



Classification Rules for Paracanoe

According to Model Rules consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and accompanying International Standards - January 2017

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## **PART ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. Scope and Application Adoption**

- 1.1. These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by the International Canoe Federation (ICF) to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2. The Classification Rules have been adopted by the ICF Board of Directors on March 23, 2018.
- 1.3. These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.4. These Classification Rules form part of the ICF Paracanoe Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5. The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from ICF Paracanoe, and can be amended by ICF Paracanoe from time to time.

#### **Classification**

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

#### **Application**

- 1.7. These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with ICF Paracanoe, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by ICF Paracanoe.
- 1.8. These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of ICF Paracanoe, including but not limited to the sport technical rules of ICF Paracanoe. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.
- 1.9. ICF Paracanoe will only permit an Athlete to compete in an International Competition if that Athlete has been allocated a Sport Class (other than Sport Class Not Eligible) and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.
- 1.10. ICF Paracanoe will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Sport Class and designated with a Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at Recognised Competitions (or other such locations as defined by ICF Paracanoe). ICF Paracanoe will advise Athletes, National Federations and National Paralympic Committees in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).

## **Interpretation and Relationship to Code**

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

## **2. Roles and Responsibilities**

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

### **Athlete Responsibilities**

- 2.2. The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
  - 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 and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to ICF Paracanoe at [classification@canoeicf.com](mailto:classification@canoeicf.com)
  - d) cooperate with any investigations concerning possible violations of these Classification Rules; and
  - e) actively participate in the process of education and awareness, and classification research, through exchanging personal experiences and expertise.

### **Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities**

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

### **Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

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

## **PART TWO: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL**

### **3. Classification Personnel**

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

#### **Head of Classification (HoC)**

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

#### **Classifiers**

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

#### **Chief Classifiers**

- 3.8. A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or at such other location as defined by ICF Paracanoe. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by ICF Paracanoe to do the following:

- 3.8.1. identify those Athletes who will be required to attend an Evaluation Session;
  - 3.8.2. supervise Classifiers to ensure these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
  - 3.8.3. manage Protests in consultation with ICF Paracanoe (ICF HoC and the ICF Paracanoe Event Technical Delegate (TD))
  - 3.8.4. liaise with the relevant Competition organisers to ensure that all travel, accommodation and other logistics are arranged in order that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Competition.
- 3.9. A Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to other appropriately qualified Classifiers, or other appropriately qualified ICF Paracanoe officers or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

### **Trainee Classifiers**

- 3.10. A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by ICF Paracanoe and may act as a National Level Classifier.
- 3.11. ICF Paracanoe may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop Classifier Competencies.

## **4. Classifier Competencies, Training and Certification**

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

- 4.4.1. a process for the certification of Trainee Classifiers;
  - 4.4.2. quality assessment for the period of certification;
  - 4.4.3. a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification; and
  - 4.4.4. a process for Re-certification of Classifiers.
- .
- 4.5. ICF Paracanoe must specify Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. ICF Paracanoe will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
  - 4.6. ICF Paracanoe must provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
  - 4.7. ICF Paracanoe may provide that a Classifier is subject to certain limitations, including (but not limited to):
    - 4.7.1. a limitation on the Impairment type for which a Classifier is certified to act as a Classifier;
    - 4.7.2. a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;
    - 4.7.3. a limitation on the level of Competition or Event that a Classifier is authorised to act as a Classifier;
    - 4.7.4. the maximum time that a Classifier Certification is valid;
    - 4.7.5. that Classifier Certification is subject to review within a specific time frame by reference to the Classifier Competencies;
    - 4.7.6. that a Classifier may lose Classifier Certification if ICF Paracanoe is not satisfied the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or
    - 4.7.7. that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if ICF Paracanoe is satisfied the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.

## **5. Classifier Code of Conduct**

- 5.1. The integrity of Classification in ICF Paracanoe depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. ICF Paracanoe has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'Classifier Code of Conduct'.
- 5.2. All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classifier Code of Conduct.
- 5.3. Any person who believes any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Classifier Code of Conduct must report this in a written form to ICF Paracanoe HoC or the ICF Paracanoe Chair and the report must be forwarded to the Classification Sub-committee.
- 5.4. When the ICF Classification Sub-committee receives such a report, it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.5. The ICF Classification Sub-committee has discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.
- 5.6. If an ICF Classification Sub-committee member is the subject of any such report they shall not participate in any discussions or decisions on the matter by the Sub-committee.

