

MEMO

To: NPC/NF's
Cc: IPC Swimming International Classifiers
From: IPC Swimming
Date: 31 August 2015
Re: IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations version September 2015

IPC Swimming has published an updated version of the IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations – version September 2015. This document replaces any previous version of the IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations.

The purpose of this Memo is to provide you with an overview of the updates made in IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations. These updates respond to concerns expressed by both nations and classifiers to provide clarity in wording and to ensure a standardized application of the rules by IPC Swimming Classifiers. They follow from an extensive consultation process with Senior IPC Swimming Classifiers, the IPC Swimming Technical Committee and the relevant IPC Departments.

The updated rules apply to Athlete Evaluations taking place from 01 September 2015. Athletes that were classified before this date will keep their existing allocated class and status.

1. Changes in IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations

IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations Articles 1-10

Articles 1-9 of the existing rules have been restructured and/or modified to clarify reported ambiguities in certain procedures that may have hindered overall compliance of the IPC Classification Code.

- Art. 4: While the previous rules did not prohibit it either, it is now outlined that the classifiers are allowed to use video footage to support the classification process.
- Art. 4: Clarification is provided on how to proceed in case an athlete fails to attend athlete evaluation and in the case that athlete evaluation cannot be successfully completed (e.g. illness or injury, absence of sufficient detail in

medical diagnostics); including the introduction of an (administrative) sport class 'Classification Not Completed' – CNC.

- Art. 5: Procedures are inserted about changes to sport class criteria. Any athlete with a Confirmed or Fixed Review status may be re-assigned Review status in order to undergo athlete evaluation by IPC Swimming when sport class criteria are changed.
- Art. 5: Procedures are inserted about errors regarding sport class status allocation.
- Art. 5: More detail is provided for Medical Review Request procedures.
- Art. 5: Procedures are inserted for athletes that have multiple impairments (e.g. combination of physical and visual impairment). Athletes will be required to make a choice at the moment they apply for the first international classification. Procedures are provided for any changes to be considered afterwards.
- Art. 5: Procedures are inserted for Athletes with Visual Impairment who have a sport class allocated with another IF/sport. IPC Swimming shall adopt the sport class indicating the most visual ability and assign status Review.
- Art. 6: More detailed rules regarding athletes who are Not Eligible are inserted here.
- Art. 7: Protest procedures have been explained in more detail and altered where required to achieve IPC Classification Code compliance.
- Art. 8: Rules regarding Appeals are inserted here.
- Art. 9: Rules regarding Intentional Misrepresentation are inserted here. According to Articles 11-14 of the IPC Classification Code, intentional misrepresentation should be regarded as a violation of the classification rules and should be followed by a two year sanction at minimum, subject of the final outcome of the investigation on the allegation brought forward by the classifiers.
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2. Changes in IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations – Appendix 1

- Art. 2: In accordance with the IPC Policy on Eligible Impairments in the Paralympic Movement (IPC Handbook, Section 2, Chapter 3.13), criteria regarding eligible

impairments are clarified and put in table 1. As a result a list of non-eligible impairments is added (art. 2.2).

- Art. 3: The minimum Disability Threshold is added to table 2. Note that this is the cumulative of the maximum number of points per body segment minus the minimum number of points (15) an athlete should lose to become eligible.
- Art.4: Table 4 is inserted to give a standardization of how muscle testing must be performed with the exceptions stated in art. 4.2.
- Art. 6: This section on Range of Movement has been amended towards a Passive Functional Range of Movement system as in accordance with the Purpose of these Rules. Table 8 is inserted to provide a list of standardized testing positions.
- Art. 8: This article further details the assessment of athletes with short stature.
- The upper limit for male and female athletes for class S6/SB6/SM6 remains 137cm and 130cm respectively. An upper limit for male and female athletes in class S7/SB7/SM7 is added, 145cm and 137cm respectively.
 - If athletes with an Achondroplasia type of impairment have an additional loss of Muscle Power and/or loss of Range of Movement of minimal twenty-five (25) points, the testing methods described under Section 4 and/or 6 are applied and a 'class-1' principle applies based on loss of minimal 25 points.
 - All other cases of short stature (e.g. Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Growth Hormone Dysfunction) are primarily assessed under Section 4 and/or 6 of these Rules, and a 'class -1' principle applies based on height (max. 137cm/145cm).
 - Athletes classified with short stature will be under annual review until the age of 18 years.
- Art. 10: Clarification is provided about the assessment of the Water Test. Note that the implementation of the Water Test will be a two-way process. Besides the current clarifications, IPC Swimming will be working on a more clear and transparent system for post Rio2016.
- Art. 10: Procedures are inserted in case an athlete shows underdeveloped or poor swim technique.
- Art. 11: The dive and push off scoring system is clarified in table 12.
- Art. 12: Table 13 outlines the Sport Classes on the basis of point scores obtained after the physical/technical assessment.

Art. 12: There was no change on the calculation for the Sport Class SM, only clarification was added for the lower classes, where no Butterfly is involved in the Individual Medley event. For all athletes classified, the below stated formulas shall be used. The Sport Class numbers are used in this calculation and rounded to a whole number. For example if the calculation results in 6.5, the Sport Class allocated shall be SM7. IPC Swimming expects strict adherence to this rule for the allocation of Sport Class SM:

If the athlete is allocated equivalent to or higher as a S5 Sport Class, the allocation of the individual medley class will be calculated as follows;

$$\frac{3 \times \text{S class} + 1 \times \text{SB class}}{4} = \text{SM class}$$

If the athlete is allocated equivalent to or lower as a S4 Sport Class, the allocation of the individual medley class will be calculated as follows;

$$\frac{2 \times \text{S class} + 1 \times \text{SB class}}{3} = \text{SM class}$$

Art. 13: Codes of Exception are listed under this rule. A request for change in exception code as granted previously must now be submitted through the 'medical review' procedure.

3. Changes in IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations – Appendix 2

The changes made to the appendix have made the existing rules clearer.

Art. 5: Codes of Exception for athletes with Visual impairment are added

4. Changes in IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations – Appendix 3

The changes made to the appendix have made the existing rules clearer.

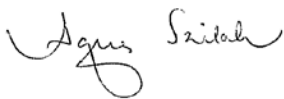
Art. 5: Codes of Exception for athletes with Intellectual impairment are added

We kindly request you to familiarize yourself with these new classification rules which enter into effect with the public release of the IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations – on 01 September 2015.

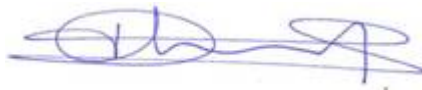
IPC Swimming will be available to clarify any question you might have with the release of the new IPC Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations. Please do not hesitate to be in contact with the Swimming Management Team at ipcswimming@paralympic.org.

Success with your sporting experiences.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Agnes Szilak".

Agnes Szilak
IPC Swimming Sport Senior Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dr. Peter Van de Vliet".

Dr. Peter Van de Vliet
IPC Medical & Scientific Director