



# **Classification Rules**

1/12/2023

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# PART 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

## 1. Scope and Application

### Adoption

- 1.1. These Classification Rules are referred to throughout this document as the '**Classification Rules**'.
- 1.2. These Classification Rules have been adopted by Wheelchair Rugby Australia (**WRA**) on 1 December 2023.
- 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 are supplemented by a number of Classification forms. These forms are available from Wheelchair Rugby Australia and can be amended by WRA from time to time.

### Classification

- 1.5. Classification is undertaken to:
  - (a) define who is eligible to compete in wheelchair rugby; and
  - (b) group Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each sport or specific discipline.

### Application

- 1.6. These Classification Rules apply only to WRA Para-sport Competition and Classification for Athletes with impairments that sit within the scope of the International Paralympic Committee (**IPC**) Athlete Classification Code and the relevant World Wheelchair Rugby (**WWR**) rules. These rules do not apply to Athletes with other disabilities involved in WRA sport.
- 1.7. These Classification Rules do not apply to WWR level Competition and Athlete Evaluation. International Level Athlete Evaluation and Competition is governed by the WWR and respective WWR Classification Rules & Handbook.
- 1.8. These Classification Rules apply to:
  - (a) All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered with WRA, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by WRA. They are not mandatory for implementation at club/regional/social level Competition. Event entry packs will stipulate if these classification rules apply.
  - (b) WRA employees, contractors and volunteers;
  - (c) WRA Member organisations; and

- (d) Any other person or organisation who is engaged by WRA to support Classification activities.
- 1.9. These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of WRA.

### **Interpretation and Relationship to other key documents**

- 1.10. These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted text but in a manner that is consistent with the IPC Athlete Classification Code, the PA Athlete Classification Policy and Classification Standards and the WWR Classification Rules & Handbook.
- 1.11. In the event that these Rules fail to provide for a matter covered by a provision in the WWR Rules or PA Athlete Classification Policy or Standards, the provisions appearing in the WWR Rules or PA Athlete Classification Policy and Standards shall apply and be regarded as being part of these Rules.
- 1.12. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other document, these Classification Rules shall take precedence.

### **Amendments to the Rules**

- 1.13. These Classification Rules may be amended at any time by WRA as a result, for example, of changes in the WWR Classification Rules & Handbook or where WRA considers it necessary to do so.

### **WWR Rules and International Level Classification**

- 1.14. Australian Athletes who hold an International Level Classification will use the WWR allocated class for all national level Competition.
- 1.15. WWR Level Classification outcomes supersede any WRA National and provisional level Classification.
- 1.16. Where an Athlete holds an International Level Classification, but no longer wishes to compete at an International Level, the shall retire from International Competition through WWR's processes.

### **National Level Classification Requirements**

- 1.17. In order to participate in national and state level Competition, Athletes must have been allocated a Sports Class (other than "Sport Class Not Eligible") and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules. A National Level Classification is desirable for National Championship participation, however, a Provisional Classification may be accepted from time to time. WRA reserves the right to adjust these requirements at its discretion.

- 1.18. WRA will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions or other such locations or processes as defined by WRA. WRA will provide Athletes with advance notice of Classification opportunities.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- 1.19. 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**

- 1.20. The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
- (a) be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
  - (b) participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
  - (c) ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions / Diagnosis and Eligible Impairments is provided to WRA;
  - (d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules;
  - (e) contribute to the process of education and awareness, and Classification research; and
  - (f) abide by the WRA Code of Conduct.

### **Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

- 1.21. 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 the Classification System; and
  - (d) cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

### **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

- 1.22. 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 the Classification System, including participation in education and research; and
- (d) cooperate with any investigation concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

## **PART 2: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

### **Classification Personnel**

- 2.1. Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. WRA will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, administration and delivery of Classification for WRA. Classifiers are WRA officials responsible to conduct Athlete Evaluation according to the specific requirements of WRA.
- 2.2. WRA will appoint Classification Personnel to:
  - (a) facilitate compliance with IPC Code, IF Classification Rules and PA Athlete Classification Policy and Standards;
  - (b) development of WRA Classification program, policies and procedures and expectations of their members;
  - (c) aid in the development of a Classification program plan including short and long term planning;
  - (d) management of WRA classification budget and financial reporting;
  - (e) manage Classification Personnel recruitment, training and performance management;
  - (f) embed safeguards and integrity practices within the WRA Classification program including but not limited to child safety, physical and mental wellbeing support, dispute resolution processes, receipt of Classification Intelligence and Intentional Misrepresentation;
  - (g) management of Classification requirements of WRA High Performance programs;
  - (h) plan and organise national level Athlete Evaluation opportunities and appointment of Classification Panels;
  - (i) classification data and storage;
  - (j) management of the WRA Classification Masterlist;
  - (k) develop and deliver Classification education and awareness programs for stakeholders;

- (l) manage Classification Research and Administration;
  - (m) implement changes to Classification Systems; and
  - (n) appoint a key Classification contact with WWR, other NPCs and other key stakeholders.
- 2.3. WRA may delegate the above responsibilities to one or a number of key personnel including but not limited to:
- (a) A Classification Manager/Coordinator;
  - (b) Classification Administrator for data management purposes;
  - (c) WRA Appointed Classification Advisory Group or WRA Appointed Head of Classification;
  - (d) An Athlete representative/s;
  - (e) Any other area of WRA business, such as embedding Classifier education within officiating department, Classification integrity within WRA Member Services; and
  - (f) WRA state members or other organisations by way of agreement.
- 2.4. Any WRA Classifier designated with some or all of the above responsibilities by WRA may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier at any Classification opportunity/Event.

