment of wrist flexion/extension
- Assessment of finger flexion
- Assessment of thumb and finger opposition

3.3 Observation in Competition

If a Classification Panel requires an athlete to complete observation in competition this will take place during the first appearance, unless this is part of a Review.

All members of the Classification panel will observe the athlete, during any part of the competition or competitive fencing. This is to confirm when necessary, the activities demonstrated during the physical and technical assessment involving the Wheelchair fencing tests, co-ordination, range of motion and demonstrated muscle strength.

During competitive fencing the classifiers will observe the repeated sports specific activities such as lunge and recovery, at varying speeds and direction. Fine coordination skills with the weapon and reactions including range of motion used will be observed.

3.3.1 Observation Assessment

Athletes will be observed during competitive fencing and may also be observed during training. The Athletes will be observed by the classification Panel during the preliminary rounds of the competition and will have sport specific and functional activities assessed.

Classifiers will observe the activities of the lunge, recovery, range of motion of the trunk, accuracy and coordination. They will observe speeds, direction, duration and reaction times in order to evaluate the functionality of the athlete. The Assessment will be marked on a separate Observation Card and each item scored from 0-3. This will be compared to the bench test and functional assessments made during the physical assessment. The final classification status will be given depending on the results of these two assessments.

The final results of the assessments will be recorded on the Athlete's Classification Card.

3.4

Table 1 Wheelchair Fencing Bench Tests - Upper and Lower Limbs

	JOINT	MOVEMENT	FULL R.O.M	Muscle Test		ROM Dysfunction	
				Right	Left	Right	Left
Upper Limbs							
FENCING ARM	Shoulder	Flexion	170				
		Extension	40				
		Abduction	180				
		Adduction	40				
		Ext. rotation	70				
		Int. rotation	70				
	Elbow	Flexion	150				
		Extension	10				
		Pronation	90				
		Supination	90				
	Wrist	Flexion	50				
		Extension	60				
		Ulnar flexion	40				
		Radial flexion	30				
	Fingers	Flexion	90				
		Adduction					
NON FENCING ARM	Shoulder	Adduction	40				
	Elbow	Flexion	150				
	Fingers	Flexion	90				
Lower Limbs							
LOWER LIMB	Hip	Flexion	90				
		Extension	10				
		Abduction	40				
		Adduction	30				
	Knee	Extension	5				
		Flexion	90				
	Ankle	Plantar Flexion	50				
		Dorsiflexion	30				
		Eversion/Pronation	30				
		Inversion/supination	50				

3.5

Table 2

Wheelchair Fencing Bench Tests Trunk and Functional Tests

TRUNK	BENCH TEST (0-5)	Flexion upper	
		Flexion lower	
		Extension upper	
		Extension lower	
		Lateral flexion	
		TOTAL	OF 25
	WHEELCHAIR FUNCTIONAL TEST (0-3)	1.Upper Extension	
		2. Side balance	
		3. Lumber extension	
		4. Side balance with weapon	
		5. 45° rotated extension	
		6. Hold 45° inclination	
		TOTAL	OF 18
		TOTAL TRUNK	OF 43

3.6 Point Scoring for Wheelchair Fencing Bench Tests

Muscle power:

0 point: zero- none of the available ROM gravity eliminated and there is no palpable or observable muscle contraction.

1 point: trace – none of the available ROM gravity eliminated and there is a palpable or observable flicker of muscle contraction

2 points: poor – the full available ROM gravity eliminated

3 points: fair – the full available ROM against gravity

4 points: good- the full available ROM against moderate resistance

5 points: normal – the full available ROM against gravity against maximal resistance.

Range of Motion Dysfunction

Co-ordination is the principal parameter to evaluate cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions.

For athletes affected by spasticity, dystonia or athetosis, points are awarded for each controlled action as follows:

1 point: non-functional movement, motory co-ordination is minimal or non-existent. (or Modified Ashworth score = 4)

2 points: sequence of movement can only happen very slowly and with difficulty. If effected with rapid repetition, it will not exceed 25% of the normal range of movement. (or modified Ashworth Score = 3)

3 points: as above, up to 50% of full range of movement. (or Modified Ashworth Score = 2)

4 points: slight un co-ordination of movements and / or not more than 75% of normal range of movement. (or Modified Ashworth Scale = 1 or 1+)

5 points: normal motory co-ordination. (or modified Ashworth Scale = 0)

Used in conjunction with the Modified Ashworth Scale, below, when appropriate.

Modified Ashworth Scale – for Spasticity

The Modified Ashworth Scale (MAS) measures resistance during passive soft tissue stretching. MAS is performed in the supine position. The MAS is performed while moving the limb at “the speed of gravity”; this is defined as the same speed at which a non-spastic limb would drop naturally.