## **PART THREE: ATHLETE EVALUATION**

### **6. General Provisions**

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

### **7. Eligible Impairment**

- 7.1. Any Athlete wishing to compete in ICF Paracanoe must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2. Appendix One specifies the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in ICF Paracanoe
- 7.3. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix One is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Four includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

#### **Assessment of Eligible Impairment**

- 7.4. ICF Paracanoe must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.4.1. In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, ICF Paracanoe may require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Four lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions.
  - 7.4.2. The means by which ICF Paracanoe determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of the ICF Paracanoe HoC. The HoC may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore will not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.4.3. If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the HoC becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, and believes that the impact of that Health Condition may be that it is unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, the HoC may designate the Athlete as "Classification Not Completed" (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In

- such instances, the HoC will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Federation.
- 7.5. An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply the ICF Paracanoe HoC with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:
- 7.5.1. The relevant National Federation must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to the ICF Paracanoe HoC, not later than 30 days before the start of the classification period of the Competition.
  - 7.5.2. The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional. The health care professional must include their contact information (email address)
  - 7.5.3. The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by the HoC.
- 7.6. The HoC may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if the HoC at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7. If the HoC requires an Athlete to provide Diagnostic Information, the HoC may consider the Diagnostic Information and/or may appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee to do so.
- 7.8. The process by which an Eligibility Assessment Committee is formed and considers Diagnostic Information is as follows:
- 7.8.1. The Head of Classification (HoC) will notify the relevant National Federation that Medical Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The HoC will explain what Medical Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required.
  - 7.8.2. The HoC will set timelines for the production of Medical Diagnostic Information.
  - 7.8.3. The HoC will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the HoC and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee must sign confidentiality undertakings.
  - 7.8.4. If the HoC believes he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Medical Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information, but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
  - 7.8.5. Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Medical Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Medical Diagnostic Information and decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.8.6. If the Eligibility Assessment Committee concludes that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete will be permitted to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
  - 7.8.7. If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant National Federation. The National Federation will be given

an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Medical Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review up to 15 days before the beginning of the Classification period. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the National Federation.

- 7.8.8. If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the National Federation.
- 7.8.9. The Eligibility Assessment Committee may make its decisions by a majority. If the Head of Classification is part of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, he or she may veto any decision if he or she does not agree that the Diagnostic Information supports the conclusion that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
- 7.9. The HoC may delegate one or more of the functions described above to a Classification Panel.

## **8. Minimum Impairment Criteria**

- 8.1. An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for that sport.
- 8.2. ICF Paracanoe has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.
- 8.3. Appendix One of these Classification Rules specifies the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to ICF Paracanoe and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- 8.4. Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.
- 8.5. A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy the ICF Paracanoe HoC that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.
- 8.6. In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, ICF Paracanoe has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:
  - 8.6.1. for Eligible Impairments, Minimum Impairment Criteria must not consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport

## **9. Sport Class**

- 9.1. A Sport Class is a category defined by ICF Paracanoe 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 the sport.
  - 9.1.1. An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for ICF Paracanoe must be allocated Sport

Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Article 18 of these Classification Rules

- 9.1.2. An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for ICF Paracanoe must be allocated a Sport Class (subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
- 9.1.3. Except for the allocation of Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by ICF Paracanoe (in accordance with Article 18.1), the allocation of a Sport Class must be solely on an evaluation by a Classification Panel of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport. This evaluation must take place in a controlled noncompetitive environment, which allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 9.2. Appendix One of these Classification Rules specifies the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Sport Class and the designation of Sport Class Status.

## **10. Classification Not Completed**

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

## **PART FOUR: ATHLETE EVALUATION & THE CLASSIFICATION PANEL**

### **11. The Classification Panel**

- 11.1. A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by the ICF Paracanoe Classification Sub-committee to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

#### **General Provisions**

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

### **12. Classification Panel Responsibilities**

- 12.1. A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
  - 12.1.1. assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for the sport;
  - 12.1.2. assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport; and
  - 12.1.3. conduct (if required) Observation in Competition.
- 12.2. Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 12.3. Prior to the Evaluation Session, the assessment as to whether an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment must be undertaken by the HoC and/or an Eligibility Assessment Committee, unless the HoC requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.4. The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 12.5. Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of ICF Paracanoe, the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.
- 12.6. An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Sport Class.
- 12.7. The Sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One.