## **Classifier Roles**

### Chief Classifier

- 2.5. A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by WRA to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or Event. WRA may appoint a specific Chief Classifier, or not, at its sole discretion.

### National Level Classifiers

- 2.6. A National Level Classifier is a person authorised as a WRA official and certified by WRA to conduct some or all components of National Level Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 2.7. Australian Classifiers who hold an active WWR International Level Classification Certification, are:
- (a) recognised by WRA as meeting the necessary competencies as a National Level Classifier; and
  - (b) expected to contribute to WRA at a national level, unless their conduct or other certification requirements prevent it.

### Trainee National Level Classifiers

- 2.8. A Trainee National Level Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal National Level training by WRA.
- 2.9. WRA may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop their Classifier Competencies.

### **National Classifier Certification and Competencies**

- 2.10. A National Level Classifier will be certified by WRA once they have achieved the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 2.11. WRA will provide training and ongoing education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 2.12. WRA Classifier Competencies include:
  - (a) an understanding of these Classification Rules;
  - (b) an understanding of wheelchair rugby including an understanding of the WWR sport technical rules;
  - (c) a basic understanding of the IPC Code, PA Athlete Classification Policy and Classification Standards; and
  - (d) a professional qualification(s) including that PI Classifiers must be a certified health professional with WRA at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a medical doctor or physiotherapist.
- 2.13. WRA has established a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process includes:
  - (a) a process for the certification of National Level Classifiers (if relevant);
  - (b) quality assessment and ongoing education for period of certification;
  - (c) a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification;
  - (d) a process for re-certification of Classifiers; and
  - (e) a process for non-active National level Classifiers.

### **Prerequisite National Level Classifier criteria**

- 2.14. The following criteria are pre-requisites for National Level Physical Impairment (**PI**) Classifiers:
  - (a) candidate qualification and experience such as current medical doctor or Physiotherapy registrations;
  - (b) candidate holds a current Working with Children clearance in the state of residence and appointment; and
  - (c) minimum age of 18 years.



- 2.15. WRA may modify the Classifier scope and certification requirements as it deems necessary from time to time.

### **Classifier Education model**

- 2.16. The Classifier Education model will follow:
- (a) Basic education and training including theoretical modules (online or face-to-face) and practical learning opportunities – both formal and informal
  - (c) Ongoing education
  - (d) Recertification requirements

### **National Level Classifier Certification**

- 2.17. Certification is completed once a Classifier Agreement has been signed by the National level Classifier.
- 2.18. Classifier details will be stored according to WRA's Privacy Policy.

### **Maintaining Certification as a National Level Classifier**

- 2.19. To retain certification as a WRA National Level Classifier, the Classifier must:
- (a) participate in a minimum of one Classification activity annually (where practicable and available in the Classifier's location);
  - (b) complete any compulsory ongoing professional development opportunities, such as forums, updates, discussion boards, peer mentoring and other formal and informal methods;
  - (c) complete any compulsory reflective practice opportunities; and
  - (d) maintain professional registration or clearances (such as working with children) relevant to the role of Classifier.

### **Classification Personnel Code of Conduct**

- 2.20. The integrity of Classification in WRA depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. All WRA Classification Personnel must comply with the WRA General Code of Conduct and WRA Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 2.21. National level Classification Personnel must:
- (a) accept the fundamental Para-sport values of honesty, human rights, fairness, justice, non-discrimination and personal integrity;
  - (b) act with dignity, integrity and equality;
  - (c) safeguard Athletes' interests, priorities and opportunity to participate in fair competition and excel in sport;

- (d) safeguard Athletes' physical and psychological health and wellbeing;
- (e) comply with local public health advice and review any health risk associated with the delivery of classification activities;
- (f) conduct themselves with integrity, maintaining a high standard of personal conduct and avoid any behaviour or action that would tarnish or give the impression of tarnishing the reputation of the Paralympic Movement or WRA;
- (g) have no undisclosed direct or indirect interest in or any relationship with any outside organisation or person that might affect or be reasonably misunderstood by others to be affecting their objectivity, judgement, or conduct in carrying out the duties and responsibilities that they have in conjunction with WRA Classification activities. Any potential conflicts of interest are to be declared;
- (h) avoid assuming any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a Competition, unless authorised by WRA. For example, a Classifier should avoid acting as a technical official, coach or health care professional at a Competition when acting as a Classifier at that same Competition;
- (i) avoid any improper use of information or assets;
- (j) not seek or accept gifts or gratuities from any organisation or individual outside of WRA (or its members);
- (k) perform their duties courteously, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes;
- (l) respect Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, ensuring a courteous and collaborative environment during the Classification process;
- (m) maintain confidentiality of Classification information and abide by other WRA data protection mechanisms;
- (n) perform Classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances; and
- (o) comply with WRA Codes of Conduct or other requirements as outlined by WRA.

2.22. Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Code of Conduct should report this to WRA.

2.23. If WRA receives such a report, it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.

2.24. WRA has sole discretion to determine whether or not a Classification Personnel has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

## **PART 3: ATHLETE EVALUATION**

### **General Provisions**

- 3.1. WRA has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a National Level Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 3.2. National Level Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
  - (a) an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for wheelchair rugby (Eligibility Assessment);
  - (b) an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for wheelchair rugby; and
  - (c) the allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- 3.3. WRA may also offer Provisional Level Classification which is a Classification process available to Athletes as an entry level Classification process or to Athletes in locations where National Level Classification is unavailable. Refer to Section 4: Provisional Classification for details.

