



# **World Para Swimming Classification Rules and Regulations**

**Revisions March-September 2017 – effective 01 January 2018**

September 2017

**International Paralympic Committee**

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## 1 Introduction

World Para Swimming (WPS) would like to thank the membership for providing input to the process of revision of the WPS Classification Rules and Regulations - March 2017 (WPS Classification Rules). Together with the membership input, WPS also considered input from the WPS Classification Advisory Group and the IPC Management Team, as well as recommendations from IPC classification research partners. It also took into consideration appeals upheld by the IPC Board of Appeal of Classification.

Some of the recommendations provided relate to the operations of WPS as opposed to the content of the WPS Classification Rules. In such cases, where appropriate, the recommendations have been, or are proposed to be, implemented in the operational management and/or classifier training and certification manuals.

The new WPS Classification Rules are currently in the final stages of review by the IPC Medical & Scientific Department and IPC Legal Department. Once these reviews have been completed, the final version of the new WPS Classification Rules will be published on the WPS website prior to coming into effect on 01 January 2018.

This document provides a summary of the amendments to the WPS Classification Rules.

Importantly, as a result of the below amendments to the WPS Classification Rules (together with historic amendments that were not effectively implemented at the time), to preserve the integrity of WPS competitions, **all athletes with a Physical Impairment with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) of 2019 or later will be put back into Review (R) on 01 January 2018.**

All such athletes will be:

- **required to submit updated medical documents** to WPS in order to be licensed for the 2018 season (the licensing process will open in November 2017); and
- subject to the exceptions below, **required to present for re-assessment at the next available opportunity.**

**EXCEPTIONS:** After the review of the updated medical documents, WPS may determine (on a case by case basis) that an athlete **may** not be required to present for re-assessment if that athlete is an athlete:

- with short stature (subject to point 4.8 below); or
- with loss of limb or limb deficiency, except:
  - if there are other restrictions identified during the physical assessment; and/or

- if the loss of limb or limb deficiency is a combined unilateral upper-and lower limb loss or deficiency.

WPS will notify such athletes via their respective National Paralympic Committees within the timeframes specified by WPS.

In addition, as a result of the amendment outlined in point 6.1 below, **all athletes with an Intellectual Impairment (S/SB14) with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) will be put back in Review on 01 January 2018, and will be required to present for re-assessment at the next available opportunity.**

## 2 Part One: General Provisions

WPS adopts the Model Rules that have been derived from the 2015 Athlete Classification Code. Any proposed amendments to Part One of the WPS Classification Rules are therefore referred to the IPC Classification Committee for its recommendation.

No major amendments have been made.

## 3 Appendices – General

Throughout the Appendices the verbs '*should*' and '*shall*' have been replaced by '*may*' and '*must*' to provide greater clarity.

## 4 Appendix 1 – Sport Classes for Athletes with Physical Impairment

### 4.1 Testing positions

Further standardisation of testing positions has been included in Tables 4 and 6.

### 4.2 Articles 3.6 and 3.7

The Minimum Impairment Criteria has been clarified. An athlete must lose a minimum of fifteen (15) points in the physical assessment (excluding points added for dive/push off) to continue to the technical assessment.

An athlete will be deemed Not Eligible (NE) if, following the technical assessment (including adding points for dive/push off); the athlete loses less than fifteen (15) points. This amendment is the result of dive and push off scores being an integral part of the technical assessment.

#### **4.3 Article 4.1 and Table 3 (muscle testing)**

The scoring criteria have been aligned with the Daniels and Worthingham reference without changing the meaning or the criteria.

#### **4.4 Article 5.2 and Table 5 (coordination testing)**

It has been clarified that all coordination testing must be assessed over the functional range of movement.

#### **4.5 Article 6.3**

Further clarification has been provided to ensure testing positions that differ from those that are prescribed must be recorded on the athlete classification sheet.

#### **4.6 Article 7.2**

The provision on the number of measurements to be taken for loss of limb/limb deficiency has been moved to a separate article so that it applies to all limb deficiency measurements.

A bullet point has been added on how to assess athletes without anatomical landmarks.

#### **4.7 (New) Article 7.3**

Further clarification has been provided in relation to the assessment of combined loss of limb or limb deficiency and loss of passive range of movement in order to standardise assessments (previously addressed as a bullet point under Article 6.2). After assessment of dysmelia, additional restrictions in muscle power or range of movement are considered during the technical assessment.

#### **4.8 Article 8**

WPS is currently in the final stages of consultation with experts to identify which athletes with short stature are to be identified as 'achondroplasia type of impairment' (Article 8.3). Subject to the outcome of this consultation, in order to for those athletes to be classified in accordance with the new WPS Classification Rules, some athletes may be put back into Review on 01 January 2018 and required to present for re-assessment at the next available opportunity. The membership will be informed of those athletes as soon as the outcome of the consultation has been determined.

In addition, WPS has identified a number of athletes with short stature that were given Sport Class Status Confirmed prior to the age of 18 (at the time of that assessment) in the past. In order for those athletes to be classified in accordance with the WPS Classification Rules, those athletes will be put back in Review on 01 January 2018, and will be required to present for re-assessment at the next available opportunity.