Scoring

0 = Normal tone, no increase in tone

1 = Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch and release or minimal resistance at the end of the range of motion (ROM) when the affected part(s) is moved in flexion or extension.

1+ = Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder (less than half) of the ROM

2 = More marked increase in muscle tone through most of the ROM, but affected part(s) easily moved

3 = Considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement difficult

4 = Affected part(s) rigid in flexion or extension

The range of motion in the case of injury being of orthopaedic origin, and may have problems of ankylosis of latent pathology in a reduction of range of movement, the point score (from 0 to 5) is expressed as follows;

0 point: no range of movement

1 points: minimal range of movement

2 points: 1/4 of normal range of movement

3 points: 1/2 of normal range of movement

4 points: 3/4 of normal range of movement

5 points: normal range of movement

3.7 Point Score for Wheelchair Functional Tests

Functional tests, to be performed in the wheelchair, consist of an evaluation of the extension and lateral inclination ability of the chest in different positions, with or without the use of a weapon. The tested movements repeat specific technical moves, e.g. lunge, i.e. a sudden and improvised lateral inclination of the trunk with the weapon in the hand, with simultaneous extension of the elbow, or as many fast return movements of the chest into its original position (or inclination from the opposite side) as for a "point of measurement" (in order to avoid hits by the opponent). A point score as follows is attributed during the tests:

0 Point: no function, movement cannot be put into effect

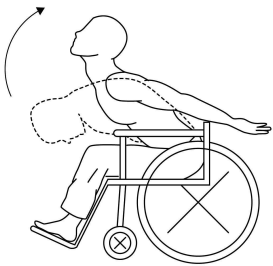
1 Point: very weak execution, minimum movement; the fencer can begin but not complete the movements.

2 Points: weak execution, fair movement; can complete the movement with difficulty.

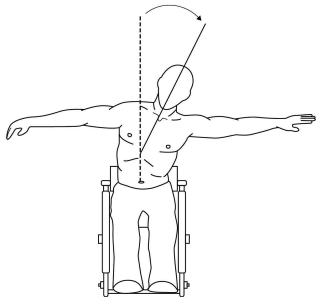
3 Points: normal execution.

Wheelchair Function Tests

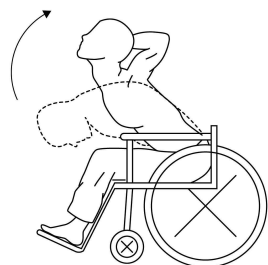
Test N° 1: Upper Extension

	Consists of an evaluation of the extension of dorsal musculature: the subject, seated in the wheelchair, from a forward position of the trunk, tries to return to an upright position, contracting the dorsal muscles and maintaining the upper limbs retroflexed.
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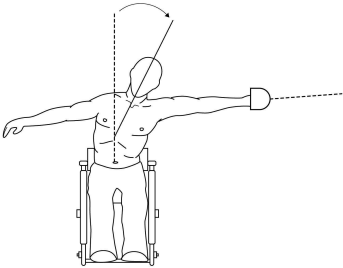
Test N° 2: Side Balance

	Is an evaluation of lateral balance with abducted upper limbs: the athlete has to move his own centre of gravity laterally to the right and left to the point where he would lose balance, thereby the lateral muscle function of the trunk and of the oblique abdominal can be evaluated as well as the lumbar muscle.
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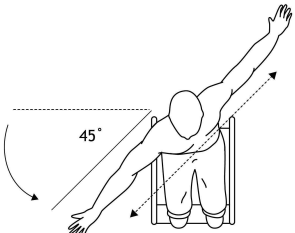
Test N° 3: Lumbar Extension

	(Similar to test no 1) Evaluates the extension of the trunk, but more specifically the lumbar muscles. The exercise is executed with the hands on the back of the neck, thus excluding both the inertial component of upper limb movement (violently retroflexive in test no 1) and the aid of the upper dorsal muscles of the trunk.
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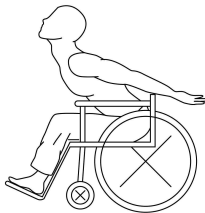
Test N° 4: Side Balance with Weapon

	Similar to test no 2, but presents more difficulties, since it must be executed holding the weapon, the weight of which significantly reduces the possibility of lateral inclination of the trunk without losing balance. The execution of tests No 2 and 4 will be performed firstly with the limb on the opposite side (on the side towards which the athlete does not move), not holding either the wheelchair, nor the hand rim, nor the arm rest in order not to discredit the validity of the exercise. And secondly with the opposing limb holding onto the wheelchair, arm rest or rim. The athlete will be requested to hit a target during this test.
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Test N° 5: 45degree Rotated Extension

