

# WWR Classification Rules

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# WWR Classification Rules

## Acknowledgments

Anne-Marie Glenn, MD (1954-1997) was a dedicated leader in the sport of Wheelchair Rugby. Anne-Marie became involved in Wheelchair Rugby in 1990, assisting in the development and establishment of the sport-specific classification system. She unselfishly gave her time, energy and heart to the sport. The development of the classification system would not have been possible without the original contribution of Anne-Marie Glenn, MD and Diane Bulger-Tsapos, OT. Each edition of the classification rules was possible because of the many generous contributions and passionate commitment of rugby Classifiers throughout the European, America and Asia-Oceania Zones.

## WWR Classification Rules

This WWR Classification Rules is the revised fourth edition of the World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR) Classification Manual first published in 1996. This version incorporates revisions to achieve compliance with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and International Standards. In addition, this version incorporates revisions approved by the WWR Board of Directors in 2018. This revised WWR Classification Rules is effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

## WWR Classification Rules Contributors

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## CHANGES TO THESE RULES

Please note that these rules may be changed at any time as a result of, for example, changes in the WWR rules, or a classification related matter, or where WWR otherwise considers it necessary to do so.

## WWR WHEELCHAIR RUGBY CLASSIFICATION RULES

The WWR Wheelchair Rugby Rules are an integral part of these Rules, available at the WWR website.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Introduction to Classification

Classification has existed since the origin of sport. There are two types of Classification in sport: grouping by selected units such as gender, age, or weight, for example, in sports such as boxing; and grouping by performance, such as the handicap scoring system in golf. In Para-sport, the selective unit of grouping is impairment.

Classification has been present in sport for persons with Impairment since the mid-1940s. Early Classification was based purely on Medical Diagnosis, such as spinal cord injury, amputation, or other neuromuscular or musculoskeletal Health Conditions. Over time, Classification Systems have evolved from Medical Classification to Functional Classification to Evidence Based Sport-Specific Classification.

Athlete Classification is a defining feature of Para-sport and helps to structure competition in Para sport. The aim of Classification is to ensure that an Athlete's Impairment is relevant to sport performance, and the impact of Impairment on the outcome of competition is minimized so that successful Athletes or teams are the best at that moment in time and not those who are less impaired. Training and quality coaching, strategies and skills of competing teams and Athletes ought to be the factors determining success in competition. (International Paralympic Committee, 2015, 2016; Tweedy, & Vanlandewijk, 2010; Tweedy, 2009; DePauw & Gavron, 2005).

There are 10 Eligible Impairments in Para Sport: Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Limb Deficiency, Hypertonia, Athetosis, Ataxia, Short Stature, Leg Length Difference, Vision Impairment, and Intellectual Impairment. Refer to the IPC International Standard on Eligible Impairments (International Paralympic Committee, 2016).

The World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules provide a framework within which the process of Athlete Classification may take place. The Athlete's Sport Class is based on a verifiable and permanent Eligible Impairment due to an Underlying Health Condition and is specific to the impact of impairment on the fundamental activities of Wheelchair Rugby.

The World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules intend to minimise the impact of an eligible Impairment on the outcome of competition. To ensure sporting excellence and which Athlete or team is successful, all Athletes must undertake Athlete Evaluation and be given a Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

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# WWR Classification Rules

## Part One: General Provisions

### 1 Scope and Application

#### Adoption

- 1.1 These Classification Rules are referred to throughout this document as the “Classification Rules”. World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR) has prepared these Classification Rules to implement the requirements of the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code) and International Standards.
- 1.2 These Classification Rules have been adopted by World Wheelchair Rugby on 1 January, 2020.
- 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 World Wheelchair Rugby Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5 These Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from World Wheelchair Rugby and can be amended by World Wheelchair Rugby from time to time.

#### Classification

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

#### Application

- 1.7 These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered with World Wheelchair Rugby, and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organized, authorised, or recognised by World Wheelchair Rugby.

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- 1.8 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of World Wheelchair Rugby, including but not limited to the sport technical rules of World Wheelchair Rugby. In the event of any conflict regarding the conduct of Athlete Classification between these Classification Rules and any other document, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.
- 1.9 World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR) 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 Recognized Competitions (or other such locations as defined by World Wheelchair Rugby). World Wheelchair Rugby will advise Athletes and National Member Organizations (NMO) in advance as to such Recognised Competitions (or other such locations).

### **Interpretation and Relationship to IPC Athlete Classification 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.
  - 1.11.1 References to a “Section” mean an Article in the Appendices to these Classification Rules.
  - 1.11.2 The use of Section rather than Article is to avoid confusion whether the reference is to an item in the text of the Rules or in the Appendices.
- 1.12 References to a ‘sport’ in these Classification Rules refer to WWR Wheelchair Rugby.
- 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 but in a manner that is consistent with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code and the accompanying International Standards.

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## 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:

- 2.2.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- 2.2.2 participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
- 2.2.3 ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions and Eligible Impairments is provided and/or made available to World Wheelchair Rugby;
- 2.2.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules; and
- 2.2.5 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 to:

- 2.3.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
- 2.3.2 use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- 2.3.3 assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems; and
- 2.3.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

### Classification Personnel Responsibilities

2.4 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:

- 2.4.1 have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;

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- 2.4.2 use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
- 2.4.3 assist in the development, management and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and
- 2.4.4 cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

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## Part Two: Classification Personnel

### 3 Classification Personnel

3.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. World Wheelchair Rugby will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for WWR.

#### Head of Classification

3.2 World Wheelchair Rugby must appoint a Head of Classification. The Head of Classification is a person responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for World Wheelchair Rugby.

3.3 The Head of Classification must be a certified Classifier.

3.4 If a Head of Classification cannot be appointed, World Wheelchair Rugby 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.

3.5 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or the transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other persons authorised by World Wheelchair Rugby.

3.5.1 World Wheelchair Rugby will approve a Head Classifier for each Zone.

- a. The Zone Head Classifier is a certified World Wheelchair Rugby Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of Classification matters for the respective Zone on any issues or questions relating to Classification, and International and Zone Classification opportunities in the respective Zone.
- b. The Zone Head Classifier liaises with World Wheelchair Rugby Head of Classification on all Classification matters.

3.6 Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification (who must be certified as a Classifier) from also being appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier.

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## Classifiers

3.7 A Classifier is a person authorized as an official and certified by World Wheelchair Rugby to conduct some or all components of Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.

## Chief Classifier

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 World Wheelchair Rugby. In particular, a Chief Classifier may be required by World Wheelchair Rugby 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 that these Classification Rules are properly applied during Classification;
- 3.8.3 manage Protests in consultation with World Wheelchair Rugby; and
- 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 World Wheelchair Rugby officials or representatives, and/or appropriately qualified persons in the local organising committee of a Competition.

- 3.9.1 The Chief Classifier may appoint a Player Classification Representative (PCR) as an Ad Hoc non-voting member of a Classification Panel in an advisory role for Protests and Athlete Evaluations, as needed. At the start of a Competition or Event, the Chief Classifier in consultation with the Classification Panel will select appropriate Player Classification Representatives and invite these individuals to participate in Athlete Evaluation and Protests, when requested.
- 3.9.2 The Player Classification Representative is a Wheelchair Rugby Athlete, or former Athlete, who is able to appreciate and explain to other Athletes the Classification process and the unique characteristics and differences of the specific Sport Classes.

## Trainee Classifiers

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3.10 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training by World Wheelchair Rugby.

3.11 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby has certified that Classifier as having the relevant Classifier Competencies.

4.2 World Wheelchair Rugby must provide training and education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.

4.3 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 Wheelchair Rugby, including an understanding of the technical rules of the sport;

4.3.3 an understanding of the Code and the International Standards; and

4.3.4 professional qualification(s), level of experience, skills and/or competencies to act as a Classifier for World Wheelchair Rugby. These include Classifiers who must be either:

a. A Classifier who is a certified health professional in a field relevant to the Eligible Impairment category, which World Wheelchair Rugby at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a physician, physiotherapist/physical therapist, or occupational therapist; or

b. A Technical Classifier who has extensive athletic, coaching, or other relevant background in wheelchair rugby; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification, which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport- specific expertise, which World Wheelchair Rugby at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

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- 4.4 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby must specify Entry-Level Criteria applicable to persons who wish to become Trainee Classifiers. World Wheelchair Rugby will provide Entry-Level Education to Trainee Classifiers.
- 4.6 World Wheelchair Rugby must provide Continuing Education to Classifiers for the purposes of Certification and Re-certification.
- 4.7 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 (WWR includes only Physical Impairment);
  - 4.7.2 a limitation on the components of Athlete Evaluation that a Classifier is certified to conduct;
    - a. only Classifiers with a valid health professional qualification are certified to perform the physical assessment, in accordance with article 4.3.4 in these rules.
    - b. all certified Classifiers may perform the technical and observation assessment in accordance with article 4.3.4 in these rules.
  - 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 is four years;
  - 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 World Wheelchair Rugby is not satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies; and/or

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- 4.7.7 that a Classifier may regain Classifier Certification if World Wheelchair Rugby is satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier Competencies.
- 4.8 Further information about World Wheelchair Rugby Pathways and Education Programmes can be found in the WWR Classifier Handbook.

### 5 Classifier Code of Conduct

- 5.1 The integrity of Classification in the International Wheelchair Federation depends on the conduct of the global Wheelchair Rugby family. World Wheelchair Rugby has therefore adopted a set of professional conduct standards referred to as the 'WWR Code of Conduct'.
  - 5.1.1 The WWR Code of Conduct applies to all persons participating in WWR licensed events, including but not limited to competitions, conferences, meetings, training events and clinics.
  - 5.1.2 The WWR Code of Conduct also applies to all Athletes, coaches, team staff, technical officials, committee members, WWR staff, and WWR Board Members when they are engaged in activities related to the business of WWR.
- 5.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the WWR Code of Conduct for Technical Officials.
- 5.3 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the WWR Code of Conduct must report this to World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 5.4 If World Wheelchair Rugby receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 5.5 World Wheelchair Rugby has the discretion to determine whether or not a Classifier has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

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## Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

### 6 General Provisions

- 6.1 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 or not an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for World Wheelchair Rugby; and
  - 6.2.3 the allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depending on the extent to which the impairment impacts an Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Wheelchair Rugby.

### 7 Eligible Impairment

- 7.1 Any Athlete wishing to compete in a sport governed by World Wheelchair Rugby must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 7.2 Appendix One of these Classification Rules specifies the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have to compete in a sport governed by World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 7.3 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix One is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Two includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.

### Assessment of Eligible Impairment

- 7.4 World Wheelchair Rugby must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.
  - 7.4.1 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, World Wheelchair Rugby may require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has an Underlying Health Condition. Appendix Two lists examples of Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for any Para sport, including Wheelchair Rugby.

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- 7.4.2 The means by which World Wheelchair Rugby determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of World Wheelchair Rugby. World Wheelchair Rugby may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore 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, World Wheelchair Rugby becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, with reason to believe that the impact of that Health Condition may be unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these Classification Rules. In such instances World Wheelchair Rugby will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant National Member Organization.
- 7.5 An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply World Wheelchair Rugby with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:
- 7.5.1 The relevant National Member Organization must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form to World Wheelchair Rugby, upon completing the registration of an Athlete.
- 7.5.2 The Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified health care professional.
- 7.5.3 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information if required by World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 7.6 World Wheelchair Rugby may require an Athlete to re-submit the Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if World Wheelchair Rugby at its sole discretion considers the Medical Diagnostic Form and/or the Diagnostic Information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 7.7 World Wheelchair Rugby may consider the Diagnostic Information itself, 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:

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- 7.8.1 The Head of Classification will appoint an Eligibility Assessment Committee. The Eligibility Assessment Committee must, if practicable, be comprised of the Head of Classification and at least two other experts with appropriate medical qualifications. All members of the Eligibility Assessment Committee, who are not certified International Wheelchair Rugby Classifiers or appropriate medical or scientific WWR committee members, must sign confidentiality undertakings.
- 7.8.2 If the Head of Classification believes that he or she does not hold the necessary competencies to assess the Diagnostic Information, he or she will not participate in the review of the Diagnostic Information but will assist the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
- 7.8.3 The Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the Medical Diagnostic Information provided and will determine if and what additional Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required. Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee.
- 7.8.4 The Head of Classification will notify the relevant National Member Organization that Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete. The Head of Classification will explain what Diagnostic Information is required, and the purposes for which it is required, and will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information.
- 7.8.5 Wherever possible all references to the individual Athlete and the source(s) of the Diagnostic Information should continue to be withheld from the Eligibility Assessment Committee. Each member of the Eligibility Assessment Committee will review the 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 as a result of the stated Underlying Health Condition, the Athlete will be permitted to take part in Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.

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- 7.8.7 If the Eligibility Assessment Committee is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment due to the stated Underlying Health Condition, the Head of Classification will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the relevant National Member Organization. The National Member Organization will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and may provide further Diagnostic Information to the Eligibility Assessment Committee for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, the Head of Classification will inform the National Member Organization.
- 7.8.8 If the decision is not changed, the Head of Classification will issue a final decision letter to the National Member Organization.
- 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 WWR Wheelchair Rugby must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria for Wheelchair Rugby.
- 8.2 World Wheelchair Rugby has set Minimum Impairment Criteria to ensure that 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 specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to WWR Wheelchair Rugby 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 Wheelchair Rugby must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) for WWR Wheelchair Rugby.

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8.5 A Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with the relevant 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 World Wheelchair Rugby that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.

8.6 If the athlete has an eligible impairment and also a non-eligible impairment, the athlete must meet Minimum Impairment Criteria for the eligible impairment in order to be eligible to participate the sport.

Comment Article 8.6: The interplay between an eligible impairment and impairments that are not eligible for wheelchair rugby, may affect the athlete's sport class by moving them to a more impaired class (for example, motor power impairment and short stature) but an impairment that is not an eligible one may not be considered in decisions of eligibility.

8.7 If the athlete has more than one eligible impairment and has met Minimum Impairment Criteria for the primary impairment, for example, motor power, and has another eligible impairment, such as impaired passive range of movement that limits the athlete's ability to do the fundamental activities of the sport, the athlete's sport class may be adjusted to that of a lower sport class (more impaired sport class); but the athlete must meet minimum impairment criteria for the primary impairment of motor power in order to be ruled eligible.

8.8 When an athlete has several eligible impairments but none meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for the specific impairments, these levels of impairment cannot be combined to allow the athlete to be eligible.

Comment Article 8.8: This is referred to as "multiple subminimal impairment" and is not permitted under the IPC Athlete Classification Code.

8.9 In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, World Wheelchair Rugby has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:

8.9.1 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.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 9 Sport Class

- 9.1 A Sport Class is a category defined by World Wheelchair Rugby 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 WWR Wheelchair Rugby.
- 9.1.1 An Athlete who does not have an Eligible Impairment or does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for WWR Wheelchair Rugby 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 WWR Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby (in accordance with Article 18.1 of these rules), a Classification Panel must base the allocation of a Sport Class solely on an evaluation of the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the specific tasks and activities fundamental to WWR Wheelchair Rugby.
- 9.1.4 This part of Athlete evaluation, which takes place in the Technical Assessment, which must take place in a controlled non-competitive 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, World Wheelchair Rugby 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). Refer to Article 30.3 in regard to designation of Classification Not Complete.

## WWR Classification Rules

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. However, the designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will be recorded for the purpose of World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Master List.

10.3 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in WWR Wheelchair Rugby. See Article 30 in these rules for remediation in regard to suspension of Athlete Evaluation.

Comment article 10: There are a number of circumstances under which Classification may not be completed for an athlete at a competition. The conditions for reinstatement of an athlete's previous sport class (for example, if an athlete previously held FRD 1 or FRD 2 sport class status) is different, dependent upon the circumstances under which the Classification process was unable to be completed.

In situations where an athlete fails to meet the requirements for first appearance (observation in competition), at the conclusion of the competition, athletes with previous FRD sport class status will have their previous sport class reinstated, but with R sport class status. This allows these athletes to compete in most WWR licensed events until the athlete's next classification opportunity (athletes with R sport class status may not be eligible to compete at some events such as the Paralympic Games or other events where classification is not available, as determined by the WWR).

In situations where CNC is designated due to an athlete's failure to attend Classification when required, or due to suspension of an evaluation session, the provisions outlined in Classification Rules Article 30 apply. Athletes designated as CNC due to suspension of an evaluation session may be subject to an exclusion period from Classification. In addition, the athlete's previous sport class is removed, and the athlete is not permitted to compete in WWR licensed competitions until such time that the athlete attends Classification at a WWR licensed event.

## Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

### 11 The Classification Panel

11.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by World Wheelchair Rugby to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation including as part of an Evaluation Session.

11.1.1 For specific detail regarding Classification Panels and Panel Types, refer to Appendix 1, Section 8 – Classification Panels and Panel Types.

#### General Provisions

11.2 A Classification Panel must be comprised of three certified Classifiers. At least two of the certified Classifiers must hold a valid qualification to conduct the Physical Assessment part of Athlete Evaluation in accordance with Articles 4.3.4 and 4.7 of these rules. In other words, the Classification Panel may be made up of:

11.2.1 three Classifiers or

11.2.2 two Classifiers and one Technical Classifier.

11.3 In exceptional circumstances whereby only two certified Classifiers are present, and a Chief Classifier is unable to join to form a panel of three Classifiers, a Chief Classifier may provide that a Classification Panel comprise at least two Classifiers, subject to both Classifiers holding a valid qualification to conduct the Physical Assessment part of Athlete Evaluation in accordance with Articles 4.3.4 and 4.7 of these Rules.

11.4 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 (physical assessment);

12.1.2 assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport (Technical Assessment); and

12.1.3 conduct Observation in Competition (Observation Assessment).

## WWR Classification Rules

- 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 World Wheelchair Rugby, unless World Wheelchair Rugby requests this to be undertaken by a Classification Panel.
- 12.3.1 If the Classification Panel is charged to undertake the assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, the Classification Panel, may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Complete (CNC) in accordance with Article 10 of these rules:
- a. in the case the presence of an eligible impairment and/or underlying health condition is not sufficiently obvious, requiring medical documentation, in accordance with Article 13.4.1, and/or
  - b. requiring medical, technical and/or scientific expertise in accordance with article 13.4.3 of these rules.
- 12.3.2 In such instances, the Athlete may not compete in Wheelchair Rugby and the Classification Panel may suspend Athlete Evaluation in accordance with Article 30 of these rules.
- 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.
- 12.4.1 Although other factors such as low fitness level, poor technical proficiency, and aging may also affect the fundamental tasks and activities of the sport; the allocation of Sport Class must not be affected by these factors.
- 12.5 An Athlete who has both 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.
- 12.6 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 Member Organization is responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.

## WWR Classification Rules

### 13.3 Athletes:

- 13.3.1 Athletes have the right to be accompanied by a member of the Athlete's National Member Organization when attending an Evaluation Session. The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is a minor.
- 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 and, if needed, a Translator, must accept the terms of the Athlete Evaluation Agreement Form as specified by World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 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, national identification (ID) card with photograph, or event accreditation with photograph.
- 13.3.5 The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session for which the Athlete wishes to be allocated a Sport Class with any sports attire or equipment relevant to Wheelchair Rugby.
- 13.3.6 The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication, medical procedure, medical treatment and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.
- 13.3.7 The Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.

### 13.4 The Classification Panel:

## WWR Classification Rules

- 13.4.1 The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide medical documentation relevant to the Athlete's Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary for the panel to allocate a Sport Class.
- 13.4.2 The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in English unless otherwise stipulated by World Wheelchair Rugby. If the Athlete requires an interpreter, a member of the Athlete's National Member Organization 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.
- 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 Member Organization and World Wheelchair Rugby (from any source) when allocating a Sport Class.
- 13.4.5 The Classification Panel may make, create or use video footage, photographs and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Sport Class.

### **14 Observation in Competition**

- 14.1 A Classification Panel must require that an Athlete undertake an 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 are 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 parts of the Evaluation Session.

## WWR Classification Rules

14.4 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This tracking code replaces the Athlete's Review (R) 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 a Competition in a particular Sport Class.

- a. First Appearance must be a meaningful appearance for the allocation of a Sport Class, at the sole discretion of the Classification Panel and Chief Classifier.

14.5.2 An Athlete who competes in Wheelchair Rugby must make First Appearance during the preliminary rounds (or at the end of Pool Play) of a Competition.

14.5.3 If an Athlete enters the Competition with New Sport Class Status (N), they should not be permitted to make First Appearance after the preliminary rounds (or after the end of Pool Play).

- a. WWR may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during competitions that have a format without preliminary rounds and elimination rounds.
- b. WWR may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during specified competitions to permit first appearance to take place during elimination rounds. For example, if an Athlete enters the Competition with a previous valid WWR Sport Class, they may be permitted to make first appearance after preliminary rounds.

14.6 If an Athlete is:

14.6.1 subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition; and

14.6.2 the second Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition; and

14.6.3 pursuant to the second Evaluation Session the Athlete is required to undergo Observation in Competition,

the Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity with the Sport Class unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest and with the Tracking Code OA replacing Review (R) Sport Class Status.

## WWR Classification Rules

- 14.6.4 The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and 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 has no effect on medals, records and results for the Team in accordance with World Wheelchair Rugby 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:

15.2.1 Confirmed (C)

15.2.2 Review (R)

15.2.3 Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)

Comment Article 15.2.3: The abbreviations FRD 1 and FRD 2 are used as a tracking code to indicate the first and second occasions that an athlete has completed classification and remained in the same sport class, contingent upon those athlete evaluations being no less than 11 months apart.

### Sport Class Status New

15.3 An Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status New (N) by World Wheelchair Rugby prior to attending the Athlete's first Evaluation Session. An Athlete with Sport Class Status New must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any International Competition, unless World Wheelchair Rugby specifies otherwise.

15.3.1 If an Athlete, who enters the Competition with Sport Class Status New, does not complete First Appearance, the OA tracking code is removed and the Athlete is allocated CNC.

15.3.2 The Athlete enters the next Competition with Sport Class Status New.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Sport Class Status Confirmed

15.4 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, which is defined as no change in the Athlete's Sport Class at the conclusion of three consecutive Competitions that are a minimum of 11 months apart.

15.4.1 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)].

15.4.2 A Classification Panel that consists of less than three Classifiers may not designate an Athlete with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) but must designate the Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R).

## Sport Class Status Review

15.5 An Athlete will be designated Sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.

15.5.1 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 situations where the Athlete:

- a. only recently entered Competitions licensed or recognised by World Wheelchair Rugby;
- b. has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or
- c. has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.

15.5.2 An Athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent International Competition, unless World Wheelchair Rugby specifies otherwise.

- a. An Athlete who enters a Competition with Review status that is not resolved at the Competition, will have a two-year time period in which to complete Athlete Evaluation; after which date the Review status will convert to CNC and the Athlete will no longer have a valid Sport Class or Sport Class Status.
- b. WWR will notify the National Member Organization of the expiration of the Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status.
- c. The Athlete may apply with World Wheelchair Rugby for an exception to this two-year time period based on medical or health conditions that have had an effect on the Athlete's ability to participate in Wheelchair Rugby.

## WWR Classification Rules

- d. The Athlete who has a Review Status (R) because of a progressive health condition may continue to have Review Status without an expiration date.

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

- 15.6 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 11 months, being the Fixed Review Date.
- 15.6.1 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.
- 15.6.2 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 relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest, unless World Wheelchair Rugby specifies otherwise.
- 15.6.3 A Classification Panel that consists of less than three Classifiers 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**

- 15.7 If World Wheelchair Rugby changes any Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then:
- 15.7.1 World Wheelchair Rugby may reassign 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
- a. If following the Athlete Evaluation, there is no change in Sport Class; the previous Sport Class and Sport Class Status Confirmed are reinstated.
- 15.7.2 World Wheelchair Rugby may remove the Fixed Review Date for any Athlete with Review with a Fixed Review Date Status (FRD), reassign Sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity; and
- a. If following the Athlete Evaluation, there is no change in Sport Class; the previous Sport Class and Sport Class Status Fixed Review Date are reinstated.
- 15.7.3 in both instances the relevant National Member Organization shall be informed as soon as is practicable.
- 15.7.4 The timeframe under which changes in Sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods take effect is at the discretion of WWR.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 16 Multiple Sport Classes

16.1 This is not possible in World Wheelchair Rugby.

## 17 Notification

17.1 The outcome of Athlete Evaluation must be notified to the Athlete and/or National Member Organization and published as soon as possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.

17.2 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 at World Wheelchair Rugby website.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Part Five: Sport Class Not Eligible

### 18 Sport Class Not Eligible

#### General Provisions

18.1 If World Wheelchair Rugby determines that an Athlete:

18.1.1 has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

18.1.2 does not have an Underlying Health Condition,

World Wheelchair Rugby must allocate that Athlete Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

18.1.3 If a Classification Panel determines that an Athlete who has an Eligible Impairment does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Wheelchair Rugby that Athlete must be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

#### Absence of Eligible Impairment – Not Eligible

18.2 If World Wheelchair Rugby determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment detailed in Article 18.1, that Athlete:

18.2.1 will not be permitted to take part in an Evaluation Session; and

18.2.2 will be allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) by World Wheelchair Rugby.

18.3 If another International Sport Federation has allocated an Athlete with Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, World Wheelchair Rugby may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Article 7 of these Classification Rules.

18.4 An Athlete who is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by World Wheelchair Rugby or a Classification Panel (if delegated by World Wheelchair Rugby) because that Athlete has:

18.4.1 an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or

18.4.2 a Health Condition that is not an Underlying Health Condition;

has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in WWR Wheelchair Rugby and may not be permitted to participate in other Para sports.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria - Not Eligible

- 18.5 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 that the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria. This must take place as soon as is practicable.
- 18.5.1 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.
- 18.5.2 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).
- 18.6 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.
- 18.7 The athlete with NE (C) must not be permitted to reappear for classification unless:
- 18.7.1 there is a change in the criteria for allocation of a relevant sport class in Wheelchair Rugby, or
- 18.7.2 there is evidence provided of a change in the degree of impairment of the athlete due to a new health condition or significant deterioration of the existing health condition. (Refer to the WWR classification rules Article 23 IF Protests and Article 31 Medical Review.)
- 18.8 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 World Wheelchair Rugby, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in another sport, subject to Athlete Evaluation for that sport.
- 18.9 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 WWR Wheelchair Rugby.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Part Six: Protests

### 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) (see Article 18 Sport Class Not Eligible in these rules).

#### 20 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

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

- 20.1 a National Member Organization (see Articles 21-22); or
- 20.2 World Wheelchair Rugby (see Articles 23-24).

#### 21 National Protests

- 21.1 A National Member Organization may only make a National Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction at a Competition or venue specified for Athlete Evaluation.

Comment Article 21.1: The representative of the national member organization authorized to make a protest may be a team representative, for example, the coach or a team manager.

- 21.1.1 A Protest may be made Out of Competition; however, the Protest only takes effect at the start of a Competition at which the Athlete is present.
- 21.1.2 Making a Protest prior to a Competition (considered as an Out of Competition Protest) does not guarantee that the Protest will be dealt with. An Out of Competition Protest is subject to the Classification schedule priority for the Competition.
- 21.2 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published during a Competition (pursuant to Article 17 of these Classification Rules) documentation for a National Protest must be submitted within one hour of that outcome being published.
- 21.3 If the outcome of Athlete Evaluation is published following Observation in Competition, if National Member Organization intends to make a National Protest,

## WWR Classification Rules

the documentation for this protest must be submitted within one hour. (see Article 28 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests).

### 21.3.1 Protests made after the one-hour timeline will be managed in accordance with the same procedure as a protest prior to a competition (see Article 21.1.2).

Comment Article 21.3.1: The publishing of outcomes during the Classification Evaluation and Classification Competition periods are dependent on the classification evaluation sessions and match play sessions. Publishing will typically take place at the end of the day during the classification evaluation period and the classification competition periods. In some types of competitions, classification results may not be published until the end of the semi-final or championship rounds. The time frame for publication is included in the classification supporting information document and classification schedule that is circulated by the Chief Classifier prior to a competition.

### 21.4 If an Athlete is required by a Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, a National Member Organization 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.

Comment Article 21.4: If the athlete has an OA tracking code to undergo Observation Assessment and the athlete's National Member Organization wishes to make a protest on their athlete before they make first appearance, the athlete is not able to take the court for the first panel to conduct observation assessment. At the time the protest is made, the sport class status will revert to R and the panel conducting the protest will assume management of the athlete as a protest session and the athlete is not able to compete until this panel completes its evaluation session. If the athlete is allocated an eligible sport class and assigned OA tracking code to undergo observation assessment, the athlete may then take the court to complete first appearance.

## 22 National Protest Procedure

### 22.1 To submit a National Protest, a National Member Organization must show that the Protest is Bona Fide with supporting evidence and complete a Protest Form, the format of which is determined by World Wheelchair Rugby and must be made available at the Competition and via the World Wheelchair Rugby website, and must submit in English the following:

22.1.1 the name and national team of the Protested Athlete, or when relevant, the Protest Athlete's registration ID;

22.1.2 the details of the Protested Decision and/or a copy of the Protested Decision;

## WWR Classification Rules

- 22.1.3 an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the National Member Organization believes that the Protested Decision is flawed;
- 22.1.4 reference to the specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached, and
  - a. if the rule referenced is a discretionary rule, the Protest will not comply with this article 22.
- 22.1.5 the Protest Fee set by World Wheelchair Rugby.
  - a. Protest fees are included in the WWR Classification Supporting Information document sent out to teams prior to a Competition and can be found at the WWR website, Classification page.
  - b. A protest will not proceed to the classification panel until the fee is received.
- 22.2 The Protest documents must be submitted to the Chief Classifier of the relevant Competition within the timeframes specified in Article 21.2 and within the protest submission guidelines in these rules.
- 22.3 Upon receipt of the protest form and any supporting documents the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest, in consultation with World Wheelchair Rugby, of which there are two possible outcomes:
  - 22.3.1 the Chief Classifier may dismiss the Protest if, at the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest does not comply with the Protest requirements in this Article 22; or
  - 22.3.2 the Chief Classifier may accept the Protest if, at the discretion of the Chief Classifier, the Protest complies with the Protest requirements in this Article 22.
- 22.4 If the Protest is dismissed at any point:
  - 22.4.1 the Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Member Organization as soon as practicable.
  - 22.4.2 The Protest Fee may be retained by World Wheelchair Rugby, at the discretion of the Chief Classifier, in situations where the Chief Classifier:
    - a. determines that the protest lacks sufficient information or detail in order to proceed, or
    - b. has reason to believe that the protest lacks merit and is not a bona fide protest.
  - 22.4.3 For additional information regarding protest procedures, refer to Appendix 1, Section 9 – Management of Protests.
- 22.5 If the Protest is accepted:
  - 22.5.1 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 R;

## WWR Classification Rules

22.5.2 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 the Protest was made or at the next Competition; and

22.5.3 World Wheelchair Rugby must notify all relevant parties of the time and date the new Evaluation Session is to be conducted by the Protest Panel.

Comment Article 22.5.3: A WWR protest may be lodged at a competition, either WWR lodges one on its own behalf or lodges one based on the validated evidence of another NMO submitting a request. A WWR protest may take a period of time to review and validate information, and organize the protest evaluation and protest panel; as such, the protest may have to be carried over to the next relevant competition where classification is taking place. For those WWR protests lodged prior to or after a competition, the protest evaluation will be scheduled for an upcoming competition. In this situation, the athlete undergoing protest and their NMO will be notified ahead of time, and the athlete will enter the competition on the classification schedule as R.

22.5.4 If the Protest is upheld, the Protest fee is returned to the National Member Organization.

Comment Article 22.5.4: If a National Protest is upheld, the protest fee is returned to the National Member Organization. If the WWR protest is the result of an accepted request to lodge a WWR protest by a National Member Organization and the outcome is as the NMO believed it should be, the fee is refunded to the National Member Organization. There is no fee required if WWR lodges a protest for reasons other than an accepted National Member Organization protest. Thus, if the WWR protest is upheld, there is no fee to refund.

22.5.5 If the Protest is not upheld, World Wheelchair Rugby retains the Protest fee.

Comment Article 22.5.5: In a National Protest is not upheld, World Wheelchair Rugby retains the protest fee. There is no fee required if WWR lodges a protest for reasons other than an accepted National Member Organization protest,. Thus, if WWR protest is not upheld, there is no fee to retain.

## 23 WWR Protests

23.1 World Wheelchair Rugby may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:

23.1.1 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or

## WWR Classification Rules

- 23.1.2 a National Member Organization makes a documented request to World Wheelchair Rugby using the WWR Protest form. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 23.1.3 if the WWR protest is the result of a documented request from another National Member Organization the WWR Head of Classification and/or competition Chief Classifier will make every effort to ensure that that the request source for the WWR protest is kept confidential.
- 23.1.4 The fee for a documented request for a WWR Protest by a National Member Organization is the same as the Protest fee. Refer to Article 22.1.5.

### 24 WWR Protest Procedure

- 24.1 If World Wheelchair Rugby decides to make a Protest, the Head of Classification must advise the relevant National Member Organization of the Protest at the earliest possible opportunity.

Comment Article 24.1: A WWR protest may be lodged at a competition, either WWR lodges one on its own behalf or lodges one based on the validated evidence of another NMO submitting a request. A WWR protest may take a period of time to review and validate information, and organize the protest evaluation and protest panel; as such, the protest may have to be carried over to the next relevant competition where classification is taking place. For those WWR protests lodged prior to or after a competition, the protest evaluation will be scheduled for an upcoming competition. In this situation, the athlete undergoing protest and their NMO will be notified ahead of time, and the athlete will enter the competition on the classification schedule as R.

- 24.2 The Head of Classification must provide the relevant National Member Organization with a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Head of Classification considers it is justified.
- 24.3 World Wheelchair Rugby may make a Protest under two circumstance – either on its own behalf or based on a request from a National Member Organization. If a WWR Protest goes forward:
- 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

## WWR Classification Rules

24.3.3 a Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible.

24.3.4 For additional information regarding protest procedures, refer to Appendix 1, Section 9 – Management of Protests.

24.4 If WWR dismisses a protest:

24.4.1 If WWR, following the assessment of a NMO request, decides there will not be a WWR protest; the NMO is notified that the protest will not be made.

24.4.2 If WWR on its own behalf is investigating the potential of a protest and decides there will not be a WWR protest, the process is never initiated, so no further action is required.

### 25 Protest Panel

25.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfill one or more of the obligations of the Head of Classification 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 Member Organization or World Wheelchair Rugby (whichever is relevant). [L]  
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Comment Article 25.3.2: If this is a National Protest, the team lodging the protest (and/or its national body) may accept that a protest panel has a member who has seen the athlete within this 12 month period if they wish for the protest to be managed at that competition. If this is a WWR protest, WWR may, for logistical reasons, select a panel member who has seen the athlete within a 12 month period of time, if agreed to by the athlete (team and/or national body) if they wish the protest to be managed at that competition.

25.3.3 World Wheelchair Rugby may issue ad hoc provisions to allow protests to proceed with the written agreement by all the relevant parties.

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.

## WWR Classification Rules

25.5 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules:

25.5.1 The Protest Panel must refer to the protest documents, supporting evidence submitted and all available classification information, including the previous classification form and rationale for the decision and process taken by the first Classification Panel.

25.5.2 The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing the athlete's sport class.

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 a World Wheelchair Rugby Protest is final. There is no opportunity for a National Member Organization or World Wheelchair Rugby to make another Protest. However, the decision of a Protest Panel may be appealed if the requirements set out in Article 44 Appeals are met.

25.7.1 There is one circumstance where a second Protest may be allowed at the same Competition - if a National Member Organisation has an objection to the outcome of a World Wheelchair Rugby Protest. The National Member Organisation may lodge a Protest in accordance with Article 22 National Protest Procedure.

25.7.2 For additional information regarding protest panels, refer to Appendix 1, Section 9 – Management of Protests – Protest Panels.

Comment Article 25.7. This article is intended to make sure that multiple protests are not made on an athlete at the same competition: for example, a National Protest and a subsequent World Wheelchair Rugby Protest. This restriction applies to the duration of the relevant competition only and would not preclude a protest being made at a future 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 that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 27 Special Provisions

27.1 World Wheelchair Rugby only offers some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition for the second evaluation of Athletes who are Not Eligible with Sport Class Status Review (NE R).

### Application during Major Competitions

## 28 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

28.1 The IPC and/or World Wheelchair Rugby may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

28.2 World Wheelchair Rugby may issue ad hoc provisions to operate during competitions that do not have the infrastructure to support reliable communication between the teams or their National Member Organization, the Competition Organizing Committee, and the Chief Classifier.

Comment Article 28.2: This may mean, for example, a national protest of an athlete under its jurisdiction may be made up to the end of the preliminary rounds, or a designated cut-off time at the Competition as set by World Wheelchair Rugby. Refer to Article 21.3.1 in these rules. Competitions have very diverse formats, such as round robin, pool play and various combinations of preliminary rounds to move to semi-finals and championship rounds. Using preliminary rounds as the designated cut off for submission allows WWR to define this on a per-Competition basis in consultation with the WWR Head of Classification, Chief Classifier, and Competition Technical Delegate.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 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 Member Organization must take reasonable steps to ensure that 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 that 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 (Refer to International Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Article 30.1.1.)

### 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, 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;

## WWR Classification Rules

- 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 Member Organization;
  - 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; or
  - 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 is designated CNC so that the Athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation can be completed. The Athlete will have no Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and not be able to compete at any Competition until an Evaluation Session can be competed with a Sport Class and Sport Class Status awarded.
  - 30.2.4 Additional consequences for suspension of Athlete evaluation may include:
    - a. If the Athlete entered the Competition with Sport Class Status New – being precluded from presenting for Classification at any Competition for a specified time of up to three months.

## WWR Classification Rules

- b. If the Athlete has a previous sport class and FRD sport class status upon entry into the competition and is made CNC, they must not take part in any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed. They are precluded from presenting for Classification at any Competition for a specified time up of to three months.

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.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 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. This means Medical Review is:
- 31.2.1 indicated where the effect of surgery or some other medical procedure or therapeutic intervention has resulted in a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment that changes the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and abilities relevant to the sport, either positively or negatively;
  - 31.2.2 appropriate if the Athlete has a progressive impairment that is no longer stable;
  - 31.2.3 appropriate when an Athlete appears to have a new underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment;
  - 31.2.4 not indicated where the change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's impairment and/or the ability to execute specific tasks and activities is due to aging.
- 31.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete's National Member Organization. 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 for the sport has changed.
- 31.4 A World Wheelchair Rugby Medical Review Request Form must be completed and received by World Wheelchair Rugby as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 31.5 World Wheelchair Rugby Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is accepted 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 "Medical Review Request" but fails to draw those to the attention of their National Member Organization or World Wheelchair Rugby may be investigated in respect of possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

## WWR Classification Rules

- 31.7 If a Medical Review Request is accepted, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.
- 31.8 If a Medical Review Request does not include sufficient evidence to 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 the sport has changed, the Medical Review Request will not be accepted. The Athlete's Sport Class will not be changed.

## 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 World Wheelchair Rugby to determine whether the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel has committed Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 32.3.1 If WWR commences its disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel, WWR may impose a provisional suspension from all Competitions.
- 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 matches at the Competition at which the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred, and any Competitions at which the Athlete competed;
- 32.4.2 being allocated with Sport Class Not Eligible and designated a Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) for a specified period of time ranging from 12 to 48 months;
- 32.4.3 suspension from participation in Competitions in all sport for a specified period of time ranging from 12 to 48 months; and
- 32.4.4 publication of their names and suspension period.

## WWR Classification Rules

- 32.5 Any Athlete who is found guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation on more than one occasion will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible and designated with a Review Fixed Review Date Sport Class Status for a specified period of time ranging from four years to life.
- 32.5.1 If the disciplinary period is less than a lifetime ban, the Athlete is allocated NE with the Fixed Review Date at the conclusion of the specified time period.
- 32.5.2 If the decision is a lifetime ban, the Athlete is allocated Not Eligible Sport Class with Confirmed Sport Class Status (NE C); and the Athlete must not present for Athlete Evaluation again, even if there are changes in the Athlete's Impairment and/or Health Condition or changes in Sport Class criteria.
- 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 World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 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 World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 32.9 Any disciplinary action taken by World Wheelchair Rugby pursuant these Classification Rules must be resolved in accordance with the applicable WWR Disciplinary Policy.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

### 33 Classification Data

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

### 34 Consent and Processing

- 34.1 Subject to Article 34.3, World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby may request that an Athlete provide WWR with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 35.2 The use of Personal Information for Research Purposes by World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.
- 35.4 World Wheelchair Rugby may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If World Wheelchair Rugby 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 anonymized so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 36 Notification to Athletes

36.1 World Wheelchair Rugby must notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data:

36.1.1 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 39 Retaining Classification Data

- 39.1 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 anonymized.
- 39.2 World Wheelchair Rugby must publish guidelines regarding retention times in relation to Classification Data.
- 39.3 World Wheelchair Rugby must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

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## 40 Access Rights to Classification Data

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

## 41 Classification Master Lists

- 41.1 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby must make available the Classification Master List to all relevant National Member Organizations on the World Wheelchair Rugby website.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 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 the National Member Organization of World Wheelchair Rugby.

### 44 Appeals

44.1 If a National Member Organization 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 World Wheelchair Rugby must designate an Appeal Body to act as the hearing body for the resolution of Classification Appeals.

44.3 The Appeal Body must comprise at least three people with the appropriate skills and experience to objectively hear the Appeal and who were not involved in any way with any of the procedures that are the subject of the Appeal.

44.4 Unless otherwise agreed or directed by WWR and the IPC, in respect of all Appeals submitted during IPC governed events, the IPC BAC is the Appeal Body.

44.5 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the International Standard for Protests and Appeals and the relevant rules of the World Wheelchair Rugby Appeals Policy located on the WWR website.

44.6 An Appeal Body does not have any power to modify, alter, or otherwise change any Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status decision, for example, by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.

44.7 An Appeal Body may decline to rule on an Appeal if it appears that other available remedies, including but not limited to Protest procedures, have not been exhausted.

# WWR Classification Rules

Comment Article 44: The limited scope of review available to the Appeal Body is a fundamental aspect of an Appeal. Sport Class allocation is a sport decision and must be made by those authorised and certified by World Wheelchair Rugby to do so. Those decisions must not be changed except by other persons, who are similarly authorised and certified. The Appeal Body may only review the process by which these decisions have been arrived at to ensure that such process has been conducted in accordance with Classification Rules. Similarly, the Appeal Body may only rule on an Appeal if all other available remedies have been exhausted. If a Chief Classifier declines a Protest and the relevant National Member Organization appeals this decision, the grounds of that Appeal are limited to the decision of the Chief Classifier to decline the Protest and the (procedural) grounds of the Protest. The National Member Organization is not permitted to introduce additional grounds that should have been included in the Protest.

## 45 Appeal Decision

45.1 The Appeal Body must issue a written reasoned decision resolving any Appeal within the timeframe set by World Wheelchair Rugby after the hearing. The decision must be provided to the Appellant, the Respondent, and World Wheelchair Rugby. In the case of an Appeal in connection with a Competition, the outcome of the decision must be communicated to the Competition Organising Committee.

45.2 The Appeal Body must either affirm the decision appealed or set aside the decision.

45.3 In its written decision, the Appeal Body must issue a ruling stating the reasons for its decision, including the evidence relied on, and the actions taken as a result. If the decision is set aside, the Appeal Body must specify the procedural error(s) committed.

45.4 The decision of the Appeal Body is final and not subject to any further appeal.

## 46 Confidentiality

46.1 All Appeal proceedings are confidential and not open to the public.

## 47 Application during Major Competitions

47.1 Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

47.1.1 The IPC may issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during the Paralympic Games or other Competitions.

47.1.2 World Wheelchair Rugby may also issue special ad hoc provisions to operate during specified Competitions under its jurisdiction.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Part Twelve: Glossary

**Ad hoc:** To deal with issues that come up in the course of something that often require immediate solutions. For example, an ad hoc investigating committee or person, such as World Wheelchair Rugby Player Classification Representative (PCR), is authorized to look into a matter of limited scope, particularly Protests and Athlete Evaluations, to explain to other Athletes the classification process, including protests, and the unique characteristics and differences of the specific Sport Classes.

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

**Anthropometric Measurements:** Measures of the size, composition and proportion of the body, such as limb length.

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

**Appeal Panel:** The body established by World Wheelchair Rugby for hearing and determining the resolution of a Classification Appeal.

**Ataxia:** Athletes with Ataxia have a lack of muscle control that presents as erratic muscle action caused by damage to the central nervous system. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, and multiple sclerosis.

**Athetosis:** Athletes with Athetosis have a lack of muscle control that presents as continual slow involuntary movements. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.

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

**Athlete Evaluation:** The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules so 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.

## WWR Classification Rules

**Bona Fide** – Literally means “in good faith”, sincere or without intention to deceive. A Protest that is bona fide is one that is not used in a manner that could unfairly affect the outcome of the Competition. This type of “tactical protest” is not bona fide and is a breach of the principles of fair play.

**Chief Classifier:** A Classifier appointed by World Wheelchair Rugby 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, such as medical information, provided by an Athlete and/or a National Member Organization 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 World Wheelchair Rugby that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status.

**Classification Not Completed (CNC):** The designation CNC applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of World Wheelchair Rugby.

**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 World Wheelchair Rugby, 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 Rule:** Also referred to as Classification Rules. The policies, procedures, processes, protocols and descriptions adopted by World Wheelchair Rugby in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

**Classification System:** The framework used by World Wheelchair Rugby to develop and designate Sport Classes within Wheelchair Rugby.

**Classifier:** A person authorised as an official by World Wheelchair Rugby to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

## WWR Classification Rules

**Classifier Certification:** The processes by which World Wheelchair Rugby 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 that World Wheelchair Rugby deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport(s) governed by World Wheelchair Rugby.

**Classifier Code of Conduct:** The behavioural and ethical standards for Classifiers specified by World Wheelchair Rugby in these Classification Rules and in World Wheelchair Rugby – Code of Conduct for Technical Officials.

**Code:** The 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code 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 games or matches, also known as a Tournament, conducted together under the jurisdiction of 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 the IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments.

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

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

## WWR Classification Rules

**Entry-level Education:** The basic knowledge and practical skills specified by World Wheelchair Rugby to begin as a Classifier in the sport(s) 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 to allocate 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, such as a Tournament.

**EBM:** A WWR executive board member or designee, such as a Technical Delegate or Assistant Technical Delegate, who is informed of protests at Competitions. If requested by the Chief Classifier, the EBM or designee may be asked to observe the Athlete evaluation and/or protest process to ensure procedures are followed appropriately. The EBM serves in a non-voting and advisory capacity only.

**First Appearance:** The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class. For team sports, this first appearance must take place during the preliminary rounds of a Competition and, at the sole discretion of the Classification Panel and Chief Classifier, be a meaningful appearance for the allocation of a Sport Class.

**Fixed Review Date (FRD):** 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. The abbreviations FRD 1 and FRD 2 are used as a tracking code by WWR to indicate the first and second occasions that an athlete has completed classification and remained in the same sport class, contingent upon those athlete evaluations being no less than 11 months apart.

**Head of Classification:** A person appointed by World Wheelchair Rugby to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for World Wheelchair Rugby.

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

**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. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.

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

**Impaired Muscle Power:** Athletes who have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles to move or to generate force.

## WWR Classification Rules

Examples of Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome, and spina bifida.

**Impaired Passive Range of Movement:** Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints. Examples of Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include Arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint. Impaired passive range of movement is an eligible impairment in WWR Wheelchair Rugby, but an impairment measurement system is yet to be developed. Impaired passive range of movement may be present together with another eligible impairment, for example, impaired muscle power.

**Intentional Misrepresentation:** A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead an International Sport Federation or National Member Organization 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.

## WWR Classification Rules

**International Sport Federation:** A sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole world- wide representative of a sport for Athletes with an Impairment that has been granted the status as a Para sport by the IPC. World Wheelchair Rugby is the International Sport Federation for Wheelchair Rugby.

**International Sport Federation Protest:** A challenge to the outcome of an Athlete Evaluation made by an International Sport Federation in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

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

**IPC:** International Paralympic Committee. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

**WWR:** World Wheelchair Rugby.

**Limb Deficiency:** Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (for example, traumatic amputation), illness (for example, amputation due to bone cancer), or congenital limb deficiency (for example, dysmelia).

**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 Member Organization 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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 must be undertaken in order to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

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

**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 Body:** Refers to the national member of an International Sport Federation. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> In World Wheelchair Rugby, this is the National Member Organization (NMO).

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

## WWR Classification Rules

**National Member Organization:** the generic term used to describe World Wheelchair Rugby member nations. Each member nation has its own national governance structure. There are several different structures that WWR deal with but all are the national members of WWR. These organisations include but are not limited to:

- Independent wheelchair rugby federations – specifically set up to deal with wheelchair rugby only, such as the United States Quad Rugby Association (USQRA) and the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby (GBWR);
- Multiple sport organisations – responsible for several sports nationally including wheelchair rugby, such as Disability Sports Australia;
- National Paralympic Committees – specific responsibilities relating to Paralympic games and in some instances also the governing body for other Paralympic sports, such as the NPC in Germany and Belgium; and
- National Rugby Unions (associated with World Rugby, the international governing body of rugby union), such as in Norway.
- National Paralympic Committees: In World Wheelchair Rugby, National Paralympic Committees of a few countries function as the sole representative of Athletes with an Impairment participating in wheelchair rugby in that country or territory. These National Paralympic Committees serve as national members of World Wheelchair Rugby.

**National Protest:** A challenge to the outcome of Athlete Evaluation made by a National Member Organization or a National Paralympic Committee in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction.

**Non-Competition Venue:** Any place or location (outside of a Competition) designated by World Wheelchair Rugby 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 Assessment:** 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. Tracking code OA is used to indicate an Athlete is undergoing Observation Assessment. Also known as Observation in Competition.

**Para Sport:** All sports for Athletes with an Impairment whether they feature on the Paralympic programme or not. These terms are used for all other sports events or competitions outside of the Paralympic Games.

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

## WWR Classification Rules

**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, including Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Limb Deficiency, Impaired Passive Range of Movement, Leg Length Difference, and Short Stature. World Wheelchair Rugby provides sport opportunities for Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power, Limb Deficiency; Impaired Passive Range of Movement and Ataxia, Athetosis, and Hypertonia.

**Player Classification Representative** A Player Classification Representative (PCR) selected by the Chief Classifier at a Competition to attend Protest and/or Athlete Evaluation, if requested and available, to assist with explanations from the perspective of the Athlete. The PCR may be a current Wheelchair Rugby Athlete or former Athlete selected to represent the interests of the Athlete undergoing an Evaluation Session; and serves as an Ad Hoc non-voting member of the Classification Panel in an advisory capacity only.

**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 World Wheelchair Rugby, payable by the National Member Organization 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 World Wheelchair Rugby must assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies.

**Recognised Competition:** A Competition that is licensed or approved by World Wheelchair Rugby, or a Competition that is licensed by World Wheelchair Rugby only for Classification.

## WWR Classification Rules

**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.

**Short Stature:** Athletes who have a reduced length in the bones of the upper limbs, lower limbs, and/or trunk. Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that may lead to Short Stature include Achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta. Short stature is not an eligible impairment in WWR Wheelchair Rugby. However, short stature may be present in an Athlete along with an eligible impairment, for example, impaired muscle power.

**Signatories:** Any organisation, such as World Wheelchair Rugby, 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 World Wheelchair Rugby 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.

## WWR Classification Rules

**Technical Classifier:** a Classifier who has extensive athletic, coaching, or other relevant background in wheelchair rugby; or a recognised and reputable academic qualification that encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical and sport- specific expertise, which World Wheelchair Rugby at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

**Trunk impairment score:** The trunk impairment score (TIC) is determined from a series of tests that assess abdominal, back, pelvic and leg muscles in all planes and in a variety of positions.

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

# WWR Classification Rules

## Appendix One: Athletes with Physical Impairment

Section numbers are used in the Appendices in place of Article numbers.

Figure 1 Assessment of Eligible Impairment

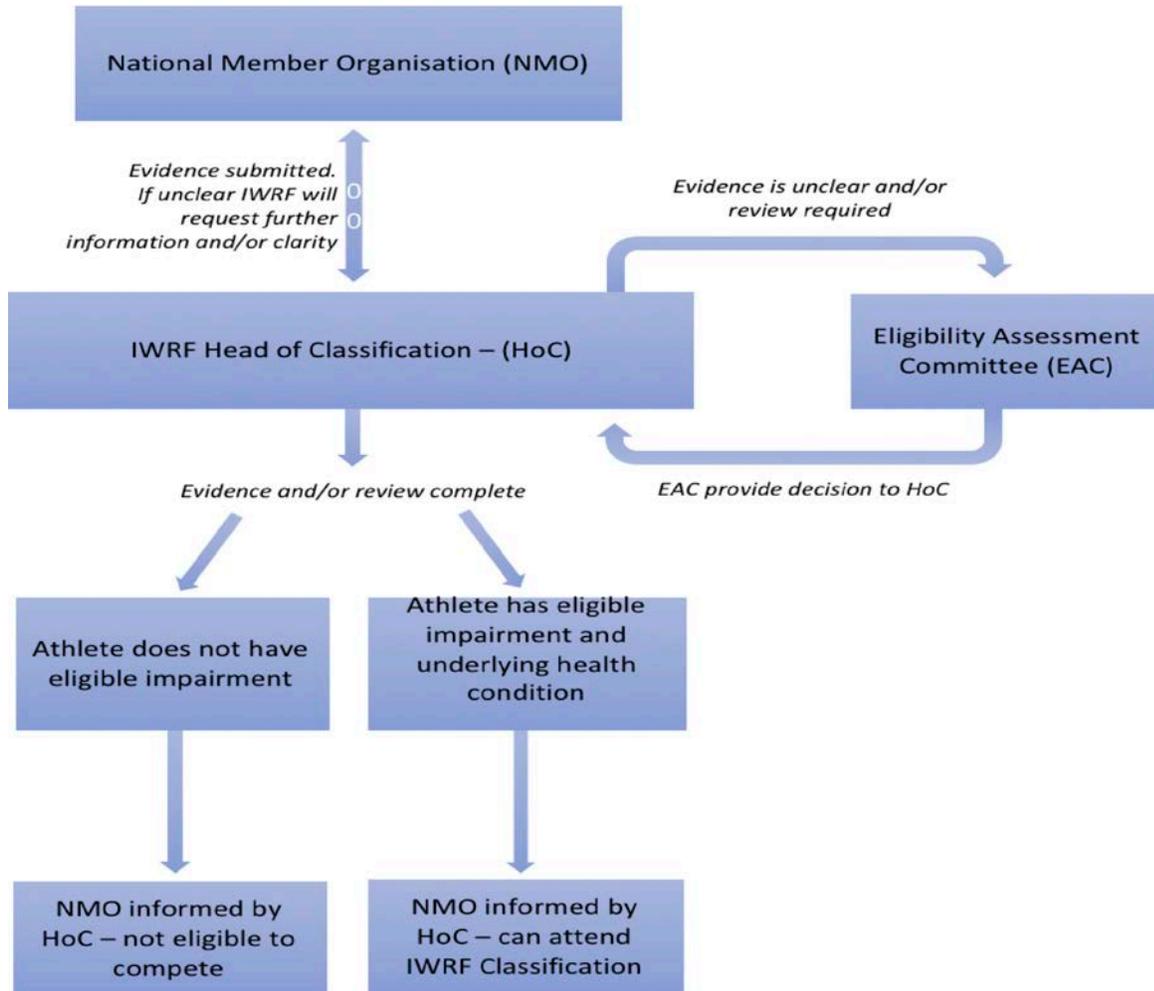


Figure 1 shows best practice for the assessment of Eligible Impairment.

Managing the assessment of Eligible Impairment prior to an Athlete coming to a Competition where Classification is taking place, is recommended for multiple reasons:

- a) it prevents an Athlete from traveling to a Competition only to find out that they are not eligible on the basis of not having an Eligible Impairment;
- b) it facilitates the optimisation of the classification schedule and administration; and
- c) it reduces pressure on the Chief Classifier and Classification Panel to make a decision at a Competition with less than the best evidence about the Athlete's Impairment and Underlying Health Condition.

This model allows WWR to engage medical experts and use their expertise in making the best decision possible.

## 1 Eligible Impairment Types

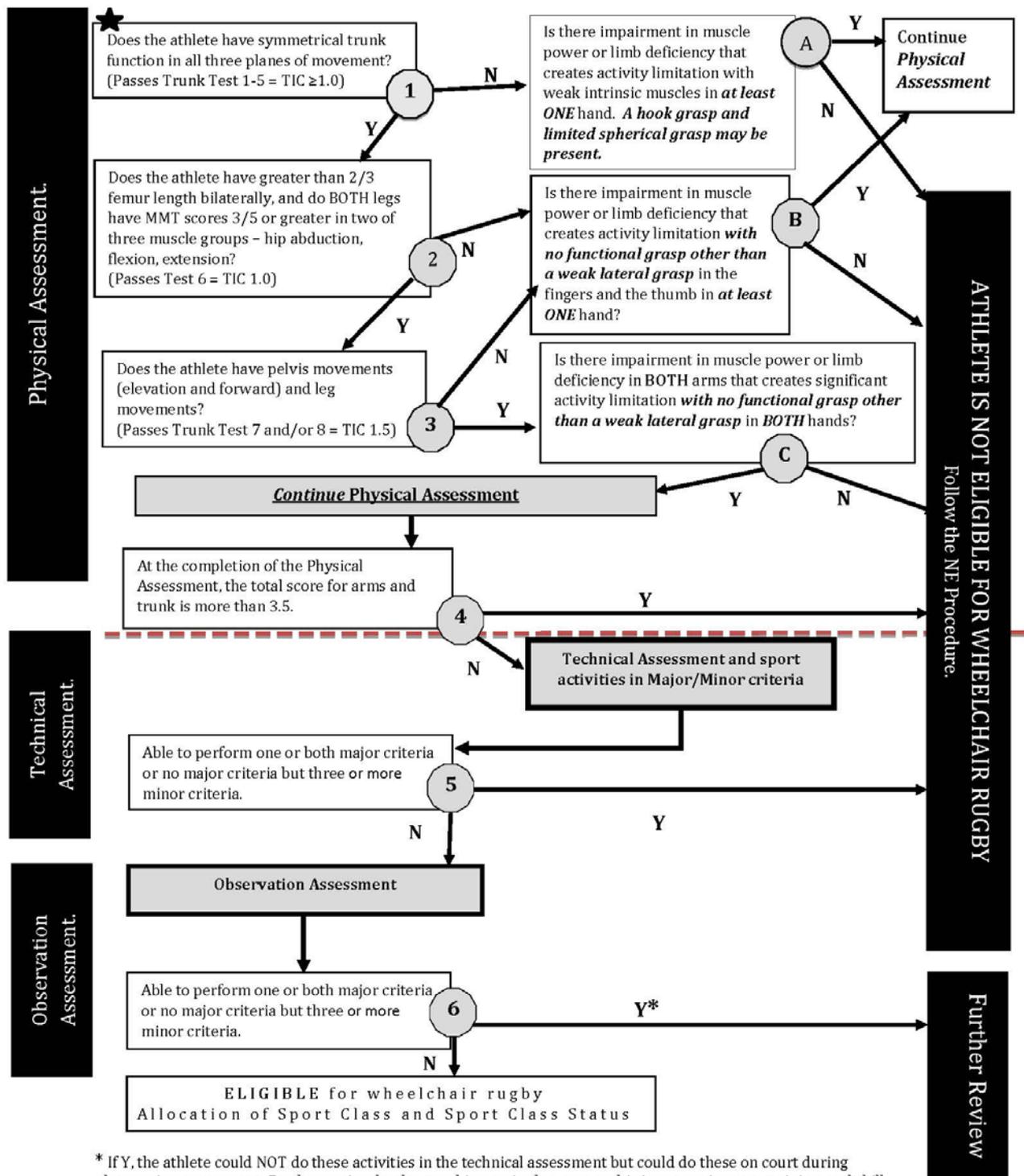
<b>Eligible Impairment</b>	<b>Examples of Health Conditions</b>
<p>Impaired Muscle Power</p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Muscle Power include spinal cord injury (complete or incomplete), muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida. An Athlete with paraparesis or paraplegia may meet Minimum Impairment Criteria if another Underlying Health Condition results in sufficient motor power impairment in the arm, such as a brachial plexus injury.</p>
<p>Limb Deficiency</p> <p>Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma or present at birth.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include: traumatic amputation, illness (such as amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (such as dysmelia).</p>
<p>Hypertonia</p> <p>Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system. .</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.</p>
<p>Ataxia</p> <p>Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include: cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, and multiple sclerosis.</p>
<p>Athetosis</p> <p>Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, and stroke.</p>

## WWR Classification Rules

<p><b>Impaired Passive Range of Movement</b></p> <p>Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include Arthrogyposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint. In WWR, impairment measures to set minimum impairment criteria for all its eligible impairments are under development. Currently, Athletes with impairment in Passive Range of Movement may be eligible, if the Athlete has another eligible impairment that meets Minimum Impairment Criteria.</p>
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# WWR Classification Rules

Figure 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria and Athlete Evaluation



\* If Y, the athlete could NOT do these activities in the technical assessment but could do these on court during observation assessment. Further review by the panel is required to ensure this is not equipment, training, and skill. It may help to repeat the technical assessment with and without equipment or repeat any impairment tests such as muscle tests or limb measurements to clarify why the athlete can do these activities on court but not during testing.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Explanatory Notes for Athlete Evaluation Flow Chart

### Steps 1-3: Physical Assessment

The impact of impairment in the hands is determined by evaluating the activity of grasping. Grasp is defined as the ability of the digits of the hand to hold, secure, or pick up objects.

The three types of grasps that include a sport specific component in wheelchair rugby are:

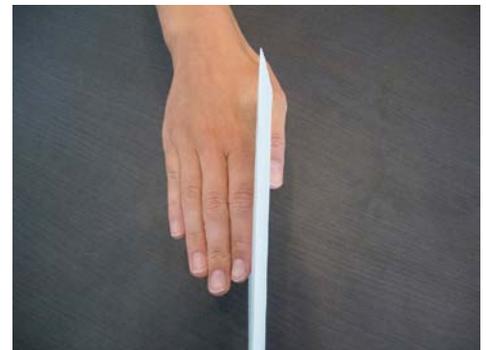
1. Lateral grasp,
2. Spherical grasp (also referred to as a span grasp)
3. Hook grasp.

Impairment impacting grasps is expected in these steps of the physical assessment. However, as lateral grasp does not require thumb opposition, you may find a weak lateral grasp, but there should not be a spherical or hook grasp.

Following are descriptions of these three types of grasps.

#### Lateral Grasp

The lateral grasp, or pinch, pad-to-side, pad of extended thumb pressing an object against the radial side of the index finger is a strong grip. This grip does not require an opposed thumb: a person who has lost opposition but has retained thumb adduction can grasp small objects. In an unimpaired hand, the lateral grasp uses the thumb adductor muscle, and the thumb remains straight. In an impaired hand, such as an intrinsic minus hand, the thumb flexor muscles substitute for the thumb adductor muscle so the position of the thumb looks different, as depicted in the adjacent photograph. In wheelchair rugby, a lateral grasp can be used for limited ball control and security, and wheel contact.



Lateral Grasp – Unimpaired Hand



Lateral Grasp – Intrinsic Minus Hand

# WWR Classification Rules

<p><b>Spherical Grasp</b></p> <p>Spherical grasp, a power grasp, has all fingers and the thumb reaching around an object, with the fingers more spread apart. The palm is often not involved. It is used to hold something round, for example in wheelchair rugby, the ball.</p>	 <p><b>Spherical Grasp – Unimpaired Hand</b></p>
<p><b>Hook Grasp</b></p> <p>Hook grasp, a power grasp used to hold with the 2nd through 5th fingers flexed around an object in hook like manner. Used in wheelchair rugby for example, to grip the wheel rim or tire to pull back for propelling backwards or back out of a pick.</p>	 <p><b>Spherical Grasp – Intrinsic Minus Hand</b></p>  <p><b>Hook Grasp – Unimpaired (right) and Intrinsic Minus (left)</b></p>

## Step 4: Conclusion of Physical Assessment

If the total score for the arms and trunk at the conclusion of the physical assessment is more than 3.5, the Athlete is Not Eligible (NE). This is calculated and recorded on the classification form as the Total Class. If the total score for arms and trunk is 3.5 or less, the athlete moves forward to the technical assessment.

In cases where the athlete has borderline eligibility, or if the athlete has an impairment for which minimum impairment criteria is not yet established, major and minor criteria are used to decide eligibility.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Step 5: Technical Assessment

Technical assessment consists of the evaluation of ball and wheelchair activities to determine the impact of impairment, measured in the physical assessment, on sport specific activities in order to make a decision on the athlete's sport class.

In cases of borderline eligibility, or if the athlete has an impairment for which minimum impairment criteria is not yet established, major and minor criteria are used to decide if the athlete is not eligible or if the athlete proceeds to observation assessment.

If the athlete has one or both major criteria and/or three or more minor criteria in the technical assessment, the athlete is allocated a NE sport class. This means if the athlete has one or both major criteria, the athlete is not eligible. Or, if the athlete has NO major criteria but three or more minor criteria, the athlete is not eligible.

If the athlete is NE after the Technical Assessment, the Athlete is not eligible for WWR wheelchair rugby and should not move forward to Observation Assessment.

## Step 6: Observation Assessment

Athletes who remain eligible after the technical assessment move forward to observation assessment to undergo observation on court to confirm validity of their sport class.

In cases of borderline eligibility following the technical assessment, major and minor criteria are used to decide if the athlete is allocated a NE sport class or an eligible sport class.

If the athlete had zero, one or two minor criteria in the technical assessment but then shows one or both major criteria and/or three or more minor criteria during the observation assessment on court during play, further review by the panel in a controlled non-competitive environment is required. This continuation of athlete evaluation is necessary to ensure the observed activities are not influenced by equipment, training, and skill.

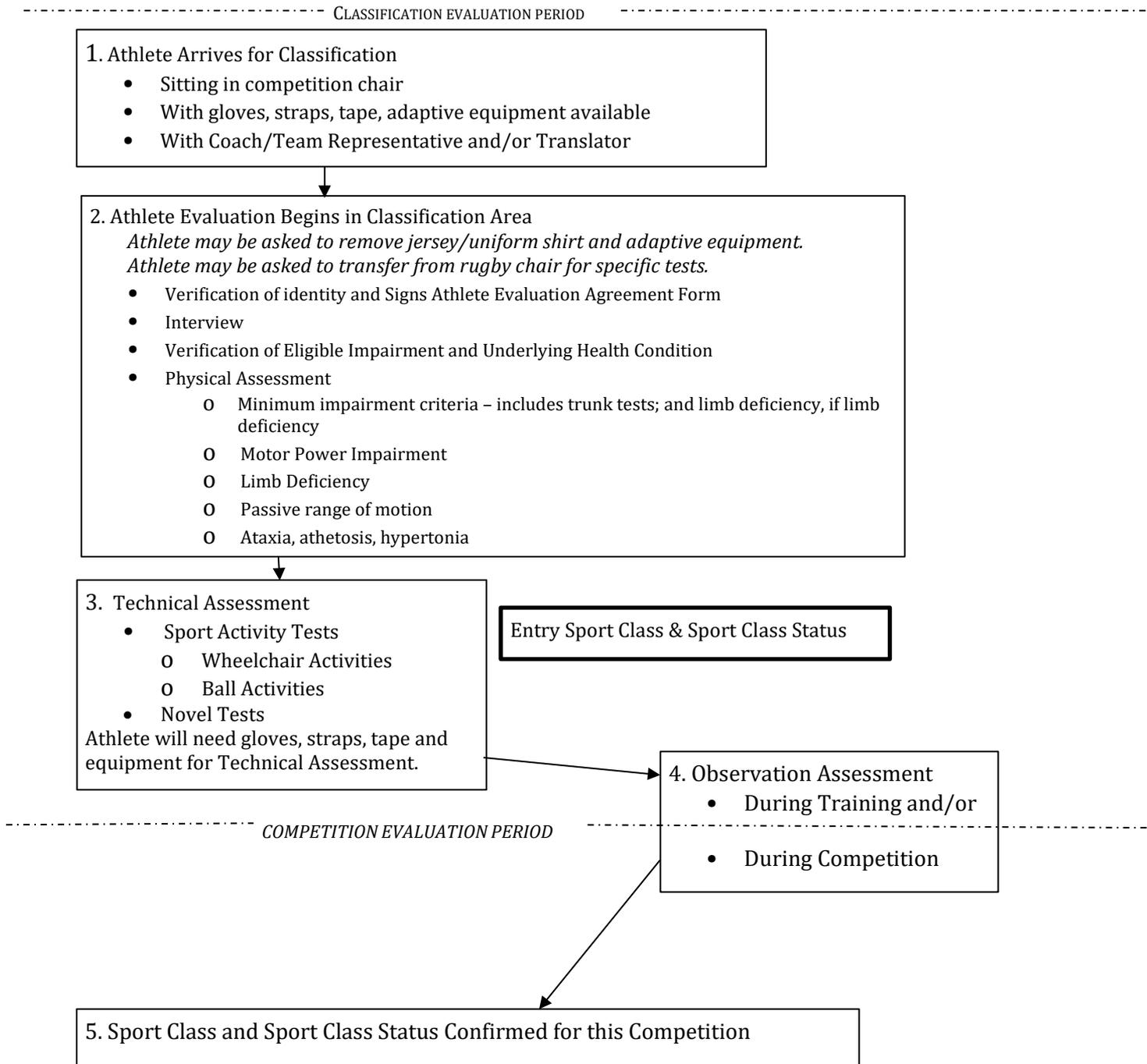
## Following Observation Assessment

If continued athlete evaluation is required, the classification panel may repeat the technical assessment both with and without equipment, and/or repeat any impairment tests, such as manual muscle tests or limb measurements, to clarify why the athlete can do the sport specific activities on court during observation assessment but not during the technical assessment.

If there is no logical explanation, the classification panel may need to suspend athlete evaluation. The panel will need to consider the potential of the athlete being given classification not complete. If CNC, the procedure in Article 30 of these rules must be followed.

# WWR Classification Rules

Figure 3 Athlete Evaluation Pathway



# WWR Classification Rules

## 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 2.1 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) defines how severe an Athlete's impairment must be to participate in Wheelchair Rugby.
- 2.2 World Wheelchair Rugby has described Minimum Impairment Criteria based on eligible impairments considered to alter the biomechanical execution of wheelchair propulsion and ball handling activities in a way that is verifiable and adversely affects performance of these activities.
- 2.3 Minimum Impairment Criteria is defined by World Wheelchair Rugby as:
  - 2.3.1 The Athlete must meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria to proceed through Athlete Evaluation, and
  - 2.3.2 Following Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete must be allocated one of the seven sport classes that range from 0.5 to 3.5.
- 2.4 An Athlete allocated 4.0 or greater is not eligible for WWR Wheelchair Rugby and is allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 2.5 If an Athlete fails to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and is deemed Not Eligible (NE) for WWR Wheelchair Rugby; this finding does not question the presence of a genuine impairment. This is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete under the sport rules of WWR.
- 2.6 Minimum Impairment Criteria is determined by:
  - 2.6.1 Measurement of Minimum Impairment Criteria that is conducted in the Physical Assessment.
  - 2.6.2 The Minimum Impairment Criteria sets apart those Athletes who are appropriate to move forward in Athlete Evaluation and those Athletes who are Not Eligible (NE) because their level of Impairment does not meet the extent of Impairment defined for Wheelchair Rugby.
  - 2.6.3 For some Athletes for which Minimum Impairment Criteria is not yet defined, moving on to Technical and Observation Assessment may take place:
    - a. without completing the full Physical Assessment and/or
    - b. for the purposes of deciding on Eligibility.
- 2.7 The Minimum Impairment Criteria will consist of measures of impairment for those eligible impairment types in WWR Wheelchair Rugby: motor power in upper extremities, trunk and lower extremities; limb length, coordination impairment, and passive range of movement.

## WWR Classification Rules

- 2.8 If Athlete moves on from the Physical Assessment, the Technical assessment is conducted to allocate the Sport Class. Following the Technical Assessment, Observation Assessment is conducted to confirm Sport Class.
- 2.8.1 For those Athletes with Eligible Impairment Types not yet fully assessed in the Classification System to determine Minimum Impairment Criteria, a decision of Not Eligible may still be possible after the Technical Assessment.
- 2.8.2 If such an Athlete moves forward from the Technical Assessment, a decision of Not Eligible may still be possible after the Observation Assessment.
- a. If the Athlete was not able to perform the set number of Major and/or Minor Criteria in the Technical Assessment but could do so in the Observation Assessment of on court activities during competition, further evaluation by the Classification Panel is necessary to clarify why the Athlete can do these activities on court in the Observation Assessment but not during Technical Assessment.
- 2.8.3 There are standardized tests for measuring Coordination. Currently, the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Coordination Impairments and measures to determine arm scores for the allocation of a Sport Class for coordination impairments are under development.
- a. While not yet standard sport specific tests, there are valid and reliable measurements for hypertonia, ataxia, and athetosis. As a result, Sport Class for Athletes with these Eligible Impairments remains largely based on Technical Assessment. Observation Assessment is used to confirm the sport class outcome from the Technical Assessment.
- 2.8.4 There are standardized techniques for measuring Passive Range of Movement. Currently, the Minimum Impairment Criteria and measures to determine arm scores for allocation of a Sport Class for Passive Range of Movement are under development.
- a. While not yet standard sport specific tests, there are valid and reliable measurements for Passive Range of Movement. As a result, Sport Class for Athletes with impaired Passive Range of Movement remains largely based on Technical Assessment. Observation Assessment is used to confirm the sport class outcome from the Technical Assessment.
- 2.9 Refer to Appendix One Figure 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria and Athlete Evaluation for a graphic representation of the process to determine if an Athlete is eligible for Wheelchair Rugby.
- 2.10 Refer to Appendix One Figure 4 Trunk Impairment Score (TIC) Flow Chart and Scoring for the graphic representation of trunk testing and scoring and Appendix One Table 3 Trunk Tests and Assessment for explanations of the individual trunk tests.

# WWR Classification Rules

## Assessment Methodology

### 2.11 Assessment of Impairments in Motor Power

#### 2.11.1 Muscle Strength Testing Scale

- a. Daniels and Worthingham developed the muscle testing techniques and scoring criteria used in WWR Wheelchair Rugby. The reference text is Hislop HJ, Avers D, and Brown M. Daniel's and Worthingham's Muscle Testing: Techniques for Manual Examination and Performance Testing. 9th ed. St Louis, MO: Elsevier, 2014. (Refer to WWR Classifier Handbook for MMT Grades and Definitions.)

### 2.12 Physical Assessment – Impairment Tests

2.12.1 The Physical Assessment (Impairment Tests or Bench Test), for the purpose of determining Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC), begins with an interview with the Athlete followed by impairment testing for the trunk, manual muscle tests, as well as limb length measurement for Athletes with limb deficiency. Tests are in development for Coordination Impairments and Passive Range of Motion.

- a. Refer to Appendix One Figure 3 Athlete Evaluation Pathway – Sport Class Allocation Flowchart for this process.
- b. At present all Athletes go through a motor power assessment.
- c. As the research evidence is made available for valid, reliable, and objective measurement of other Eligible Impairments, Physical Assessment processes for Athletes with Limb Deficiency, Passive Range of Motion; and Hypertonia, Ataxia and Athetosis will be added in the Classification System.

#### 2.12.2 Interview

- a. All or part of the review of diagnostic and medical documentation for assessment of an eligible impairment may be conducted by WWR prior to the Competition, according to these rules, or be designated to the Chief Classifier and/or Classification Panel prior to the Athlete beginning Athlete Evaluation at the Competition.
- b. Any Diagnostic and medical documentation the Athlete brings or has been requested to bring may be presented to the Chief Classifier or the Classification Panel prior to or at the time of the interview.
- c. The Chief Classifier or his/her designee may conduct all or part of the interview prior to the Athlete and Classification Panel beginning the Evaluation Session.

#### 2.12.3 Impaired Motor Power - Manual Muscle Tests (MMTs)

- a. Manual muscle tests are performed on select muscles in the upper limbs. Refer to Appendix One Table 1.
- b. Some modifications in the testing positions and grading may be made for sport specific testing as described in the WWR Classifier Handbook.

#### 2.12.4 Upper Extremity Proximal Weakness and Preservation of Distal Strength

- a. The calculation of upper extremity point value for Athletes with conditions that result in proximal weakness with preservation of distal strength is determined in a modified manner:

# WWR Classification Rules

- Draw a line on the Classification form to divide the muscle test scores on the bench test above the triceps;
  - Give a point value for the upper arm and the lower arm separately; and
  - Add the scores and divide by two for the point value for that arm.
- b. This division is ONLY to be used where there is proximal weakness and distal strength, due to neuromuscular health conditions such as poliomyelitis, some forms of muscular dystrophy where there is dystrophic-denervation of muscle, and some forms of incomplete SCI, such as central cord syndrome. This division must NOT be used for neuromuscular health conditions, such as polyneuropathy or myopathy that present with proximal strength and distal weakness, for example, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease (CMT), a hereditary sensory motor peripheral polyneuropathy.

## 2.12.5 Upper Extremity Proximal Strength and Distal Weakness

- a. Health Conditions such as polyneuropathy and or myopathy present with proximal strength and distal weakness.
- b. Refer to Appendix One Table 2 Impaired motor power upper limb – for polyneuropathy or distal myopathies for the muscle test scores and calculation of upper extremity point values.

# WWR Classification Rules

**Table 1: Impaired Motor Power Upper Limb – Muscle Test Scores and Upper Limb Point Value**

<p><b>0.5 Point</b></p> <p>Deltoid 0-5                      Latissimus 0-1                      Clavicular Pectoralis 0-5                      Sternal Pectoralis 0-1                      Biceps 0-5                      Triceps 0-1                      Wrist extensors 0-5                      Wrist flexors 0-1                      Remaining hand muscles 0</p>	<p><b>1.0 Point</b></p> <p>Latissimus 0-3                      Clavicular Pectoralis 5                      Sternal Pectoralis 0-3                      Biceps 5                      Triceps 0-3                      Wrist extensors 0-5                      Wrist flexors 0-3                      Remaining hand muscles 0-1</p>
<p>Characteristics of 0.5 are triceps 0-1 and shoulder girdle weakness, sternal pectoralis and latissimus weakness; possible weak shoulder rotators, with limited range; and possible clavicular pectoralis weakness.</p>	
<p><b>1.5 Point</b></p> <p>Latissimus 0-3                      Sternal Pectoralis 0-3                      Triceps 3+ to 4-                      Wrist extensors 4-5                      Wrist flexors 0-3</p>	<p>Characteristics of 1.5 are remaining weakness of proximal muscles such as serratus anterior, latissimus or sternal pectoralis, in combination with stronger triceps and wrist muscles compared to 1.0. Either sternal pectoralis OR latissimus should be 3 or less. If there is no proximal weakness but triceps are 3+ to 4-, beware of non-neurologic weakness</p>
<p><b>2.0 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 5                      Biceps 5                      Triceps 4-5                      Wrist extensors 4-5                      Wrist flexors 4-5                      Finger flexors and extensors 0-2                      Thumb movements 0-2                      Finger adductors and abductors (interossei) 0</p>	<p><b>2.5 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 5                      Biceps 5                      Triceps 5                      Wrist extensors and flexors 4-5                      Finger flexors and extensors 3-4                      Finger adductors and abductors (interossei) 0-2                      Thumb extensors and flexors 3-5                      Thumb opponens, adductors and abductors 0-2                      Finger flexion in MCP joints (lumbricals) 0-2</p>
<p>Characteristics of 2.0 are normal strength in the shoulders and chest, good to normal triceps, and strong balanced wrist extension and flexion strength.</p>	
<p><b>3.0 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 5                      Biceps 5                      Triceps 5                      Wrist extensors and flexors 4-5                      Finger flexors and extensors 3-5                      Finger adductors and abductors 2-4                      Thumb flexors, extensors 3-5                      Thumb adductors, abductors, opponens 2-4                      Finger flexion in MCP joints (lumbricals) 2-4</p>	<p>Characteristics of 3.0 are functional grasp and release (opening and closing) but grip strength is impaired because of less than normal strength in intrinsic and/or thumb abduction and opposition. Atrophy is present in the hands at the thenar and hypothenar eminences. Also, interossei (finger adductors and abductors) and lumbrical muscles (finger flexion in MCP joint) weakness causes decreased maintenance of the hand arches and indicates significant hand weakness and muscle strength of less than 4-5. A value of 3 or more is required in 2 or more of the key intrinsic muscles of interossei, thumb opposition or abduction to allocate a score of 3.0 for the hand.</p>
<p><b>3.5 Point</b></p> <p>A 3.5 value is consistent with uniform scores of 4-5 muscle tests of the hand and arm. For Athletes with motor power impairment, muscle tests of bilateral hands and arms with uniform strength of 4-5 in ALL muscle groups should indicate the Athlete is Not Eligible.</p>	

# WWR Classification Rules

**Table 2: Impaired Motor Power Upper Limb – For Polyneuropathy or Distal Myopathies**

<p><b>0.5 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 0-3            Biceps 1-2            Triceps 1-2            Wrist extensors 0            Wrist flexors 0            Remaining hand muscles 0</p>	<p><b>1.0 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 4-5            Biceps 3            Triceps 3            Wrist extensors 0            Wrist flexors 0            Remaining hand muscles 0</p>
<p>Characteristics of 0.5 are severe proximal and distal weakness throughout the upper extremity. Biceps and triceps are 1-2 with no muscle activity in the wrists, fingers or thumbs.</p>	
<p><b>1.5 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 4-5            Biceps 3+ to 4-            Triceps 3+ to 4-            Wrist flexors and extensors 1-2            Finger flexors and extensors 0            Thumb movements 0</p>	<p>Characteristics of 1.5 are increased strength in the proximal muscles, biceps, triceps and wrists compared to the 1.0. Finger and thumb muscles remain 0.</p>
<p><b>2.0 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 4-5            Biceps 4-5            Triceps 4-5            Wrist extensors 3-4            Wrist flexors 3-4            Finger flexors and extensors 0-2            Thumb movements 0-2            Finger adductors and abductors (interossei) 0</p>	<p><b>2.5 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 5            Biceps 5            Triceps 5            Wrist extensors and flexors 4-5            Finger flexors and extensors 3-4            Finger adductors and abductors 0-2            Thumb extensors and flexors 3-5            Thumb opponens, adductors and abductors 0-2            Finger flexion in MCP joints (lumbricals) 0-2</p>
<p>Characteristics of 2.0 are good to normal strength in the shoulders and chest and increasing proximal strength. There is good to normal strength of the triceps and fair to good balanced wrist extension and flexion. Severe weakness in fingers and thumb muscles remain.</p>	
<p><b>3.0 Point</b></p> <p>Shoulder girdle muscles 5            Biceps 5            Triceps 5            Wrist extensors and flexors 4-5            Finger flexors and extensors 3-5            Finger adductors and abductors 2-4            Thumb flexors, extensors 3-5            Thumb adductors, abductors, opponens 2-4            Finger flexion in MCP joints (lumbricals) 2-4</p>	<p>Characteristics of 3.0 are normal proximal strength, including the shoulders, biceps, triceps and wrists. Functional grasp and release (opening and closing) is present but grip strength is impaired because of less than normal strength in intrinsic and/or thumb abduction and opposition. Atrophy is present in the hands at the thenar and hypothenar eminences. Also, interossei (finger adductors and abductors) and lumbrical muscles (finger flexion in MCP joint) weakness causes decreased maintenance of the hand arches and indicates significant hand weakness and muscle strength of less than 4–5. A value of 3 or more is required in 2 or more of the key intrinsic muscles of interossei, thumb opposition or abduction to allocate a score of 3.0 for the hand.</p>
<p><b>3.5 Point</b></p> <p>A 3.5 value is consistent with uniform scores of 4-5 muscle tests of the hand and arm. For athletes with a primary impairment of motor power, muscle tests of bilateral hands and arms with uniform strength of 4-5 in ALL muscle groups should indicate the athlete is Not Eligible as the athlete does not meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for motor power.</p>	

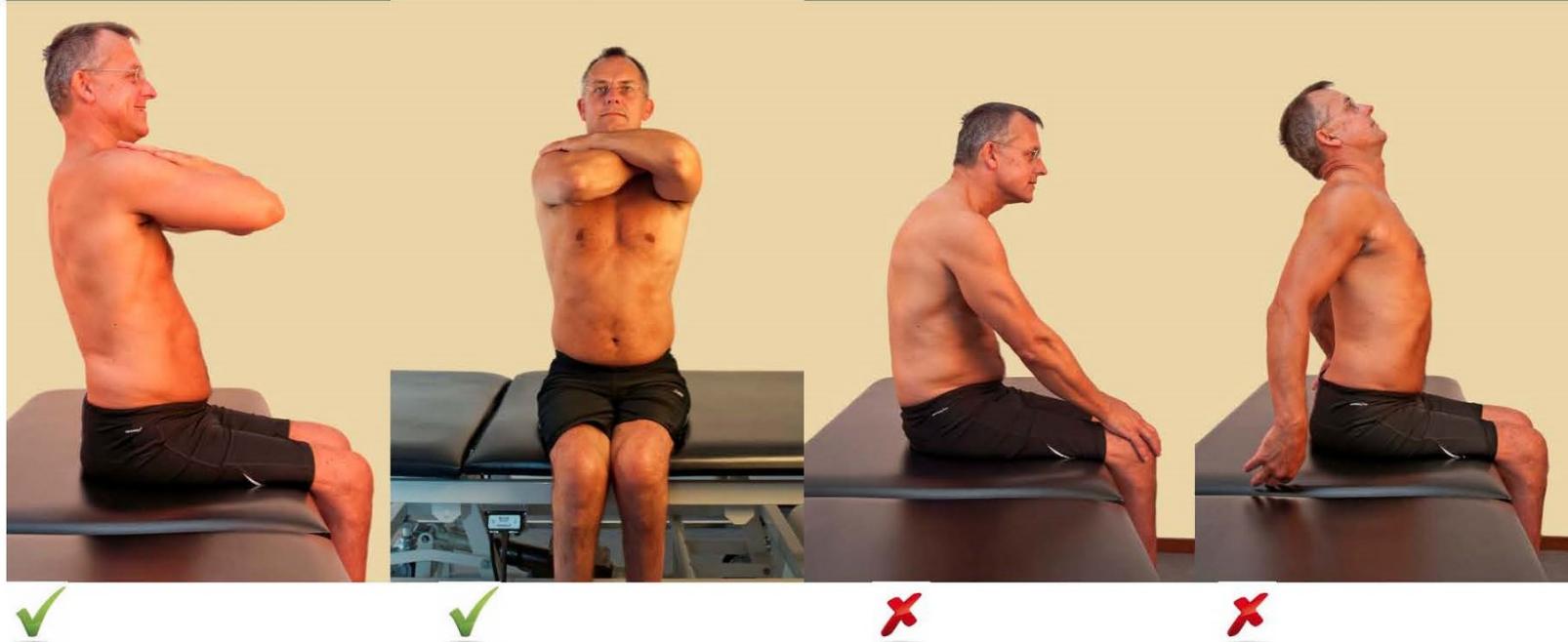
# WWR Classification Rules

## 2.13 Physical Assessment - Trunk Tests

- 2.13.1 Because the trunk tests are included in determining Minimum Impairment Criteria, they may be performed as the first step in the Evaluation Session.
- 2.13.2 The trunk tests assess abdominal, back, pelvic and leg muscles in all planes and in a variety of positions to allocate a Trunk Impairment Score (TIC). See Appendix One Table 3 Trunk Tests and Assessment.
- 2.13.3 The TIC is part of allocating Sport Class. There are four possible TIC scores (0, 0.5, 1.0, and 1.5) in the trunk test math.

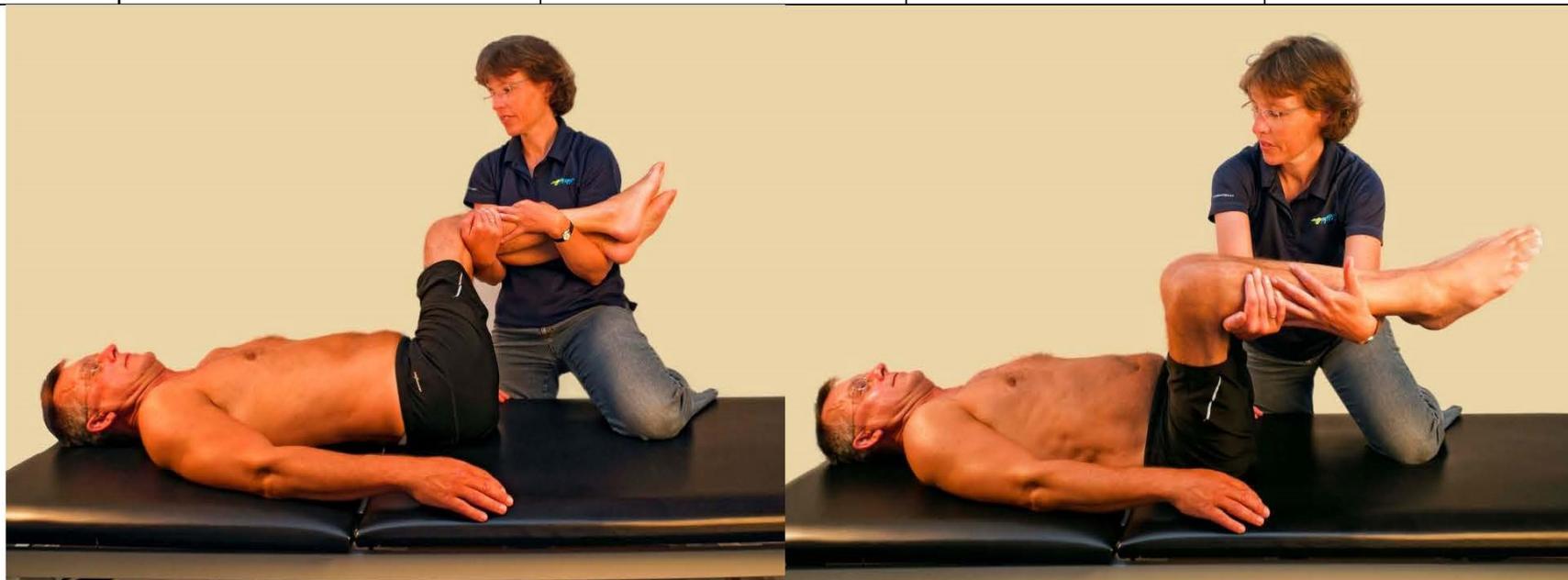
**Table 3 Trunk Tests and Assessment**

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
1	Athlete sitting unsupported. Athlete sitting in wheelchair not supported by backrest, or sitting on plinth with legs hanging over edge of plinth with the feet unsupported. The athlete crosses the arms in front of his chest, to prevent support for sitting balance from the arms. Bring athlete into upright position with hand on sternal bone and hand on back and slowly let go of support.	Observe sitting position after removing support from classifier's hands: straight/upright or kyphotic? Observe stomach: flat or "quad belly".	Sits straight/upright, without marked kyphosis and with flat belly.	Sits with marked kyphosis or with quad belly.



## WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
2a	Athlete lying on back, classifier flexes knees and hips to 90°, feet are unsupported. The classifier holds the lower legs and the classifier rotates the legs from one side to the other. Ask athlete to resist movement of the classifier.	Palpate abdominal and spinal extensor muscle contractions.	Muscle contractions palpable in abdominals and/or spinal extensor muscles.	No muscle contraction palpable in abdominals and/or spinal extensor muscles.



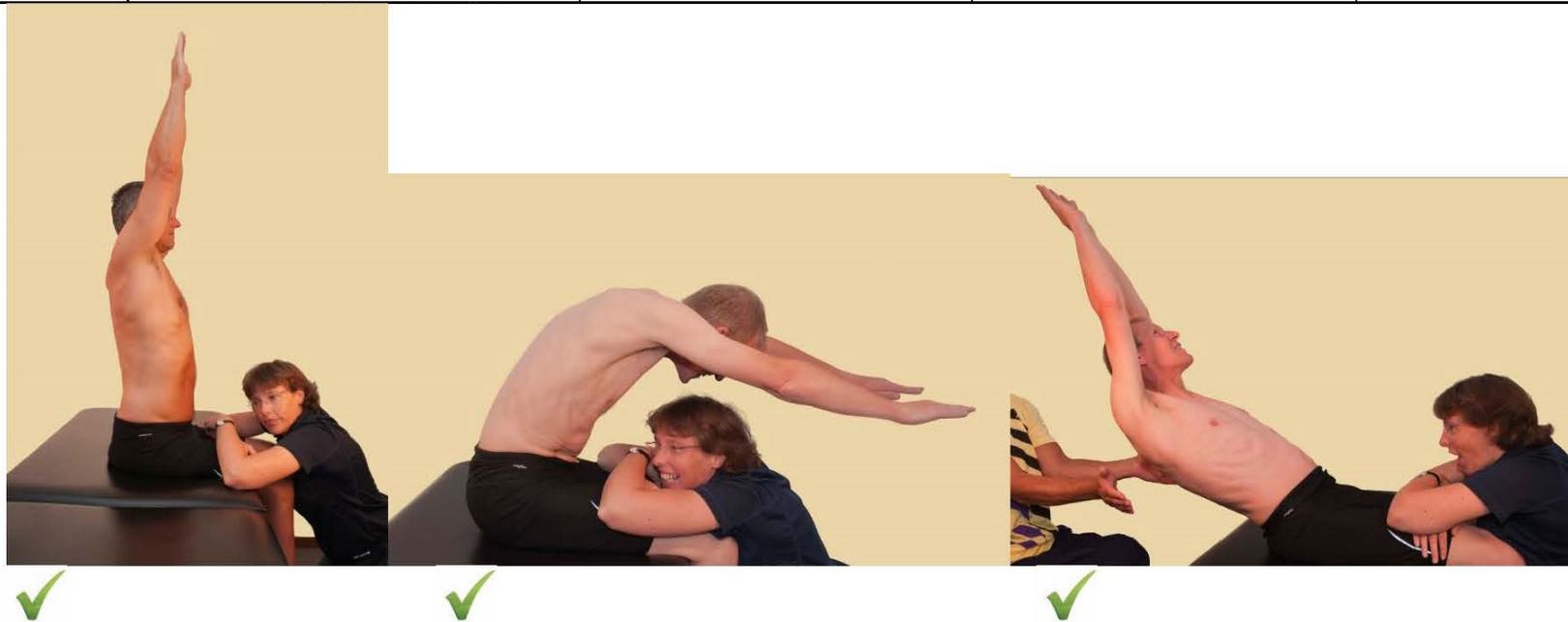
## WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
2b	Athlete sitting on plinth, legs unsupported. Shoulders at 90° of flexion with arms crossed in front of shoulders. Classifier applies resistance at the arms against trunk flexion and extension.	Palpate abdominals and spinal extensor muscle contractions.	Muscle contractions palpable in abdominals (resistance against extension) or spinal extensors (resistance against flexion).	No muscle contraction palpable in abdominals and spinal extensors.



## WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
3	<p>Athlete sitting on plinth, legs hanging over the edge of the plinth with the feet unsupported. Bending forward with trunk towards lap and arms outstretched in maximum shoulder flexion. (If the athlete has triceps weakness, the classifier supports the forearms, to keep the elbows extended). Ask athlete to assume straight/upright position and maintain arm position in maximum shoulder flexion. The classifier fixates both legs to the plinth at the proximal 1/3 of the thighs, close to the hips. The feet should be unsupported. Athlete extends trunk past upright and flexes forward to assume upright position again.</p>	Observe movement, standing lateral to the athlete.	<p>Athlete performs trunk flexion to at least 45° line between pelvis and C7 and vertical and maintains position. And Athlete performs at least 30° trunk extension and maintains position. Resumes straight position without support of arms.</p>	<p>Athlete does not perform flexion to 45° and extension to 30° or compensates by kyphosis/ lordosis.or cannot resume straight position without support or compensations.</p>



## WWR Classification Rules



## WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
4.	Athlete sitting on plinth, legs hanging over the edge of the plinth with the feet unsupported. Arms crossed in front in 90° shoulder flexion. Ask for maximum rotation to both sides. The classifier fixates both legs to the plinth at the proximal 1/3 of the thighs, close to the hips. The feet should be unsupported.	Observe from the front, back and lateral from the athlete,	Athlete stays in upright position in sagittal plane. Rotates 45° or more to both sides, measured in straight line between both shoulders and line between ASIS on both sides.	Athlete does not rotate or rotates less than 45°, or athlete cannot maintain upright position in sagittal plane while rotating (e.g. assumes kyphotic posture). Or athlete can perform test to one side, but not to the other.



## WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
5.	Athlete sitting on plinth, legs hanging over the edge of the plinth with the feet unsupported. Arms in horizontal (90°) abduction in the shoulders, maximum elbow flexion and hands on the back of the head. Ask for maximal lateral flexion to both sides and hold this maximum position for two seconds, before returning to the upright position. One classifier fixates both legs firmly to the plinth at the proximal 1/3 of the thighs, close to the hips to prevent the athlete from shifting weight to one leg. The feet should be unsupported. The athlete is not allowed to abduct the legs. The other classifier palpates the ASIS (anterior superior iliac spine).	Observe movement quality and range from front and back of athlete.	Athlete stays in upright position in sagittal plane and performs lateral flexion at least with suprasternal notch in vertical line above the ASIS to both sides. And can hold this position for two seconds before resuming the upright position.	Athlete cannot perform lateral flexion to the level where the suprasternal notch is in a vertical line above the ASIS. Or athlete cannot maintain straight position in sagittal plane while performing lateral flexion (e.g. kyphotic posture). Or performs lateral flexion without holding the position in the end range, but falls to the side. Or athlete can perform test to one side, but not to the other.



# WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
6	<p>Athlete lying on plinth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test MMT hip abduction with athlete lying on side with the shoulder resting on the table. With the hip in full extension</li> <li>• Test hip flexion with athlete lying on back and the knee in 90° flexion. Support the lower legs if there is knee extensor weakness.</li> <li>• Test hip extension with athlete lying prone, with the trunk on the plinth and the hip joints on the edge of the plinth in 90° flexion. The athlete is allowed to hold himself to the plinth using the arms. The feet are allowed to touch the floor. The athlete extends the leg that is tested to maximum extension in the hip. The classifier supports the lower leg in full knee extension if there is weakness around the knee.</li> </ul> <p>If there is severe spasticity in the hip adductors, limiting the range of hip abduction, repeat the test for hip abduction with the knee in 60° flexion, the hip remaining in neutral extension.</p>	<p>MMT grade 3 or more in hip abduction, flexion and extension?                      If leg length deficiency:                      estimate leg length: is there a minimum of 2/3 upper leg length? (If both legs are amputated the estimated full femur length is the same as the length from the point of the elbow to the tip of the middle finger.)</p>	<p>Strength in MMT grade 3 or more in at least two of the three tested muscle groups in both legs.                      If leg length deficiency: MMT grade 3 or more and at least 2/3 upper leg length bilaterally.</p>	<p>Strength in MMT grade 2 or less in at least two of the tested muscle groups in one of the legs.                      If leg length deficiency: less than 2/3 upper leg length in at least one of the legs, despite MMT, which might be 3 or more.</p>



## WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
7.	Athlete lying on back, flexes knees and hips to 90°. The classifier holds the lower legs to get into and maintain the hip and knee position. The classifier continues to hold the lower legs and asks athlete to move legs from one side to the other. The arms of the athlete are positioned in 90° abduction. The athlete has to keep his shoulder flat on the plinth and is not allowed to use his hands to push down or hold on to the plinth.	Observe quality of movement and amount of resistance.	Athlete moves both legs to one side to a minimum of 45°, and resumes position. The athlete performs the test to both sides, one side at a time.	Athlete is unable to perform test to both sides or cannot resume position. Or can only perform by using compensations (e.g. lifting arms from plinth to gain momentum).



## WWR Classification Rules

Trunk test no.	Test description	Evaluation	Score: succeeds	Score: fails
8	Athlete sitting on plinth, unsupported. Ask to perform "bum shuffling". The feet should be unsupported.	Observe quality of movement lateral from athlete.	Athlete sits with upright posture. Moves the body forward with alternating elevation and forward movement of the pelvis on one side. At the same time the pelvis elevates and rotates the ipsilateral leg moves up to clear the plinth. The athlete can perform this on both sides.	Athlete cannot elevate pelvis in upright sitting position or cannot move one side of pelvis forwards. Or shuffles forwards, moving the leg forwards without clearing the plinth.

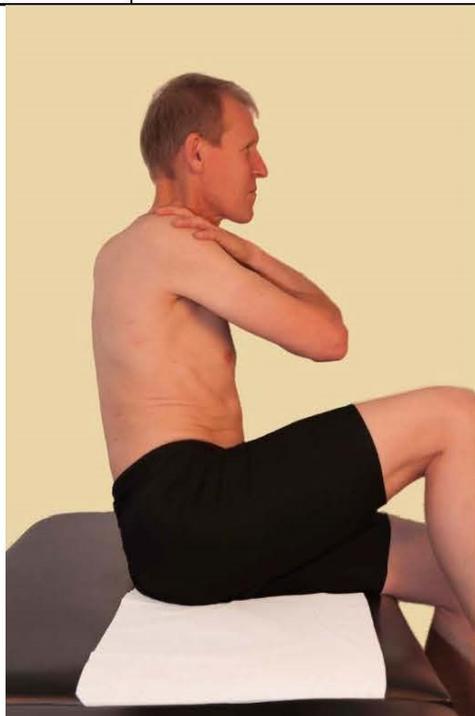
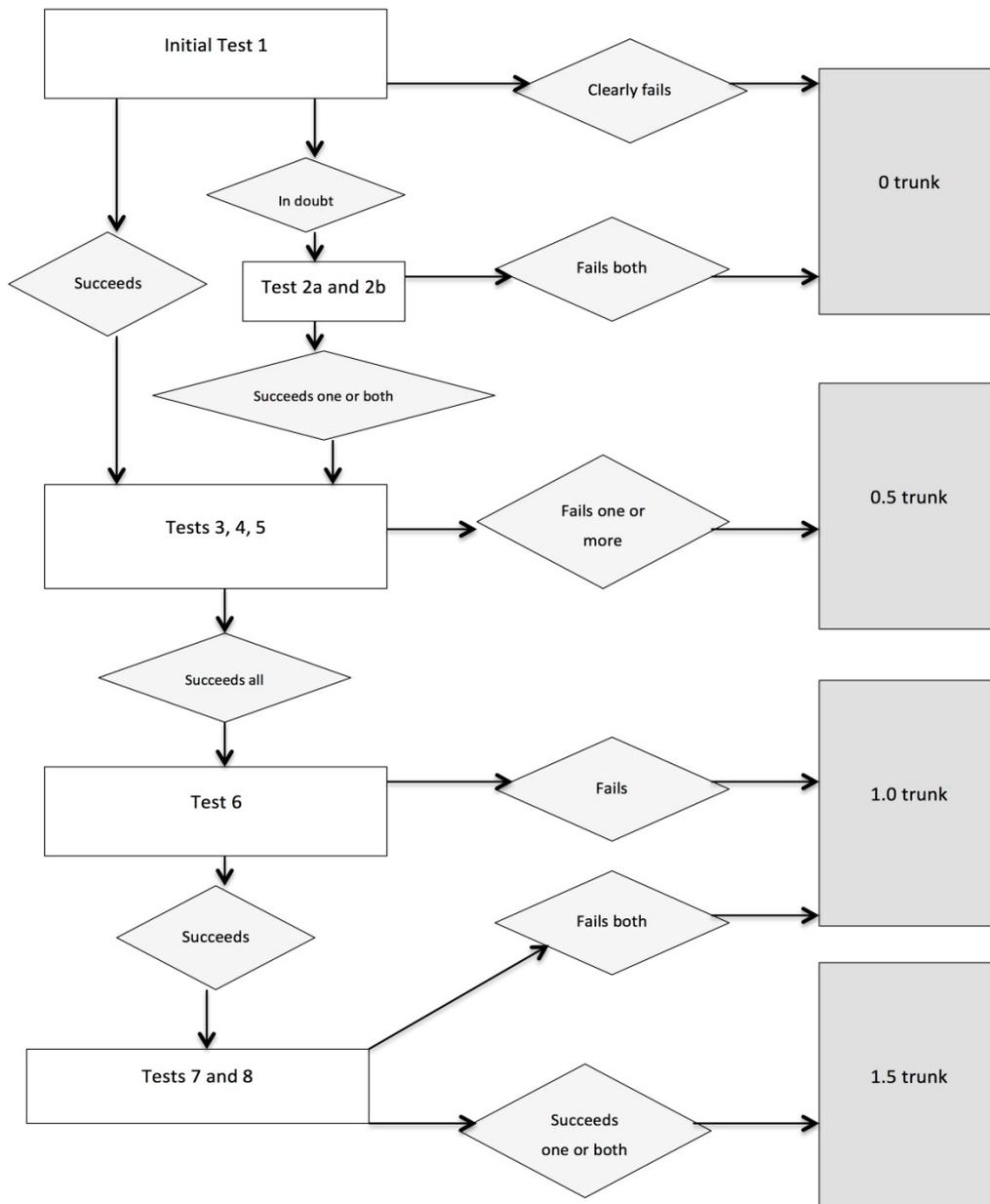


Figure 4 Trunk Impairment Score (TIC) Flow Chart and Scoring



## Trunk Impairment Score Explanatory Notes

<b>0</b>	Athlete fails all tests.
<b>0.5</b>	Athlete passes one or more of tests 1, 2a, and 2b but fails one or more of tests 3,4 or 5.
<b>1.0</b>	Athlete passes tests 3, 4 and 5, but fails test 6; or passes test 6 and fails both tests 7 and 8.
<b>1.5</b>	Athlete passes test 6 AND passes either tests 7 or 8, OR passes both tests 7 and 8.

Comments Figure 4: important considerations for trunk impairment testing.

- For tests 3,4,5 and 6, the athlete must meet the requirements of the test to BOTH sides in order to pass. If the athlete can only meet the requirements to one side, then the test is failed.
- Test 6 consists of three parts – read the descriptions in the rules before grading to ensure the procedure is followed accurately:
- Test 6 consists of 6a abduction, 6b flexion and 6c extension.
- Pass Test 6 – strength in MMT grade 3 or more in at least two of the three tested muscle groups in both legs (must pass two tests – 6a/b/c on both legs).
- Adequate stabilisation of the pelvis by Classifiers is essential for tests 3,4 and 5. Adequate stabilisation of the pelvis should be achieved through fixating both of the athlete’s legs to the plinth, with the classifier’s hands on the proximal one third of the thighs, close to the hips. This may require one or two Classifiers. Failure to stabilise adequately may result in an inaccurate trunk score.
- If an Athlete fails a test, this result must be consistent with the Athlete’s health condition/impairment. For example, Athletes who have limb deficiency, and no other identified health condition/impairment, should not fail tests 3, 4 or 5. If these Athletes fail one of these tests, then a valid reason for this must be identified. Repeated testing by Classifiers may be required while ensuring adequate stabilisation.
- If Classifiers are unable to identify a valid reason for an Athlete failing a specific trunk test, based on the health condition/impairment type identified, then a trunk score cannot be allocated. This means that a WWR sport class cannot be allocated until the Athlete can present medical diagnostic information that provides evidence of an additional eligible health condition/impairment type that explains the results of the trunk testing.
- Technical assessment and observation assessment must also be consistent with the trunk score allocated.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 2.14 Limb Deficiency

2.14.1 A scoring system is used to allocate an upper limb class profile score to the limb being evaluated.

**Table 4 – Upper limb scores for athletes with Limb Deficiency**

**Arm Length descriptors:**

0	Shoulder disarticulation or completely non-functional upper limb.
0.5	Above elbow amputation or dysmelia up to 2/3 of the predicted upper arm (humerus) length.
1.0	Above elbow amputation or dysmelia greater than 2/3 of predicted upper arm (humerus) length, through elbow, or below elbow up to 1/2 of predicted forearm (radius/ulna) length
1.5	Below elbow amputation or dysmelia greater than 1/2 of predicted forearm (radius/ulna) length up to full forearm length (wrist disarticulation) with no palm surface area.
2.0	Below wrist amputation or dysmelia with partial to full palmar surface area (wrist joint is present) but no phalanx length in more than 1 finger that is useful for sport specific activities (see hand descriptors below).
2.5	Below wrist amputation or dysmelia with partial to full palmar surface and some finger/thumb movement that enhances ball control (see hand descriptors below).
3.0	Below wrist amputation or dysmelia with partial to full palmar surface, and some finger/thumb movement that enhances ball control. More than one useful grasp type may be present (see hand descriptors below).

**Hand function descriptors:**

2.0	Partial to full palm surface area. Where 1 finger is present, this may be up to full length, but with no thumb (or finger surgically constructed to have thumb-like function). Where 2 fingers are present, only one may be full length, with the other being no longer than a proximal phalanx, with no thumb (or finger surgically constructed to have thumb-like function). Where 3 or more fingers are present, no fingers should be longer than proximal phalanx with no thumb (or finger surgically constructed to have thumb-like function). No hook grasp (more than 1 fingers) or spherical grasp (thumb + 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> fingers that allows some opposition). In situations where the only finger present is a thumb, this may be full length, as long as there is no phalanx length in any other finger that is useful in creating either a hook or spherical grasp.
2.5	Partial to full palmar surface, two or more fingers have full proximal phalanx or middle phalanx, no or very short thumb. Weak Lateral grasp (if short thumb present) and Hook grasp (more than 1 finger) may be present, but no spherical grasp (thumb + 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> fingers that allows some opposition).
3.0	Partial to full palmar surface, two or more fingers have useful length including middle phalanx or distal phalanx, with limited to normal thumb length. Lateral grasp and Hook grasp (more than 1 finger) may be present and limited spherical grasp may be present (thumb + 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> fingers that allows some opposition). Spherical grasp <b>must</b> have limitation due to loss of thumb/finger length.

**Notes on grasp types:**

# WWR Classification Rules

## Lateral Grasp

The lateral grasp, or pinch, pad-to-side, pad of extended thumb pressing an object against the radial side of the index finger is a strong grip. This grip does not require an opposed thumb: a person who has lost opposition but has retained thumb adduction can grasp small objects. In an unimpaired hand, the lateral grasp uses the thumb adductor muscle, and the thumb remains straight. In an impaired hand, such as an intrinsic minus hand, the thumb flexor muscles substitute for the thumb adductor muscle, so the position of the thumb looks different. In wheelchair rugby, a lateral grasp can be used for limited ball control and security, and wheel contact.

## Hook Grasp

Hook grasp, a power grasp used to hold with the fingers flexed around an object in hook-like manner. Used in wheelchair rugby for example, to grip the wheel rim or tyre to pull back for propelling backwards or back out of a pick.

## Spherical Grasp

Spherical grasp, a power grasp, has fingers (often the 4th and/or 5th digits) and the thumb reaching around an object, with the fingers more spread apart. The palm is often not involved. It is used to hold something round, for example in wheelchair rugby, the ball, using the movement of opposition. Athletes with spherical grasp can usually hold the ball overhead successfully.

## 2.14.2 Measurement of Limb Deficiency

In Wheelchair Rugby classification, there are 3 key body segments:

1. Thigh (femur) length – used to determine the trunk function score
2. Upper arm (humerus) length – used to determine the upper limb score
3. Forearm (radius) length – used to determine the upper limb score

When performing body segment measurements on athletes, Classifiers must follow the prescribed measurement procedure using the prescribed measurement tools. The following procedure describes the equipment required, the method for locating key anatomical landmarks which will be used as the measurement reference points, and the method for performing the measurement. Measurements need to be precise to ensure accurate calculation of the limb proportions for allocation of the correct upper limb score or trunk score.

### Equipment Required

- A pen or pencil (that will mark skin, for example an eye liner pencil) and wet wipes (such as makeup remover wipes) for removing the marks. This is used for landmarking, which needs to be done prior to measuring the segment lengths. These marks will become the measurement reference points.
- A segmometer must be used to measure lengths because it provides a straight-line measurement between two measurement reference points. A tape measure is NOT a suitable substitute as it will be distorted by body contours and does not provide a straight-line distance.

# WWR Classification Rules

- A stadiometer should be used to measure sitting height where one is available. Where a stadiometer is not available, a tape measure, clip board and carpenter’s square/level may be used as an acceptable substitute.

## Anatomical Landmarks

For classification in Wheelchair Rugby, there are 6 key anatomical landmarks which serve as measurement reference points:

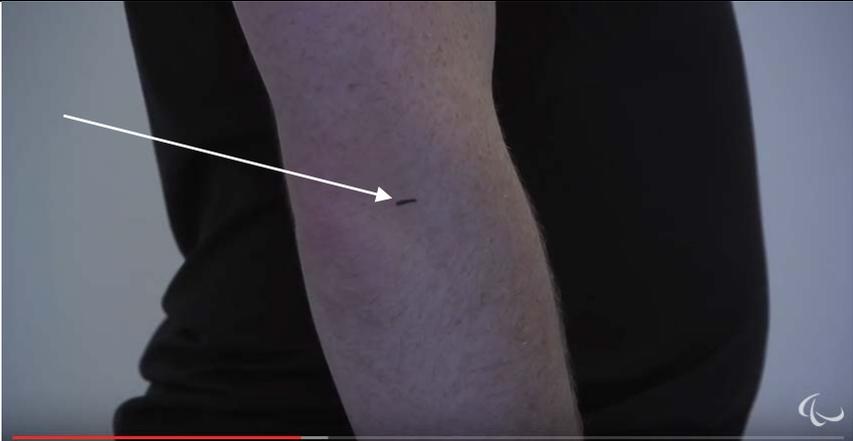
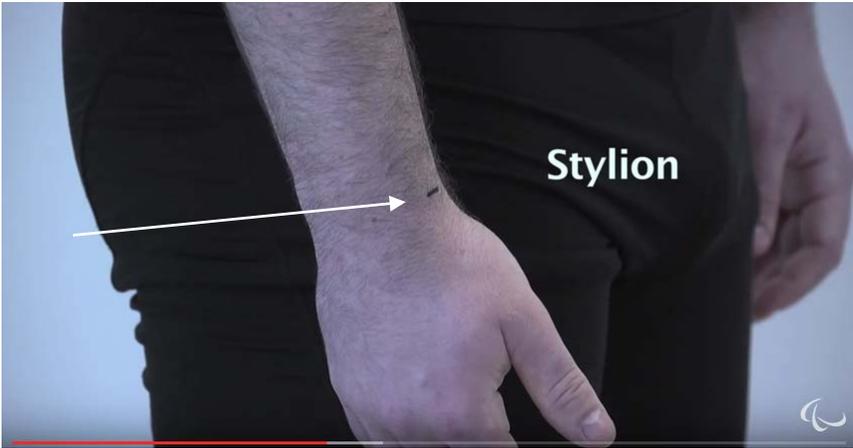
1. Acromiale (the most superior and lateral part of the acromion process)
2. Radiale (the superior head of the radius)
3. Stylium (the most distal point on the lateral margin of the styloid process of the radius)
4. Trochanterion (the most superior point of the greater trochanter of the femur)
5. Tibiale Laterale (the most superior point on the lateral border of the head of the tibia)
6. Segment end (when full body segment is not present)

Landmark	Locating the landmark
Acromiale	<p><b>The acromiale is the point on the superior part of the acromion border in line with the most lateral aspect.</b> Viewed from the side, it is midway between the anterior and posterior borders of the deltoid muscle.</p> <p>To locate the acromiale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The athlete should be sitting in a comfortable erect position with the arms hanging comfortably on the side in a slightly pronated position.</li> <li>2. The Classifier should stand on the side of the athlete that is to be measured.</li> <li>3. The Classifier palpates along the clavicle with one hand, and along the border of the scapula with the other hand. The Classifier’s hands will gradually converge, and the point at which they meet will be the acromion.</li> <li>4. The Classifier should find the <u>most superior and lateral point of the acromion</u> and, using your fingernail, make a small horizontal indentation in the skin at that point.</li> <li>5. The Classifier should mark this with a horizontal line approximately 2cm long using the pen.</li> </ol> <p>Important points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To confirm the most lateral point on the acromion border, it may be helpful to apply the straight edge of a pencil to the lateral border of the acromion. Mark that point and then palpate superiorly to the top margin of the acromion border in line with this most lateral aspect. This is the acromiale.</li> <li>• It is critical that the line is horizontal, not vertical.</li> <li>• Make sure the skin is not stretched upwards or downwards when making the indentation with your fingernail. Otherwise, when the skin is released, the indentation will no longer be in the correct position.</li> </ul>

## WWR Classification Rules

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not confuse the coracoid process with the acromiale. The coracoid process is situated anteriorly, approximately 2cm below the junction of the middle and lateral thirds of the clavicle.</li></ul> 
<b>Radiale</b>	<p><b>The radiale is the point at the proximal and lateral border of the head of the radius.</b></p> <p>To locate the radiale,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The athlete should be sitting with the arm relaxed in the anatomical position (elbow extended, forearm supinated and palm facing forward).</li><li>2. The Classifier should stand to the side of the athlete and palpate downward into the lateral dimple of the elbow.</li><li>3. The Classifier should clearly feel the space between the capitulum of the humerus and the head of the radius.</li><li>4. The Classifier should find the most proximal (superior) and lateral point of the radius and, using your fingernail, make a small horizontal indentation on the skin at that point.</li><li>5. The Classifier should mark this with a horizontal line using the pen.</li></ol> <p>Important points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Classifier can confirm that the correct landmark has been found by asking the athlete to gently pronate and supinate the forearm backwards and forwards, so the head of the radius can be felt to rotate.</li><li>• The line should be horizontal, not vertical.</li><li>• The line should be on the head of the radius, not in the joint space or on the humerus.</li><li>• In this position, the skin of the elbow can be particularly loose, and therefore the Classifier should take extra care to make sure that the skin is not stretched upwards or downwards when making the indentation with the fingernail.</li></ul>

# WWR Classification Rules

	
<p><b>Stylian</b></p>	<p><b>The stylian the most distal point on the lateral margin of the styloid process of the radius.</b></p> <p>To locate the stylian:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask the athlete to maximally extend their thumb and find the anatomical snuff box.</li> <li>2. The Classifier should find the end of the styloid process by placing the thumb into the anatomical snuff box and asking the athlete to relax the thumb.</li> <li>3. The Classifier should find the lateral aspect of the styloid process and then identify the most superior point on the lateral aspect.</li> <li>4. The Classifier should mark this with a horizontal line using the pen.</li> </ol> <p>Important points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mark should be on the lateral aspect of the styloid process (which is covered by just a thin layer of skin), not in the joint space.</li> <li>• The line should be horizontal and not vertical.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Trochanterion</b></p>	<p><b>The Trochanterion is the most superior point on the greater trochanter of the femur and not the most lateral point. The greater trochanter is the</b></p>

## WWR Classification Rules

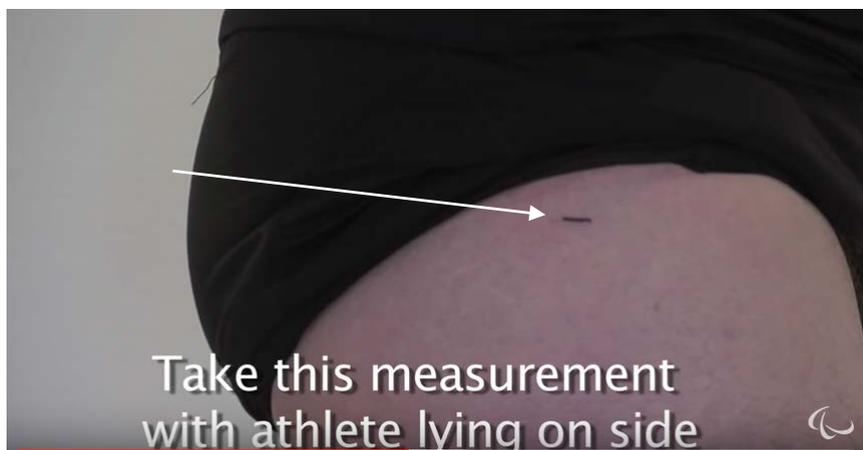
**large bony prominence that can be easily located at the proximal end on the outside of the thigh.**

To locate the trochanterion:

1. The athlete should be positioned lying on their side. The bench the athlete lies on should be sufficiently cushioned to allow the athlete to lie on the opposite hip without putting it under too much pressure.
2. The Classifier should move the heel of their hand from the iliac crest downwards applying pressure over the lateral border of the femur to locate this large bony prominence. Alternatively, the Classifier may locate the greater trochanter by sliding their fingers upward along the length of the femur, palpating as they go to locate the bony landmark.
3. Having located the greater trochanter, the Classifier should use the fingers to palpate upwards to locate the most superior point of this bony landmark. This is the trochanterion.
4. Using the thumbnail, the Classifier should make a skin indentation at the level of the most superior point.
5. The Classifier should mark it with a small horizontal line using a pen.

Important points:

- To confirm that the greater trochanter has been correctly located, the athlete should slowly internally and externally rotate the leg so that the greater trochanter can be felt to rotate.
- This site can be very difficult to locate, particularly in athletes who are very muscular or have thick adipose tissue over the greater trochanter.
- If the Classifier places their hand over the athlete's iliac crest, with the fingers pointing down the lateral border of the athlete's femur, the fingertips will give a rough indication of the level of the athlete's greater trochanter. The greater trochanter also almost always lines up with the pubic symphysis.



# WWR Classification Rules

<b>Tibiale Laterale</b>	<p><b>The tibiale laterale is the most superior point on the lateral border of the head of the tibia.</b></p> <p>To locate the tibiale laterale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The athlete should be positioned lying on their side. The bench the athlete lies on should be sufficiently cushioned to allow the athlete to lie on the opposite hip without putting it under too much pressure.</li><li>2. The Classifier should ask the athlete to slightly flex their knee, and beginning on the lateral side of the patella, palpate and find the joint space bounded by the lateral condyle of the femur and the antero-lateral portion of the head of the tibia.</li><li>3. The Classifier should keep moving laterally with the thumb, feeling the joint space narrow until it becomes a single line.</li><li>4. The Classifier should move their thumb back into the joint space and have the athlete straighten their knee.</li><li>5. The Classifier should move your thumb to the joint line and make a small horizontal line on the joint line at approximately the mid-point between the anterior and posterior surfaces of the knee.</li></ol> <p>Important points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This may be a difficult landmark to correctly locate due to thick lateral ligaments that run across the knee joint.</li><li>• To check whether you have the correct point, ask the athlete to flex and extend the knee several times while you press firmly on the point. The point should be approximately one third of the distance along the border moving anterior to posterior.</li></ul>  <p>Take this measurement with athlete lying on side</p>
<b>Segment end for athletes with limb deficiency</b>	<b>The segment end is the most distal bony tip of the body segment being measured.</b>

# WWR Classification Rules

	<p>To locate the segment end point, the athlete should be positioned according to the procedure described previously for the closest, most distal anatomical landmark for that limb.</p> <p>The Classifier should take care to flatten the soft tissue at the end of residual limbs to ensure that it is the bony end point that is used for measurements.</p> <p>A book or clipboard held perpendicular to the distal end of the bone will assist in displacing soft tissue and also serve as a straight line for measurement.</p>
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## **Body Segment Measurements**

For classification in Wheelchair Rugby, there are 5 key measurements that may need to be performed:

1. Upper arm (humerus) length
2. Forearm (radius) length
3. Thigh (femur) length
4. Sitting Height
5. Segment length for affected limb

### **General considerations in assessing limb deficiency:**

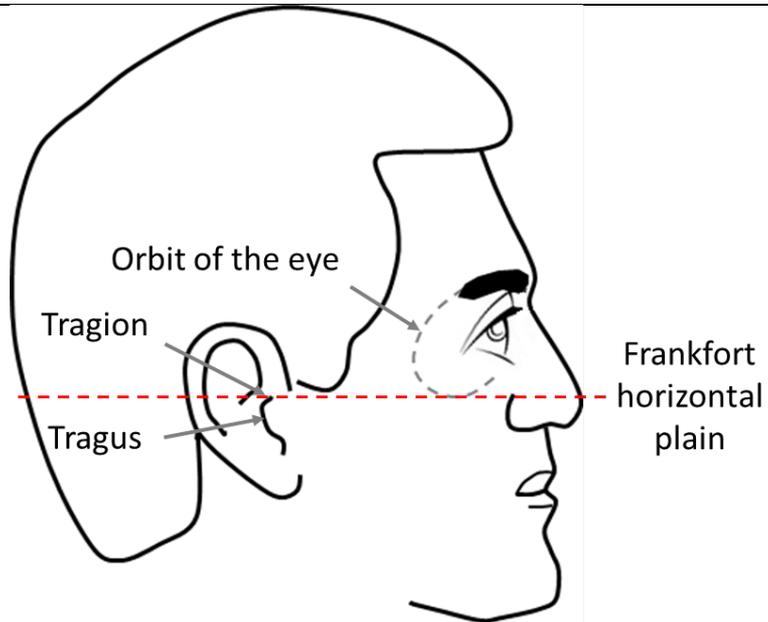
- One member of the Classification Panel takes the role of “measurer” and another member of the panel takes the role of “recorder”. The third panel member may be required to assist the measurer with specific tasks as required.
- The measurer must adhere strictly to the guidelines described above for positioning of the athlete and limb.
- The measurer must locate all required anatomical landmarks accurately and use them precisely.
- The measurer must use the prescribed equipment to perform the measures.
- All measurements are taken in centimetres (cm) and recorded to the nearest millimetre (for example 29.3cm).
- The measurer calls out each measurement as it is taken, and the recorder repeats the measurement back to ensure it is recorded correctly.
- The measurements must be recorded accurately for both left and right sides on the Classification Form.
- All segment measures should be repeated at least twice. The mean of the 2 measures is used to calculate the result provided the difference between the measures is less than or equal to 3mm (0.3cm). If the difference is greater than 3mm (0.3cm) a third measure should be taken,

## WWR Classification Rules

and the median measure selected and used as required. To determine the median measure, list the measures from lowest to highest, and select the middle measure.

Body Segment	Procedure for measurement
<b>Upper arm (humerus)</b>	<p><b>Landmarks required: acromiale and radiale</b></p> <p>The upper arm length is the distance between the acromiale and the radiale. The measurement is performed using a segmometer.</p> <p>The athlete should assume a relaxed sitting position with the arm hanging by the side. The forearm should be slightly pronated.</p> <p>One branch of the segmometer is held on the acromiale while the other branch is placed on the radiale.</p>
<b>Forearm (radius)</b>	<p><b>Landmarks required: radiale and stylium</b></p> <p>The forearm is measured as the distance between the radiale and stylium.</p> <p>The athlete should assume a relaxed sitting position with the arm hanging by the side. The forearm should be slightly externally rotated to a mid-supination position.</p> <p>One branch of the segmometer is held on the radiale while the other branch is placed on the stylium.</p>
<b>Thigh (femur)</b>	<p><b>Landmarks required: trochanterion and tibiale laterale</b></p> <p>The thigh length is measured as the distance between the trochanterion and tibiale laterale with the athlete in side-lying.</p> <p>One branch of the segmometer is placed on the trochanterion and the other branch is placed on the tibiale laterale.</p>
<b>Sitting Height</b>	<p><b>Sitting height is measured as the distance from the sitting platform (firm surface) to the vertex (highest point on the head when the head is held in the Frankfort plane).</b></p> <p>The Frankfort plane requires the alignment of the orbitale (lower border of the eye socket) and the traigion (the notch superior to the tragus of the ear). The line between these points should be as close to horizontal as possible.</p>

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This measurement will require at least 2 Classifiers to perform it. If the athlete has impaired trunk function and requires some assistance to sit erect, then a third Classifier may be required to assist.

The sitting platform must be a solid, flat surface such as a box, milk crate or non-padded bench/table.

First measure the distance from the floor to the top of the sitting platform and record this measurement. It will need to be subtracted from all the sitting height measurements.

The athlete should be seated in an erect position on the measuring box or level sitting platform so that their pelvis and shoulder girdle are in contact with the stadiometer. It is not necessary for the head to also be in contact. The head is positioned correctly in the next step. The hands should be resting comfortably on the thighs.

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	<p>If a stadiometer is not available, a tape measure and a carpenter's square/level (or similar device that ensures that the measurement is taken perpendicular to the wall) may be used in conjunction with a clipboard.</p> <p>Once correctly seated, position the head in the Frankfort plane as described above.</p> <p>To take the measurement, the athlete is instructed to take and hold a deep breath and, while keeping the head in the Frankfort plane, the measurer applies gentle upward lift through the mastoid process. The recorder places the measuring arm firmly down on the vertex crushing the hair as much as possible. The recorder then holds the arm of the stadiometer in place while the athlete exhales and slightly moves away so the measure can be taken.</p> <p>The sitting height of the athlete is calculated by subtracting the height of the sitting platform from the measurement obtained with the athlete sitting on the platform.</p> <p>Abnormal trunk curvatures will affect the accuracy of this calculation. Sitting height should not be used for calculations in situations where the athlete has significant spinal deformity such as scoliosis.</p> 
<p><b>Segment length for affected limb</b></p>	<p><b>Landmarks required: acromiale (partial upper arm), radiale (partial forearm), trochanterion (partial thigh), and segment end.</b></p> <p>Locate the segment end point, with the athlete should be positioned according to the procedure described previously for the closest, most distal anatomical landmark for that limb.</p> <p>The Classifier should take care to flatten the soft tissue at the end of residual limbs to ensure that it is the bony end point that is used for measurements.</p> <p>A book or clipboard held perpendicular to the distal end of the bone will assist in displacing soft tissue and also serve as a straight line for measurement.</p>

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	<p>One branch of the segmometer should be placed on the proximal measurement reference point for that segment (acromiale, radiale or trochanterion depending on the body part). The other branch of the segmometer should be placed at the level of the segment end point as defined above.</p>
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# WWR Classification Rules

## **Key Body Segment Estimates for Unilateral Limb Deficiency**

When the limb deficiency being assessed is unilateral, the unaffected limb segment on the athlete's other limb must be used as the basis for determining the proportion of the affected limb that remains.

## **Key Body Segment Estimates for Bilateral Limb Deficiency**

In situations where an athlete has bilateral limb deficiency, the proportion of the limb remaining needs to be calculated, in order to allocate a point score for that limb, or for trunk function.

In order to determine the proportion of the affected body segment that is present (for example, 1/3, 1/2 or 2/3), it is necessary to estimate the full length of that segment.

Estimates can be calculated using a series of regression equations that allow the prediction of segment length based on the measurement of other body segments. These equations provide statistically valid estimates.

**Body dimensions that are used for the calculation are listed in order of preference, based on the accuracy of the prediction. The first combination listed is the most accurate, but if those segments are not available, then the next calculation in the list is the next most accurate, and so on.**

Where 2 body dimensions are used for the calculation, both body dimensions are required in order to complete the calculation. This option can only be used if both full-length segments are available.

**A calculator** for estimating segment length is available on the Classifier Information page on the WWR website.

**Please note: there are different equations for male and female athletes.**

# WWR Classification Rules

## 2.14.3 Estimating Limb Segment Length using Limb Measurements

### MALES

#### Estimating Thigh (Femur) Length

Available Body Segment	Calculation Method
<b>1. Radius + Humerus</b> (full-length radius and humerus are BOTH available)	$-4.0906 + (1.1261 * \text{radius length}) + (0.57296 * \text{humerus length})$
<b>2. Humerus</b> (full-length humerus is available but NOT full-length radius)	$0.033 + (1.318 * \text{humerus length})$
<b>3. Sitting Height</b> (NEITHER full-length humerus nor radius are available)	$-5.355 + (0.528 * \text{sitting height})$

#### Estimating Upper Arm (Humerus) Length

Available Body Segment	Calculation Method
<b>1. Femur + Sitting Height</b> (full-length femur and normally aligned trunk are BOTH available)	$0.801 + (0.307 * \text{femur length}) + (0.203 * \text{sitting height})$
<b>2. Femur</b> (full-length femur is available but NOT normally aligned trunk)	$12.765 + (0.464 * \text{femur length})$
<b>3. Sitting Height</b> (full-length femur is NOT available)	$-0.844 + (0.366 * \text{sitting height})$

#### Estimating Forearm (Radius) Length

Available Body Segment	Calculation Method
<b>1. Humerus + Femur</b> (full-length humerus and full-length femur are BOTH available)	$3.6532 + (0.33165 * \text{humerus length}) + (0.25037 * \text{femur length})$
<b>2. Femur</b> (full-length femur is available but NOT full length humerus)	$7.8868 + (0.40438 * \text{femur length})$
<b>3. Humerus</b> (full-length humerus is available but NOT full-length femur)	$3.6614 + (0.66165 * \text{humerus length})$
<b>4. Sitting Height</b> (NEITHER full-length humerus nor femur are available)	$0.31709 + (0.27204 * \text{sitting height})$

### FEMALES

# WWR Classification Rules

## Estimating Thigh (Femur) Length

Available Body Segment	Calculation Method
<b>1. Humerus</b> (full length humerus is available but NOT full-length radius)	$-18.127 + (1.9232 * \text{humerus length})$
<b>2. Radius + Humerus</b> (full-length radius and humerus are BOTH available)	$-17.908 + (0.32656 * \text{radius length}) + (1.6722 * \text{humerus length})$
<b>3. Sitting Height</b> (NEITHER full-length humerus nor radius are available)	$-16.149 + (0.65445 * \text{sitting height})$

## Estimating Upper Arm (Humerus) Length

Available Body Segment	Calculation Method
<b>1. Femur + Sitting Height</b> (full-length femur and normally aligned trunk are BOTH available)	$11.59 + (0.3042 * \text{femur length}) + (0.077354 * \text{sitting height})$
<b>2. Femur</b> (full-length femur is available but NOT normally aligned trunk)	$15.774 + (0.3679 * \text{femur length})$
<b>3. Sitting Height</b> (full-length femur is NOT available)	$6.6777 + (0.27644 * \text{sitting height})$

## Estimating Forearm (Radius) Length

Available Body Segment	Calculation Method
<b>5. Humerus</b> (full-length humerus is available but NOT full-length femur)	$-0.66891 + (0.76853 * \text{humerus length})$
<b>6. Humerus + Femur</b> (full-length humerus and full-length femur are BOTH available)	$0.62886 + (0.63084 * \text{humerus length}) + (0.071594 * \text{femur length})$
<b>7. Femur</b> (full-length femur is available but NOT full length humerus)	$10.579 + (0.30368 * \text{femur length})$
<b>8. Sitting Height</b> (NEITHER full-length humerus nor femur are available)	$3.7339 + (0.22069 * \text{sitting height})$

# WWR Classification Rules

## 2.15 Coordination – Hypertonia, ataxia, and athetosis (HAA)

2.15.1 Specific impairment measures in the classification system for hypertonia, ataxia, and athetosis to determine Minimum Impairment Criteria and Sport Class are under development.

- a. Hypertonia, ataxia, and athetosis may also present with motor power impairment.
- b. The extent of motor power impairment is measured according to Section 2.11-2.12 in Appendix One of these rules
- c. In some Athletes with hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis, motor power impairment may not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Motor Power. However, hypertonia, athetosis, and ataxia are eligible impairments that affect the extent to which the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities in Wheelchair Rugby. The Athlete may proceed to Technical Assessment for further evaluation of the impact of coordination impairment even if the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Motor Power is not met.

2.15.2 Minimum Impairment Criteria and Sport Class for Athletes with hypertonia, ataxia, and athetosis are largely based on Technical Assessment. Observation Assessment should be used to confirm the outcome.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 2.16 Passive Range of Movement - PROM

- 2.16.1 Specific impairment measures in the Classification System for Passive Range of Movement to determine Minimum Impairment Criteria and Sport Class are under development.
- 2.16.2 Athletes with impairment in Passive Range of Movement may be eligible in WWR Wheelchair Rugby, if the Athlete has another Eligible Impairment due to an Underlying Health Condition, which meets Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment.
  - a. If Impaired Passive Range of Movement is accompanied by impaired motor power related to an underlying health condition, motor power impairment is measured according to Section 2.11-2.12 in Appendix One of these rules.
- 2.16.3 Minimum Impairment Criteria and Sport Class for Athletes who have Passive Range of Movement impairment along with another eligible impairment is based on the Technical Assessment. Observation Assessment should be used to confirm the outcome.

## 3 Assessment for Allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

### 3.1 Sport Class and Sport Class Status

#### 3.1.1 Sport Class

- a. Sport Class is a category in which an Athlete is grouped by reference to Impairment and related Sport-specific Activity Limitation. World Wheelchair Rugby has seven Sport Classes for recognised competition.
  - 0.5
  - 1.0
  - 1.5
  - 2.0
  - 2.5
  - 3.0
  - 3.5
  - A score of 4.0 or more is Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).

#### 3.1.2 Sport Class Status

- a. 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:
  - New (N)
  - Review (R)
  - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD)
  - Confirmed (C)

#### 3.1.3 Calculation of Sport Class

- a. Following the Physical Assessment, a numerical value is calculated for impairment in the arms and trunk.
- b. The values are added for both arms, divided by two, and the Trunk Impairment Score (TIC) is added to provide an estimate of the Athlete's Entry Sport Class.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 3.1.3. For Athletes with impairments other than motor power, an estimated entry sport class may not be recorded until after the Technical Assessment.

### 3.2 Technical Assessment – Novel and Sport specific tests

- 3.2.1 The extent of impairment and its impact on sport specific activities are decided by the Technical Assessment.
- 3.2.2 Assigning a Sport Class depends on the assessment of the impact of Impairment on sport-specific activity.
- 3.2.3 In the Technical Assessment, the Classifier evaluates novel tests and sport specific tests in a non-competitive environment.
- 3.2.4 The Classifiers apply certain conditions to the Athlete to observe how the Athlete performs the tasks or activities in simulated sport conditions.

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- 3.2.5 The Classifiers must be confident that the Athlete has performed the specific activities to the best of their ability during the Technical Assessment and may request greater effort to ensure optimal observation opportunities.
- 3.2.6 If the Classifiers are not confident the Athlete has performed to the best of their ability during the Technical Assessment, the Athlete Evaluation will be suspended in accordance with Articles 10 and 30 of these rules.
- 3.2.7 Refer to Appendix One Table 4 Sport Specific Activities in Technical and Observation Assessment for a list of activities examined in Technical Assessment.

## 3.3 Technical Assessment - Major and Minor Criteria

- 3.3.1 Major and minor criteria have been described to assess the impact of borderline Minimum Impairment on Sport Specific activity during the technical tests. Specifically in cases of borderline Eligibility for Athletes where the MIC is still in development, refer to Appendix One Table 5 Major and Minor Criteria and Scoring.
  - a. An Athlete may be ruled Not Eligible following the Technical Assessment, based on the severity of Impairment measured in the Physical Assessment and its impact on the Sport specific activities, assessed by the presence of a specific number of the major and minor criteria in accordance with these rules.
  - b. Refer to Appendix One Figure 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria and Athlete Evaluation and Table 5 Major and Minor Criteria and Scoring.

## 3.4 Observation Assessment – On Court Observation

- 3.4.1 Observation assessment is the step in Athlete Evaluation used to verify the impact of Impairment on sport-specific activities and confirm the Athlete’s Sport Class.
- 3.4.2 Sport-specific activities are watched during the Observation Assessment on court during competition to confirm the decision of the Athlete’s Sport Class. (Refer to Appendix One Table 3 Trunk Tests and Assessments, Table 4 Sport Specific Activities in Technical and Observation Assessment, and Table 5 Major and Minor Criteria and Scoring.)
  - a. Observation may include watching sport-specific activities such as ball handling and wheelchair activities during warm-up, training and/or practice.
- 3.4.3 Confirmation of the Athlete’s Sport Class should be based on observation assessment during Competition on Court.
  - a. Observation assessment should take place on court in a challenge situation.
- 3.4.4 Observation Assessment Activities
  - a. The Sport specific activities (Refer to Appendix One Table 4 Sport Specific Activities in Technical and Observation Assessment) are observed in a variety of situations, including

## WWR Classification Rules

non-challenge and challenge conditions during warm-up, training, practice and in game competition.

- b. Major and minor criteria may be used to confirm the impact of Impairment on Sport specific activities during Observation Assessment and determine eligibility in those impairment types for which Minimum Impairment Criteria is not defined.
- c. Following the Observation Assessment, an Athlete may be designated Not Eligible based on the presence of a specific number of Major and Minor criteria in accordance with Appendix One Figure 2 Minimum Impairment Criteria and Athlete Evaluation and Table 5 Major and Minor Criteria and Scoring.
  - If the Athlete's scores for Major and Minor Criteria indicate the Athlete may not be eligible (NE), the Athlete should return to the Classification Panel for further physical assessment in order to confirm that the Not Eligible decision results from the extent of the impairment; and is not related to skill, training and/or equipment.
  - Further Technical Assessment both with and without equipment may also be needed to determine the inconsistency between impairment and activity limitation on court.

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Table 4 Sport Specific Activities in Technical and Observation Assessment

<b>Wheelchair Activities</b>
• Forward Propulsion
• Backward Propulsion
• Maneuverability and Turning
• Braking/Holding
<b>Ball Activities</b>
1. Passing
2. Catching
3. Dribbling
4. Picking up Ball
<b>Effect of Trunk - Wheelchair and Ball Activities</b>
5. Propulsion/Maneuverability
6. Braking/Holds
7. Hits/Tackles
8. Hopping the Chair
9. Reaching the Ball
10. Securing the Ball

Comment Rules Appendix One Table 4: Refer to Appendix One Section 4 for more detailed descriptions of these criteria.

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Table 5 Major and Minor Criteria Description and Scoring

<b>Major Criteria</b>
1. Athlete shows consistent control in all planes of movement single-handed in challenge situations on both sides (must be able to control the ball in all planes of movement with one hand, and do so with both hands –one at a time).
2. Ball protection overhead with both hands and at the same time, control the chair with the trunk and the hips.
<b>Minor Criteria – Chair Activities</b>
1. Use of trunk to enhance and change direction and velocity in combination with the <b>use of fingers</b> to actively grasp or grip on the rim or wheel on <b>both sides</b> .
2. Without using hands, the Athlete uses trunk to control the chair, maintain balance, and empower hits in all directions.
3. Hopping the chair out of blocks
a. Hopping is defined as getting out of blocks or traps in a defensive position by using the trunk and legs to elevate pelvis and chair to jump.
b. Moving or “rocking” the chair forward, backward or laterally on one side with minimal to no lifting of the pelvis and chair off the ground is <b>NOT</b> “hopping”.
4. Without using hands on the chair, the Athlete maintains an upright sitting balance when hit, while protecting the ball at the same time.
<b>Minor Criteria – Ball Activities</b>
5. Hold ball overhead using both hands for 5-10 seconds with partial control of trunk position that allows the Athlete to maintain upright posture); Athlete does not use one hand to stabilize the chair.
6. Protecting ball overhead with both hands with partial control of trunk position, but no chair control.
7. Passes 15 meters with one or two hands, enhanced by using active trunk flexion, extension, or rotation.
8. Able to control ball in all planes on at least one side, using fingers of one hand.
9. Pass securely and consistently in all directions with one hand on at least one side.
10. Reach outside cone of wheelchair in catch, dribble, and picking ball from the floor, to all sides, without support of the arms to get into position, or resume upright position.

## Scoring Major and Minor Criteria

Not Eligible =  $\geq 1$  major criteria and/or  $\geq 3$  minor criteria

If the Athlete has 1 or more major criteria, the Athlete is Not Eligible (NE).

If the Athlete has no major criteria, but has 3 or more minor criteria, the Athlete is Not Eligible (NE).

## Eligible = $\leq 2$ minor criteria

If the Athlete has  $\leq 2$  minor criteria, which means the Athlete has 0, 1, or 2 minor criteria, the Athlete is Eligible.

## Definitions

### 1. Planes of movement

There are 3 planes of movement:

- The sagittal plane passes through the body front to back, dividing it into left and right halves
- The frontal plane divides the body into front and back
- The transverse plane divides the body into top and bottom

### 2. Control

Control is defined as the coordinated movement of a muscle or group of muscles that allows the positioning or movement of a limb or the body in space.

## 4 Observation Assessments – Descriptions and Scoring of Sport Specific Activities

This section provides descriptions of the ability to execute wheelchair and ball activities and relate to arm scores and trunk scores.

Efficiency in execution of sport specific activities is defined as:

**Inefficient** - Can demonstrate execution of the movement but is unable to perform in typical situations (movement is seen rarely, no performance benefit as it requires significant setup time).

**Limited** - Can execute the activity in typical situations but with restrictions, or sport specific activity limitations, in quality, control and safety of the activity. There is difficulty or inability to execute the activity under pressure from opponent or in challenged situations.

**Efficient** - Can execute the activity under pressure from opponent or in challenged situations.

Refer to the WWR Classifier Handbook for further details on descriptions and scoring of wheelchair rugby activity limitations relevant to impairments in muscle power in spinal cord injury and peripheral neuropathy, limb deficiency, and coordination.

## 4.1 Wheelchair Activities

Arm Scores	Forward Propulsion	Backward Propulsion	Maneuvering and Turning	Braking/Holding Wheelchair
0.5	Significant impairment in shoulder/elbow/wrist due to reduced muscle innervation, coordination, range of movement or limb length severely limiting forward propulsion due to limited force on the wheel and/or length of wheel contact.	Significant impairment in shoulder/elbow/wrist due to reduced muscle innervation, coordination, range of movement or limb length severely limiting backward propulsion due to limited force on the wheel and/or reduced wheel contact.	Uni-directional turning, significant impairment in turning speed and turning distance in one cycle of the movement (one propulsion stroke).	Severely limited hold carried out in the same position on the wheel due to significant muscle impairment or limb deficiency.
1.0	Forward Propulsion and acceleration remains limited by impairment in shoulder elbow and wrist providing greater but not full force/wheel contact.	Backward Propulsion remains limited by impairment in shoulder/elbow/wrist providing greater but not full force/wheel contact.	Multi-directional turning possible but with limited efficiency due to significantly impaired strength, coordination, range of movement around the shoulder/elbow/wrist or for limb deficiency up to 1/2 ulnar limb length.	Limited hold carried out with the ability to change position; based on reduced muscle impairment at the shoulder/elbow or increased limb length.
1.5	Propulsion and acceleration remains limited by impairment in elbow and wrist but minimal shoulder impairment.	Backward propulsion remains limited by elbow/wrist but minimal shoulder impairment.	Multi-directional turning possible with improved efficiency but remains limited due to remaining impairment in strength, or coordination in shoulder/elbow/wrist, or limb length to through the wrist.	Limited hold carried out with the ability to change position more efficiently due to improved shoulder stability and elbow activity but limited by unbalanced wrist strength.

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2.0	Propulsion with unimpaired shoulder, elbow, and wrist.	Propulsion with unimpaired shoulder, elbow, and wrist.	Multi-directional turning is possible and efficient due to unimpaired shoulder, elbow, and wrist, or due to lack of palm surface. Turning is carried out using the palm or heel of the hands on the front or back of the wheel. Good shoulder stability allows efficient multi-directional turns.	Braking and holds are primarily carried out using hands on the wheel with stable wrist and in any position. Changes in position are efficient due to balanced strength in the shoulder girdle, strong triceps function and balanced wrist strength.
2.5	Propulsion with unimpaired shoulder, elbow, and wrist; able to use limited finger strength on wheel to assist propulsion.	Propulsion with unimpaired shoulder, elbow, and wrist; able to use limited finger strength on wheel to assist propulsion.	Active digit contact on the wheel is possible but usually limited. Turning is carried out using the heel of the hands on the front or back of the wheel and may include some active digit contact on the wheel, usually flexion and extension of fingers. Intact shoulder stability allows efficient multi-directional turns.	Braking and holds are primarily executed using the palm of the hand on the wheel in any position and may be enhanced by active finger function on the wheel or rim.
3.0	Propulsion with unimpaired shoulder, elbow, and wrist; may use fingers and thumb on wheel to assist propulsion.	Propulsion with unimpaired shoulder, elbow, and wrist; may use fingers and thumb on wheel to assist propulsion.	Active digit contact is efficient with grasp and release of thumb and fingers enhancing speed of turning in challenged situations. Turning is executed using the heel of the hands on the front or back of the wheel and includes some active digit wheel contact to enhance speed in challenged situations. Good shoulder stability allows efficient multi-directional turns.	Braking and holds are carried out using the palm of the hand on the wheel in any position and will be enhanced by efficient active finger flexion and extension.
3.5	Unimpaired arm, no limitations observed in forward propulsion.	Unimpaired arm, no limitations observed in backward propulsion.	Unimpaired arm, no limitations observed in turning or manoeuvring.	Unimpaired arm, no limitations observed in braking or wheelchair holds.

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## 4.2 Ball Activities

- Ball activities should be observed for both sides when activities are unilateral.
- Athletes with trunk activity may perform ball activities both within and outside their base of support.
- Athletes with trunk activity will have an enhanced ability to reach outside their base of support when compared to athletes with no trunk.
- Athletes without trunk may still perform activities outside their base of support.
- The relative contribution of trunk versus the effects of strapping/positioning is determined during Technical Assessment.

Arm Scores	Passing	Catching	Dribbling	Picking up Ball
0.5	Passes limited to flip/flick pass and underhand volleyball pass. Inefficient execution due to proximal shoulder instability, unbalanced elbow and wrist action and no finger action. Passes require set-up time and have limited accuracy.	Athlete scoops to catch inside base of support using forearms or wrists. Requires accurate pass to receive efficiently. Limited ability to scoop ball in from close to base of support.	Dribble requires two hands; athlete drops and retrieves the ball using hands or wrists and scoops ball back to original position. Very limited efficiency and safety, particularly when under pressure.	Athlete may scoop in a bouncing ball or rim the ball up a turning wheel with limited efficiency using the wrist or forearm.
1.0	Athletes may also use the hook pass. However, this pass will likely be inefficient due to setup time required and limited accuracy due to shoulder instability, unbalanced elbow and wrist action and no finger action.	Athlete scoops to catch inside and close to base of support. Requires accurate pass for efficient catch. May occasionally perform scoop catch outside base of support but this is inefficient.	Dribble requires two hands; athlete drops and retrieves the ball using hands or wrists and scoops ball back to original position. Limited efficiency and safety, but more effective dribble due to improved shoulder stability.	Athlete can scoop in a bouncing ball or rim the ball up a turning wheel with improved efficiency due to a more balanced shoulder girdle.
1.5	Athletes may also use a chest pass. However, this will be weak and inefficient due to weakness in chest muscles and triceps. The pass will have a high arching trajectory rather than a flat trajectory.	Athlete is able to catch outside their base of support efficiently with two hands, usually using wrists, but cannot catch overhead.	Dribble with two hands and is efficient, but athlete may perform one-hand single dribble with limited efficiency.	Athlete can scoop in a bouncing ball or rim the ball up a turning wheel efficiently due to more balanced shoulder girdle, and improved elbow and wrist action.

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Arm Scores	Passing	Catching	Dribbling	Picking up Ball
2.0	Chest pass will be strong and efficient due to stable shoulder girdle, elbow and wrist. Two hand overhead passes are possible but may be limited in efficiency and accuracy due to lack of active finger movement and control. Weak one-handed overhead pass with limited control and distance.	Athlete is able to catch overhead efficiently with two hands, usually using the palm of the hand, but cannot catch with one hand. Hand has a flat posture.	Dribble with two hands is very effective and safe, one hand single dribble is effective with set-up, but multiple bounce dribble with one hand has limited efficiency due to lack of active finger flexion and extension. Dribble is possible only in limited positions – front/side. Hand has a flat posture.	Athlete may scoop up the ball with one arm using the palm of the hand with limited efficiency due to lack of finger action and flat hand posture. Athlete can rim the ball up a moving wheel efficiently using a flat palm.
2.5	Two-hand overhead pass will be efficient due to improved finger action. One-handed overhead pass will be limited in efficiency, distance and accuracy due to reduced finger action and flat hand posture.	Athlete is able to catch overhead efficiently with two hands, and may be able to catch with one hand, with limited efficiency, due to the presence of some finger activity. Hand has a flat posture.	Single-hand dribble is efficient, and multiple bounce has improved efficiency. Dribble is possible in multiple positions – front/side/back. Hand has a flat posture.	Athlete may walk the ball up a stationary wheel or pick the ball up from the floor with limited efficiency due to reduced finger action and a flat hand posture.
3.0	One hand overhead passes will be efficient and accurate due to improved finger action and a more curved hand posture.	Athlete is able to catch efficiently overhead with one hand due to a slightly curved hand posture and the presence of active finger flexion and extension.	Multiple bounce dribble is efficient in multiple positions – front/side/back, and safety is enhanced by active finger flexion and extension. Hand has a slightly curved posture.	Athlete will be able to efficiently walk the ball up the wheel using active finger movement or pick up the ball from the floor without the wheel due to improved finger action and a slightly curved hand posture. Athlete may be able to palm the ball up from the floor with limited efficiency, although this may be enhanced by equipment (gloves and sticky substance).
3.5	Unimpaired arm, no limitations in passing.	Unimpaired arm, no limitations in catching.	Unimpaired arm, no limitations in dribbling.	Unimpaired arm, no limitations in picking up the ball.

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## 4.2.1 Passing the Ball

The following is observed when assessing how an athlete passes the ball:

- The preparation and set up phase – getting the ball in position in the hand and moving into position for a pass;
- The execution phases – directing the ball to a receiver or target and releasing the ball;
- Pass control and accuracy;
- Symmetry/asymmetry of activity limitation for one handed passes; and
- Relative contribution of arm and trunk activity to biomechanics of a pass – includes the preparation, set up, and execution phases.

### Types of Passes

1. Flip/Flick Pass (2 hands)	Athlete uses wrists, forearms or residual limb to propel the ball directly from their lap with a short flicking or flipping action.
2. Underhand Volleyball Bump Pass (1 hand)	Athlete uses two hands/residual limbs to (drop or bounce the ball on the floor and then) bunt or bat the ball with the heel of one hand or residual limb.
3. Hook pass	Athlete uses two hands/residual limbs for initiation of movement. Non-throwing hand assists in securely guiding ball backwards. The ball is thrown with a sweeping motion of the arm in an upward arc with a follow-through that ends over the athlete's head. Shoulder & upper body initiates the movement. Abducted arm position during main phase of throw and/or an absence of full extension of elbow during throw is observed.
4. Chest pass	Athlete uses two hands or residual limbs to propel the ball forward level from chest level. The athlete's elbows extend through their available range. Accuracy and flatness of the pass increases with greater elbow, wrist and finger control.
5. Overhead pass	Athlete uses one or two hands or residual limbs to propel the ball upward and forward above the level of the head. Accuracy and distance of the pass increases with greater elbow, wrist and finger control.
6. Fake pass	The athlete simulates throwing a pass in order to deceive their opponent. Athlete performs the initial actions of a pass but without release of the ball. They may use one or two hands.

## 4.2.2 Catching Ball

The following is observed when assessing how an athlete catches the ball:

- The location where the athlete catches the ball –in or outside the base of support (BOS);
- Catching control and security; and
- Relative contribution of the trunk.

### Types of Catches

## WWR Classification Rules

Catch	Description
1. Scoop to catch inside BOS R/L/bilateral	Athlete scoops the ball into their lap from a pass that lands within their base of support or deflects the ball into their lap from outside their base of support. The catch may be made on the left, right or both sides.
2. Catch close to BOS R/L/bilateral	Athlete catches the ball with two hands within their base of support. Athlete is unable to catch overhead. Requires an accurate pass.
3. Catch outside BOS R/L/bilateral	Athlete is able to catch the ball with two hands from outside their base of support but not overhead.
4. Catch overhead R/L/bilateral	Athlete is able to catch the ball overhead with two hands or one hand, with limited to efficient control overhead.

### 4.2.3 Dribbling the Ball

Dribble	Description
1. Single bounce (2 hands)	Athlete drops and retrieves the ball using two hands or wrists and returns ball to the original position.
2. Single bounce (1 hand)	Athlete drops and retrieves the ball using one hand and returns ball to the original position.
3. Multiple bounce (1 hand)	Athlete bounces the ball multiple times with one hand and returns ball to the original position
4. Location L/R/Front/Back	Location of the dribble depends on both arm and trunk activity. For example, athletes with a trunk impairment score of 1 or more may demonstrate the ability to bounce the ball behind the wheelchair.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 4.2.4 Picking up Ball

Picking Up	Description
1. Bounce scoop	The athlete scoops in a bouncing ball using a single palm and/or wrist.
2. Rim up wheel forearm/arm	The athlete applies pressure to the ball against a turning wheel to bring the ball to their lap.
3. Walk up wheel with digits or pick up without wheel	The athlete uses active hand/digit control to either walk the ball up the wheel using active finger movement or to pick the ball up directly from the floor without using the wheel to assist.

## 4.3 Trunk Activities

4.3.1 Trunk movement, control and stability have an impact on wheelchair and ball activities. These descriptions relate the impact of trunk in executing wheelchair and ball activities to trunk scores (0, 0.5, 1.0 and 1.5).

4.3.2 An “X” in the box indicates that this feature applies to the corresponding trunk score.

4.3.3 Gray boxes with an “X” indicate activity may not be possible in all athletes or if possible, with limited efficiency.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 4.3. Refer to the WWR Classifier Handbook for further details on descriptions and scoring of wheelchair rugby activity limitations relevant to impairments in trunk strength, range of motion, and/or coordination.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 4.3.4 Wheelchair Activities

<b>Propulsion/Maneuverability</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
1. Shoulders do not stay in position during propulsion and turns	X			
2. Partial shoulder lag in turns		X		
3. Trunk stabilises shoulders for turns and propulsion		X	X	
4. Shoulder leads in turns			X	X
5. Trunk movement facilitates turns without use of arms				X
<b>Braking/Holds</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
1. Collapse	X			
2. Partial collapse		X		
3. No collapse			X	X
<b>Hits/Tackles</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
1. Trunk collapse when hit	X			
2. Partial collapse when hit		X		
3. Stable trunk when hit			X	X
4. Can resist/move into hit				X
<b>Hopping the Chair</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
1. No hopping/tipping of the wheelchair	X	X		
2. Tipping/tilting of the wheelchair			X	X
3. Hopping/jumping out of picks				X

## WWR Classification Rules

<b>Propulsion/Maneuverability</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. Shoulders do not stay in position during propulsion and turns	Athlete is unable to maintain trunk position to stabilise shoulders for efficient propulsion or turns.
2. Partial shoulder lag in turns	Athlete is able to partially maintain trunk position to stabilise shoulders for efficient propulsion or turns.
3. Trunk stabilises shoulders for turns and propulsion	Athlete is able to maintain trunk position to stabilise shoulders for efficient propulsion or turns.
4. Shoulder leads in turns	Athlete is able to lean into turns to improve efficiency of the manoeuvre.
5. Trunk movement facilitates turns without use of arms	Athlete is able to use trunk to change direction/manoeuvre the chair without the use of arms.

<b>Braking/Holds</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. Collapse	Athlete is unable to stabilize upper body during brakes/holds and/or is unable to increase force against opponent's chair.
2. Partial collapse	Athlete is able to stabilize upper body during brakes/holds & can hold against an opponent.
3. No collapse	Athlete is able to use trunk activity to actively push back and hold against an opponent in front or at a side angle.

<b>Hits/Tackles</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. Trunk collapse when hit	Athlete is unable to stabilize upper body during hits or to increase force against opponent chair.
2. Partial collapse when hit	Athlete is able to stabilize upper body at first, then collapses if high force hit.
3. Stable trunk when hit	Athlete is able to stabilize upper body during hits & can also keep hands in position above head during contact.
4. Can resist/move into hit	Athlete is able to use active trunk movement to increase force to hit from the front or side.

<b>Hopping the Chair</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. No tipping/tilting of the wheelchair	Athlete is not able to tilt the chair in any direction (front, back & sideways).
2. Tipping/tilting of the wheelchair	Athlete is able to tilt the chair sideways and may use this to escape a pick situation.
3. Hopping/jumping out of picks	Athlete is able to hop or jump the chair in any direction & can escape a single & even double pick.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 4.3.5 Ball Activities

<b>Reaching the Ball</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
1. No additional reach abilities	X			
2. Outside base in one plane		X	X	
3. Outside base in multiple planes			X	X
<b>Securing the Ball</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
No additional security abilities	X			
Maintain position inside base of support		X		
Maintain position outside base of support			X	
Overhead security without hands on wheels			X	X

<b>Reaching the Ball</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. No additional reach abilities	Athlete has no trunk activity to support arms reaching to attack the ball outside the base of support.
2. Outside base in one plane	Due to the presence of some trunk activity the athlete can reach in one plane to attack the ball inside the opponent's base of support with 1 or 2 hands/arms.
3. Outside base in multiple planes	Athlete is able to lean far outside the base of support to extend reaching in any direction.

<b>Securing the Ball</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. No additional security	Athlete has only arm abilities to secure the ball inside or outside their base of support, depending on existing finger control.
2. Maintain position inside base of support	Partial trunk enables the athlete to keep the ball inside their base of support securing it with both hands/arms.
3. Maintain position outside base of support	Athlete can reach and maintain a position outside the own base of support to escape an attacking opponent's range and maintain ball security in that position until the athlete has the opportunity to pass the ball.
4. Overhead security without hands on wheels	Athlete is able to secure the ball overhead while controlling the chair using their trunk, and without a hand on the wheel to stabilise.

## **5 Sport Class Characteristics**

- 5.1 Athletes in each of the WWR Wheelchair Rugby Sport Classes represent a wide range of Impairment and impact of impairment on sport specific activities. Some Activity Limitation may at times overlap due to the range of Impairment within one Sport Class. Other overlap may be due to equipment, skills development, and training, which should not factor in the allocation of Sport Class.
- 5.2 Refer to Appendix One Table 4 for a list of the Sport Specific activities evaluated in the Technical Assessment and Observation Assessment in WWR Wheelchair Rugby.
- 5.3 Refer to Appendix One Section 4 for the descriptions of Sport Specific activities evaluated in the Technical Assessment and Observation assessment related to scoring of the arms and trunk.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 6 Classification of Athletes with Previous WWR Sport Class

- 6.1 The procedure described in this section is used to minimize the impact of changes in an Athlete's Sport Class, when an Athlete undergoes Athlete evaluation with a valid WWR sport class previously awarded by a WWR licensed Type A or Type B panel. This will be applied with Athletes who have Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD 1 or FRD 2) Sport Class Status recorded in the WWR Classification Database.
- 6.2 This distinction is made in comparison to the approach taken to Athletes with New (N) Status who are presenting for an official WWR classification for the first time.
- 6.3 Further, this procedure recognizes and respects the validity of previously awarded WWR Sport Classes and the Classification Panel, which awarded them.
- 6.4 If a Classification Panel assessing an Athlete, as described above, believes that an Athlete has been awarded an incorrect Sport Class by the previous Classification Panel, the change to the Athlete's Sport Class must only be made following the completion of all three components of Athlete evaluation: (1) Physical Assessment, (2) Technical Assessment, and (3) Observation Assessment on court during competition.
- 6.5 This procedure will apply regardless of whether the Classification Panel believes the Athlete's Sport Class should be raised or lowered.
- 6.6 This will apply whether the Athlete is being evaluated as part of the regular classification process or as a result of a Protest.
- 6.7 Following successful completion of all three components of the Athlete Evaluation, if the Classification Panel decides that a change is required, the Athlete will be advised as soon as possible, and the change will be applied in accordance with the existing rules that apply to making changes to a Sport Class, as described in the WWR Classification Rules.
- 6.8 This procedure does not apply in the following circumstances:
  - 6.8.1 When Athlete Evaluation is suspended and the Athlete is assigned the Classification Not Complete (CNC) tracking code; the procedure is described in the WWR Classification Rules Article 30.
  - 6.8.2 When an Athlete has been determined as not eligible (NE) by the previous Classification Panel because the Athlete did not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria, the procedure is described in the WWR Classification Rules Section 7. <sup>[SEP]</sup>

## 7 Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria

## WWR Classification Rules

- 7.1 This Procedure outlines the steps to be followed if a WWR Classification Panel determines that an Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria and is allocated a Not Eligible (NE) Sport Class.
- 7.2 A Classification Panel may determine that an Athlete is Not Eligible at any stage of Athlete Evaluation. Specifically, this decision may be made:
  - 7.2.1 If the Athlete fails to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria, following completion of the Physical Assessment (Impairment Tests or Bench Test).
  - 7.2.2 Following completion of the Technical Assessment (Sport Specific Activities).
  - 7.2.3 Following completion of the Observation Assessment (observation in-competition).

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 7.2: For impairment types where Minimum Impairment Criteria is not yet developed, a decision on Not Eligible may follow the Technical and/or Observation Assessments.

### 7.3 General Principles

- 7.3.1 A second Classification Panel must review, by way of a second evaluation session, any Athlete who is allocated Sports Class Status Not Eligible (NE) by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation. This must take place as soon as is practicable.
- 7.3.2 Evaluation by a second panel is not a Protest. No protest fee is payable. Submission of a protest form is not required.
- 7.3.3 Teams are permitted the opportunity to present additional evidence (medical diagnostic information, written documents, photographs or video) to support the evaluation by the second Classification Panel.
- 7.3.4 In circumstances where video is required to complete the Observation Assessment, video submitted should be no more than 12 months old, and ideally shows the Athlete competing at the Competition where the decision took place or a Competition of a similar level and giving maximal effort. These same conditions apply if the Athlete or team wishes to submit additional video as evidence.
- 7.3.5 The second Classification Panel, Chief Classifier, or WWR Head of Classification may seek further information, or medical, sports or scientific expertise in reviewing the Athlete's Sport Class.
- 7.3.6 Pending the second evaluation session, the Athlete will be allocated Sports Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Sports Class Status Review (R). The Athlete will not be permitted to compete in Wheelchair Rugby before such re-assessment.
- 7.3.7 If a vote is necessary by the Classification Panel, a majority decision is required (two out of three Classifiers). The decision of individual Classification Panel

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members is confidential.

- a. It must be noted on the Classification Form that a vote took place.
  - b. The result of the vote should be recorded as either unanimous, or by a margin of two votes to one.
  - c. The individual decision of each Classifier must not be recorded on the Classification Form.
- 7.3.8 If the second Classification Panel determines that the Athlete does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria or is Not Eligible at any stage in the Athlete Evaluation, or the Athlete declines to participate in a second evaluation session at the time set by the Chief Classifier, the Athlete must be allocated a Sports Class Not Eligible (NE) and Sports Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 7.3.9 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Sports Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Sports Class NE by a Protest Panel, the Athlete is allocated Sport Class Status (R) and must be provided with a further and final evaluation session which will review the decision to allocate Sport Class NE made by the Protest Panel.
- 7.3.10 When a Classification Panel allocates a Not Eligible Sport Class (NE), the subsequent steps for the Athlete will be dependent on whether there is another suitable Classification Panel available at the Competition to complete the automatic second evaluation.
- 7.3.11 World Wheelchair Rugby may make arrangements for some or all of the components of this second and final athlete evaluation to be carried out at a place and time away from a competition (“non-competition venue”) in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules.
- 7.3.12 An Athlete with Not Eligible Review Status (NE R) may be put on a team roster for a Competition at which the team is scheduled to compete in order to conduct the Not Eligible Review evaluation.
- 7.3.13 Out of Competition evaluation for NE R may occur during a Competition where the Athlete and team is not rostered to compete, at the discretion of WWR.
- 7.3.14 No protest of a Sports Class Not Eligible and Sport Class Status Confirmed (NE C) may be made unless there is a change in the criteria for allocation of a Sport Class; or there is evidence provided of a change in the degree of impairment of the Athlete due to a new Health Condition or significant change in the existing health condition resulting in increased impairment.
- 7.4 Type A Classification Panel allocating NE Sport Class
- 7.4.1 Once the Classification Panel notifies the Chief Classifier that an NE Sport Class and Sport Class Status R has been allocated to an Athlete, the Chief Classifier must schedule the Athlete for the second evaluation session by the second Classification Panel present at the Competition as soon as practicable.

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- 7.4.2 The second Classification Panel must undertake evaluation of the Athlete with reference to all available classification documentation, including the decision or process undertaken by the first Classification Panel.
  - 7.4.3 If the second Classification Panel does not have sufficient time to complete the evaluation during the Competition, the Chief Classifier must instruct the panel to complete their evaluation following the end of the Competition.
  - 7.4.4 When the second Classification Panel is not able to make a decision before the end of the Competition, the Chief Classifier must notify the Athlete and Team Representative that a decision has not been finalised, and that the final decision will be made within eight weeks of the end of the Competition.
  - 7.4.5 The Classification Panel should notify the Chief Classifier of the outcome as soon as deliberations are complete, and a decision has been made.
  - 7.4.6 The Chief Classifier must notify the WWR Head of Classification and the Team Representative of the outcome.
  - 7.4.7 A circumstance may arise where the first panel at a Competition awards an Athlete an eligible Sports Class, and this decision is then protested. If the Protest Panel determines that the Athlete is Not Eligible, then the automatic review of this decision cannot occur at the same Competition. In this situation, the Athlete is designated as Not Eligible with Sport Class Status Review (NE R), and the evaluation by the second Classification must take place out of competition.
- 7.5 Type B Classification Panel allocating NE Sport Class
- 7.5.1 In a Competition with a Type B International Classification Panel, there is only one panel of Classifiers present at the Competition. Upon notification that a Sport Class Not Eligible and Sport Class Status Review (NE R) has been allocated to an Athlete, the Chief Classifier will advise the Athlete and the Team Representative that further evaluation will be conducted by a second Classification Panel out of competition, to be appointed by the WWR Head of Classification as soon as logistically possible.
  - 7.5.2 The Chief Classifier will advise the WWR Head of Classification of the Not Eligible decision and the need for the second evaluation to take place out of competition as soon as logistically possible.
  - 7.5.3 The Athlete and/or Team representative must be advised they will need to submit video evidence for observation assessment and any additional supporting evidence to the WWR Head of Classification, who will then provide this information to the Classification Panel appointed to conduct the second evaluation.

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- 7.5.4 In circumstances where video is required to complete the Observation Assessment, video submitted should be no more than 12 months old, and ideally shows the Athlete competing at a Competition of a similar level and giving maximal effort. These same conditions apply if the Athlete or Team Representative wishes to submit additional video as supporting evidence.
- 7.5.5 The WWR Head of Classification should convene a Classification Panel for an out of competition evaluation, of equal or greater certification level than those who awarded the Not Eligible Sport Class and Review Sport Class Status (NE R).
- 7.5.6 The WWR Head of Classification will advise the Athlete and Team Representative when the second Classification Panel will convene and then set a deadline for submission of further evidence, which should be no less than four weeks prior to the date of the evaluation.
- 7.5.7 When evidence has been received, the WWR Head of Classification will provide the evidence to the second Classification Panel.
- 7.5.8 The second Classification Panel must undertake evaluation of the Athlete with reference to all available classification information, including the decision or process undertaken by the first Classification Panel.
- 7.5.9 The second Classification Panel will consider the evidence provided and complete the evaluation as soon as practicable. The Classification Panel may deliberate using any means, at the sole discretion of WWR, such as e-mail, conference call or video meeting.
- 7.5.10 As soon as a decision has been reached, the second Classification Panel will advise the WWR Head of Classification of the outcome.
- 7.5.11 The WWR Head of Classification will then advise the National Member Organization and the Athlete of the outcome of the second evaluation.
- 7.6 Classification Panel not upholding NE decision of previous panel
- 7.6.1 Previous Sport Class New (N) prior to NE decision
- The second Classification Panel allocates an Eligible Sports Class based on the outcome of their evaluation.
  - The Classification Panel allocates a Review Sports Class Status (R) following the completion of Observation Assessment using video.
  - The Athlete must undergo Athlete Evaluation prior to any subsequent international Competition where Classification is available unless otherwise specified by WWR.
- 7.6.2 Previous sports class status is Review (R) prior to the NE decision
- The previous Sports Class and Sports Class Status R are reinstated following the completion of Observation Assessment using video.
  - The Athlete must undergo Athlete Evaluation prior to any subsequent international Competition where classification is available unless otherwise specified by WWR.

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## 7.7 Previous Sports Class Status is Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD) prior to NE decision

### 7.7.1 FRD 1 prior to NE decision

- a. If the second Classification Panel allocates an eligible Sport Class to the Athlete and the Athlete entered the Competition with FRD 1 Sports Class Status, the Classification Panel should designate a Sports Class Status Review (R) following the completion of the Video Observation Assessment.
- b. If the second Classification Panel completes the On-Court Observation Assessment and confirms the eligible Sport Class during the same Competition, the Athlete is allocated FRD 2 Sports Class Status, provided there is no change to the previous Sports Class (the Sport Class prior to the NE decision).
- c. The Athlete must undergo further evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed review date.

### 7.7.2 FRD 2 prior to NE decision

- a. If the second Classification Panel allocates an eligible Sport Class to the Athlete and the Athlete entered the Competition with FRD 2 Sports Class Status, the Classification Panel should designate a Sports Class Status Review (R) following the completion of the video observation assessment.
- b. If the second Classification Panel completes the on-court Observation Assessment and confirms the eligible sport class during the same Competition, the Athlete is allocated Confirmed Sport Class Status (C), provided there is no change to the previous sports class (the Sport Class prior to the NE decision).
- c. If the second Classification Panel makes a change to the Athlete's Sports Class (different from the Sport Class prior to the NE decision), the Classification Panel should designate a Sports Class Status Review (R) following the completion of the video Observation Assessment. If the Classification Panel is able to complete on-court Observation Assessment and confirms the eligible Sport Class during the same Competition, then the Sport Class Status will be FRD 1. The Athlete must undergo further evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant fixed review date.

# WWR Classification Rules

## 8 Classification Panels and Panel Types

- 8.1 A Classification Panel is a group of three classifiers appointed by World Wheelchair Rugby to conduct athlete evaluation in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules, Part Four.
- 8.2 The definitions of a classification panel and their roles and responsibilities are detailed in the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Articles 11 The Classification Panel and 12 Classification Panel Responsibilities.
- 8.3 In accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules, Article 11.3, in exceptional circumstances where World Wheelchair Rugby may specify that a Classification Panel may consist of two Classifiers, only sport class status review may be allocated unless otherwise stipulated by World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 8.4 World Wheelchair Rugby recognized Competitions may be managed by different types of Classification Panels:
  - 8.4.1 Type A International Panel
  - 8.4.2 Type B International Panel

### Competition Classification Panel Requirements

#### Type A International Panel

- 8.5 Sport Class and Sport Class Status Awarded
  - 8.5.1 World Wheelchair Rugby International sport class and sport class status.
- 8.6 Panel Requirements
  - 8.6.1 Seven classifiers from at least five countries and two zones;
  - 8.6.2 With at least three Level 4 classifiers, two Level 3 classifiers; and a maximum of two Level 2 international classifiers.
  - 8.6.3 Each team of three classifiers must have one member from out of the zone where the Competition is taking place.
- 8.7 Competitions
  - 8.7.1 World Championships
  - 8.7.2 All Zone Championships
  - 8.7.3 Other WWR events licensed for classification at the discretion of WWR.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 8.7.3: Examples of Zone Championships may include multiple levels such as European Zone A, B and C; and European and Asia/Oceania Zone qualification competitions. As current WWR Zones develop and membership increases, there may be an expanding number of these types of competitions.

#### Type B International Panel

# WWR Classification Rules

## 8.8 Sport Class and Sport Class Status Awarded

- 8.8.1 World Wheelchair Rugby International sport class and sport class status.
- 8.8.2 Athletes with Sport Class Status N, R and FRD may undergo evaluation and be allocated a sport class and sport class status at a competition with a Type B international panel.
- 8.8.3 Classification priority for a type B international Panel is in accordance with the International Wheelchair Rugby classification priority policy:
  - a. New Status
  - b. Review Status
  - c. FRD 1 Status
  - d. FRD 2 Status
- 8.8.4 The evaluation of athletes with FRD 2 status to potentially receive a Confirmed status may take place at a Type B Competition at the discretion of World Wheelchair Rugby.
- 8.8.5 No athlete with FRD 2 sport class status should be allocated a Confirmed Status if a Type B Panel has conducted all the athlete's previous evaluations.

## 8.9 Panel Requirements

- 8.9.1 Four classifiers from at least three countries and two zones;
- 8.9.2 With at least two Level 4 classifiers, one Level 3 classifier and no more than one Level 2 Classifier.

## 8.10 Competitions

- 8.10.1 The type of Competitions where a Type B Panel may be used include:
  - a. Smaller WWR recognized international Competitions.
  - b. Developmental Competitions licensed by WWR for classification where the priority is to provide international classes for new athletes.
- 8.10.2 A lesser number of athletes must undergo evaluation with a Type B panel.
- 8.10.3 A protest lodged at a Type B Competition may not be managed at that Competition. With only one classification panel present, athletes undergoing evaluation at that Competition will not be able to have a protest managed by the same panel. Although the athlete has the right to lodge a protest at the competition, it must be deferred to the next available opportunity.
- 8.10.4 Any decision of Not Eligible (NE) taken by a Type B panel is managed by an out of competition protest in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules, Article 27 Special Provisions.
- 8.10.5 Protests lodged at a Type B Competition cannot be managed at that same Competition, as the same panel would be the protest panel.

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8.10.6 Protests lodged prior to competition or carried over from a previous competition may be managed at a Type B Competition depending on the level of the panel, at the discretion of World Wheelchair Rugby.

## **Management of an International Sport Class**

8.11 In exceptional circumstances, such as when personal emergency or travel issues affect the arrival of members of a classification panel so that the criteria for a International Type A or B Panel cannot be met, WWR has the discretion to form ad hoc arrangements that will still be considered valid to allocate a WWR Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 8.11: For example, if a panel composition required a level 4 classifier and for some reason, there was no one available to be appointed, or an appointed classifier had an emergency situation a short time before the competition, or travel issues where they could not arrive on time, a level 3 classifier who had met the essential competencies for the next level could be advanced to level 4 to ensure the required panel composition requirements.

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## 9 Management of Protests

- 9.1 A protest may only be made regarding an athlete's sport class. A protest may not be made regarding an athlete's sport class status.
- 9.2 A protest may not be made regarding an Athlete who has been allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Sport Class Not Eligible, Article 18.
- 9.3 The decision of a protest panel in relation to both a national protest and a World Wheelchair Rugby protest is final. There is no opportunity for the National Member Organization or World Wheelchair Rugby to make another protest.
  - 9.3.1 This restriction applies to the duration of the relevant competition only and does not preclude a protest made at a future competition.
  - 9.3.2 Refer to World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Article 25.7 for circumstances where a second protest may be allowed at the same competition.
- 9.4 The decision of a protest panel may be appealed, if the requirements for appeal are met in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Part Eleven: Appeals.

### Protest Panel

- 9.5 The World Wheelchair Rugby Head of Classification or a Chief Classifier is responsible for appointing the protest panel and managing the resolution or dismissal of a protest.
- 9.6 The Protest Panel is appointed and conducts a protest in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules, Article 25 Protest Panel.
- 9.7 To serve the best interest of the athlete and if practicable, the protest panel should be composed of classifiers with equal or greater expertise than those members who were involved in the athlete's previous classification, which means, the classifiers should have the same or higher World Wheelchair Rugby international classification certification level.
  - 9.7.1 World Wheelchair Rugby may issue ad hoc provisions to allow protests to proceed with the written agreement by all relevant parties.
- 9.8 The Classification Panel appointed to conduct a Protest will consist of three classifiers from three different nations and two zones in addition to the Chief Classifier, who serves in an advisory capacity. (Refer to these WWR Classifier Rules Appendix 1, Section 8 5 Classification Panels and Panel Types for panel appointment based on Competition type.)

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9.9 A protest panel may include:

- 9.9.1 Player Classification Representative (PCR), if available, and if the athlete so requests.
- 9.9.2 World Wheelchair Rugby Executive Board Member (EBM) or their designee, such as the Technical Delegate or Assistant Technical Delegate are informed of a protest and may be asked to attend at the discretion of the Chief Classifier.
  - a. The EBM or their designee serves in an advisory capacity to consult and witness that protest procedures are followed appropriately.
  - b. The EBM is an ad hoc non-voting member of the panel.
  - c. If the EBM is not available or does not need to be present at the discretion of the Chief Classifier, this will be noted in the comments section of the athlete classification form.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 9.9: While the most beneficial make-up of the protest panel includes the PCR and EBM, they are not mandatory. There are some instances when a PCR and/or the EBM are not available. Protests still need to be managed. It is acceptable to proceed with a protest without a PCR and/or EBM present at the discretion of the Chief Classifier. The Chief Classifier will communicate this to teams as soon as possible.

The Chief Classifier or panel should tick the boxes on the protest form regarding the PCR and EBM. In some situations the athlete may choose to decline having a PCR present. If so, this is noted on the protest form. If there is not a PCR available for the Competition, the Chief Classifier should note this on the Competition report.

## **Protest Accepted**

9.10 The Protest Panel resolves a protest in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules:

- 9.10.1 Refer to Articles 21 for National Protests and 22 for National Protest Procedures.
- 9.10.2 Refer to Articles 23 for WWR Protests and 24 for WWR Protest Procedures.

9.11 The World Wheelchair Rugby Head of Classification or the competition Chief Classifier gives the protest form and any additional supporting documentation or evidence submitted to the protest panel to review the detailed reason for the protest.

9.12 The protest panel uses this information as the basis for their protest evaluation and responds to questions and points in the protest form in their written decision.

9.13 The protest panel must conduct a new evaluation session as soon as logistically possible.

9.14 Observation assessment is usually necessary in the resolution of a protest. An initial observation assessment may take place prior to the physical and technical assessment without notifying the athlete under protest.

- 9.14.1 In the case of a National Protest, the athlete knows that he/she is under protest. The athlete and relevant parties will be informed of the time and date of the new evaluation session, which may be scheduled before any observation assessment takes place.

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- 9.14.2 In the case of a World Wheelchair Rugby Protest, the initial observation assessment may take place before the athlete and/or team coach or team representative are informed of the protest. The athlete and relevant parties will be informed of the time and date of the new evaluation session as soon as practicable.
- 9.14.3 Further observation assessment to satisfy first appearance may be necessary after the physical and technical assessment.
- 9.15 The protest panel will make a ruling on the protest as soon as possible following the athlete evaluation session and collection of all information needed to make a sport class decision.
- 9.16 If the protest panel is unable to reach agreement, a vote is taken; a majority decision is necessary:
- 9.16.1 This decision is made by an open vote and not by a secret ballot.
- 9.16.2 The necessity to take a vote may be recorded on the classification form, but the individual votes are not recorded or disclosed.
- 9.17 If the protest panel requires further evidence and is unable to gather sufficient evidence to make a decision by the end of the competition, the protest shall carry over to the next equivalent World Wheelchair Rugby competition.
- 9.17.1 The athlete's sport class is unchanged pending the outcome of the protest.
- 9.17.2 The sport class status is Review pending the outcome of the protest. The R status is changed to OA for the athlete to undertake observation assessment. If the athlete did not complete the observation assessment, the OA tracking code is removed, and R is reinstated.
- 9.17.3 Inability to make a decision may result from:
- Insufficient playing time on court, for whatever reason, for the necessary observation assessment to take place that leads to a meaningful first appearance;
  - Insufficient numbers of classifiers to assemble the required protest panel at the Competition; and/or
  - Multiple protests filed at a competition whereby the panels are unable to complete all protests at that competition.
- 9.18 Protests made at a Competition are managed in the order in which they are received by the World Wheelchair Rugby Competition Chief Classifier or his/her designee.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 9.18: Protests are prioritized according to the WWR Classifier Handbook "Athlete Classification Scheduling" procedure.

- 9.18.1 To ensure that protests are handled in the order in which they are submitted, date and time of receipt is recorded on the protest forms when submitted to

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the Competition Chief Classifier or his/her designee.

## **Protest Dismissed**

9.19 A dismissal of a protest is managed in accordance with the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Article 22.3 “Protest Dismissed.”

9.20 If a National Protest is dismissed at any point:

9.20.1 The Chief Classifier must notify all relevant parties and provide a written explanation to the National Member Organization as soon as practicable.

9.20.2 The protest fee may be returned in situations where the Chief Classifier determines the protest lacks sufficient information or detail in order to proceed; or

9.20.3 World Wheelchair Rugby may retain the protest fee in situations where the chief classifier has reason to believe the protest lacks merit and is not a bona fide protest.

9.21 A World Wheelchair Rugby protest is not accepted and then dismissed at any point. If there is insufficient evidence or rationale to proceed with a WWR protest, there will be no protest initiated.

9.22 If a National Member Organization makes a documented request to World Wheelchair Rugby to make a World Wheelchair Rugby protest; and after assessment of the validity of the request, it is decided there will not be a World Wheelchair Rugby protest; World Wheelchair Rugby retains the fee.

## **Timeline for Protest Decision Taking Effect**

9.23 The implementation of any change of Sport Class occurring as a result of a Protest will take effect as soon as possible prior to the start of the competition semi-finals or championship rounds.

9.24 If the decision cannot be made before the start of semi-finals or the championship rounds:

9.24.1 An athlete with Sport Class Status New (N) with tracking code OA for observation assessment cannot continue to compete further at this competition.

9.24.2 An athlete with Sport Class Status Review (R) due to:

- a. recently entering Competitions licensed or recognised by World Wheelchair Rugby;
- b. a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or
- c. has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity

is allowed to continue to the semi-finals of the championship rounds.

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9.24.3 An athlete with FRD Status is allowed to continue to the semi-finals or the championship rounds, depending on the competition rules agreed upon by World Wheelchair Rugby and the Local Organizing Committee.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 9.24: All athletes, regardless of sport class status, are changed to the tracking code OA to proceed to observation assessment. The sport class status the athletes leaves with if first appearance is not completed prior to the timeline of the competition is dependent on the sport class status with which they entered.

Comment One Rules Appendix One Section 9.24.3: Athletes with a previous valid WWR Sport Class and Sport Class status (FRD1 or FRD2) should be allowed to compete during the semi-finals or championship rounds. Sport Class Status on these Athletes are changed to the tracking code Observation Assessment (OA) to continue to observation on court. If First Appearance is not completed before the semi-final or championship rounds, the Athletes may continue to compete and the OA tracking code will convert to Review Sport Class Status (R) if Observation Assessment is not completed by the end of the Competition.

Comment Two Rules Appendix One Section 9.24.3: In major games events where WWR does not have jurisdiction the WWR rules may not be in agreement with those of the games organizers. The rules of the games organizer take precedent, for example the IPC Para Pan American Games or the Asian Para Games are governed by the IPC.

## Notification of Protest Decision

9.25 All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision in accordance with these WWR Classification Rules. (Refer to Article 25.7 “Decision of a protest panel”.)

9.26 The national member organization and athlete submitting the protest are provided with a copy of the protest form and the written decision by the protest panel. If they want a copy of the athlete’s classification evaluation form from the protest evaluation, the athlete must submit an access to classification information form obtainable on the World Wheelchair Rugby website or from the Competition Chief Classifier.

9.27 If the national member organization is not present when or where the protest is resolved, a written notification of the decision taken is provided to the relevant national member organization as soon as is logistically possible.

## National Protest

9.28 If a National Member Organization wishes to make a protest on the sport class of an athlete under its jurisdiction that has published following observation in competition, the protest documentation must be submitted within one hour. (Refer to Article 21 National Protests in these rules.).

9.28.1 The team/national member organization wishing to make such a protest may notify World Wheelchair Rugby of their intent and coordinate with the Chief classifier in order to submit the paperwork within the required timeframe.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 9.28.1: The one hour timeframes for protest begins at the time the classification results are posted. A team/national member organization may communicate electronically to notify WWR of the intent to protest. In the situation where there may not be the necessary infrastructure or access to reliable electronic

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communication, verbal intent will be accepted. Regardless of whether or not there is notice of an intent to protest the one hour timeframe for protest submission is in effect, unless otherwise specified by WWR.

9.29 A protest submitted within the one-hour timeframe will be accepted but that does not guarantee the protest will be managed at that competition. Protests are subject to the Classification schedule priority for the Competition at which the protest is submitted.

9.29.1 Protests lodged within the one-hour timeframe are Priority Two and are managed the same as in the WWR Classification Rules, article 21.1.2 - athletes under protest submitted prior to the commencement of the classification evaluation period.

Comment Rules Appendix One Section 9.29.: If, for example, a protest is submitted within the prescribed timeframe but after the last competition evaluation session prior to the start of semi-finals/finals/championship rounds, the protest can be accepted but it is most likely there will not be enough time to logistically manage the protest. In that situation, it would have to be carried forward to the next available competition where the athlete attends and there is a classification panel.

9.29.2 Protests made after the one-hour timeline may be accepted but that does not guarantee the protest will be managed at that competition. Protests made after the one hour timeline are lower priority and at the discretion of the Chief Classifier.

## WWR Protest

9.30 World Wheelchair Rugby may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:

9.30.1 it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class; or

9.30.2 A National Member Organization makes a valid documented request to World Wheelchair Rugby using the WWR Protest form.

9.31 The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of World Wheelchair Rugby.

9.32 The fee for a documented request for an WWR Protest by a National Member Organization is the same as the Protest fee. Refer the WWR Website for up to date fees.

## Protest Procedure – National and WWR Protests

9.33 If a national or WWR protest is made, the Chief Classifier gives the protest form and any additional supporting documentation or evidence submitted to the protest panel to review the detailed reason for the protest.

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- 9.33.1 If a National Member Organization (NMO) makes a documented request to World Wheelchair Rugby to consider a WWR protest; WWR must assess the validity of the request.
- 9.33.2 If following the assessment, WWR decides there will be a WWR protest, the protest is accepted.
- 9.33.3 If following the assessment, WWR decides there will not be a WWR protest; the NMO will be notified there will not be a WWR protest made.
- 9.34 The protest panel uses this information as the basis for their protest evaluation and responds to questions and points written in the protest form in their written decision.
- 9.35 The protest panel conducts this evaluation in accordance with Article 25.5 Protest Accepted in these rules.
- 9.36 Observation assessment is necessary in the resolution of a protest. In the case of a national protest, the athlete knows they are under protest. The athlete and relevant parties will be informed of the time and date of the new evaluation session, which may be scheduled before any observation assessment takes place.
- 9.37 Further observation assessment to satisfy first appearance may be necessary after the physical and technical assessment.
- 9.38 The protest panel will make a ruling on the protest as soon as possible following the athlete evaluation session and collection of all information needed to make a sport class decision.
- 9.39 If the protest panel is unable to reach agreement, a vote is taken; a majority decision is necessary:
- 9.39.1 This decision is made by an open vote and not by a secret ballot.
- 9.39.2 The necessity to take a vote may be recorded on the classification form, but the individual votes are not recorded or disclosed.
- 9.40 If the protest panel requires further evidence and is unable to gather sufficient evidence to make a decision by the end of the competition, the protest may carry over to the next equivalent World Wheelchair Rugby competition.
- Comment Rules Appendix One Section 9.40: There may be situations where it is possible to collect the further evidence needed within the timeframe of the competition to enable the panel to make a decision.
- 9.41 The athlete's sport class is unchanged pending the outcome of the protest.
- 9.42 The sport class status is Review (R) pending the outcome of the protest. The tracking code OA replaces R status for the athlete to undertake observation

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assessment. If the athlete does not complete the observation assessment, the OA tracking code is removed, and R sport class status is reinstated.

9.43 Inability to make a decision may result from:

- 9.43.1 Insufficient playing time on court, for whatever reason, for the necessary observation assessment to take place that leads to a meaningful first appearance;
- 9.43.2 Insufficient numbers of classifiers to assemble the required protest panel at the Competition; and/or
- 9.43.3 Multiple protests filed at a Competition whereby the panels are unable to complete all protests at that Competition.

9.44 If a protest is dismissed at any point:

- 9.44.1 Refer to these rules Article 25. Protest Dismissed.

## **Provisions where no Protest Panel is available**

9.45 If a protest is made and no protest panel is available, this situation is managed according to the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Article 26 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available.

## **Special Provisions**

9.46 World Wheelchair Rugby may offer special provisions for athlete evaluation to manage a decision of Not Eligible Review. (Refer to the World Wheelchair Rugby Classification Rules Article 27 Special Provisions.)

## **Ad Hoc Provisions Related to Protests**

9.47 World Wheelchair Rugby may issue ad hoc provisions in accordance with these classification rules Article 28 Ad Hoc Provisions Related to Protests.

9.48 Any changes as the result of ad hoc provisions may be communicated during the Competition technical meeting or communicated to teams or their National Member Organization as soon as is logistically possible.

## Appendix Two: Non-Eligible Impairment Types

### 1 Non-Eligible Impairment Types for All Athletes

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments for Athletes in all Para sport, including WWR Wheelchair Rugby 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.

## 2 Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions

A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes in Para Sport. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in Appendix One, Section 1 of these rules), but who does not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport, including WWR Wheelchair Rugby.

Health Conditions that primarily cause:

- pain;
- fatigue;
- 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.

Examples of Health Conditions that primarily causes hypermobility or hypotonia is:

- Benign Joint Mobility Syndrome, or
- Ehlers- Danlos syndrome.

Examples of Health Conditions that are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature include:

- conversion disorders, or
- post-traumatic stress disorder.

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