### **Eligible Impairment**

- 3.4. Any Athlete wishing to compete in wheelchair rugby governed by WRA must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 3.5. Appendix One of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in wheelchair rugby.
- 3.6. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix One is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Two includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.
- 3.7. Many Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. If an Athlete has multiple Health Conditions, they will be assessed to determine if one or more of these Health Conditions leads to an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.8. Any Athlete who has a Health Condition but does not have an Eligible Impairment will not be eligible to compete in wheelchair rugby.
- 3.9. WRA adopts the Eligible Impairments outlined in the WWR Classification Rules & Handbook.

### **Eligibility Assessment**

- 3.10. WRA will determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.11. In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, WRA may require an Athlete to provide evidence that they have a Health Condition (Diagnosis) that leads to an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.12. This means by which WRA determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of WRA. WRA may consider that an Athlete's

Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.

- 3.13. If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment WRA becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, that it makes it 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 Part 3 of these Classification Rules. In such instances, WRA will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant Athlete and their Athlete Support Personnel.
- 3.14. An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply Diagnostic Information as follows:
  - (a) the relevant Athlete must submit a Physical Impairment Medical Diagnostics Form to WRA.
- 3.15. The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified medical practitioner.
- 3.16. The Medical Diagnostics Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information / reports if required by WRA.
- 3.17. The athlete may be required to re-submit the Medical Diagnostic Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if WRA at its sole discretion considers the information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 3.18. WRA may appoint one or a number of persons to complete the Eligibility Assessment.
- 3.19. The Eligibility Assessment is as follows:
  - (a) WRA will determine what Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete and for what purposes.
  - (b) WRA will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information. Typically, Diagnostic Information will be required at a minimum two weeks prior to the Competition opportunity.
  - (c) Person/s will be appointed to conduct the Eligibility Assessment. The appointed person/s will have appropriate medical / allied health qualifications to assess the information provided.
- 3.20. Each Eligibility Assessment will involve the review of the Diagnostic Information to decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.21. Where the Eligibility Assessment has been deferred to the Classification Panel, the panel may also consider the clinical presentation of the Athlete in its decision.
- 3.22. If the Eligibility Assessment determines that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to proceed to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 3.23. If the Eligibility Assessment is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, WRA will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the Athlete and/or

their approved representative. The Athlete will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and provide further Diagnostic Information for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, WRA will inform the Athlete. If the decision is not changed, WRA will issue a final decision in writing to the Athlete, with no right of Protest his decision. The Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with Part 5 of these Classification Rules.

- 3.24. WRA may, if required, seek expertise from Paralympics Australia regarding Eligibility Assessment decisions. In this case, WRA will ensure that appropriate data protection provisions are in place to share the Diagnostic Information with PA.

### **Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 3.25. An Athlete who wishes to compete in wheelchair rugby must comply with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for wheelchair rugby.
- 3.26. WRA adopts the Minimum Impairment Criteria and processes set by WWR.
- 3.27. Appendix One of these Classification Rules specify further details.
- 3.28. Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for wheelchair rugby will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Part 5.

### **Sport Class**

- 3.29. A Sport Class is a category defined by WRA 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 wheelchair rugby.
- 3.30. WRA adopts the Para-Sport Classes set by WWR.
- 3.31. An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for wheelchair rugby will be allocated a Sport Class (subject to Part 7: Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
- 3.32. 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.

### **Classification Not Completed**

- 3.33. If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation, a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the relevant Classification Panel may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (**CNC**).
- 3.34. The designation of CNC is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation CNC will, however, be recorded in the WRA Classification Masterlist.

- 3.35. An Athlete who is designated as CNC may not compete in WRA Para Competition, unless otherwise approved by WRA.

## **PART 4: ATHLETE EVALUATION AND THE CLASSIFICATION PANEL**

### **The Classification Panel**

- 4.1. A Classification panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by WRA for physical impairments to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation, including as part of an Evaluation Sessions.

### **General Provisions**

- 4.2. A Classification Panel will be comprised of two Classifiers. Provisional Classifications can be conducted by a Classification Panel comprising of only one certified Classifier.
- 4.3. A National Level Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers, and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

### **Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 4.4. A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel will:
- (a) assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport (**Physical Assessment**) in accordance with Appendix One.
  - (b) assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport (**Technical Assessment**) in accordance with Appendix One; and
  - (c) conduct Observation in Competition Assessment if required.
- 4.5. Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel will allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate CNC.
- 4.6. The Evaluation will take place in an environment that allows for sufficient assessment of the relevant components of the Athlete Evaluation process. This assessment may take place alongside, or away from, Competition.
- 4.7. 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.

- 4.8. The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One.

### **Evaluation Sessions**

- 4.9. This Evaluation Sessions sections applies to Evaluation Sessions for Athletes with a Physical Impairment.
- 4.10. The Athlete and any other Athlete Support Personnel is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 4.11. In respect of Athletes:
- (a) Athletes have the right to chose one person, and are encouraged to do so, to accompany them during the Athlete Evaluation Session (Athlete Representative). The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is under the age of 18 or has a legal guardian.
  - (b) the person chose by the athlete to accompany the Athlete at the Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
  - (c) the Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Classification Athlete Evaluation Consent Form.
  - (d) The Athlete must verify their identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a birth certificate, Medicare card, passport, driver's license or Event accreditation.
  - (e) The Athlete should attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to wheelchair rugby.
  - (f) The Athlete should be in a state of sufficient personal health to enable their full participation in Athlete Evaluation processes and minimise any health risks to others.
  - (g) The Athlete must provide agreement to be photographed and/or videotaped for Athlete Evaluation purposes and give consent for Data processing and disclosure for the Classification purposes.
  - (h) The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
- 4.12. In respect of the Classification Panel:
- (a) The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide additional medical documentation relevant to their Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.
  - (b) The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in spoken English unless otherwise stipulated by WRA. If the Athlete requires an interpreter (e.g. language other than English or Auslan) the Athlete will be responsible

for arranging the interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the Athlete Representative.

