

**Code of Classification
For
Inclusive Skating**

February 2014



This Code of Classification operates in conjunction with the Inclusive Skating Classification Handbook and together they are referred to as the “Code”. This Code provides the detailed rules of Classification that are intended to remain fairly constant and the Handbook provides the detailed practical operation of Classification that includes guidance, forms that skaters can use to provide evidence on their impairment and case studies for the application of Classification and is therefore updated regularly.

Classification is a cornerstone of paralympic sport and sport for those with impairment generally and provides the traditional structure for competition. More fundamentally paralympic athletes must have an impairment in body structures and functions that leads to a competitive disadvantage in sport. Consequently the IPC stipulate that,

“criteria are put in place to ensure that winning is determined by skill, fitness, power, endurance, tactical ability and mental focus, the same factors that account for success in sport for athletes who are able-bodied.”

This Code follows the IPC strategy on classification and seeks to provide a basis for equitable competition through classification processes that are robust, transparent and fair.

The purpose of this Code of Classification when read in conjunction with the Classification Handbook is therefore to:

- Define whether the skater has an impairment
- Establish that the impairment leads to a competitive disadvantage in skating
- Compensate for the competitive disadvantage caused by the impairment
- Define the technical level for elite participation related to the impairment
- Define the technical level for elite participation specific to the tasks in the event

This Code implements and complies with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, November 2007 and in so doing uses an evidence based approach to Classification that is consistent with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Adherence to the International standards on Athlete Evaluation, Protests and Appeals and Classifier Training and Certification is mandatory and this Code is to be interpreted so as to comply with these standards.

The Code recognizes the pivotal role that the skaters play in classification and acknowledges that it is the responsibility of the Skaters, Skater Support Personnel and Classifiers to familiarise themselves with their rights and obligations related to classification, while ensuring that they adhere to the IPC Code of Ethics and all relevant and applicable Codes of Conduct. Classification Rules are incorporated into the Rules of Competition for inclusive Skating and participants accept the Announcement of the Event, Rules of Competition for Inclusive Skating and the Code of Classification and Classification Handbook for Inclusive Skating as a condition of participation.

The IPC policy on the following matters is adhered to throughout this Code:

- Ensuring accountability and principles of fair play
- The protection of all rights of all skaters and classifiers
- The evaluation of skaters

- Sport class and sport class status
- Protests and Appeals

THE ASSESSMENT OF IMPAIRMENT

In order to obtain a competitive result that includes the addition of impairment compensation the skater must have an impairment that is assessed under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli and according to the Code of Classification and Classification Handbook for Inclusive Skating.

Alternatively, if it is established that the skater has met the minimal standards of impairment for ice skating but there is insufficient evidence to establish the precise impairment compensation then the skater may receive a 5% impairment compensation which can be added to the skating score.

However, to encourage skaters who have an impairment to commence participation in competitions all skaters who have impairment can, where permitted by the rules of competition and the Announcement of the Event, commence competition without having their impairment assessed and in such case will only receive a competitive score and result for their skating skill with no additional impairment compensation.

THE IMPAIRMENT MUST LEAD TO A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE

All impairment must be assessed under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli and according to the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating and lead to a competitive disadvantage in skating. The presumption is that all impairments assessed under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli will lead to a competitive disadvantage. This presumption does not apply to impairments that have no functional impact on skating. Further guidance on the functional impact of impairment on skating is provided in the Classification Handbook. If the impairment does not result in a competitive disadvantage then the skater may not receive compensation for that impairment. The skater may obtain compensation for other impairments that do lead to a competitive disadvantage in skating.

THE IMPAIRMENT COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION COMPENSATES FOR THE COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE

In order to encourage skaters with an impairment to make technical progress within a supportive development pathway all skaters with an impairment may enter competition at their current technical level and, and once their impairment is assessed, will receive an impairment compensation that reflects the appropriate compensation for the impairment of the average hypothetical skater at that technical level.

Skaters with an impairment are expected to make technical progress with the development of their skills through training and dedication and are expected to move to higher technical levels of competition. The impairment compensation expressed as a percentage will be added to the average hypothetical skating score of an able bodied skater at each technical level. The average hypothetical skating score will be adjusted according to the expected increase for the average skater at that technical level. The whole person impairment compensation of the skater will remain constant and will only be adjusted if the impairment of the skater changes.

It is expected that the elite technical level will be the average technical level that is attainable for skaters with that impairment who undertake training and dedication to the sport of skating. The evidence to define this level will develop over time as skaters with impairment undertake training and participate in competition.

