



# **U.S. Paralympics**

National  
Classification  
Policies & Procedures

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Specific standards for executing National classification are divided into a series of sub-documents:

- Classifier Training & Education Manual
- Information for Local Organizing Committees (LOCs)
- Sport Policies & Procedures

## **Introduction**

In November, 2007, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) General Assembly passed the IPC Classification Code (Code), a universal code for classification that implements policies and procedures applicable across all sports within the Paralympic movement. The intent of the Code is to bring consistency to certain aspects of the classification process across all Paralympic sports.

It is incumbent upon each National Paralympic Committee (NPC) that is a signatory of the Code to ensure that national classification policies and procedures are in compliance with the Code.

The responsibilities of the NPC as per the Code include:

- Ensuring that classification rules conform with the Code;
- Developing and implementing a policy for its members to comply with the Code and establish procedures to address non-compliance with the Code;
- Promoting the development of a national classification strategy that includes education;
- Recommending to National Federations (NF) that individual National Federation Classification Rules should be in compliance with the Code.

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) is the NPC and a signatory of the Code. All National classification policies and procedures will be implemented through the USOC's Paralympic & Sport Performance Divisions (U.S. Paralympics).

### *International and National Standards for Classification*

Article 2.3 of the Code illustrates specific standards for executing classification. These standards are divided into three main sub documents as part of the Code:

- International Standard: Athlete Evaluation
- International Standard: Protests and Appeals
- International Standard: Classifier Training and Certification

Each set of standards must be followed for international and national classification in the way that the Code specifies. There will be slight variations as to how these elements will be implemented on a national level and these variations are described in this document.

### *Upholding the Code*

U.S. Paralympics has developed the National Classification Policies & Procedures to uphold the Code, while creating a fair and equitable process for resolving situations where non-compliance with the Code has been raised.

## **Classification Overview**

Classification is the structure for competition within Paralympic sport. Classification is undertaken to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes.

Paralympic athletes have an impairment in body structures and functions that leads to a competitive disadvantage in sport. Consequently, 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.

Currently there are five impairment groups in the Paralympic Movement: amputee, cerebral palsy, visual impairment, spinal cord injury, intellectual impairment, and Les Autres, which includes all those that do not fit into the aforementioned groups.

Athletes are grouped in sport classes within each sport, and these sport classes are assessed by reference to the impact of the impairment on the ability to compete in that sport. The sport classes are defined by each sport and form part of the sport rules. Athlete sport class(es) are determined by a variety of processes that may include a physical and technical assessment and observation in competition.

## **National Classification Governance & System**

It is incumbent upon each National Paralympic Committee (NPC) that is a signatory of the Code to ensure that national classification policies and procedures are in compliance with the Code.

As the NPC for the United States, and a signatory of the Code, U.S. Paralympics shall assume all governance for national classification.

Any classification conducted outside the scope of the National Classification Policies & Procedures will neither be recognized nor upheld in any official proceedings.

Organizations conducting classification in the USA outside of the scope of the National Classification Policies & Procedures may be sanctioned for non-compliance with the Code.

## **Classifiers / Classification Panel**

A classifier is a person authorized as an official by the IPC/IF (international) and/or approved by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF) (national) to evaluate athletes while serving as a member of a classification panel. The duties and responsibilities of a classifier are defined in the International Standard for Classifier Training and Certification (international) and the U.S. Paralympics Classifier Training & Education Manual (national).

A classification panel is a group of classifiers appointed for a particular competition to determine sport class and sport class status. This is done in accordance with the Classification Rules of the respective sport IF.

National classification panels are defined on a sport by sport basis in the sport specific documents that append this manual.

International classification panels are defined by the sport IF and must include a minimum of two (2) classifiers.

*An IF shall establish the following positions (international):*

**Head of Classification (HoC):** The Classifier responsible for the administration, direction, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for the IF.

**Chief Classifier (CC):** The Classifier responsible for the administration, direction, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specific competition.

*U.S. Paralympics shall establish the following positions (national):*

**Head Domestic Classifier (HDC):** A classifier who has international authorization (Level 2) for the respective sport and who will work at the direction of U.S. Paralympics to facilitate Code compliance for the sport within the United States. Specific roles and responsibilities of the HDC are outlined in the U.S. Paralympics Classifier Training & Education Manual.

**Chief Classifier (CC):** The Classifier responsible for the administration, direction, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for a specific competition.

National classifiers, approved by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF) to conduct national classification within the United States, shall be designated with the following levels of education/certification:

**USA Trainee**

- An individual who is in the process of classification training and education nationally by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NF, but who is not yet certified as a Classifier and may not be an appointed member of a Classification Panel at a national competition. This individual is unable to allocate a national sport class.

**USA National Classifier**

- An individual who has successfully completed the relevant training and education nationally by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective NF and is approved to be a member of a Classification Panel at a national competition. This individual may allocate national sport class and sport class status.

#### IF/IPC Trainee

- An individual who is in process of formal training by the IF
- May not be appointed to an international classification panel or allocate an international sport class
- May be appointed to a national classification panel and allocate a national sport class
- May be appointed as a national Chief Classifier for a national classification panel

#### Level 1 (international)

- An individual who has successfully completed the formal training of the IF
- May be appointed to an international classification panel or allocate an international sport class with minimum supervision of more experienced classifiers
- May be appointed to a national classification panel and allocate a national sport class
- May be appointed as a national Chief Classifier for a national classification panel

#### Level 2 (international)

- An individual who has successfully completed the formal training of the IF
- May be appointed to an international classification panel or allocate an international sport class
- May be appointed to a national classification panel and allocate a national sport class
- May be appointed as a national or international Chief Classifier for a national or international classification panel

The current lists of national classifiers will be maintained on a sport-by-sport basis by U.S. Paralympics and are included in the sport specific documents that append this manual.

### **Sport Class**

A sport class is a category defined by each sport IF in which athletes are categorized in reference to activity limitation resulting from impairment for that particular sport. Athletes are allocated a sport class (or sport classes as relevant) based on the classification rules of the sport IF. Ineligibility to compete is considered a sport class.

The Code specifies sport class in accordance with the Classification Rules of the International Federation (IF) for the respective sport.

As stated in the Code:

*“Sport Class is a category defined by each International Federation in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an activity limitation resulting from impairment. Ineligibility for competition is a Sport Class. Each IF must stipulate eligibility criteria in their Classification Rules.”*

National sport classes will strictly adhere to the guidelines set out by each respective IF. There will be no variation from the IPC/IF Sport Class system(s) and the respective Sport Class designations in the national classification process.

### *Athlete Evaluation*

Each IF will have specific evaluation criteria that will be used to assess athletes for classification. The process by which the evaluation will be conducted will be implemented by the International Standard: Athlete Evaluation document. Changes to sport evaluation criteria will be made by the sport IF. Communication of any sport evaluation criteria changes, along with any changes to the International Standard: Athlete Evaluation will be disseminated to relevant parties in the USA [i.e. classifiers, NGBs/HPMOs] by U.S. Paralympics.

The specific process of athlete evaluation must follow the Code as specified by the International Standard: Athlete Evaluation.

### **Sport Class Status**

The Code defines three (3) international sport class statuses for allocation following athlete evaluation. A sport class status is allocated to each athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and protest opportunities.

The Code specifies sport class status in accordance with the Classification Rules of the IF for the respective sport.

As stated by the Code:

*“Sport Class Status is allocated to an Athlete to indicate Athlete Evaluation requirements and Protest opportunities. The designation of a Sport Class Status assists in identifying Athletes who:*

- Have not previously been classified*
- Require a review of their sport class*
- Do not require Athlete Evaluation for a specific Competition.”*

The following [International] Sport Class Status types shall be used by all IFs:

#### **NEW (N)**

- “Sport Class Status N is assigned to an Athlete that has not been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport Class verified by the IF
- Sports Class Status N Athletes include Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their National Federation for entry purposes
- Sports Class Status N Athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at international Competitions.”

REVIEW (R)

- “Sport Class Status R is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel, but for reasons as determined by the IF requires a review of their Sport Class
- The Athlete’s current Sport Class is valid, but the Athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during competition
- Sports Class Status R Athletes 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 International Federations First Appearance requirements (see Article 9.1 of the Code)
- Sports Class Status R Athletes must complete evaluation prior to competing at International Competitions.”

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 Athlete’s Sport Class will not change
- The IF recognizes that the Athlete’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 International Standard on Protests & Appeals)
- Sports Class Status C Athletes 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 International Standard on Protests & Appeals).”

*National Sport Class Status*

The following sport class status designations will be used for national classification. All nationally classified athletes, regardless of their National Sport Class Status, may be considered new athletes (N) for purposes of international classification when being evaluated by a national panel.

The following National Sport Class Status types shall be used by U.S. Paralympics:

National Classified (NN): The athlete has been evaluated at ONE appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF). All NN status athletes are adequately classified for national competition within the USA and will be included into the national sport classification database. *The athlete may be classified internationally by the SPORT IF.*



National Review (NR / NR\*): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of one appearance by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF). An athlete may be designated for Review status due to any of the circumstances outlined below:

- Degenerative impairment / condition
- Fluctuating impairment / condition
- Request for Review due to change in medical condition – must be requested by athlete/coach/parent on the (national) Request for Classification Review form and include relevant medical documentation outlining the change in impairment.
- Age – an NN or NC athlete may be designated for classification review at a particular age (i.e. following puberty once growth has ceased) as determined by the classification panel in accordance with sport-specific athlete evaluation standards. The athlete will be converted to NR status in the national sport classification database at the designated age/in the designated year. Once the review panel is conducted by an appointed U.S. Paralympics and/or respective sport National Federation (NF) national classification panel the athlete's status will revert to its previous state (NN or NC).

Athletes with an NR designation may only be protested ONE time *relative to the designated Sport Class they are assigned*. If an athlete is reviewed by a protest panel and reassigned an NR status, they will be designated by an asterisk (\*) in the national sport classification database noting that they cannot be subject to additional protests. *The athlete may be classified internationally by the SPORT IF.*

National Confirmed (NC): The athlete has been evaluated at a minimum of TWO appearances by a national classification panel as appointed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF). Athletes with NC status may not be classified again nationally. *The athlete may be classified internationally by the SPORT IF.* The NC athlete may request a National Review if there has been a medically documented change in their condition or impairment.

National sport class status pertains to national classifications only. Athletes wishing to obtain an international classification must follow the respective sport IF rules and undergo classification evaluation by an international panel [there is no transfer of ***national*** sport class and sport class status to ***international*** sport class and sport class status].

### ***Sport Class Status Allocation***

All national classifications shall follow a consistent and uniform status allocation process. Please reference the chart below for an overview of sport class status allocation.

<b>Classifier(s)</b>	<b>NATIONAL Status</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL Status</b>
USA National Classification Panel – 1 <sup>st</sup> appearance	NN	N
USA National Classification Panel	NR *	N
USA National Classification Panel – 2 <sup>nd</sup> appearance	NC	N
USA Protest Panel (as defined by SPORT)	NC	N
International Panel – Level 1 / 2 Classifier(s)	--	R or C ^

\* USA national panel may designate review status for degenerative / changing impairments and age considerations.

^ International R / C sport class will be allocated in conjunction with the rules of the respective sport IF.

## **National Reviews, Protests & Appeals**

A review is the procedure by which a subsequent athlete evaluation is undertaken according to the classification rules of the IF for that sport.

A protest is the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's sport class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

An appeal is the procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Each sport IF will have specific criteria for the conduct of [international] reviews, protests and appeals. The USA National Classification system protests and appeals will follow the USA Classification Policies and Procedures manual, with sport specific needs being addressed in the sport appendices section of the Policies and Procedures manual. Any changes made by the sport IF to protest and appeal processes will be communicated by U.S. Paralympics to relevant parties in the USA [i.e. classifiers, NGBs/HPMOs] and appropriate amendments will be made to the sport appendix of the USA Classification Policies and Procedures.

### *National Review Requests*

Requests for national classification review shall be submitted on the USA Request for Classification Review form. The request for review must be submitted a minimum of 45 days prior to the competition at which the athlete is requesting to be reviewed. All requests for review must include copies of pertinent medical documentation [if applicable] outlining the change in condition or impairment.

### *National Protests*

National classification protests shall be submitted on the USA Classification Protest form. The protest must be submitted a minimum of 60 days prior to the competition where the individual submitting the protest is requesting that the protest classification panel be conducted. If the requested competition does not have an appropriate national classification

panel available / assigned that meets the protest panel requirements for the respective sport, accepted protests will be carried over to the next available competition with a classification panel that meets protest requirements.

There is no provision or opportunity for in-competition protests within the U.S. Paralympics National Classification system.

The national protest fee shall be \$100. This fee is non-refundable and must be submitted along with the protest form to U.S. Paralympics.

Reasons for the protest must be clearly outlined on the protest form.

The following grid explains the eligibility process for the submission of protests and who is eligible to file a protest:

<b><i>Athlete Sport Class Status</i></b>	<b>May be Protested by the Athlete/Coach/Club and/or other Athlete/Coach/Club</b>	<b>May be Protested by Head Domestic Classifier</b>
NC (National Confirmed)	NO#	YES**
NR (National Review)	YES / NO	YES
NN (National Classified)	YES	YES
[Int'l] R (Review)	NO	NO
[Int'l] C (Confirmed)	NO	NO

# Athlete may submit a request for National Review if a change in medical condition / impairment

\*\* Protest may be lodged under exceptional circumstances

### *National Appeals*

National classification appeals shall follow the USOC Complaint Procedures for U.S. Paralympic National Teams and U.S. Paralympic Programs. These procedures are included as Appendix D to this manual.

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

### *U.S. Paralympics*

- To ensure that national classification rules, policies and procedures conform with the Code
- To implement and enforce the national classification rules, policies and procedures and communicate all relevant classification rules, policies and procedures to NGBs, HPMOs and other key constituents
- To monitor compliance with national classification rules, policies and procedures with NGBs, HPMOs, LOCs, and classifiers
  - To recommend to NGBs/HPMOs that individual (national) sport rules should be in compliance with the Code
- To promote and support national classifier education, including a sport-by-sport strategy for classifier identification and development

### *NGBs / HPMOs*

- To understand and implement the respective sport IF classification rules and eligibility criteria
- To develop and implement a policy for its members to comply with the Code and the national classification rules, policies and procedures

### *Local Organizing Committees*

- To conform to national classification rules, policies and procedures and the Code for all competitions at which international or national classification is being conducted

### *Classifiers*

- To work as a member of a national classification panel to allocate athlete sport class(es) and sport class status according to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the sport IF rules
- To work as a member of a national review and/or protest panel as requested in accordance with the standards outlined in the National Reviews, Protests and Appeals section of this document
- To attend classification meetings at competitions or as requested by U.S. Paralympics and/or the respective sport National Federation (NF)
- To assist in national classifier training and mentoring
- To abide by the U.S. Paralympics Code of Conduct (included in the Classifier Training & Education Manual)
- To maintain confidentiality in regard to all classification information and proceedings

### *Athletes*

- To attend classification evaluation [as scheduled] at a specific time or place
- To attend classification evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation
- To co-operate during the classification evaluation
- To represent skills and/or abilities during the classification evaluation to the best of their abilities

## **Competitions**

### *Competition Approval/Sanctioning*

For all international competitions hosted by U.S. Paralympics and/or an NGB/HPMO in the United States, the relevant IPC/IF approvals and sanctions shall be requested by and managed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the relevant NGB/HPMO.

For all national, regional and local competitions in the United States at which national classification is requested (see the Information for Local Organizing Committees sub-document); the competition must be sanctioned/approved by the relevant sport NGB/HPMO.

*International Classification and International Classifier Training at US Competitions*

All international classification panels or international classifier training seminars at competitions hosted in the US shall be requested by and managed by U.S. Paralympics and/or the relevant sport NGB/HPMO.

*National Classification and National Classifier Training at US Competitions*

All national classification panels or national classifier training seminars at national, regional and local competitions in the United States shall be requested by the Local Organizing Committee (and endorsed by the NGB/HPMO) or requested by the relevant sport NGB/HPMO.

International and national classifier training seminars shall not be conducted [for the same sport] at the same competition. If a competition is multi-sport, international training may be conducted in a sport(s) while national training is conducted for different sport(s).

*Paralympic Games*

All co-ordination and administration of classification related matters [for Team USA] prior to or during the Paralympic Games shall be managed by U.S Paralympics. This includes sport master lists, protests, appeals and all communication with the relevant parties involved in the matter (i.e. IPC, sport IF, OCOG).

**Non-Compliance with Classification Code**

All signatories who accept the Code are responsible for compliance an implementation of the Code.

The consequences for the NPC as a signatory of the Code include:

- Provide explanations of non-compliance
- If non-compliant, submit an action plan with clearly outlined timelines and measurable goals for compliance (subject to the approval of the IPC Governing Board)

Non-compliance with the Code shall result in sanctions that may include

- Exclusion from the Paralympic Games and any other IPC Sanctioned event(s)
- Suspension of membership

Instances of national non-compliance with the U.S. Paralympics National Classification Policies and Procedures (by athletes, coaches, teams, LOCs, NGBs/HPMOs, or any other relevant party) shall follow the USOC Complaint Procedures for U.S. Paralympic National Teams and U.S. Paralympic Programs. These procedures are included as Appendix D to this manual.

## **Appendix A – Glossary**

**Activity Limitation:** Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities

**Appeal:** The process to resolve procedural disputes concerning classification

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an athlete is assessed in accordance with the classification rules of the IF

**Chief Classifier (CC):** The internationally certified classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for a specific competition

**Classification:** A structure for competition to ensure that an athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance, and to ensure that the athlete competes equitably with other athletes

**Classification Master List:** The list, maintained and made available by the respective sport IF, that identifies athletes that have undergone international classification

**Classification Panel:** A group of classifiers, appointed by the sport IF to determine sport class and sport class status in accordance with the classification rules

**Classifier:** A person authorized as an official by a sport IF to evaluate athletes as a member of a classification panel.

**Code:** The [International] Classification Code

**Code of Conduct:** A set of rules to outline responsibilities, to guide behavior, and to identify best practice [in regard to classification]

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

**Head Domestic Classifier (HDC):** A classifier who has an international authorization (Level 2) for the respective sport and who will work at the direction of U.S. Paralympics to facilitate Code compliance for the sport within the United States [specific roles and responsibilities of the HDC are outlined in the U.S. Paralympics Classifier Training & Education Manual]

**Head of Classification (HOC):** A classifier responsible for all direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for the sport IF

**HPMO:** High Performance Management Organization (for a Paralympic sport in the US)

**Ineligibility:** Consequence of not meeting the [sport] eligibility criteria

**International Competition:** A competition where an international sport organization (IPC, IF, etc.) is the sanctioning and/or governing body for the competition

**International Federation (IF):** A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic sport by the IPC

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee

**Local Organizing Committee (LOC):** A group, team, or entity that is the organizing body for a [specific] competition and responsible for the management, administration, co-ordination and implementation of that competition

**National Classification List:** The list, maintained and made available by U.S. Paralympics, that identifies all USA athletes that have undergone national and/or international classification

**National Competition:** A competition where a national sport organization (NPC, NF, etc.) is the sanctioning and/or governing body for the competition

**National Federation (NF):** The organization recognized by the IF as the sole national governing body (NGB) for its sport

**National Paralympic Committee (NPC):** A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative for athletes with impairment in that country or territory to the IPC; additionally the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF

**NGB:** National Governing Body

**Protest:** The procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's sport class and/or sport class status is submitted and subsequently resolved

**Protest Panel:** A panel consisting of at minimum an equal number of Classifiers as the Classification Panel, with equal or greater level of Classification expertise to assess an athlete evaluation after a protest has been submitted

**Sport Class:** A category defined by each sport IF in which athletes are categorized by reference to an activity limitation resulting from impairment

**Sport Class Status:** A category allocated to each athlete to indicate evaluation requirements and protest opportunities

## **Appendix B – International Paralympic Sport Governance**

*As of 5 March 2015*

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION</b>
Alpine Skiing (includes	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Archery	World Archery Federation (WA)
Athletics	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
<b>Badminton #</b>	<b>Badminton World Federation (BWF)</b>
<b>Bobsleigh &amp; Skeleton *</b>	<b>International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (FIBT)</b>
Boccia	Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed)
Canoe	International Canoe Federation (ICF)
Cycling	Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)
Equestrian	International Equestrian Federation (FEI)
<b>Field Hockey *</b>	<b>International Hockey Federation (FIH)</b>
Football 5-a-Side	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)
Football 7-a-Side	Cerebral Palsy International Sport & Recreation Association (CP-
Goalball	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)
<b>Handball *</b>	<b>International Handball Federation (IHF)</b>
Ice Sledge Hockey	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Judo	International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA)
Nordic Skiing (includes XC &	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
<b>Powerchair Football *</b>	<b>International Federation of Powerchair Football (FIPFA)</b>
Powerlifting	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Rowing	International Rowing Federation (FISA)
Sailing	International Foundation for Disabled Sailing (IFDS)
Shooting	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Swimming	International Paralympic Committee (IPC)
Table Tennis	International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)
<b>Taekwondo #</b>	<b>World Taekwondo Federation (WTF)</b>
Triathlon	International Triathlon Union (ITU)
Volleyball (Sitting)	World Organization for Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD)
Wheelchair Basketball	International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF)
Wheelchair Curling	World Curling Federation (WCF)
<b>Wheelchair Dance Sport *</b>	<b>International Paralympic Committee (IPC)</b>
Wheelchair Fencing	International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS)
Wheelchair Rugby	International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF)
Wheelchair Tennis	International Tennis Federation (ITF)

\* Sport is NOT on the program of the Paralympic Games but is a **Recognised International Federation** by the IPC

# Sport is on the program beginning with the 2020 Paralympic Summer Games



## Appendix C – National Paralympic Sport Governance / Management

As of 5 March 2015

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Management – HP Program</b>	<b>Location</b>
Alpine Skiing (includes Snowboard)	USOC	USOC	Colorado Springs, CO & Aspen, CO
Archery	USOC	USA Archery	Colorado Springs, CO
Athletics	USOC	USOC	Colorado Springs, CO
Badminton #	USOC	USA Badminton	Colorado Springs, CO
Boccia	USOC	Blaze Sports of America	Atlanta, GA
Canoe	USA Canoe/Kayak	USA Canoe/Kayak	Oklahoma City, OK
Cycling	USOC	USOC	Colorado Springs, CO
Equestrian	USEF	USEF	Lexington, KY
Football 5-a-Side	n/a	n/a	n/a
Football 7-a-Side	USOC	US Soccer Federation	Chicago, IL
Goalball	USOC	USABA	Colorado Springs, CO
Ice Sledge Hockey	USOC	USA Hockey	Colorado Springs, CO
Judo	USOC	USA Judo	Colorado Springs, CO
Nordic Skiing (includes XC & BIA)	USOC	USOC	Colorado Springs, CO & Park City, UT
Powerlifting	USOC	UCO	Edmond, OK
Rowing	USOC	US Rowing	Princeton, NJ
Sailing	US Sailing	US Sailing	Portsmouth, RI
Shooting	USA Shooting	USA Shooting	Colorado Springs, CO
Swimming	USOC	USOC	Colorado Springs, CO
Table Tennis	USOC	USA Table Tennis	Colorado Springs, CO
Taekwondo #	USOC	USA Taekwondo	Colorado Springs, CO
Triathlon	USA Triathlon	USA Triathlon	Colorado Springs, CO
Volleyball (Sitting)	USA Volleyball	USA Volleyball	Colorado Springs, CO
Wheelchair Basketball	USOC	NWBA	Colorado Springs, CO
Wheelchair Curling	USA Curling	USA Curling	Stevens Point, WI
Wheelchair Fencing	USA Fencing	USA Fencing	Colorado Springs, CO
Wheelchair Rugby	USOC	Lakeshore Foundation	Birmingham, AL
Wheelchair Tennis	USTA	USTA	White Plains, NY

# Sport is on the program beginning with the 2020 Paralympic Summer Games

## **Appendix D – Grievance Procedures**

**UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE  
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES  
FOR  
U.S. PARALYMPIC NATIONAL TEAMS  
AND  
U.S. PARALYMPIC PROGRAMS  
March 3, 2006**

### Section 1. Jurisdiction.

These Complaint Procedures are applicable to those Paralympic sports in which the USOC has not recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. Only matters concerning those Paralympic sports fall within the jurisdiction of these Complaint Procedures.

### Section 2. Designation of Complaints.

The following kinds of complaints may be filed with the USOC:

- a. **Administrative Grievance.** The USOC or any aggrieved individual may file a complaint pertaining to any matter relating to the cognizance of the USOC, including but not limited to any alleged violation of or grievance concerning any USOC rule, regulation or code of conduct.
- b. **Right to Compete.** Any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official may file a complaint pertaining to any alleged denial, or alleged threat to deny, of that individual's opportunity to compete in a USOC sponsored competition.

### Section 3. Manner of Filing.

The complainant shall file the complaint with the USOC Chief Executive Officer. The complaint shall set forth in clear and concise language, preferably in numbered paragraphs: (i) the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny and (ii) the remedy requested. The complainant shall sign the complaint.

### Section 4. Statute of Limitations.

A complaint filed under these Complaint Procedures shall be filed within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the occurrence of the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny.

### Section 5. Field of Play Decisions.

The final decision of a referee during a competition regarding a field of play decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be reviewable through the procedures for, or the subject of, Administrative Grievances or Right to Compete Complaints unless the decision is: (i) outside the authority of the referee to make or (ii) the product of

fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the referee. For purposes of this Section, the term “referee” shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions.

**Section 6. Hearing Panel.**

Upon the filing of a complaint, the USOC Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a hearing panel consisting of three (3) individuals to hear the complaint. The Chief Executive Officer shall also appoint a chair of the hearing panel from among the three individuals appointed. At least one member of the hearing panel shall be an athlete.

The Hearing Panel shall be responsible to ensure that all complaints are heard in a timely, fair and impartial manner.

**Section 7. Administration.**

The USOC General Counsel’s Office shall generally administer and oversee all administrative grievances and right to compete matters filed with the UOSC.

**Section 8. Conduct of the Proceeding.**

The hearing panel shall rule on all motions and other matters raised in the proceeding. If the complaint is not dismissed, the hearing panel shall hold a hearing on the complaint. The hearing panel shall set such timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary. The hearing shall be informal, except that testimony shall be taken under oath.

The hearing may be conducted by teleconference, if necessary or convenient to the parties. Each party shall have the right to appear personally or through a legal representative. All parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present and examine evidence, cross-examine witnesses and to present argument. Members of the hearing panel shall have the right to question witnesses or the parties to the proceeding at any time.

Any party may have a record made of the hearing. A court reporter may be present at the hearing at the request of a party. The court reporter shall be paid for by the party requesting the court reporter, or if mutually agreed, the cost may be equally divided. Any transcript shall be paid for by the party requesting the transcript.

**Section 9. Expedited Procedures.**

Upon the request of a party, and provided that it is necessary to expedite the proceeding in order to resolve a matter relating to a competition that is so scheduled that compliance with regular procedures would not be likely to produce a sufficiently early decision to do justice to the affected parties, the USOC Chief Executive Officer is authorized to order that the complaint be heard and decided within forty-eight (48) hours of the filing of the complaint. In such a case, the hearing panel is authorized to hear and decide the complaint pursuant to such procedures as are necessary, but fair to the parties involved.

Section 10. Complaints Involving Selection to Participate in a Competition.

Where a complaint is filed involving selection of an individual to participate in a competition, the complainant shall include with the complaint a list of all other individuals, together with their contact information, that may be adversely affected by a decision rendered on the complaint. The hearing panel shall determine which additional individuals must receive notice of the complaint. The complainant shall then be responsible for providing appropriate notice to these individuals. Any individual so notified then shall have the option to participate in the proceeding as a party. If an individual is notified of the complaint, then that individual shall be bound by the decision of the hearing panel even though the individual chose not to participate as a party.

Section 11. Decision.

A decision shall be determined by a majority of the hearing panel. The hearing panel's decision shall be in writing, shall state the reasons for the decision and shall be distributed to the parties.

Section 12. Arbitration.

Any party may appeal a decision of the hearing panel to the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association shall have the authority to hear the matter anew or if requested by a party to render a decision on a more limited review. Either party may submit the decision of the hearing panel to the arbitrator for the arbitrator's consideration. The arbitrator may give whatever weight or authority to the hearing panel's decision as the arbitrator deems appropriate.



**Appendix E**

**U.S. Paralympics  
National Classification  
Forms & Documents**