- (c) The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of WRA if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class,
- (d) In addition to any opinion sought, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete and WRA when allocating a Sport Class.
- (e) The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

### **Observation in Competition Assessment**

- 4.13. A Classification Panel requires that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 4.14. The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One.
- 4.15. 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.
- 4.16. An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designed with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (**OA**). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 4.17. Observation in Competition Assessments take place during an Athlete's First Appearance unless it is practically impossible to do so. In this regard:
  - (a) First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
  - (b) First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Sport Class.
  - (c) An Athlete should make First Appearance during the preliminary rounds of a Competition. First Appearance should not take place in the elimination rounds of a Competition.
- 4.18. If an Athlete is subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition and the Protest Evaluation Session is conducted at the same Competition, then Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity.
- 4.19. If changes to an Athlete's Sport Class or Sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.



- 4.20. The impact of an Athlete changing Sport Class will have no impact on medals and results for the team for that Competition.

### **National Level Sport Class Status**

- 4.21. 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.
- 4.22. The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete include:
- (a) New (N);
  - (b) Review (R);
  - (c) Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD); and
  - (d) Confirmed (C).

### **Sport Class Status New**

- 4.23. An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by WRA if they have entered for a Competition but have not yet undergone Athlete Evaluation; meaning that the Athlete will be assessed by a Classification Panel at an upcoming opportunity.

### **Sport Class Status Review**

- 4.24. An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
- 4.25. This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:
- (a) has only recently stated Competition in Para-sport;
  - (b) has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/s that is Permanent but not stable; and/or
  - (c) has not reached full musculoskeletal or sports maturity.
- 4.26. A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier for Physical Impairment, where this Classifier is a Medical Classifier, must designate a Sport Class with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 4.27. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent WRA Competition, unless WRA determines otherwise.

### **Sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date**

- 4.28. 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.
- 4.29. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) is required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity as per the date reflected in the WRA Classification Masterlist. For example, an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review of Fixed Date of 2024, will be required to attend an Evaluation Session at their first opportunity after 1 January 2024. If the Fixed Review date is listed as an exact date such as 05/06/2024, then the athlete may be classified from 05/06/2024. An athlete with FRD status reverts to an R status after the review date has passed at which point the provisions of Article 4.24 – 4.27 apply.
- 4.30. 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.
- 4.31. A Classification Panel for Physical Impairment that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but will designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

### **Sport Class Status Confirmed**

- 4.32. An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is and will remain stable.
- 4.33. 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 (Part 6), Medical Review (Part 8) and Changes to Sport Class Criteria (Article 4.35 – 4.36)).
- 4.34. A physical Impairment Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier cannot designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

### **Changes to Sport Class Criteria**

- 4.35. If WRA changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then WRA may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Fixed Review Date (FRD) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity.
- 4.36. Relevant Athletes and stakeholders shall be provided appropriate notice of anticipated changes to their Classification System.

### **Provisional Level Classification**

- 4.37. Provisional Classification is a process offered by WRA for Athletes as an entry level Classification process for Athletes where National Level Classification is unavailable or unsuitable. Provisional Classification is an indication of Athlete eligibility and sport class only. Procedures are guided by the criteria outlined in Appendix One of these Classification Rules, but not required to follow the same methods of assessment.
- 4.38. Provisional Classifications are conducted by a certified WRA Classifier and involve the assessment of information by at least one Classifier.
- 4.39. Once an Athlete has undergone a National Level Athlete Evaluation those outcomes supersede any previous Provisional Classification outcomes.
- 4.40. Athletes with Provisional Classifications are valid for state and national level Competition, at the final discretion of WRA.
- 4.41. Athletes holding a Provisional Classification are eligible for records, rankings and any WRA team selection at the final discretion of WRA.
- 4.42. Provisional Classification process is conducted as follows:
- (a) gain written consent to Process Athletes personal and Classification information;
  - (b) collect sufficient medical and other sport information to give a likely indication of Eligibility Assessment and allocation of Sport Class. For example, this may be conducted via submission of medical and/or sports data via written report, or photo, video or other multimedia;
  - (c) assess information supplied by Athlete;
  - (d) provide written notification of Provisional Classification outcomes as soon as is practically possible; and
  - (e) publish Provisional outcome on the WRA Classification Masterlist.
- 4.43. Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level classification who do not demonstrate the presence of an Eligible Impairment, will be allocated a Sport Class of NE and Sport Class Status Confirmed.
- 4.44. Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level classification, who meet the conditions of Eligibility Assessment but do not appear to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for wheelchair rugby are to be allocated a Sport Class of NE and Sport Class Status of Review and may be reviewed by a national level classification panel.
- 4.45. Athletes who have undergone a Provisional Classification will be allocated the Sport Class Status of Review.
- 4.46. Athletes who hold a provisional level Classification may have their provisional outcome reviewed and a new provisional Classification issued if:
- (a) their medical condition has changed by way of the Medical Review Process outlined in Part 8; or

- (b) there is a relevant change in the WRA Classification Rules that would affect the provisional class they have been allocated.

4.47. Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level Athlete Evaluation process will be given a sport class of Not Eligible and Sport Class Status of Review. These Athletes are permitted to be reviewed by a National Level Classification Panel.

### **National Level Athlete Evaluation Classification Outcomes**

- 4.48. The outcome of Athlete Evaluation will be verbally notified to the Athlete as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.49. If Athlete Evaluation is held at Competition, the Classification Personnel must convey the Classification outcomes to the Organising Committee so that they can prepare start lists and make associated Event management arrangements.
- 4.50. All Classification outcomes shall be confirmed in writing to the Athlete, as soon as is practically possible. Copies of the full Classification Form are available to the Athlete on request.
- 4.51. The outcomes will be made available via the Classification Masterlist on the WRA website.