Skaters who skate at a technical level below their capability may be refused participation in the Inclusive Skating competitive results and may be refused participation in the entire competition. Once the skater achieves an elite technical level for their impairment then the skater may remain at that technical level.

Skaters with recovering and deteriorating conditions may have their impairment reassessed and be reclassified and moved to a higher or lower technical level. Skaters with recovering and deteriorating conditions must be reclassified within 6 months of Major Championships.

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPAIRMENT

Medical assessment of the impairment is carried out by a qualified physiotherapist or medically qualified person who is competent to apply the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondonelli to that impairment. The medical assessment of the impairment should take place prior to the event and the skater should bring evidence for the purpose of this assessment when competing or when being classified by the Classification Panel. This evidence will be assessed by the Classification Panel.

SKATER EVALUATION

Skater evaluation is the process by which a skater is assessed in accordance with the Code of Classification and allocated a sport class and sport class status. The Athlete Evaluation Pathway specified in Schedule 1 of the IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation will apply to the evaluation of skaters under the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for the implementation of the Classification and will ensure that all skaters with an impairment are allocated a Sport Classification that compensates for the impairment and identifies the elite technical level for that impairment and what impairment compensation should be allocated to that skater. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

The criteria detailing how the skater will be considered eligible is defined in this Code of Classification. Eligibility criteria based on the specific tasks to be required to compete in each event or ISU discipline may be defined in the Code of Classification, Classification Handbook the Rules of Competition for Inclusive Skating and the Announcement of the Event. As a consequence a skater may be eligible to compete in one event or discipline but not in another. Eligibility to compete should be assessed in accordance with the Code of Classification and the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

To be eligible to compete and obtain an inclusive skating score result a skater must have an impairment that leads to a permanent and verifiable Activity Limitation on ice skating. The medical standard to be used to establish this is the Guides to the

Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli. The Classification Handbook will provide guidance on what impairments defined in the Guide have a functional impact on ice skating that lead to a permanent and verifiable Activity Limitation on ice skating.

The impairment should limit the skater's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with skaters without impairment.

If a skater has an Activity Limitation resulting from an impairment that is not permanent and/ or does not limit the skater's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with skaters without impairment, the skater should be considered ineligible to compete.

If a skater fails to meet the eligibility criteria for a particular discipline or event, the Skater will be declared ineligible for competition in that particular sport.

If a skater is deemed ineligible for competition under the Code of Classification, the Classification Handbook, the Rules of Competition for Inclusive Skating or the Announcement of the Event this does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. This is only a ruling on the eligibility of the athlete to compete under these provisions.

EVALUATION BY THE CLASSIFICATION PANEL

The evaluation of the impairment must be considered by the Classification Panel. At international level competition the skater and any evidence of the medical assessment carried out under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli must be assessed by at least two classifiers and one classifier must be or have the skills appropriate to an internationally qualified Classifier. This is a Classifier who has an understanding of the technical requirements of skating and who is skilled in the application of the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

At an event skaters may be observed by Classifiers during practice and competition. This assists the Classification Panel to confirm the impairment recorded during the assessment is the same when the skater is skating. This is not an assessment of the skater's skill. If observation of the skater raises concern then the skater may have their impairment assessment reviewed and reassessed by the classifiers.

RECORD OF ASSESSMENT

Records of skater's impairment assessment and their technical level will be maintained on a Classification Master List. The record will include the Skater's name, country, the impairment assessment, the skater's technical level and whether that skater has achieved an elite technical level for participation of skaters with that impairment. The record will also detail the compensating aids, such as hearing aids, that were used during the assessment of the impairment. The impairment compensation appropriate to the compensation aid used by the skater during the assessment must be the impairment compensation used to calculate the skater's result. The purpose of this record is to identify skaters that enter international competition and meet the IPC identification of sport class and sport class status requirements. This information will be made available to respective National Governing Bodies and National and International Federations. The skater will receive a copy of the record of their impairment assessment.

HEAD OF CLASSIFICATION

The Head of Classification shall take global responsibility for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters.

The duties and responsibilities of the Head of Classification include those specified in the International Standard: Classifier Training and Certification, November 2007. It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for Classification and the appointment of the Head of Classification. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating shall take this responsibility or should appoint a suitable person to take responsibility for Classification.

CHIEF CLASSIFIER

At all inclusive skating competitions a Chief Classifier should be appointed. The Chief Classifier is the classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specific competition.

The duties and responsibilities of the Chief Classifier include those specified in the International Standard: Classifier Training and Certification, November 2007.