	Evaluates a trunk movement directed half the way between test 1 / 3 and 2 / 4 ; the exercise is executed holding; firstly without holding onto the chair, arm rest or rim, and Secondly with the opposing limb holding the wheelchair, arm rest or rim. Fencers of class 2 normally cannot lean forward in this direction without helping themselves pushing the fencing arm against their leg.
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Test N°6: 45 Degree Hold

	Similar to test no 1; evaluates the extension of the trunk, lumbar and dorsal muscles, the exercise is executed holding the position leaning forward at 45°
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4. Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status

Athletes, who are eligible to compete and have the minimum Impairment criteria are allocated a Sports Class. The Sport Class is allocated following the full athlete assessment taking into consideration the point scores for the range of movement, muscle power/strength and coordination testing, and the Wheelchair Function tests, and by confirmation by athlete observation during fencing in competition and training.

Athletes, who meet the Minimum Disability Criteria defined in Article 2 of this Appendix, will be allocated one of the below four Sport Classes:

Athletes, who are eligible to compete, are classified into the following Sport Classes.

4.1 Class 1A

Athletes with no sitting balance who have a handicapped playing arm. No efficient elbow extension against gravity and no residual function of the hand which makes it necessary to fix the weapon with a bandage. Such a class is comparable to the old ISMGF 1A, or tetraplegics with spinal lesions level C5/C6.

Functional Test Score:

Test 1 and 2 combined total = less than 2 points

Test 3, 4, 5 and 6 combined total = maximum 1 point

Trunk and lower limb bench tests = 0

No efficient elbow extension ROM = 1 or 2

Finger and wrist Muscle strength = 0

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.2 Class 1B

Athletes without sitting balance and affected fencing arm. Functional elbow extension but no functional finger flexion. The weapon has to be fixed with a bandage. Comparable to complete tetraplegics level C7/C8 or higher incomplete lesion.

Functional Test Score:

Test 1 and 2 combined total = less than 4

Test 3, 4, 5 and 6 combined total = maximum of 4 points

Trunk and lower limb Bench Tests = 0

Fencing arm extension and Muscle strength = 4 to 5

Finger functional flexion = 0

Weapon has to be fixed to the hand.

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.3 Class 2

Athletes with fair sitting balance and normal fencing arm. e.g. paraplegic type T1 - T9 or incomplete tetraplegics with minimally affected fencing arm and good sitting balance.

Functional Test Scores:

Test 1 and 2 total = not more than 4 points

Test 3, 4, 5 and 5 combined total = maximum of 6 points

Trunk and lower limb Bench tests = below 3, not against gravity

Fencing Arm ROM = 4 or 5

Fencing arm muscle strength = minimum 4 or 5

Modified Ashworth Scale = 1+ /2 or above for the fencing arm. (for neurological conditions)

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.4 Class 3

Athletes with good Sitting balance, without support of legs and normal fencing arm, e.g. paraplegics from T10 to L2

Functional Test Scores:

Test 1 = 3

Test 2 = 3 (or a minimum of 5 points for test 1 and 2 combined.)

Test 3, 4 and 5, total = a minimum of 6 points

Test 6 = 3

Bench Tests:

Muscle power tests = 4 or 5

Fencing arm Muscle strength = 4 to 5

Fencing arm ROM = 5

Lower limb muscle strength test to show a reduction of a maximum 20 points.

Trunk bench test, against gravity = 4 or 5

Subjects with double above the knee amputation with short stumps, or incomplete lesions above T10 or comparable disabilities can be included in this class, provided that the legs can help in maintaining the sitting balance.

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

4.5 Class 4

Athletes with good sitting balance with the support of lower limbs and normal fencing arm, e.g. with lesion below L4 or comparable disability.

Functional tests scores:

Test 1 = 3 point

Test 2 = 3, point

Test 3, 4 and 5 having a minimum of 8 points. (Test 4 and 5 must be holding a weapon)

Bench test scores:

Trunk = 5

Hip Adduction = 4 or 5

Plantar Flexion = 4 or 5

Fencing arm scores = 5

Modified Ashworth Scale = 0

All coordination Test scores = 5

Confirmation of Class is made by Observational Assessment during the competition and training.

CATEGORIES

Currently at official IWF competitions, the Sport Classes are combined into the following three categories for each event:

- Category A: Sport Classes 3 and 4.
- Category B: Sport Class 2
- Category C: Sport Classes 1A and 1B

Appendix TWO

1 Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes

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, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impaired metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

2 Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes

A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in the above, but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

Health Conditions that primarily cause pain; primarily cause fatigue; primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature do *not* lead to an Eligible Impairment.

Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial *pain*-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.