## **PART 5: SPORT CLASS NOT ELIGIBLE**

### **General Provisions**

- 5.1. If WRA determines that an Athlete:
  - (a) has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - (b) has a Health Condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment; or
  - (c) if a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for wheelchair rugbythen that Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for wheelchair rugby.

### **Absence of Eligible Impairment**

- 5.2. If WRA determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment through the Eligibility Assessment process, that Athlete:
  - (a) will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
  - (b) will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) for that impairment type.
- 5.3. If and IF or another NSO/NSOD has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, WRA may

likewise do without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.

- 5.4. An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by WRA or a Classificational Panel (if delegated by WRA) because that Athlete has:
- (a) an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - (b) a Health Condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment;
- has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any WRA recognised Para-sport Classes.
- 5.5. The provisions outlined in Article 5.2 – 5.4 also apply to athletes undergoing provisional classification.

### **Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 5.6. Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 5.7. The Athlete will be reviewed by a second Classification Panel, as soon as is possible. The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment, unless otherwise designated by WRA.
- 5.8. 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), Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 5.9. 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 will 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.
- 5.10. 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 wheelchair rugby the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for wheelchair rugby. Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete as a Para-Athlete in wheelchair rugby. The athlete may also be able to participate in WRA Competition from time to time, at the sole discretion of WRA for the betterment of said Competition.

## **PART 6: PROTESTS**

### **Scope of a Protest**

- 6.1. A Protest is defined as the procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. Protests do not apply to:
  - (a) athletes that have been allocated a Not Eligible Sport Class; or
  - (b) athletes whose condition has changed and are subsequently eligible for a Medical Review process.
- 6.4. Dispute resolution processes for Provisional Classifications are outlined in Part 4.

## **Protest of National Level Athlete Evaluations**

### Parties Permitted to Make a National Level Protests

- 6.5. A National Level Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:
  - (a) an Athlete with a physical or Vision Impairment; or
  - (b) WRA.
- 6.6. An Athlete may only make a Protest in respect of the Athlete's own Classification outcome. Protests of other Athlete's Classifications are not permitted. If any person has a genuine belief and holds evidence that another Athlete has been allocated the incorrect class, it may pass such evidence on to WRA for consideration. The receipt of evidence does not require WRA to make a Protest.
- 6.7. WRA may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
  - (a) it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or
  - (b) an Athlete makes a documented request to WRA. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of WRA.

### Submission Processes of National Level Protests

- 6.8. The Protesting party must complete the relevant Protest Form, including but not limited to:
  - (a) the name, identifying particulars of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being Protested;
  - (b) the details of the Protested decision and/or a copy of the Protested decision;
  - (c) an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis in which the Protesting party believes that the Protested decision is flawed. Reference to specific rules alleged to have been breached is encouraged;
  - (d) any documents and other evidence in support of the Protest; and

- (e) the signature of the party making the Protest.
- 6.9. Protests must be submitted within 30 days of the Classification outcome being determined.
- 6.10. Protests initiated by WRA may be made at any time.
- 6.11. If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, an Athlete may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place.

#### Assessment of National Level Protest Submission

- 6.12. Upon receipt of a National Level Protest, WRA will review the Protest, and determine if the Protest will be accepted or dismissed.
- 6.13. Protests may be dismissed, at WRA's discretion where it does not comply with Protest requirements including but not limited to:
  - (a) the Protest has been submitted without all necessary information;
  - (b) the Protest is an allegation without evidence.
- 6.14. If the Protest is dismissed, WRA will notify in writing the Protesting party as soon as is practical. Any Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 6.15. If the Protest is accepted:
  - (a) the Protested Athlete's Sport Class will remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review, effective immediately.
  - (b) A Protest Panel shall be appointed to review the Protest as soon as reasonably possible. This may be a Protest Panel at the current Competition, the next Competition or Athlete Evaluation opportunity.
  - (c) WRA will notify all relevant parties in writing of the acceptance of, or reason for the Protest and advise of the opportunity for Protest re-Evaluation to occur.

#### **Protest Panel**

- 6.16. A Protest Panel will be appointed by WRA in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 6.17. A Protest Panel will not include any person who:
  - (a) was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or
  - (b) 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 Athlete and WRA.

- 6.18. WRA will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that will be conducted by the Protest Panel. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity. Pending the resolution of the Protest, the Protested Athlete will be permitted to compete in the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 6.19. The Protest Panel will conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents and other Classification records when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 6.20. The Protest Panel will allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties will be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.
- 6.21. The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both an Athlete Protest and a WRA Protest is final. If the Protest was submitted in conjunction with a Competition, an Athlete or WRA may not make another Protest at that Competition. The decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed if the requirements set out for Appeals in Part 11 are met. This does not preclude an Athlete from Protesting future Classification decisions.
- 6.22. If the decision of the Protest Panel results in the Sport Class of the Athlete being changes, the Protest Fee will be refunded to the Athlete.

#### **Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests**

- 6.23. WRA may issue special ad hoc provisions related to Protests to operate in specific circumstances. Athletes will be provided as much notice of the ad hoc provisions as is reasonable in the circumstances.

## **PART 7: MISCONDUCT DURING AN EVALUATION SESSION**

### **Failure to Attend Evaluation Session**

- 7.1. An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 7.2. If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to WRA. WRA may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 7.3. 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, WRA may preclude the Athlete from further competing.