The ISU may appoint a Chief Classifier for an International Competition as defined in ISU Rule 107 para 1-11 in accordance with the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating. The ISU must inform the LOC of the Chief Classifier contact details at least three months prior to the event. The duties and responsibilities of the Chief Classifier are outlined in the International Standard on classifier Training and Certification. It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for the appointment of the Chief Classifier. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating shall take this responsibility or should appoint a suitable person to take responsibility for Classification.

CLASSIFICATION PANEL

A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers, appointed for a particular competition to determine all matters related to Sport Class and Sport Class status. Where possible one of the classifiers should be medically qualified and one classifier should have a sound knowledge and understanding of the technical requirements of skating, the judging and marking systems of skating and who is skilled in the application of the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating. If one of Panel is able to fulfil two or more of these criteria then a Classification Panel of 2 may be formed. Classifiers shall be appointed and governed by the IPC international Standard: Classifier Training and Certification November 2007.

For the avoidance of doubt the IPC International Standard: Classifier Training and Certification, November 2007 and the Classifier Code of Conduct is hereby incorporated into the Code of Classification for inclusive Skating s and all classifiers must adhere to the IPC Code of Ethics (IPC Handbook), the Classifier Code of conduct and all relevant and applicable Codes of Conduct for Officials.

Matters related to Sport Class and Sport Class Status to be considered by the Classification Panel includes:

- considering the medical assessment under the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli,
- verifying that the skater does have the impairment so assessed
- confirming that this impairment does lead to a competitive disadvantage in skating
- confirming the whole person impairment percentage to be used by the skater

to compensate for the competitive disadvantage in the calculation of the skater's results

- confirming the activity limitations that apply to that skater
- confirming the competitive disability specific requirements that apply to that skater
- confirming , where appropriate, that the skater is skating at an elite technical level for that impairment
- confirming, where appropriate, that the skater is skating at an elite technical level in that specific event given their impairment, and
- establishing the appropriate average hypothetical scores to be used as the basis of the impairment compensation calculations for each technical level.

During a competition members of the Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities that are not in connection with Classification.

All Classifiers must comply with the Code of Conduct included in the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for the training, certification of classifiers and the appointment of the Classification Panel. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should appoint the Classification Panel or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person and training and certification of classifiers shall be in accordance with the International Standard: Classifier Training and Certification, November 2007.

PRE-COMPETITION TASKS

The ISU shall stipulate the need to provide facilities and support infrastructure in accordance with its Classification Rules as part of its agreement with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of an International Competition for Inclusive Skating and the LOC shall co-operate fully with the ISU in all classification matters.

The ISU member responsible for sanctioning a competition for skaters with an impairment shall stipulate the need to provide facilities and support infrastructure in accordance with the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating in their permit to the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the LOC shall co-operate fully with the ISU member in all classification matters.

The LOC is responsible for collecting all skater entries well in advance of the Competition dates.

A minimum of four weeks should be allowed in order to give the Chief Classifier for the Competition adequate time to:

- Cross-check skater registrations and event entry information with the ISU's Master List
- Allocate a Sports Class Status N to skaters who have not previously been listed on the sports Master Classification List and add them to the list
- Identify Sports Class Status R Skaters for Skater evaluation during the Classification Evaluation Period
- Prepare the Classification Evaluation Period schedule
- Disseminate all relevant information to competing ISU Members and Federations.

The Chief Classifier liaises with the LOC, ISU, National Paralympic Committees, ISU

Members, National and international Federations to collect Classification documentation as required by the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating and/ or advise them of the supportive classification documentation that will require to be brought by the skater to his evaluation in accordance with the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

The ISU may require the skater to provide detailed medical documentation in English of their impairment. The Chief Classifier has the right to request such documentation and shall have the discretion to not allocate a Sport Class and/or sport Class Status without this documentation.

It is the responsibility of the ISU member to ensure that any skater whose impairment is as a result of an uncommon or rare condition provides supporting specialist documentation written in English, when presenting for skater evaluation. Skaters are requested to make available any relevant documentation as detailed in the Classification Handbook and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating and the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, ed. R. Rondinelli, 6th Edition that would assist the Classification Panel in their deliberations including, but not limited to:

- Medical Reports
- Visual impairment assessments
- X-rays

Skaters are required to meet the standards specified in the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, ed. R. Rondinelli, 6th Edition when providing documentation and any supporting evidence of impairment.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for pre-competition tasks. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating shall assume this responsibility or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD

Once the Chief Classifier has identified the skaters requiring evaluation, a Classification Evaluation Period schedule is prepared in consultation with the LOC.