### **13. Evaluation Sessions**

- 13.1. This Article applies to all Evaluation Sessions.
- 13.2. The Athlete's National Federation is responsible for ensuring Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 13.3. respect of Athletes:
  - 13.3.1. Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's National Federation when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor or has an Intellectual Impairment.
  - 13.3.2. The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.
  - 13.3.3. The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by ICF Paracanoe.
  - 13.3.4. The Athlete must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card or event accreditation.
  - 13.3.5. The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Sport Class.
  - 13.3.6. The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.

- 13.3.7. The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Panel.
- 13.4. In respect of the Classification Panel:
  - 13.4.1. The Classification Panel may request an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Sport Class.
  - 13.4.2. The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by the Chief Classifier. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete's National Federation will be responsible for arranging for an interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the person referred to in Article 13.3.1 above.
  - 13.4.3. The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or a Chief Classifier if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion(s) is necessary in order to allocate a Sport Class.
  - 13.4.4. In addition to any opinion(s) sought in accordance with Article 13.4.3, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation and ICF Paracanoe (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
  - 13.4.5. The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

## **14. Observation in Competition**

- 14.1. A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 14.2. The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One.
- 14.3. If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.
- 14.4. An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 14.5. Observation in Competition Assessment must take place during First Appearance. In this regard:
  - 14.5.1. First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
  - 14.5.2. First Appearance within a Sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Sport Class.
- 14.6. If an Athlete is:
  - c) subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and
  - d) the second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and

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

## 15. Sport Class Status

- 15.1. If a Classification Panel allocates a Sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 15.2. The Sport Class Status designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the conclusion of an Evaluation Session will be one of the following:
  - 15.3. Confirmed (C)
  - 15.4. Review (R)
  - 15.5. Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)
- 15.6. An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by ICF Paracanoe prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition, unless the HoC specifies otherwise.

### Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 15.7. An Athlete will be designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that both the Athlete's Eligible Impairment and the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are and will remain stable.
  - 15.7.1. An Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Article 19), Medical Review (Article 31) and changes to Sport Class criteria (Article 15.7)).
  - 15.7.2. A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with

### **Sport Class Status Review (R)**

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

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

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

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

- 15.10. If ICF Paracanoe changes any Sport Class criteria and/ or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
  - 15.10.1. The HoC may re-assign any Athlete who holds Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) with Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; or
  - 15.10.2. The HoC may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
  - 15.10.3. in both instances the relevant National Federation shall be informed as soon as is practicable.

## **16. Multiple Sport Classes**

- 16.1. This Article applies to Athletes who are potentially eligible to be allocated in more than one Sport Class. Multiple Eligible Impairments

- 16.2. An Athlete who has a Physical Impairment may be allocated more than one Sport Class (in Kayak and Va'a) relevant to that Physical Impairment subject to any applicable ICF Paracanoe Rules and Regulations.

## **17. Notification**

- 17.1. The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the Athlete and/or National Federation and published as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.
- 17.2. The Chief Classifier must publish the outcome of Athlete Evaluation at the Competition following Athlete Evaluation, and the outcomes must be made available post Competition via the Classification Master List on the ICF Paracanoe website.

## **PART FIVE: SPORT CLASS NOT ELIGIBLE (NE)**

### **18. Sport Class Not Eligible**

#### **General Provisions**

- 18.1. If the HoC determines that an Athlete:
- a) has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - b) does not have an Underlying Health Condition,
- 18.2. the HoC must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 18.3. If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for a sport that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for that sport.

#### **Absence of Eligible Impairment**

- 18.4. If the HoC determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, that Athlete:
- 18.4.1. will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
  - 18.4.2. will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by HoC.
- 18.5. If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment the HoC may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.
- 18.6. An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by the HoC or a Classification Panel (if delegated by the HoC) because that Athlete has:
- a) an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
  - b) a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;
- 18.7. the athlete has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in ICF Paracanoe.

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

- 18.8. A second Classification Panel must review by way of a second Evaluation Session any Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) on the basis that a Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.
  - 18.8.1. Pending the second Evaluation Session the Athlete will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sport Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment.
  - 18.8.2. If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session at the time set by the Chief Classifier); Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 18.9. 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 must be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.
- 18.10. 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 ICF Paracanoe, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 18.11. If an Athlete is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE), this does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of ICF Paracanoe.