#### 4.9 Article 10

Article 10 (technical assessment - water test) has been replaced in its entirety. This is a result of the work of the Classification Advisory Group to develop a more valid and standardised technical assessment procedure. The new water test has been trialled extensively over the past 18 months and will be presented, in detail, at the WPS Sport Forum (the new date of which will be confirmed as soon as possible).

Consequently, the technical assessment is no longer a matter of adding/deducting points from the physical assessment scores but scores the athletes' behaviour in the water through the observation of both propulsion and drag, defined as the key components of swimming performance, with points being allocated per body segment as follows:

Point scoring table for Technical Assessment of different swim strokes – Upper/Lower Limb

Points	Resulting in one or more of the following:
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No functional movement is possible.</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very severely restricted range of movement</li> <li>Very minimal coordinated movement</li> <li>Only involuntary movements present that do not contribute to propulsion (i.e. due to athetosis or spasticity)</li> <li>Ineffective to no movements</li> <li>Trace of balance or/and stability (position of the limb below the water surface without control )</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal range of movement (with very severe restrictions)</li> <li>Severe coordination problems</li> <li>Minimal muscle power</li> <li>Poor Balance or/and stability (limb position slightly below the water surface with control)</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate range of movement (with moderate restriction)</li> <li>Moderate coordination problems at increased pace</li> <li>Moderate loss of muscle power, movement can be made but broken stroke (e.g. pauses in movements)</li> <li>Fair balance and stability (limbs are kept in line with water surface - streamline - without full control)</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly full range of movement (with mild restrictions)</li> <li>Slight loss of muscle power</li> </ul>

Points	Resulting in one or more of the following:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight coordination problems with increasing pace</li> <li>• Moderate balance and stability (limbs are kept in streamline position with almost full control)</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full functional movement without any restriction on range, coordination or power and without any impact on balance and stability</li> </ul>

Point scoring table for Technical Assessment of different swim strokes – Trunk

Points	Resulting in:
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No trunk control</li> <li>• No balance/stability</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal trunk control</li> <li>• Traces of balance/stability</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited trunk control</li> <li>• Poor balance/stability</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate trunk control</li> <li>• Fair balance/stability</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal loss of trunk control</li> <li>• Moderate balance/stability</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full trunk control</li> <li>• Normal balance/stability</li> </ul>

In order to match the scoring scale with the physical assessment, body segment scores are multiplied with the number of functions per body segment for S and SB strokes in the physical assessment. Dive and push off scores are added.

As a result of this modification, all athletes who were subjected to a technical assessment will be put back into Review (R) on 01 January 2018, and will be required to present for re-assessment at the next available opportunity. This will be ALL athletes with the exception of:

- athletes with short stature (subject to point 4.8 above); and
- athletes with loss of limb or limb deficiency, except:
  - if there are other restrictions identified during the physical assessment; and/or

- if the loss of limb or limb deficiency is a combined unilateral upper-and lower limb loss or deficiency.

#### **4.10 Article 11**

The wording of this article has been revised as part of the modifications made to point 4.9 of this summary (technical assessment – water test).

#### **4.11 Article 12.1 and Table 15**

The range of point scores for Sport Class S1 and SB1 has been amended to reflect unique cases with point scores < 40 points.

#### **4.12 Article 12.2**

No amendments have been made to this article. However, historic amendments to this article were not implemented effectively. Putting all athletes back into Review (R) on 01 January 2018, will ensure these historic amendments are implemented. WPS is also aware that there are a number of athletes for whom the SM-class was adjusted after the formula was applied, primarily to reflect poor swimming technique (differences) across strokes. Poor swimming technique is now captured under Article 10, and therefore no further amendments to SM-class allocation are required.

#### **4.13 Appendix 1 – Article 13.1 and Table 16**

An exception code T has been added for the use of a tapper(s).

In consultation with the WPS Head of Technical Control and Officiating, exception codes 2-5 have been updated to be specific for the strokes of Butterfly and Breaststroke. This is to reflect amendments made to the Butterfly and Breaststroke rules in the WPS Technical Rules and Regulations (i.e. two arm Butterfly and ‘hand touch’ in both Butterfly and Breaststroke).

#### **4.14 Appendix 1 – Article 13.4**

Further clarification has been provided on how to handle requests for change of exception codes.

## **5 Appendix 2 – Sport Classes for Athletes with Vision Impairment**

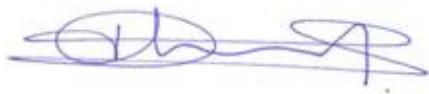
No changes.

## 6 Appendix 3 – Sport Classes for Athletes with intellectual impairment

### 6.1 Articles 3.3 and 3.4

Upon recommendation of the IPC Classification Research and Development Centre – Intellectual Impairment, the different tests for ‘processing speed & attention-concentration skills’ have been replaced by 1 ‘Flanker Test’, and the scoring amended accordingly. The rationale for this is that this Flanker Test discriminates much better between athletes with Intellectual Impairment and the reference group of able-bodied athletes. This rationale will be explained in more detail at the WPS Sport Forum.

As a result of this amendment, all athletes with an Intellectual Impairment (S/SB14) will be put back in Review on 01 January 2018, and will be required to present for re-assessment at the next available opportunity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Van de Vliet".

Peter Van de Vliet

IPC Medical & Scientific Director

CC - Ryan Montgomery, IPC Summer Sport Director

CC – Tracy Glassford, World Para Swimming Manager