Athletes with N and R Sport Class Status must be included on the Classification Evaluation Period schedule before competition.

Assigned times and venues for skater evaluation should be communicated by the Chief Classifier in advance of arrival to all relevant parties in writing, but not limited to:

- ISU Members and or National Paralympic Committees
- LOC
- Head of Classification of the ISU

Adequate time must be provided for Skater Evaluation depending on the number of Skaters requiring evaluation. It is recommended that a minimum of two clear days is available for International competitions defined in ISU Rule 107 para 1-11.

ORGANISATION OF CLASSIFICATION EVALUATION PERIOD LOGISTICS

The Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier is responsible for liaising with the LOC to ensure that that adequate preparation for classification is undertaken prior to an event. An execution plan for the following needs to be agreed with the LOC:

- Identification of Classifiers that will attend the Competition
- Facilities and venue for skater Evaluation
- Facilities and venue for administration of Classification
- Equipment needs
- Technology support
- Resources including support personnel
- Accommodation and meals
- Per diems
- Request for travel to and from the competition
- Event transportation

SKATER PRESENTATION FOR EVALUATION

Skaters must dress appropriately and bring all equipment and devices a required by the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating including but not limited to:

- Documentation and supporting evidence
- Assistive devices
- Competition and/or daily use ice sledge
- Competition and/or daily use prostheses and/or orthoses
- Any other device that they intend to use during the Competition

Skaters with a visual impairment must bring any spectacles/ eye glasses and/or contact lenses used to correct vision to evaluation.

Skaters with a hearing impairment must bring any aid that is used to correct hearing to evaluation.

The skater must be accompanied by an Interpreter, and not more than one representative from the skaters National Paralympic Committee or the ISU Member.

Incorrect presentation for evaluation is deemed to be a failure to attend evaluation.

EVALUATION PRELIMINARIES

The Chief Classifier or designated representative will meet the skater and their accompanying support staff in a reception area to:

- Verify the accreditation of the skater and any accompanying support staff (if not done by the LOC)
- Check that the skater has met all the attire and equipment requirements for skater evaluation in accordance with the code of Classification for Inclusive Skating
- Collect any of the required documentation that was requested to be brought by the skater or is required to evaluate the skater under the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating

A Classification Panel member may additionally request information on the health of the skater prior to evaluation. Failure to provide this information may be deemed to constitute non co-operation during evaluation.

If a skater has a health condition that causes pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation, they may not be appropriate for evaluation at that time. The existence of pain may be taken into account to the extent specified in the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, ed. R. Rondinelli, 6th Edition. The decision

to carry on with the evaluation or time permitting, to reschedule the evaluation is within the discretion of the Chief Classifier. However, ultimately if the skater does not have a Sport Class and a Sports Class Status then they will not be eligible to obtain a result which includes an impairment compensation at the competition.

Prior to the skater assessment and evaluation a Classification Panel member will brief the skater and their accompanying support staff regarding the procedures involved in the Classification Process.

Skaters must consent to evaluation by signing a Classification Consent form to indicate their willingness to be classified and confirm their agreement to provide full effort and co-operation throughout the Classification process.

The Classification Consent Form shall remind skaters that failing to co-operate with Classifiers or failure to complete the Classification Process may be subject to sanctions for non co-operation during evaluation and intentional misrepresentation of skills and abilities under the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

The consent for Classification shall be part of the Classification rules of the ISU. Signing this agreement includes but is not limited to:

- Willingness to undergo a complete Classification Process, including all components as required by the specific sport and to take part co-operating fully with classifiers
- Acknowledging that Classifiers are not held liable for any pain or suffering experienced in the course of evaluation
- Agreement to allow photographs and/or videotaping for educational purposes.

If the skater has insufficient capacity to provide consent then a person with responsibility for the skater may consent on their behalf.

If the skater has insufficient capacity to fully co-operate with evaluation then a person with responsibility for the skater may assist the Classification Panel to evaluate the skater.

SKATER ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

The assessment of the skater includes but is not limited to:

- Physical Assessment
- Technical Assessment
- Observation assessment

The Physical assessment and the Technical Assessment take place during the Classification Evaluation Period. The Observation Assessment takes place during the Classification Evaluation Period (in case of Official Training Sessions) and/or the Classification Competition Period in the case of 'First Appearance'.

The Classification Panel should conduct and/or review the evidence of a physical assessment of the skater in accord with the Methods of Assessment stipulated in the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli.