## **PART SIX: PROTESTS**

### **19. Scope of a Protest**

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

### **20. Parties Permitted to Make a Protest**

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

- 20.1. a National Federation (see Articles 21-22); or
- 20.2. *(blank)*, or
- 20.3. ICF Paracanoe Head of Classification (HoC) (see Articles 23-24).

## 21. National Protests

- 21.1. A National Federation may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue set aside for Athlete Evaluation.
- 21.2. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 17 of these Classification Rules) a National Protest must be submitted within two (2) hours of the outcome being published if the outcome is published during working hours (09:00 to 17:00). If the outcome is published outside of working hours or after 17:00, a National Protest must be submitted by 10:00 of the following day. If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition a National Protest must be submitted as noted above; within two (2) hours of the outcome being published if the outcome is published during working hours (09:00 to 17:00). If the outcome is published outside of working hours or after 17:00, a National Protest must be submitted by 10:00 of the following day.
- 21.3. If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Federation may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place. If a Protest is made before First Appearance takes place the Athlete must not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.

## 22. National Protest Procedure

- 22.1. To submit a National Protest, a National Federation must show that the Protest is bona fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, that must be made available by the ICF Paracanoe Secretary or Chief Classifier at the Competition and via the ICF website, and must include the following:
  - 22.1.1. the name and sport of the Protested Athlete;
  - 22.1.2. the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;
  - 22.1.3. an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Federation believes the Protested Decision is flawed;
  - 22.1.4. reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached; and
  - 22.1.5. the Protest Fee set by the ICF.
- 22.2. The Protest Documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified by the ICF Paracanoe Committee. Upon receipt of the Protest Documents, the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with the ICF Paracanoe Technical Delegate for the competition, of which there are two possible outcomes:
  - 22.2.1. the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this Article 22; or
  - 22.2.2. the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, in the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in this Article 22.
- 22.3. If the Protest is dismissed the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Federation or as soon as practicable. The Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 22.4. If the Protest is accepted:

- 22.4.1. the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R);
- 22.4.2. the Chief Classifier must appoint a Protest Panel to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as possible, which must be either at the Competition at which the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and
- 22.4.3. The ICF Paracanoe Secretary or the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

## **23. Paracanoe Protests**

- 23.1. The ICF HoC may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- 23.2. it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or
- 23.3. a National Federation makes a documented request to the ICF Paracanoe HoC. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of the ICF HoC.

## **24. Paracanoe Protest Procedure**

- 24.1. If the ICF Paracanoe Head of Classification (HoC) decides to make a Protest, the HoC must advise the relevant National Federation of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 24.2. The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Federation with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the HoC considers it is justified.
- 24.3. If the HoC makes a Protest:
  - 24.3.1. the Protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest;
  - 24.3.2. the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to Review (R) unless the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status is already Review (R); and
  - 24.3.3. a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

## **25. Protest Panel**

- 25.1. A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in this Article 25 if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 25.2. A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.
- 25.3. A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
  - 25.3.1. made the Protested Decision; or

- 25.3.2. conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, unless otherwise agreed by the National Federation and the HoC (whichever is relevant).
- 25.4. The Head of Classification must notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that must be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 25.5. The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 25.6. The Protest Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.
- 25.7. The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both a National Protest and an HoC Protest is final. A National Federation or the HoC may not make another Protest on the same matter/topic at the relevant Competition.

## **26. Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available**

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

## **27. Special Provisions**

- 27.1. The ICF Paracanoe Committee may make arrangements (subject to the approval of the IPC) for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, the ICF Paracanoe HoC must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition.

## **Application during Major Competitions**

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

- 28.1. The IPC and/or ICF Paracanoe Committee may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

## **PART SEVEN: MISCONDUCT DURING EVALUATION SESSION**

### **29. Failure to Attend Evaluation Session**

- 29.1. An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.