## **Suspension of Evaluation Session**

- 7.4. A Classification Panel, in consultation with WRA, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, one or more of the following circumstances:
- (a) a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
  - (b) a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - (c) the Classification Panel considers that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/devices/impacts disclosed by the Athlete will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
  - (d) the Athlete has a Health Condition (of any nature or description) that may limit or prohibit complying with requests made 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;
  - (e) the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - (f) the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given to them by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
  - (g) the Athlete's representation of their 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.
- 7.5. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps will be taken:
- (a) an explanation for the suspension and the remedial action and timeframe will be provided to the Athlete;
  - (b) if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of WRA, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
  - (c) if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified or to a satisfactory standard, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete will be precluded from competing in wheelchair rugby Competition until the Athlete Evaluation is completed.
- 7.6. 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 Part 3 of these Classification Rules.
- 7.7. A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **PART 8: MEDICAL REVIEW**

### **Medical Review**

- 8.1. 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). Additionally, this process applies to Athletes who have undergone a Provisional Classification.
- 8.2. 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 wheelchair rugby in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 8.3. A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete together with 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 Sport Class is no longer accurate. It will generally be the case that any medical Review Request will need to be accompanied by medical records.
- 8.4. A Medical Review Request must be received by WRA prior to completing at any future Event or within 12 months of the change occurring, whichever comes sooner.
- 8.5. WRA will decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is possible following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 8.6. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of changes outlined in Article 8.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of WRA may be committing Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 8.7. If a Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.
- 8.8. If a Medical Review Request does not include sufficient evidence to explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed, the Medical Review will not be accepted and the Athlete's Sport Class Status will not be changed.

## **PART 9: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION**

### **Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 9.1. The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation (**IM**):
  - (a) An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead WWR or WRA or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or
  - (b) An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of Article 9.1.
- 9.2. Examples of IM include (without limitation):

- (a) submitting forged medical documentation attesting to the existence of a Health Condition or Eligible Impairment that the Athlete does not have;
  - (b) deliberately underperforming during a Classification evaluation session;
  - (c) intentionally undergoing Classification without the adaptive equipment they intend to use in competition;
  - (d) otherwise misrepresenting their skills, abilities, and/or the existence, nature, and/or degree of their impairment before, during or after Classification;
  - (e) disrupting Classification, or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel during Classification, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
  - (f) not providing accurate information as their identity or having another person attend Classification in their place; and/or
  - (g) deliberately failing to notify WWR or WRA of any relevant Classification related information, including that they have previously undergone Classification (for example in the context of another Para sport) and/or that there has been a change in the nature or degree of their impairment that may necessitate a Medical Review.
- 9.3. WRA considers IM as a very serious offence that undermines the integrity of Classification and Para-Sport and does not condone any attempts to commit or conceal such offences.
- 9.4. Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel may be subject to disciplinary actions if found guilty of IM offences.
- 9.5. WRA procedures regarding the investigation and management of IM follow the PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation and Data Protection.
- 9.6. WRA will cooperate and expects the cooperation of their members with any Classification investigative process.
- 9.7. WRA will recognise, respect and enforce any disciplinary action recommended or imposed on an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel for IM as notified by the IPC, WWR, PA or other authorised body across all levels of WRA competition.

### **Levels of IM**

- 9.8. There are two recognised levels of IM in Australia:
- (a) Those relating to Athletes and Athletes Support Personnel who are recognised under the jurisdiction of WWR's Classification Rules (referred to as **International Level Intentional Misrepresentation**). This typically includes those Athletes that are classified, or attempt to be classified, and/or compete, or attempt to compete, at an International Level and those Athlete Support Personnel who support them; and
  - (b) Those relating to Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are recognised exclusively under the WRA Classification Rules (referred to as **National**

**Level Intentional Misrepresentation**). This includes those Athletes that are classified, or attempt to be classified, or compete, or attempt to compete, at a National Level and those Athlete Support Personnel who support them<sup>1</sup>.

### **International Level IM**

- 9.9. Allegations of, investigations in to and any subsequent sanctions of IM for Athletes or Athlete Support Personnel recognised under the jurisdiction of WWR follow the processes outlined by WWR.
- 9.10. If WRA, an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel or any other person under WRA jurisdiction holds genuine evidence that an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has attempted IM, it must report such evidence to WWR for consideration.

### **National Level IM**

- 9.11. Complaints handling, investigations and, where applicable, recommendations for sanctioning will be referred to PA, in accordance with the PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation and Data Protection.
- 9.12. IM, as defined in these Classification Rules, is deemed to be Competition Manipulation, as defined in the WRA Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling Policy.
- 9.13. The NST – General Division will act as the hearing body for the resolution of National Level IM Appeals. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable NST Legislation.

## **PART 10: USE OF ATHLETE INFORMATION**

### **Classification Data**

- 10.1. WRA will only processes Classification Data if such Classification Data is reasonably necessary to conduct Classification. If WRA is not sure if the Data submitted by an Athlete is necessary to conduct Classification they will not process that data, will inform the Athlete of the receipt of that information and subsequently destroy the Data.
- 10.2. All Classification Data processed by WRA will be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### **Consent and Processing**

- 10.3. Subject to Article 10.5, WRA will only process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete whom that Classification Data relates.

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<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, IM complaints relating to Athletes or Athlete Support Personnel who are recognised under the jurisdiction of both WWR and WRA's Classification Rules, shall follow WWR's Classification Rules.

- 10.4. If an Athlete cannot provide written consent (for example because the Athlete is under the age of 18) the Athlete's parent or legal guardian must give consent on their behalf.
- 10.5. WRA may only process Classification Data without the consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with applicable laws and codes.

### **Classification Research**

- 10.6. WRA may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 10.7. The use by WRA of Personal and/or sensitive Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 10.8. Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to WRA solely and exclusively for Research Purposes will not be used for any other purpose.
- 10.9. WRA will only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If WRA wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research Purposes, it must obtain express 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, and may not be used to, identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information and or sensitive Personal Information.

### **Notification to Athletes**

- 10.10. WRA will notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
  - (a) the fact that WRA is collecting the Classification Data;
  - (b) the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
  - (c) the duration of the Classification Data will be retained.
- 10.11. WRA will:
  - (a) 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
  - (b) take reasonable steps to ensure that any party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

### **Disclosures of Classification Data**

10.12. WRA will 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 laws and codes.

10.13. Any suspected breaches will follow the procedures outlined in the WRA Privacy Policy.

### **Retaining Classification Data**

10.14. WRA will ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as the Athlete remains active in wheelchair rugby. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it will be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.

10.15. WRA Classifiers and Classification Personnel will 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.

### **Access Rights to Classification Data**

10.16. Athletes may request from WRA:

- (a) confirmation of whether or not WRA has processed Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- (b) a copy of the Classification Data held by WRA; and/or
- (c) correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by WRA.

10.17. A request may be made by an Athlete or their legal representative and will be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

### **Classification Masterlist**

10.18. WRA will maintain a Classification Masterlist of Athletes, which will include the Athlete's name, sex, year of birth, state of residence, Sport Class and Sport Class Status and Review Date.

10.19. The Classification Masterlist will include and clearly delineate Classification allocated by WRA and those allocated by WWR.

10.20. The WRA Classification Masterlist is available to all relevant members and Competition organisers via the WRA website.

10.21. Classification Masterlist will be updated by WRA following each Athlete Evaluation within two (2) months after the Classification opportunity has taken place.

10.22. These Rules are subject at all times to the WRA Privacy Policy and to all applicable privacy legislation, including the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* and nothing in these Rules will prevent an Athlete accessing all available rights under such legislation.

## **PART 11: NATIONAL LEVEL CLASSIFICATION APPEALS**

### **Appeal**

- 11.1. 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.

### **International Level Classification Appeals**

- 11.2. International Level Classification Appeals follow the processes outlined by WWR, and not the processes outlined in these Classification Rules.

### **National Level Classification Appeals**

- 11.3. If an Athlete considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a national level Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, they may submit an Appeal.
- 11.4. The National Sports Tribunal – General Division will act as the hearing body for the resolution of National Level Classification Appeals.
- 11.5. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable National Sports Tribunal Legislation.

### **Parties Permitted to make a National Level Appeal**

- 11.6. An Appeal may only be made by an Athlete or their legal representative.

### **Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals**

- 11.7. PA and/or WRA, in conjunction with the National Sports Tribunal where necessary, may issue special ad hoc provisions relating to an Appeal to operate during specific Competitions or circumstances. PA or WRA, as the case may be, will provide as much notice of the ad hoc provisions as is reasonable in the circumstances.

## **PART 12: DEFINITIONS**

**Appeal** means the means by which a complaint that a sports federation has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

**Athlete** means for the purpose of Classification, a person who participates in wheelchair rugby at the international level (as defined by WWR) or national or lower level (as defined by WRA). A reference to an Athlete includes a reference to the Athlete's legal guardian where the context so permits.

**Athlete Evaluation** means the process by which an athlete is assessed in accordance with the classification rules, so that they may be allocated a sport class and sport class status.

**Athlete Support Personnel** means any individual who supports an athlete, including but not limited to coaches, team staff, medical or para-medical specialists, interpreters, administrators, carers and parents/legal guardians.

**Chief Classifier** means a Classifier appointed by WRA to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

**Classification or Athlete Classification** means grouping athletes into sport classes according to the extent to which their impairment affects the fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline.

**Classification Data** means personal information and/or sensitive personal information provided by an Athlete and/or their authorised representative to WRA in connection with Classification.

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

**Classification Masterlist** means a list made available by WRA that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Classification Not Complete** means the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of WRA.

**Classification Organisation** means any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

**Classification Panel** means a group of Classifiers, appointed by WRA, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

**Classification Personnel** means any individuals who act with the authority of WRA for any component of the classification program for wheelchair rugby.

**Classification Rules (or Classification Rules and Regulations)** means policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by WRA in connected with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification System** means the framework used by a sport federation to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Para-sport.

**Classifier** means a person authorised as an official by WWR or WRA to evaluate Athletes as part of the Classification Panel.

**Classifier Certification** means the processes by which WRA will assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

**Classifier Competencies** means the qualification and abilities that WRA deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport governed by WRA.



**Classification Personnel Code of Conduct** means the behavioural and ethical standards for Classification Personnel specified by WRA.

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

**Compliance** means the implementation of rules, regulations, policies and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the 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'.

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

**Eligibility Assessment** means a process to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

**Eligible Impairment** means a physical, intellectual or vision impairment, designed as being a pre-requisite for competing in wheelchair rugby, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

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

**Event** means a single race, match, game or single sport contest.

**First Appearance** means the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

**Fixed Review Date** means 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** means a person who may be appointed by WRA to direct, administer, coordinate and implement Classification matters for WRA.

**Health Condition** means a pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury or trauma.

**International Competitions** means a competition where the IPC, WWR or Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

**International Sports Federation (IF)** means the International Sport Federation (IF) recognised by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for athletes with an impairment that has been granted the status of a Para-sport by the IPC. WWR is the recognised IF for wheelchair rugby.

**International Standards** means documents complementing the IPC Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

**IPC** means the International Paralympic Committee

**IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards (IPC Code)** means the IPC Code which details the purpose of classification, policies and procedures that should be common to all sport's classification systems and sets principles to be applied by all sports within the Paralympic Movement. The IPC Code is supplemented by the International Standards.

**Maintaining Certification** means the advanced training, education and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

**Major Competition Organiser** means an organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

**Medical Diagnostics Form** means a form that an Athlete must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

**Medical Review** means the process by which WRA 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** means a request made by an Athlete for Medical Review.

**National Integrity Framework** means the suite of integrity-related policies adopted by WRA which includes the Competition Manipulation & Sports Gambling Policy and the Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy.

**National Sports Tribunal** means the National Sports Tribunal established by the *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019 (Cth)*.

**National Sports Tribunal legislation** means the *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019 (Cth)*, the *National Sports Tribunal Rule 2020 (Cth)* and the *National Sports Tribunal (Practice and Procedure) Determination 2021 (Cth)*.

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

**Observation in Competition** means 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 the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Paralympics Australia (PA)** means Paralympics Australia Limited (ACN 061 547 957)

**PA Athlete Classification Policy** means the PA document which details the purpose of Classification, policies and procedures that should be common to all Australia sport's Classification Systems. The PA Athlete Classification Policy is supplemented by the PA Classification Standards.

**PA Classification Standards** means the PA Classification Standard published by PA from time to time that provides the technical and operational requirements for key Classification areas.

**Para-sports** means all sports for athletes with a physical, intellectual or vision impairment, on a Paralympic Games program, or recognised by the IPC.

**Permanent**, as used in the Code and Standards, means an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principal effects are lifelong.

**Personal Information** means any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

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

**Process / Processing** means the collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

**Protest** means the procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's sport class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

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

**Protested Decision** means the Sport Class decision being challenged.

**Protest Documents** means the information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

**Protest Fee** means the fee prescribed by WRA, payable by the Athlete when submitting a Protest. WRA will include the Protest Fee in any Classification Supporting Information.

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

**Protest Panel** means a Classification Panel appointed by WRA to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

**Re-certification** means the process by which WRA will assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies or can regain certification after having lost it.

**Recognised Competition** means a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by WRA.

**Research Purposes** means research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement.

**Sport Class** means a category for Competition defined by WRA by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by wheelchair rugby.

**Sport Class Status** means 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.

**Sport Integrity Australia (SIA)** means the non-corporate Commonwealth entity of that name established by the *Sport Integrity Act 2020 (Cth)*.

# APPENDIX ONE

## Introduction

This Appendix outlines the process by which an Athlete with a Physical Impairment will be classified and allocated a Sport Class for wheelchair rugby.

### 1. Eligible Impairment Types

- 1.1. In order to be eligible for wheelchair rugby, an Athlete must be affected by at least one of the Eligible Impairments listed in the first column of the table below.

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<p>Impaired Muscle Power</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or in complete), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida. An Athlete with paraparesis or paraplegia may meet Minimum Impairment Criteria if another Underlying Health Condition results in sufficient motor power impairment in the arm, such as a brachial plexus injury.</p>
<p>Limb Deficiency</p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma or present at birth.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (such as amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (such as dysmelia).</p>
<p>Hypertonia</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Ataxia</p> <p>Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.</p>
<p>Athetosis</p> <p>Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include Arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint. In WWR, impairment measures to set minimum</p>

	impairment criteria for all its eligible impairments are under development. Currently, Athletes with impairment in Passive Range of Movement may be eligible, if the Athlete has another eligible impairment that meets Minimum Impairment Criteria.
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## 2. Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and MIC Assessment Methodology

2.1. WRA adopts the MIC outlined in the WWR Classification Rules & Handbook for all Competition under its jurisdiction. The WWR Classification Rules & Handbook can be found here:

- (a) <https://worldwheelchair.rugby/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WWR-Classification-Rules-2022.pdf>
- (b) <https://worldwheelchair.rugby/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/WWR-Classifier-Handbook-2022.pdf>

## 3. Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status

3.1. WRA adopts the Assessment methodology and criteria outlined in the WWR Classification Rules & Handbook for the allocation of Sport Class during National Level Athlete Evaluation with the expectations of:

- (a) Observation in Competition – WRA does not routinely conduct Observation in Competition and it is common for an Athlete to be allocated a Sport Class and subsequent Sport Class Status without completion of this component of the assessment. However, where this is used as part of National Level Classification decisions the process mirrors, as practically as possible, the WWR Classification Rules & Handbook.

# APPENDIX TWO

## Non-Eligible Impairment Types

### 1. Non-Eligible Impairment Types for Para-Sport disciplines

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

- (a) pain;
- (b) hearing impairment;
- (c) low muscle tone;
- (d) hypermobility of joints;
- (e) joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;

- (f) impaired muscle endurance;
  - (g) impaired motor reflex functions;
  - (h) impaired cardiovascular functions;
  - (i) impaired respiratory functions;
  - (j) impairment metabolic functions; and
  - (k) tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.
- 1.2. An Athlete who has one or more of these Non-Eligible Impairments, without the presence of an Eligible Impairment, is not eligible to compete in the Para-Sport Classes offered by WRA. They may still be able to compete in other Wheelchair Rugby Australia Competition, at the discretion of WRA.
- 2. Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment**
- 2.1. Many Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. If an Athlete has multiple Health Conditions, they will be assessed to determine if one or more of these Health Conditions leads to an Eligible Impairment.
- 2.2. The IPC Code considers the following Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Health Conditions that:
- (a) primarily cause pain, e.g. fibromyalgia, complex regional pain syndrome;
  - (b) primarily cause fatigue, e.g. chronic fatigue;
  - (c) primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypertonia; or
  - (d) are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature, e.g. post traumatic stress disorder or conversion disorders.
- 2.3. Any Athlete who has a Health Condition, but does not have an Eligible Impairment is not eligible to compete in Para-Sport Classes offered by WRA. They may still be able to compete in other WRA Competition, at the discretion of WRA.