The physical assessment may include, but is not limited to the examination of physical, muscle tone, co-ordination, range of movement, endurance, sensorial, or

intellectual abilities (for example: vision, strength or balance).

The Classification Panel should conduct a technical assessment of the Skater in accordance with the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

The technical assessment may include, but is not limited to the evaluation in a non-competitive environment of the specific tasks and activities of ice skating.

Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the skater in order to observe how the skater performs the activity under simulated sport conditions (for example specific skating skills).

Classifiers must be confident that the Skater has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the technical assessment and may request greater effort to ensure optimal observation opportunity.

The Classification Panel may observe the Skater performing the specific skills that are part of ice skating during training practices and/or in an Event, or during First Appearance in accordance with the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

In circumstances where the determination of Eligibility involves Evaluation by a Classification Panel at a competition, and a sport class of 'Ineligible' to compete is allocated, the skater will be required to be examined by a second classification panel in accordance with the IPC Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals. If the second Classification Protest Panel confirms that the skater's sport class is 'Ineligible', the skater will not be permitted to compete in the event and obtain an impairment compensation, and will have no further protest option. The skater may be permitted to skate as an able bodied skater at an inclusive skating event where able bodied skaters are permitted to participate.

SPORT CLASS AND SPORT CLASS STATUS ALLOCATION

Following skater Evaluation, the skater is given a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The class and status will be allocated to each skater in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation.

Sport Class is a category which refers to the Activity Limitation resulting from impairment. Under this Code the Sport Class will identify, through the process of impairment assessment, whether the skater has an impairment that limits the skater's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with skaters without impairment, the Whole Person Impairment (WPI) percentage that applies to the skater, the activity limitations that apply to that skater and where relevant, the elite level of competition for that skater. Ineligibility to compete is considered as a Sport Class.

A Sport Class Status is allocated to each skater and identifies the evaluation requirements that apply to the skater under the International Standard on Athlete Evaluation and this Code and Protest opportunities under the International Standard on Protests and Appeals and this Code.

The following Sport Class Status types shall apply:

- NEW (N)

Sport Class Status N is assigned to a Skater that has not been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport

Class verified by the ISU.

Sport Class Status N Skaters include Skaters who have been allocated a Sport Class by an ISU Member for entry purposes.

Sports Class Status N Athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at international competitions as defined by ISU Rule 107, paragraphs 1-11.

- REVIEW (R)

Sport Class Status R is assigned to a Skater who has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel, but for reasons as determined by the ISU requires a review of their Sport Class.

The athlete's current Sport Class is valid but the skater is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be challenged before or during competition.

Sports Class Status R skaters include but are not limited to:

- Requiring further observation during Competition to confirm their Sport Class
- Fluctuating impairments
- Sports Class is still subject to protest in accord with the ISU and IPC First Appearance requirements.

Sports Class Status R skaters must complete evaluation prior to competing at International competitions as defined by ISU Rule 107, paragraphs 1-11.

- CONFIRMED (C)

Sport Class Status C is assigned to an athlete if he/she has been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel and the Panel has determined that the Skater's sport Class will not change.

The ISU recognizes that the skater's assigned Sport Class is valid and will not be altered before or during competition, except in the case of a protest lodged under exceptional circumstances (see the IPC International Standard on Protests and Appeals which applies to the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating).

Sports Class Status C Skaters are not required to complete evaluation prior to competing at international Competitions, with the exception of re-evaluations due to protests lodged under exceptional circumstances (see the IPC International Standard on Protests and Appeals which applies to the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating).

- INELIGIBLE

To be eligible to compete in an inclusive skating competition a skater must have an impairment that leads to a permanent and verifiable Activity Limitation. The medical standard to be used to establish this is the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent impairment, 6th Edition, Ed. by Robert D. Rondinelli.

The impairment should limit the skater's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with skaters without impairment.

If a skater does have an Activity Limitation resulting from an impairment that is not Permanent and/or does not limit the skater's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with skaters without impairment, the skater should be considered ineligible to compete.

If a skater fails to meet the eligibility criteria for a particular discipline or event, the Skater will be declared ineligible for competition.

ASSIGNMENT OF INITIAL SPORTS CLASS AND UPDATE SPORT CLASS STATUS

The skater is assigned an initial Sport Class and Sport Class Status after the Physical and/or Technical Assessment has taken place.

Once the Classification Panel has made a decision on the skater's Sport Class, a member of the Classification Panel shall inform the skater of the Panel's decision. The skater's Sport Class Status will also need to be updated accordingly.

In case the Classification Panel requires Observation assessment to confirm the Skater's sport Class, the skater will be informed about this decision at this stage. It is expected that the Classification Panel will require to watch the skater on the ice and that most skaters will have their status under review until the Classification Panel have had sufficient time to observe the skater. It is expected that this observation will take place during official ice practice.

If the most functional Class is the Sports Class 'ineligible' the skater is immediately assessed by a second Classification Panel.

Written notification must be provided to the skater, in a standardised format developed by the ISU, including:

- The skater's assigned Sport Class
- The skater's updated Sport Class Status
- Associated Protest procedure options.

The LOC has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of outcomes of skater Evaluation after being so advised by the Chief classifier. This should include clear information to teams that they will require for viewing any skaters that entered the event with N or R Sports Class Status. Teams require this information so that they can determine to protest any newly assigned sports Classes in accord with the First Appearance requirement of the Code of Classification for inclusive skating.

At the end of each session during the Classification Evaluation period, the Chief Classifier must convey the outcomes of the assigned Sports Class and updated Sports Class Status to the LOC so that they can prepare start lists and make associated event management arrangements.

If the skater's impairment assessment and sport class is under review then the skater may skate in the competition and receive the skating score and may obtain an impairment compensation and an impairment compensation result for any impairment that is covered by their current Sport Class place.

For the avoidance of doubt, notification of the skater's Sport Class Status shall take place in accordance with the IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation. The relevant provisions of this standard are incorporated into the Code of Classification

for Inclusive Skating.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for allocating Sport class and Sport Class Status and until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

FIRST APPEARANCE

First appearance for N and R Class Status Skaters is generally defined as the first time the Skater competes during the competition. The ISU will further define whether First Appearance is applicable for a particular event and/or discipline.

In individual disciplines or events, if applicable, First Appearance usually is considered for each event that requires technically different skills.

In team sports, if applicable, First appearance usually is defined the first time a Skater has meaningful playing time (as determined by the chief Classifier) during preliminary rounds or pools.

The ISU will define meaningful on an objective basis and it is expected that this will include participation in an inclusive skating competition.

Skaters cannot be allocated a C Sports Class Status until they have completed the First Appearance requirements of the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating in order to allow other competitors/ Nations and ISU Members to:

- Observe the skater in competition
- Potentially protest the allocated Sports Class.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES IN SPORT CLASS RESULTING FROM OBSERVATION ASSESSMENT

If any changes to a skaters assigned Sports Class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of observation Assessment during the Classification Competition Period then:

- A member of the Classification shall inform the Skater, the Nation and/or ISU Member and the LOC of the Panel's decision as soon as is logistically possible.
- Results may need to be adjusted by the LOC in accordance with the Rules of Competition for Inclusive Skating and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.
- The LOC will have to make adjustments to start lists and schedule in accordance with the Rules of Competition for Inclusive Skating and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.
- The LOC must advise other teams/ Nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as possible in accordance with the Rules of Competition for inclusive skating and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

If there has been any sport class change as a result of observation assessment or otherwise then once the sport class status is confirmed the impairment compensation to be added to the skater's score is confirmed and all results, records, rankings and allocated medals will be adjusted accordingly.

DEFINITION OF ELITE TECHNICAL STANDARDS

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for the identification of the elite technical standard for each level of impairment under the Code of Classification and will ensure that all skaters are allocated a Sport class that identifies the elite technical level for that impairment. Elite technical levels may be established through general standards, guidelines or through the individual evaluation of each skater. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

It is expected that the elite technical level will be the average technical level that is attainable for skaters with that impairment who undertake training and dedication to the sport of skating. The evidence to define this level will develop over time as skaters with impairment undertake training and participate in competition.

A skater must be allocated a sport class and sport class status under this Code of Classification to compete at events governed by the IPC.

COMPETING IN A DIFFERENT SPORT CLASS

The Rules of Competition for Inclusive Skating and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating shall establish, where required, the process and consequences whereby a Skater may or may not compete in a different sport class than the skater's allocated sport class.

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

A Protest is the procedure by which a formal objection to a Skater's Sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved. Protests shall be conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals, which is hereby incorporated into the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

The Protest procedure under this Code of Classification shall permit the lodging of protests in Competition and out of competition.

Any protest must be submitted in English and in conducted in accordance with the Protest Form issued by the ISU.

The Protest Form shall include:

- Who is able to submit a protest
- The name, nation and event of the skater whose sport class is being protested
- Details of the decision being protested
- The reason for the protest
- The timelines for the submission and resolution of protest
- Documents and other evidence to be submitted with a protest
- Fees payable as determined by the ISU
- The signature of the National Paralympic committee representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable
- Notification of Decision process

Skaters Protests during competition must be considered by a second Classification Panel in accordance with the international Standard for Protests and Appeals.

The Chief Classifier should attempt to schedule any skater protests against an assigned Sports Class during the Classification Evaluation period.

The Chief Classifier should attempt to schedule a Protest against a newly assigned sports Class as soon as is logistically possible. If the protest does not allow for this protest to take place before the skater's next appearance, then the skater should compete in their most recently assigned Sports Class.

An appeal refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved. The appeal process shall determine and resolve procedural disputes concerning classification and shall be in accordance with the IPC International Standard for Protests and Appeals which is hereby incorporated into the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

Appeals may be commenced by submitting a Notice of Appeal issued by the ISU which stipulates the fee to be paid and shall be in accord with the IPC International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

Parties identified in Protests and Appeals shall be informed of the status and findings resulting from the Protest or Appeal process, and shall be provided with a reasoned decision concerning the outcome of the Protest or Appeal. The recipient parties shall not disclose this information until the Protest or Appeal has been resolved by the ISU.

The identity of skaters whose Sport Class has been protested and/ or appealed may not be disclosed by the ISU before completion of the Protest or Appeal. It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for the Protest and Appeal process and procedures. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person. It is intended that the IPC BAC Bylaws (IPC Handbook, Section 1, chapter 2.8) will apply and in addition or in the alternative the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) may act as the Appeal body on behalf of the ISU and until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person such as the BAC.

SKATER FAILURE TO ATTEND EVALUATION

If a skater fails to attend evaluation, the skater will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete in the Inclusive skating competition.

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend an evaluation the Skater may be given a second and final chance to attend the evaluation.

Failure to attend evaluation includes:

- Not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place
- Not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/ clothing and/or documentation.
- Not attending the evaluation accompanied by the required Skater Support Personnel.

NON CO-OPERATION DURING EVALUATION

A skater who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in evaluation shall be considered Non-Co-operative during evaluation. If the skater fails to co-operate during evaluation the skater will not be allocated a Sport Class or should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation, a skater may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.

A skater found to be non co-operative during an evaluation is not permitted to undergo any further evaluation for a minimum period of three months (or such greater period as deemed appropriate by the ISU), starting from the date upon which the skater failed to co-operate.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for supervision of non co-operation during evaluation. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION OF SKILLS AND/OR ABILITIES

A skater who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities shall be considered in violation of the Classification rules and the Code of Classification for inclusive skating.

If the skater intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities, the skater will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete in the inclusive skating competition.

In addition, the ISU will

- Not allow the skater to undergo any further evaluation for ice skating for a minimum period of two years from the date upon which the skater intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities.
- Remove any Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to the Skater from the ISU Classification Master list.
- Designate the skater as IM (intentional misrepresentation) in the ISU Classification Master List.
- Not allow the athlete to undergo any further evaluation for any discipline within the ISU for a period of two years from the date upon which the skater intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities.

A skater who, on a second separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from the Paralympic Games and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate by the ISU.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for intentional misrepresentation of skills and/or abilities. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

CONSEQUENCES FOR ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL

The ISU shall sanction any skater support personnel who assist or encourage a

skater to fail to attend evaluation, to fail to co-operate, intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

Those who are involved in advising skaters to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities shall be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions enforced on the skater.

In this circumstance, reporting skater support personnel to appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by the skater.

CONSEQUENCES OF TEAMS

The ISU will determine the consequences to teams which include a skater who cannot be allocated a sport class or sport class status for reasons of failing to attend evaluation, and intentionally misrepresenting skills and/or abilities during evaluation. It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for the consequences for teams. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

POST COMPETITION TASKS

The Chief Classifier must complete and forward a Post Competition report to the Head of Classification and/or the ISU in accordance with the Rules of Competition for Inclusive Skating and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

The Chief Classifier must correspond and liaise with the Head of Classification and/or the ISU to ensure that the Classification Master List is updated in accord with the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for post competition tasks. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

AD HOC RULES FOR THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

Skater evaluation during the Paralympic Games will be subject to the international Standard as amended by the classification guide for the relevant Paralympic Games. The IPC will detail procedures specific to timelines and venues at the relevant Paralympic Games.