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

### 30. Suspension of Evaluation Session

- 30.1. A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, in one or more of the following circumstances:
  - 30.1.1. a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
  - 30.1.2. a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 30.1.3. the Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct its determination in a fair manner;
  - 30.1.4. the Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with requests by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;
  - 30.1.5. the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
  - 30.1.6. the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
  - 30.1.7. the Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with **any information** available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.
- 30.2. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps must be taken:
  - 30.2.1. an explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant National Federation,
  - 30.2.2. if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, the Evaluation Session will be resumed;
  - 30.2.3. if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete

- must be precluded from competing at any Competition until the determination is completed.
- 30.3. If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules.
- 30.4. A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **PART EIGHT: MEDICAL REVIEW**

### **31. Medical Review**

- 31.1. 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).
- 31.2. A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by a sport in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.
- 31.3. A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's National Federation (together with a €100 non-refundable fee and any supporting documentation). The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required by Paracanoe has changed.
- 31.4. A Medical Review Request must be received by the ICF Paracanoe Secretary or Head of Classification as soon as reasonably practicable and in no cases will be received less than 30 days before the competition that athlete intends to compete in.
- 31.5. The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 31.6. Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of such changes outlined in Article 31.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Federation, and the ICF Paracanoe Secretary may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 31.7. If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.

## **PART NINE: INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION**

### **32. Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 32.1. It is a disciplinary offence for an Athlete to intentionally misrepresent (either by act or omission) his or her skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Sport Class. This disciplinary offence is referred to as 'Intentional Misrepresentation'.
- 32.2. It will be a disciplinary offence for any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel to assist an Athlete in committing Intentional Misrepresentation or to be in any other way involved

- in any other type of complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, including but not limited to covering up Intentional Misrepresentation or disrupting any part of the Athlete Evaluation process.
- 32.3. In respect of any allegation relating to Intentional Misrepresentation a hearing will be convened by the ICF Paracanoe HoC to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 32.3.1. The panel for the hearing shall be composed of the Chair of the Paracanoe Committee, the HoC, Chief Classifier of the relevant competition (if different than the HoC) and the ICF Sec'y General.
- 32.4. The consequences to be applied to an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation will be one or more of the following:
- 32.4.1. disqualification from all events at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any subsequent Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
- 32.4.2. being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years;
- 32.4.3. suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 1 to 4 years; and
- 32.4.4. publication of their names and suspension period.
- 32.5. Any Athlete who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible with Fixed Review Date Status for a period of time from four years to life.
- 32.6. Any Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be suspended from participation in any Competition for a period of time from four years to life.
- 32.7. If another International Sports Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation which results in consequences being imposed on that Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by ICF Paracanoe.
- 32.8. Any consequences to be applied to teams, which include an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is found to have been guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation, will be at the discretion of the ICF Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the ICF Paracanoe Committee.
- 32.9. Any disciplinary action taken by the ICF Executive Committee (upon the recommendation of the Paracanoe Committee) pursuant to these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable IPC Board of Appeal of Classification Bylaws.

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

### **33. Classification Data**

- 33.1. ICF Paracanoe may only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.
- 33.2. All Classification Data Processed by ICF Paracanoe must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date.

### **34. Consent and Processing**

- 34.1. Subject to Article 34.3, ICF Paracanoe may only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 34.2. If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is under age) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.
- 34.3. ICF Paracanoe may only Process Classification Data without consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

### **35. Classification Research**

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

### **36. Notification to Athletes**

- 36.1. ICF Paracanoe must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:
  - 36.1.1. the fact that ICF Paracanoe is collecting the Classification Data; and
  - 36.1.2. the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
  - 36.1.3. the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

### **37. Classification Data Security**

- 37.1. ICF Paracanoe must:
  - 37.1.1. protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft

- or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and
- 37.1.2. take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

### **38. Disclosures of Classification Data**

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

### **39. Retaining Classification Data**

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

### **40. Access Rights to Classification Data**

- 40.1. Athletes may request from the ICF Paracanoe Head of Classification:
  - 40.1.1. confirmation of whether or not that ICF Paracanoe Processes Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
  - 40.1.2. a copy of the Classification Data held by ICF Paracanoe ; and/or
  - 40.1.3. correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by ICF Paracanoe.
- 40.2. A request may be made by an Athlete or a National Federation on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with, within a reasonable period of time.

### **41. Classification Master Lists**

- 41.1. ICF Paracanoe must maintain a Classification Master List of Athletes, which must include the Athlete's name, gender, year of birth, country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List must identify Athletes that enter International Competitions.
- 41.2. ICF Paracanoe must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Federations on the ICF website.

## **PART ELEVEN: APPEALS**

### **42. Appeal**

- 42.1. 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.

### **43. Parties Permitted to Make an Appeal**

- 43.1. An Appeal may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- 43.1.1. a National Federation

### **44. Appeals**

- 44.1. If a National Federation considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Sport Class or Sport Class Status, it may submit an Appeal.
- 44.2. The Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) will act as the hearing body for the resolution of Appeals.
- 44.3. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable BAC Bylaws.