Skaters with an N status prior to an event will not be allowed to participate at the Paralympic Games. Exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the IPC governing Board.

PUBLICATION OF PENALTIES

The ISU may disclose details of penalties imposed on skaters and skater support personnel under this Code.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for publication of penalties. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The ISU shall implement Classification Education and Awareness Programmes that should include reference to:

- The code
- International Standards
- Current Sport Classification Rules
- Skater's rights and responsibilities
- Skater support personnel rights and responsibilities

The ISU will co-ordinate with other signatories to the IPC code of Classification their efforts in developing and circulating Classification information and research.

Classification research shall comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.

The ISU will develop, and where appropriate, adopt evidence-based Classification systems through research.

Classification research should be multi-disciplinary, for example, biomechanics, kinesiology, and physiology.

The ISU will seek to co-ordinate Classification research through the IPC. Copies of Classification research results should be provided to the IPC.

The ISU will develop a policy and/or procedures concerning the approval of Classification research within ice skating.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately take responsibility for education and research. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The ISU and Inclusive skating supports the role and responsibilities of the IPC as outlined in the IPC Classification code.

The role and responsibilities of the ISU include:

- To develop, implement and regularly review Classification Rules, including Eligibility criteria, in compliance with the code.
- To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code.
- To promote Classification education and research.
- To recommend that Classification Rules in National Federations should be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the IPC Classification code and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

It is intended that the ISU shall ultimately assume all of the above responsibilities. Until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take such responsibility for this process or delegate such responsibility to another suitably qualified person.

The role and responsibilities of ISU Members include:

- To ensure that their Classification rules conform to the IPC Classification Code and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

- To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the IPC code of Classification and the code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.
- To promote the development of a national Classification strategy, including education.
- To recommend to ISU members that individual National Federation Classification rules should be in compliance with the code.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Major Competition Organizers include:

- To implement Classification procedures for Competitions which conform to the IPC Classification Code and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.
- To take appropriate action to achieve compliance with the IPC Classification Code and the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating.

ACCEPTANCE, IMPLEMENTATION, COMPLIANCE AND MODIFICATIONS

It is intended that the ISU and all ISU members will accept the IPC Classification Code by signing a declaration of acceptance upon approval by each of their respective governing bodies and on so doing will be designated as a “signatory” to the IPC Classification Code.

Major Competition Organizers and other sport organizations, including Inclusive Skating that may not be under the control of a signatory to the IPC Classification Code may, upon the IPC’s invitation, also accept the IPC Classification Code. A list of all acceptances shall be made public by the IPC.

Each Signatory shall implement applicable Code provisions through policies, statutes, rules or regulations.

Each signatory will use the Models of Best practice recommended by the IPC.

To facilitate monitoring, each Signatory shall report on its compliance with the Code every two years and shall explain reasons for non-compliance. These reports may be made available to the public.

Explanations for non-compliance with the code may be considered and, in extraordinary situations, a temporary extension may be granted.

The non-compliant signatory must submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for compliance subject to approval by the IPC Governing Board. Non-compliance with the IPC Classification Code shall result in sanctions that may include:

- Exclusion From the Paralympic Games and any other IPC Sanctioned Events
- Suspension of IPC Membership.

The imposition of sanctions may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Skaters and signatories will co-operate and participate in the process of the evolution and development of the IPC Classification Code.

Any signatory may withdraw acceptance of the Code after providing the IPC six months written notice of their intent to withdraw.

INTERPRETATION OF THE CODE

The official text of the IPC Classification Code is maintained by the IPC and is published in English. The Code of Classification for inclusive skating is intended to be maintained by the ISU and until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating should take responsibility for this process or delegate responsibility to another suitably qualified person. The Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating shall be published in English.

The Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating will be interpreted by reference to the IPC Classification Code. The Introduction, glossary and International Standards of the IPC Classification Code are considered integral parts of the IPC Classification Code.

The headings used for the various Parts and Articles of the Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of the Code or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.

The Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating shall not apply retrospectively to matters pending before the date the Code is accepted by an IPC Member and implemented in its rules.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD: ATHLETE EVALUATION

It is intended that the ISU will, as the International Federation, adopt and apply the IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation (November 2007) and until the ISU assumes this role Inclusive Skating shall adopt and apply the IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation (November 2007).

The Code of Classification for Inclusive Skating is deemed to incorporate the IPC International Standard for Athlete Evaluation subject to the following provisions.

It is the ISU Members responsibility to ensure that Skaters are classified at National level before competing in an international competition as defined by ISU Rule 107, paragraphs 1-11.