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

- 45.1. The IPC and/or ICF Paracanoe may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

## **PART TWELVE: GLOSSARY**

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

**Appeals:** The means by which a complaint that ICF Paracanoe has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

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

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

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

**BAC:** The IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

**Chief Classifier:** A classifier appointed by ICF Paracanoe Chairman to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

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

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

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

**Classification Master List:** A list made available by ICF Paracanoe that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Classification Not Completed:** the designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of Para Sport.

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

**Classification Panel:** A group of Classifiers, appointed by ICF Paracanoe HoC, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

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

**Classification Rules:** Also referred to as Classification Rules and Regulations. The policies, procedures, protocols and descriptions adopted by [Para Sport] in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification Sub-committee:** A committee composed of the HoC, Paracanoe Secretary, the Paracanoe Committee chair and two or three others with extensive classification knowledge. The purpose is to provide classification specific advice to the ICF Paracanoe Committee.

**Classification System:** The framework used by ICF Paracanoe to develop and designate Sport Classes within a Para sport.

**Classifier:** A person authorised as an official by ICF Paracanoe to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

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

**Classifier Competencies:** The qualifications and abilities ICF Paracanoe deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct.

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by ICF Paracanoe.

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

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

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

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

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

**Eligible Impairment:** An Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Para sport, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

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

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

**Entry-level Education:** the basic knowledge and practical skills specified by ICF Paracanoe to begin as a Classifier in the sport under its governance.

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

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

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

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

**Head of Classification:** A person appointed by the ICF Board of Directors upon recommendation of the ICF Paracanoe Chairman to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for ICF Paracanoe.

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

**Impairment:** A Physical, Vision or Intellectual Impairment.

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

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

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. The IPC and the International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled act as an International Sport Federation for certain sports.

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

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee.

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

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

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

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

**Medical Review Request:** A request made by a National Federation for a Medical Review, made on behalf of an Athlete.

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

**National Federation:** Refers to the national member of the International Canoe Federation (ICF).

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

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

**National Protest:** A Protest made by a National Federation in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

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

**Observation in Competition:** The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

**Paracanoe Secretary:** provides administrative support to the Classification sub-committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Protested Decision:** The Sport Class decision being challenged.

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

**Protest Fee:** The fee prescribed by the ICF Board of Directors, payable by the National Body or National Paralympic Committee when submitting a Protest.

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

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

**Protest Panel:** A Classification Panel appointed by the Chief Classifier to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest Re-certification: The process by which ICF Paracanoe must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

**Recognised Competition:** a Competition that is sanctioned or approved by the ICF Board of Directors upon the recommendation of ICF Paracanoe.

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

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

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

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

**Team Sport:** a sport in which substitution of players is permitted during a Competition.

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

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

## **APPENDIX ONE : ATHLETES WITH PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT**

### **46. Eligible Impairment Types**

(Paracanoe eligible Impairments marked with \*)

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
<p><b>*IMPAIRED MUSCLE POWER*</b>                      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.                      (Upper limbs excluded)</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete, tetra- or paraplegia or paraparesis), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.</p>
<p><b>*LIMB DEFICIENCY*</b>                      Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma.                      (Upper limbs excluded)</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia).</p>
<p>Leg Length Difference                      Athletes with Leg Length Difference have a difference in the length of their legs.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Leg Length Difference include: dysmelia and congenital or traumatic disturbance of limb growth.</p>
<p>Short Stature                      Athletes with Short Stature will have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs and/or trunk.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Short Stature include achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta.</p>
<p>Hypertonia                      Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Ataxia                      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                      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><b>*IMPAIRED PASSIVE RANGE of MOVEMENT*</b>                      Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.                      (Upper limbs excluded)</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include athrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.</p>

#### **47. Minimum Impairment Criteria**

ICF Paracanoe KAYAK Classifier's Manual (*attached*)

#### **48. Assessment Methodology**

ICF Paracanoe KAYAK Classifier's Manual (*attached*)

#### **49. Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Sport Class and the Designation of Sport Class Status**

ICF Paracanoe KAYAK Classifier's Manual (*attached*)

### **APPENDIX FOUR**

#### **50. Non-Eligible Impairments**

Types for all Athletes Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, *but are not limited to* the following:

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

#### **51. Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes**

A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions.

An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in Appendix One but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.

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

Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial pain-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome. An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.

An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder.