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World Archery Para Archery

A Handbook for Classifiers

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Introduction

World Archery, in full agreement with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), has clearly stated that the Paralympic Games and World Archery Para-Championships should not be for everyone who has an impairment, but for those athletes with an impairment where the impairment has a direct and important impact on archery performance.

World Archery has developed this Handbook for Classifiers. WA has developed the Para-Archery Rules and Guidelines in conjunction with the [International Paralympic Committee \(IPC\) Handbook, Code and Classification Rules](#) and therefore the Handbook should be read in conjunction with the appropriate, current sections of the IPC Code and its accompanying International standards. This document is primarily for the training and reference of Para-Archery classifiers, however it should be of use to coaches, support personnel and especially to athletes, to assist them in understanding the World Archery (WA) rules and procedures that govern Para-Archery so they know what to expect from WA International Classifiers and during classification evaluations.

This document should influence the coaching methods and provide an indication of the available assistive devices that can be allocated according to medical need. Although World Archery has made this document available to coaches, archers and other users, they should bear in mind that there may be medical terminology within the document and advice should be sought from a suitably qualified person if there is any problem understanding the content.

All WA rules that govern the sport, including those that govern equipment ([World Archery Rule Book 3, chapter 11](#)) and Clean Sport ([World Archery Rule Book 6](#)) pertain to all archers competing in WA events and as such govern the archers shooting in Para-archery categories.

World Archery, in full agreement with the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) and the International Sport Community's commitment to Clean Sport, has adopted the WADA code and all para-archers are bound to follow these rules and procedures. See WA Rule book 6, and/or ask for support from the WA Medical and Sport Science Committee for answers to any questions from coaches, athletes or support personnel have in this regard.

Code of Ethics for Para Archery Classification

All International Para Archery Classifiers and International Para Archery Classifier candidates must read and sign the pledge and consent to share their contact details and qualification details with World Archery.

Para Archery Classifiers Code of ethics

As a World Archery International Para Archery Classifier I pledge:

To safeguard the dignity of the athlete with a disability competing in the sport of archery.

To oppose discrimination on the basis of disability or discrimination related to race, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, philosophical or political opinion, marital status or sexual orientation.

To maintain confidentiality of all health-related athlete information.

To display courtesy and respect to athletes, and all others involved in the sport.

To perform all assigned duties competently, consistently, and objectively.

To declare any potential conflicts of interest that could be perceived as using the International Para Archery Classifier role to obtain advantages or benefits of any kind.

An International Para Archery Classifier enrolment form and Code of Ethics pledge can be found on the [WA website](#). All International Para Archery Classifiers and International Para Archery Classifier Candidates are required to sign and submit the Pledge and this form to WA upon the successful completion of their training and before undertaking any classifications.

SECTION 1 - RULES

1 Eligible impairment types

[\(IPC Classification Code: International standard for eligible impairment \(Sep.2016\)\)](#)

As per the current IPC code and Classification Rules, individuals are eligible to compete in Para Archery based solely on their Eligible medical condition as identified on the Medical Intake forms completed by their physicians and that these impairments must be identified as PERMANENT in nature. Any impairment not listed as eligible below is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. These medical diagnoses and the resulting medical impairments, along with relevant diagnostic testing, determine eligibility for participation in WA Para Archery.

World Archery, based on Appendix One of The IPC Classification Rules for Eligible Impairments, identifies that Medical Diagnoses affecting only the following types of Physical or Visual impairments are eligible for Para-Archery:

- Impaired muscle power
- Impaired passive range of movement
- Loss of limb or limb deficiency
- Hypertonia
- Ataxia
- Visual Impairments.

2 Non-eligible impairment types

[\(IPC Code: International standard for eligible impairment \(Sep.2016\)\)](#)

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments types for all athletes include, but are not limited to, the following:

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

3 Health conditions

[\(IPC Code: International standard for eligible impairment \(Sep.2016\)\)](#)

Athletes who have a health condition or impairment that does not have an Eligible Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para Sport. These include those that primarily:

- cause pain (e.g. myofascial *pain* dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome)
- cause fatigue (e.g. chronic fatigue syndrome)
- cause hypermobility or hypotonia (e.g. Ehlers-Danlos syndrome)
- psychological or psychogenic in origin (conversion disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder).

An exhaustive list of pathologies and medical conditions is not possible in this document. When in doubt Para Archery International Classifiers must refer to the [IPC Classification Code](#) and associated documents.

In addition, World Archery rules deem short stature and intellectual impairment as non-eligible conditions for safety and/or health reasons.

4 Para-Archery Classification and Sport Classes

Once deemed as eligible, archers are evaluated as per the classification Evaluation processes and placed in one of the following classification groups, assigned a classification status and placed in an appropriate sport class

4.1 Para-Archery Classifications

There are 6 classification groups.

These four are classified by World Archery Classifiers:

- W1 (most severely impaired group)
- W2 (Wheelchair)
- ST (Standing)
- NE (Non-Eligible)

The remaining two groups are classified by IBSA Classifiers.

- B1 (Visually Impaired)
- B2/B3 Combined (Visually Impaired)

4.2 Classification Status

(IPC Code: International Standard for Athlete Evaluation (Sep.2016))

- Confirmed (C)
- Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD)

4.3 Para-Archery Sport Classes

- W1 Open
 - Men
 - Women
- Compound Open
 - Men
 - Women
- Recurve Open
 - Men
 - Women
- Visually Impaired

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SECTION 2 – CLASSIFICATION PANELS

5 Classification Panel Composition

[\(IPC Code: International Standard for Athlete Evaluation \(Sep.2016\)\)](#)

An international para archery classification panel will consist of a minimum of 2 authorized International Para Archery classifiers.

At least one of the classification panel members must be an International Para Archery Classifier. The other may be a New International Para Archery Classifier Candidate.

A panel should be composed of 2 International Para Archery Classifiers from different countries. If this is not possible the athletes classified will be given review status. Exception: If the condition is automatically acceptable, then a confirmed status will be given.

If possible, an International Para Archery Classifier will not be involved in the classification of a para archer from their own country. If the International Para Archery Classifier has to perform the classification for a para archer from their own country, the athlete will be given review status. Exception: If the condition is automatically acceptable, then confirmed status will be given.

If there are unforeseen last minute problems [e.g. missed flight or illness within the last 48 hours] an international para archery classification can proceed with one International Para Archery Classifier. In this case, classification will be given a review status. Exception: If the condition is automatically acceptable, then confirmed status will be given

At WA (World Archery) Para-Archery tournaments it is recommended that a minimum of 1 International Para Archery Classifier panel is present. Other panels may be added as required. World Archery may also organize Regional/Continental Classification Hubs as necessary.

A National para archery classification may be completed by one person but any athlete wishing to compete internationally must have an international classification evaluation completed prior to competing.

Note: All classifiers will be present up to the completion of the Qualification round, following which all but the Chief Classifier may leave.

SECTION 3 – ATHLETE EVALUATION

6 Functional Classification System

World Archery will use a Functional Classification Evaluation Methodology to assess the eligible athletes and determine if they meet the minimum eligibility criteria noted below

This classification system uses general disability profiles to help guide classification decisions.

All eligible functional impairments are tested by an assessment **of only those limbs, joints or muscles affected by the Eligible medical diagnosis on the Medical Intake form** and for assignment of points for impaired muscle strength, impaired neuromuscular hypertonicity, ataxia or for impaired passive joint range of motion. Consideration of the order of testing and appropriate tests to be used will be determined by the relevant eligible medical diagnosis as indicated on the Medical Intake Form.

NOTE that not all limbs, muscles or joints will be tested during the evaluation. For example, an archer with a Medical diagnosis affecting only the lower limbs will not have an evaluation of the upper limbs or trunk completed and no points must be assigned for the upper limb or trunk on the classification card. The classification decision will be based solely on the results of the evaluation of the lower limb(s) identified.)

NOTE: Visual Impairments will be tested and a classification status assigned by certificated IBSA classifiers.

Points are allocated in the following manner:

- Upper limbs - 180 total points:
 - Bow arm including the thumb - 95 points
 - String arm - 85 points
- Lower Limbs - 100 total points:
 - Each leg 50 points
- Trunk - 40 total points

The points total for all body regions equals 320 points.

Minimum impairment criteria needed to be eligible for para archery competition:

- A loss of 25 points in the upper limbs **OR** loss of 25 points in the lower limbs
- Amputation of the forearm above the wrist (no wrist joint present) – Automatically eligible
- Amputation of the lower 1/3 of the leg (no ankle joint present) – Automatically eligible
- Permanent, complete spinal cord lesion – Automatically eligible and evaluation performed to identify sport class and assistive devices allowed.

The classification process will also include a field test and observation of the archer shooting their bow to verify the actual functional level and if necessary to adjust bench test findings.

A classification panel may require that an athlete undertake an Observation Competition Assessment (OA) before it allocates a final sport class and designates a classification status.

7 Medical Intake Form

Para archery classification medical information must be submitted using the [Medical Intake Form](#) available at the World Archery web site. The Medical Intake Form **must** be completed in English not more than 12 months before the date of the classification and must be signed by both a **Medical Doctor (MD, DO)** and the athlete. The relevant medical diagnosis must be based on the World Health Organization ICD-10 code found at:

<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en>

Medical intake forms can only be submitted by the National Federation (NF)/National Association that has jurisdiction over the archer and must be sent by email to World Archery (classification@archery.org) at least 30 days prior to the date of the scheduled classification. Failure to do so will result in the athlete not being classified. Athletes wishing to be classified with a visual impairment must follow IBSA rules for submission of appropriate medical intake forms, which must be sent at least 6 weeks before the date of the tournament at which the classification would take place.

The WA Classification staff liaison will remove any identification from the form and submit to the WA Classification Committee for determination of Eligibility for classification.

The WA Classification Committee will review the Medical Intake form and the reported diagnosis(es) to determine if they meet World Archery and IPC criteria as eligible to be classified. The Head of Classification will notify the National Federation of those athletes who are eligible to attend classification prior to the final closing date for the tournament registration. The Head of Classification will return the Medical Intake forms of those athletes determined to be not eligible to be classified based on the reported medical diagnosis to the National Federation. This is done to ensure that athletes and teams do not pay tournament, housing, and travel fees in advance for athletes who cannot be classified. Situations will always arise where this information is not known until the actual classification session, however the Head of Classification will do everything possible to inform the national governing body as early as possible when a "non-eligible" or "non-classifiable" status is suspected based on medical intake form.

The Head of Classification may request further information or clarification from the NF. If this can be supplied prior to the deadline and supports the determination of eligibility, the athlete may be considered for evaluation.

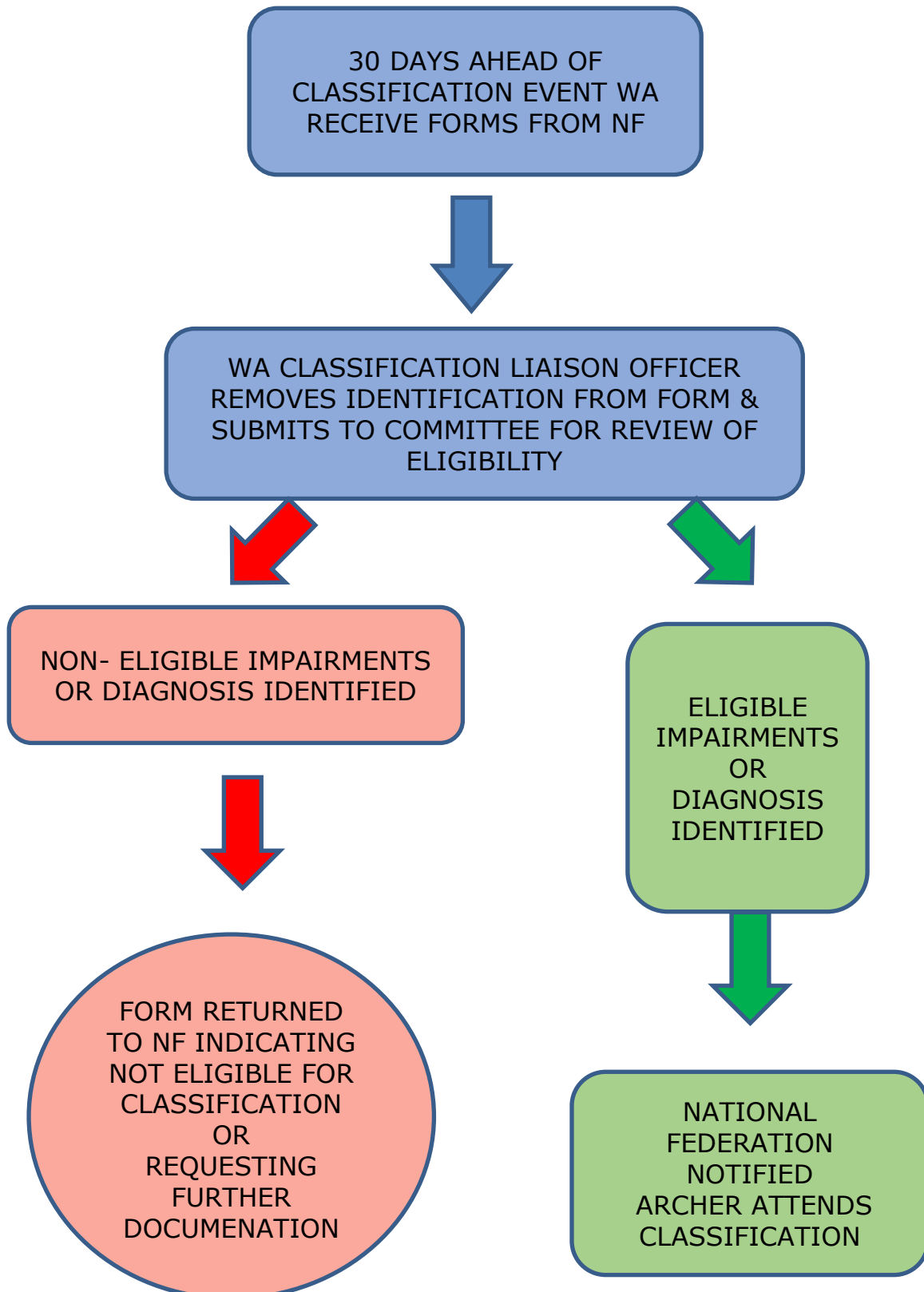
When extenuating circumstances have been identified, the Head of Classification may delegate the review of the Medical Intake form and determination of eligibility to the Chief Classifier of an event.

Procedure can be seen in the following Medical Intake decision tree diagram.

A non-classified athlete will not be allowed to compete for score or for records in the tournament and must not participate at all in any match play. They may be allowed to shoot during the qualification round at the discretion of the organizing committee.

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Medical Intake Form Procedure



8 Classification Procedures

8.1 Bench testing

Based on the relevant, eligible medical condition or diagnosis reported on the Medical Intake form, the International Para Archery Classifier identifies which Functional Classification testing system is to be performed to assign points associated with muscle strength impairments, hypertonicity impairments, ataxia or passive joint range of motion impairments (see [Table 1](#)). For example, in relation to Neuromuscular impairment then use manual muscle testing (MMT) will be used, permanent articular damage Passive ROM testing will be used, for ataxia the SARA scale will be used, for hypertonicity the Modified Ashworth scale will be used and range of motion will be tested using goniometry.

Impairment point determination is to be performed in a private, designated location using a clinical treatment table whilst maintaining professional codes of conduct. Please refer to the [Code of Ethics](#) for Para Archery Classification.

Impairment point determination using manual muscle testing methods should refer to either the Daniels & Worthingham or Kendall Manual Muscle Testing Textbooks¹.

Full details of testing procedure and point allocation can be found within the [Testing Procedure Section](#).

For candidates who have multiple eligible diagnoses/impairments reported on the Medical Intake Form, the International Para Archery Classifier, taking into account the views of the athlete and their team, must determine which evaluation test method (strength, range of motion, or spasticity) is most appropriate to enable successful para archer classification through assessment of the most severe form of impairment.

8.2 Field testing

The classification process will also include a field test and observation of the archer shooting their bow to verify actual archery function level and, if necessary, to adjust bench test findings. It is important that classifiers also observe the activities of athletes away from the shooting line in order to help assess their general motor skills.

The use of videos and/or photographs is permitted to aid in this.

¹ Muscles: Testing and Function, with Posture and Pain (Kendall, Muscles) 5th Edition by Florence Peterson Kendall, Elizabeth Kendall McCreary, Patricia Geise Provance, Mary McIntyre Rodgers, William Anthony Romani. Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2005

Daniels and Worthingham's Muscle Testing: Techniques of Manual Examination and Performance Testing, 9th Edition by Helen Hislop, Dale Avers, Marybeth Brown. Elsevier Saunders, 2014

Modified Ashworth scale - <http://www.rehabmeasures.org/Lists/RehabMeasures/DispForm.aspx?ID=902>

SARA scale - [http://www.physio-pedia.com/Scale_for_the_Assessment_and_Rating_of_Ataxia_\(SARA\)](http://www.physio-pedia.com/Scale_for_the_Assessment_and_Rating_of_Ataxia_(SARA))

9 Classification Forms

As soon as possible after the end of the classification session the athlete will be provided with a printed copy of their classification form. The para archer is responsible to have the classification form with them at all competitions and produce it at equipment inspection or at the request of the Chief International Classifier. A digital copy is acceptable.

Classification forms will be stored in the World Archery database and the results recorded on the WA Master Classification List as soon as possible.

Complete personal details must appear on the Classification Form and all items on the form completed by the classifier. Both classifiers and the archer must sign the form and a current picture of the archer and any unique assistive devices must be included.

The International Para Archery Classifier must include important comments in the comments section of the form regarding the para archer's functional status (e.g. balance) or other factors not listed on the Classification Form drop-down menu.

If a Review Status has been applied, the Classification Form will contain a Fixed Review date by which time any review must be resolved.

Authorized assistive devices must be documented using the drop-down menu of the Classification Form. In cases where an archer does not qualify for stool, wheelchair or strapping based on points achieved but is authorized to do so by the International Classifier, the rationale for this decision must be included on the Classification Form.

Assistive devices can only be used that match the level of impairment and are not to be authorized in order to enhance performance.

Assistive devices are subject to all equipment rules as specified in [World Archery Rule Book 3 Chapter 21](#). If a modified version of a permitted item is seen, then the International Judges Commission, in conjunction with the Technical Delegate of the tournament, must be consulted. It may be subject to appeal and even a subsequent request for an official interpretation.

Athletes classified as NE may on occasion be allowed assistive devices in order to enable them to shoot safely. In these cases, the athlete will be issued with a Classification Form with a classification status of NE (C) and indicating the device they are authorized to use. The Classification Form must include a current photo of the athlete, description of the assistive device, date of approval and the signatures of both the athlete and the classifiers. This form must be presented during equipment inspection at all WA tournaments.

10 Classification Not Completed

[\(IPC Code: International Standard for Athlete Evaluation \(Sep.2016\)\)](#)

If at any stage of the evaluation the panel is unable to complete the assessment the Chief Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC). The athlete designated as CNC may not compete until such time as the classification evaluation may be successfully completed and a Classification Class can be determined. As noted below, Pain may limit the ability to complete the assessment.

Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage. Pain motivates the individual to withdraw from damaging situations, to protect a damaged body part, and to avoid similar experiences in the future. Pain may persist despite removal of the stimulus and sometimes pain arises in the absence of any detectable reason. Pain is a major symptom in many medical conditions, and can interfere with a person's quality of life and general function. Psychological factors such as social support, hypnotic suggestion, excitement, or distraction can significantly modulate pain's intensity or unpleasantness.

If the archer's pain is too great the classification cannot be performed as the experience of pain may alter test performance making the results invalid. When sufficient pain is present at the time of the evaluation, then the evaluation must be suspended and the Athlete identified as CNC. The athlete cannot compete until the evaluation has been completed at a later date.

11 Sport Class Status

11.1 Confirmed Status (C)

Para archers with an eligible amputation, confirmed complete spinal cord injury, or other conditions deemed to be permanent or unchanging by the classification panel may be recorded as confirmed status.

Athletes with a confirmed status who are aware of substantive condition changes and who think that their sport class is no longer correct may apply for re-classification following the usual procedures to request a classification.

Under exceptional circumstances an athlete may be reviewed through an International Sport Federation protest if it is suspected that the athlete's condition has changed since the time of their last classification. (See [Appendix 4](#) - Protests & Appeals for details)

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11.2 Review Status (FRD)

When a review status has been assigned to a classification, the classification panel will set and record the Fixed Review Date. The classification status will expire as of the Fixed Review Date and the athlete must attend reclassification before being eligible to compete in para-archery events. If this date falls within the dates of an International Tournament, the review must be completed before the qualification round starts. All of the required procedures for requests for classification must be followed including obtaining and submitting a new Medical Intake form.

Based on the acuteness and/or changing nature of the medical condition a review may be recommended at 2 years following the initial classification. Given innovative advances in pharmaceutical therapies and rehabilitation methods and the changing definition of "disability" more athletes will be classified as review status than in the past. Para archers should not consider review status as suggesting that their condition or disability is being questioned. Review status helps the classification team assure that the athlete is classified appropriately.

The following outlines the process to be followed:

1. Classifications that require review must have a specific review date which will be based on one of following two sets of criteria. Examples of each can be seen in the 'Examples' section below:
 - i. *The review date for non-medical reasons (issues related to classification panel) will be set for immediately after the end of the tournament in which the initial classification is done*
 - ii. *For all evolving medical conditions there may be up to a 2-year review date.*
2. The review date must include day, month and year in the format dd.mm.yyyy.
3. The reason for the review must be added to the comment column on the back page of the classification card.

In the comment column in the front page, it must be stated "This classification is no longer valid from (date of review)"

4. It must be explained to the athlete, in the presence of the athlete's representative in the classification room, the reason for review as well as the review date.

Note: It is the responsibility of the athlete and their National Federation to arrange for a new classification after the review date.

Examples:

1. Avoid assigning Confirmed sport class status to athletes who are young, inexperienced or recently injured. Athletes with congenital motor/skeletal disorders or who sustain neurological injury when they are young should be allocated review status every 2 years until they are deemed to be skeletally mature.

2. The following cases are examples where the review date would be set for immediately after the end of the tournament at which the classification was completed:

- One or both of the classifiers are of the same nationality as the athlete.
- One or both of the classifiers have an existing or previous relationship with the athlete, e.g. family member, team manager/coach, physician/patient etc. In case of doubt, the relationship must be declared and a review status given.
- When two classifiers have differing opinions, the Chief International Classifier's opinion will prevail for the tournament but a review status will be given.
- When the classification is done in a non-ideal environment, e.g. without provision of proper equipment or room provided by the local organizing committee meaning that the assessment cannot be done to a satisfactory level.
- When the athlete presents differently in the field of play to their presentation in the classification room and the classifiers require more observation time. NB. It is necessary for the classifier to be aware of the possibility of misrepresentation, deliberate or not.

3. Below are examples of cases where a review date of two years would be applied:

- Brain injury cases which are less than 4 years post injury
- Incomplete spinal cord injuries which are less than 18 months post injury
- Relapsing/Remitting Multiple Sclerosis will be on a permanent review date of every 2 years unless the medical intake form indicates the condition has stabilized and is no longer evolving. Primary Progressive MS may be given a Confirmed status.
- All other evolving medical conditions will carry a 2-year review date.

11.3 Not Eligible Status (NE)

Those athletes whose Medical Intake form does not include an eligible diagnosis or condition will automatically be identified as NE by the WA Head of Classification &/or the WA Classification Committee.

12 Minimum Impairment Criteria Not Achieved

In any case where the athlete has been assigned a NE status due to insufficient deficit points following bench testing or after the observational field test, the athlete will be reviewed by a second panel of different International Para Archery Classifiers with no protest fee required. This second panel review will occur as soon as is practicable. If a second panel is not available immediately, then the NE classification stands until such time as the archer can be assessed by the new panel. This is an automatic process and the athlete's NF does not need to file an official protest for this to happen. If the second panel finds that the athlete is NE, then the decision is final. There can be no further protest. See [IPC Code International Standard for Athlete Evaluation](#) for process/procedures to be followed.

Procedure:

- 1st panel • NE – automatic second panel assessment
- 2nd panel • NE – Decision final
- NE (C) Assigned.

- 1st panel • Sport class assigned and protested
- 2nd panel • NE
- 3rd panel • assessment
- Decision by majority and Final

- 1st panel • NE – automatic second panel assessment
- 2nd panel • Assigns sport class

Note, if an athlete is awaiting a second assessment, they will be allocated Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with a review status. The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before re-assessment.

13 Misconduct during Evaluation Session

An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session and if they fail to attend 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. 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.

A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Sport Class for reasons including, but not limited to, one or more of the following circumstances:

- the athlete does not comply with any part of the Classification Rules
- the athlete fails to provide necessary medical information
- the 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
- the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel
- 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
- the athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel

If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, 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 NF. If the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier, the Evaluation Session will be resumed.

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 will be precluded from competing until the determination is completed.

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 Section 10 of this handbook.

Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

14 Intentional Misrepresentation

([See IPC Code Chapter 1.3 Models of best practice, Intentional Misrepresentation Rules](#))

When an athlete signs both the medical intake form and the classification consent form they are promising to contribute fully to the classification process as honestly as possible. Intentional misrepresentation is in violation of the Classification rules. If the athlete intentionally misrepresents their true skills and/or abilities, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class and will not be permitted to compete. Intentional misrepresentation is a serious offence that may result in sanctioning by World Archery. Any case must be referred to the World Archery Secretary General.

Any protests against classification must be made in writing by the representative of the National Federation of the athlete(s) concerned. A protest must be accompanied by a fee of Euro (€) 40 or USD (\$) 50 and be submitted to the Chief International Classifier within 30 minutes of the end of the Qualification round. The protest is submitted using the [Classification Protest Form](#) from the World Archery web site. It is no longer possible to protest against the classification of an athlete from another country.

NO protest by a National Federation about a classification issue will be accepted after this time limit.

World Archery, The International Sport Federation at a tournament may make a protest "under exceptional circumstances" at any time by completing the "International Sport Federation Protest" process. Refer to Appendix 6 for the procedures.

There is no legal liability to classify everybody. To say that someone is "not eligible" or "not classifiable" does not mean they do not have a disability. It means they may have a condition which is excluded by the IPC list of eligible conditions and/or they do not fit the criteria established by World Archery.

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Section 4 – TESTING PROCEDURES

15 Bench Testing Assessment

15.1 Assessment of Points

Based on the reported diagnosis on the Medical Intake Form (and using the following decision tree) the International Para Archery Classifier will identify which impairment test/scale will be used to evaluate the athlete and which anatomical areas will be assessed.

NOTE:

Simple muscle weakness or decreased endurance related to disuse/pain or deconditioning is not an eligible impairment and cannot be used to determine eligibility or classification.

Limbs and the trunk if not related to the Medical Diagnosis identified on the Medical Intake form will not be included in the assessment for points.

15.2 Testing methods

- Neuromuscular related muscle weakness will be tested using **Manual Muscle Testing (MMT)**
- Chronic, long term inflammatory conditions with permanent articular damage or injuries that have resulted in permanent disability will be evaluated with passive **ROM using goniometry**
- Neurological conditions with hypertonicity - Para archers with a medical diagnosis that results in hypertonicity will be tested using rapid, passive movement through full range and scored using the **Modified Ashworth Scale (MAS)**. Associated reactions of the upper limbs, lower limbs and trunk will be carefully observed during field testing. Field testing while shooting enables the International Para Archery Classifier to evaluate the influence of head and neck posture on postural reflexes. Field testing enables the International Para Archery Classifier to verify or modify clinical exam findings.
- Neuromuscular conditions with ataxia related motor power deficits – **Sara Scale outcome measure** will be used.
- For gait individual is asked
 - (1) to walk at a safe distance parallel to a wall including a half-turn (turn around to face the opposite direction of gait) and
 - (2) to walk in tandem (heels to toes) without support

If Balance needs to be assessed in order to identify need for assistive devices such as a stool or strapping, the following scales will be used in sitting or standing as appropriate:

- **Standing Balance**

Individual is asked to stand

- (1) in natural position,
- (2) with feet together in parallel (big toes touching each other) and
- (3) in tandem (both feet on one line, no space between heel and toe).

Individual does not wear shoes, eyes are open.

For each condition, three trials are allowed. Best trial is rated.

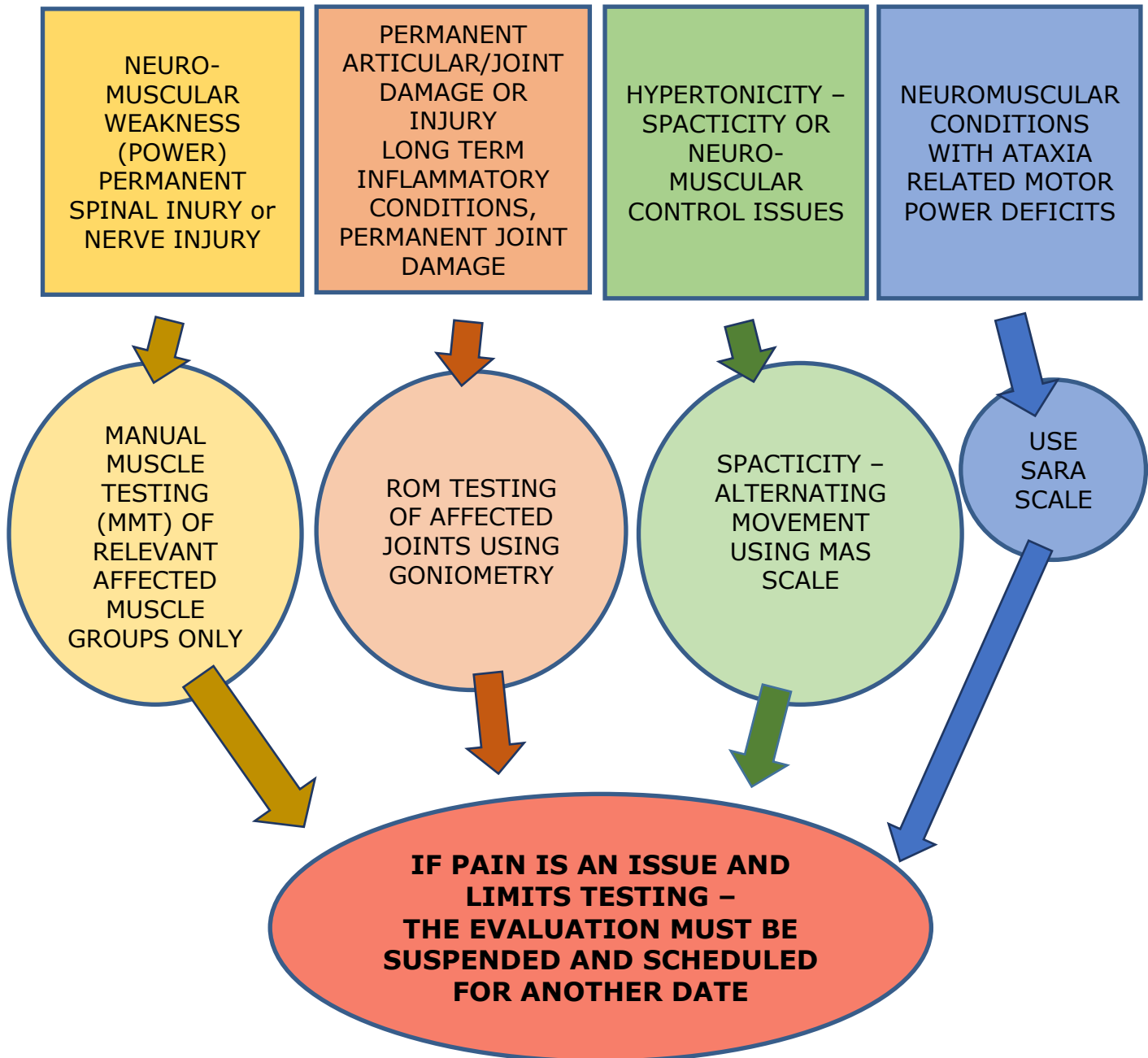
- 5 Normal - Able to stand with feet together without sway, in tandem or not in tandem for 10 seconds
- 4 Able to stand with feet together for 10 seconds, but only with sway
- 3 Able to stand for 10 seconds without support in natural position, but not with feet together
- 2 Able to stand for 10 seconds in natural position only with intermittent support
- 1 Able to stand 10 seconds in natural position only with constant support of one arm
- 0 Unable to stand for 10 seconds even with constant support of one arm

- **Sitting Balance**

Individual is asked to sit on an examination bed without support of feet, eyes open and arms outstretched to the front.

- 0 Normal, no difficulties sitting 10 seconds
- 1 Slight difficulties, intermittent sway
- 2 Constant sway, but able to sit 10 seconds without support
- 3 Able to sit for 10 seconds only with intermittent support
- 4 Unable to sit for 10 seconds without continuous support

BENCH TEST DECISION TREE



IF BALANCE IS A SAFETY CONCERN THE USE OF AN APPROPRIATE ASSISTIVE DEVICE MAY BE APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION PANEL UTILIZING THE STANDING OR SITTING BALANCE TESTING SCALE

15.3 Classification Scoring System

Table 1.

Muscle Strength		Joint Mobility		Hypertonicity		Ataxia	
0	No voluntary movements	0	No ROM	0	Affected part(s) rigid in flexion or extension	0	Walking only with strong support (two special sticks or stroller or accompanying person) or Unable to walk even supported
1	Trace, faint contraction without movement	1	Minimal ROM	1	Considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement difficult	1	Severe staggering, permanent support of one stick or light support by one arm required
2	Poor, full available range with gravity eliminated	2	1/4 ROM	2	More marked increase in muscle tone through most of the ROM, but affected part(s) easily moved	2	Marked staggering, intermittent support of the wall required
3	Fair, full available range against gravity without further resistance	3	1/2 ROM	3	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder (less than half) of the ROM	3	Considerable staggering, difficulties in half-turn, but without support
4	Good, contraction through full available ROM against gravity and some resistance	4	3/4 ROM	4	Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch and release or by minimal resistance at the end of the ROM when the affected part(s) is moved in flexion or extension	4	Clearly abnormal, tandem walking >10 steps not possible
5	Normal, contraction through full available ROM against gravity with full resistance	5	Full ROM	5	No increase in muscle tone	5	Normal, no difficulties in walking, turning and walking tandem (up to one misstep allowed)

Point System

Range of Movement: 0 - No range of movement 1 - Minimal range of movement 2 - 1/4 movement 3 - 1/2 movement 4 - 3/4 movement 5 - Full range of movement

Muscular Strength: 0 - Total lack of voluntary contraction 1 - Trace, faint contraction without any movement 2 - Poor, contraction with very weak movement through full range of motion when gravity is eliminated 3 - Fair, contraction with movement through the complete joint range against gravity 4 - Good, contraction with full range of movement against gravity and some resistance 5 - Normal, contraction of normal strength through full range of motion against full resistance

Hypertonicity: 0 - Affected part(s) rigid in flexion or extension 1 - Considerable increase in muscle tone, passive movement difficult 2 - More marked increase in muscle tone through most of the ROM, but affected part(s) easily moved. 3 - Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch, followed by minimal resistance throughout the remainder (less than half) of the ROM. 4 - Slight increase in muscle tone, manifested by a catch and release or by minimal resistance at the end of the ROM when the affected part(s) is moved in flexion or extension. 5 - No increase in muscle tone.

Where coordination affects the trunk, scores are determined with manual muscle testing, but the critical place to assess archery specific balance and trunk co-ordination of any athlete is on the field.

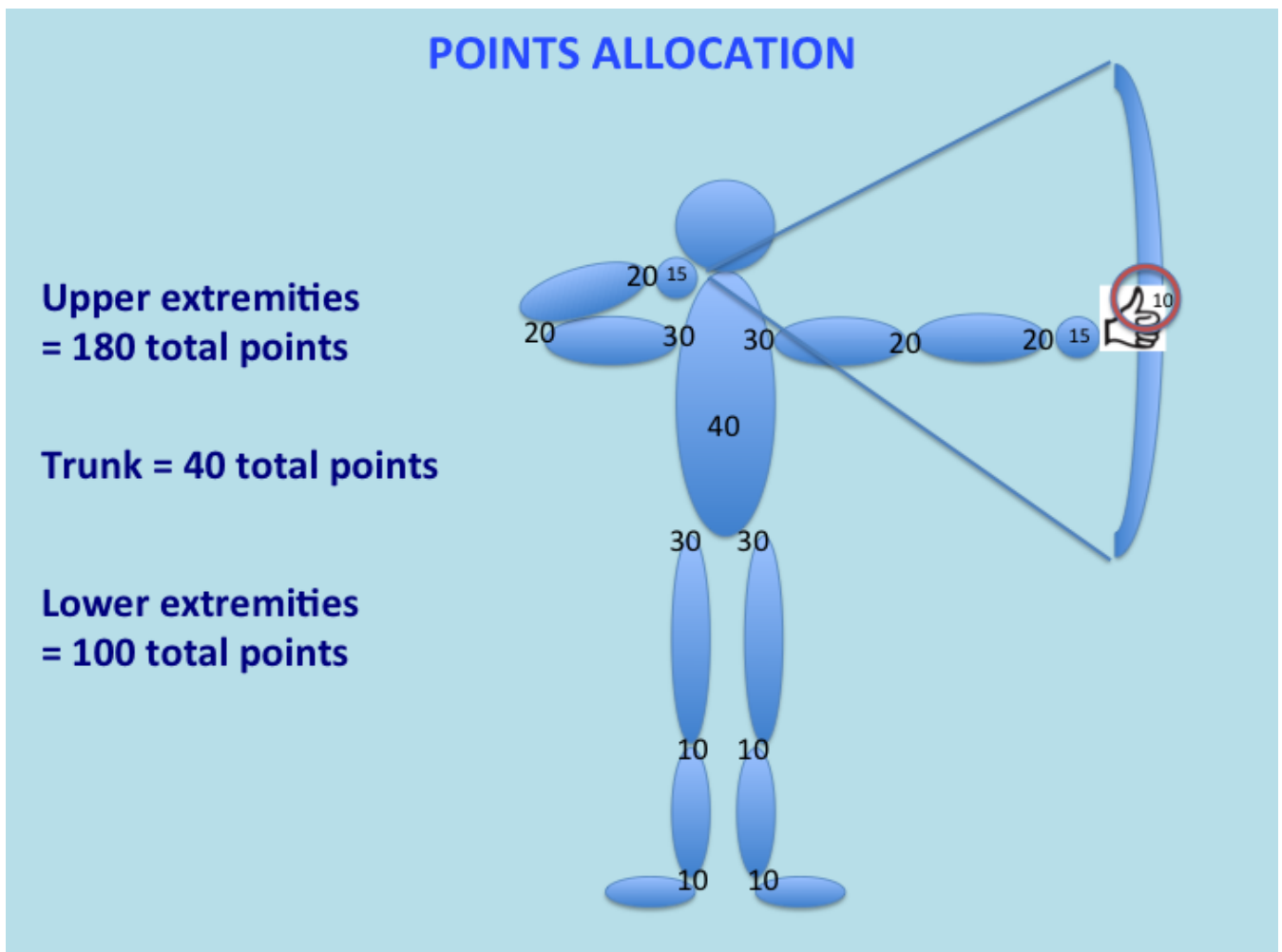
Remember the loss of strength in core muscle groups must be directly related to the neuromuscular diagnosis identified on the Medical Intake form and the impairment and not simply the inability to complete the test due to untrained, deconditioned muscles.

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16 VISUAL GUIDE TO THE ALLOCATION OF POINTS

Points allocation:

- Upper limbs - 180 total points:
 - Bow arm including the thumb - 95 points
 - String arm - 85 points
- Lower Limbs - 100 total points:
 - Each leg 50 points
- Trunk - 40 total points



Section 5 - SPORT CLASS PROFILES

17 W1

W1 class athlete represents a para archer who demonstrates functional impairments in at least three limbs and the trunk. A total minimum of **85** points distributed as noted below will be required for a W1 classification.

The minimum standard of **50** points loss in lower limb as per W2 category **AND** a further **25** points in the upper limbs. **AND** a minimum of **10** points will be required in the trunk.

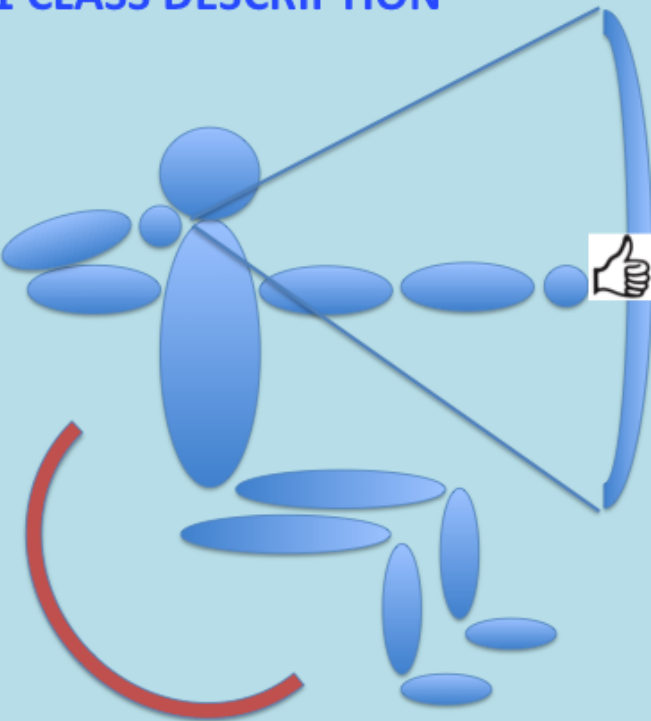
All W1 athletes are required to shoot from a wheelchair.

W1 CLASS DESCRIPTION

W1 class athlete represents a para archer who demonstrates functional impairments in at least three limbs and the trunk. A total minimum of 85 points distributed as noted below will be required for a W1 classification.

The minimum standard of **50** points loss in lower limb as per W2 category **AND** a further **25** points in the upper limbs. **AND** a minimum of **10** points will be required in the trunk.

All W1 athletes are required to shoot from a wheelchair



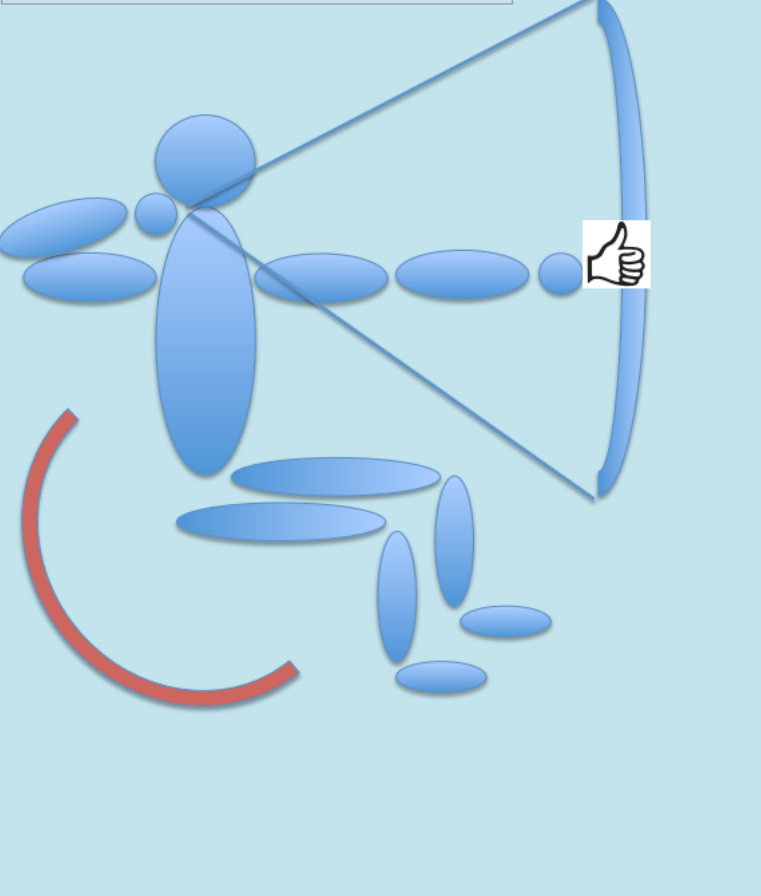
18 W2

A W2 para archer will have paraplegia or comparable disability with a minimum loss of **50** points in the lower limbs.

Athletes in this class display minimal or no limitations in upper extremity strength, range of motion, or coordination. Because of differing levels of spinal cord involvement or bilateral above knee amputation stump lengths, athletes deemed suitable for this class display variable trunk impairment levels.

W2 athletes may shoot from a wheelchair.

W2 class para archers shoot in either the open compound or open recurve class.

A W2 para archer will have paraplegia or comparable disability	W2 CLASS DESCRIPTION
Athletes in this class display minimal or no limitations in upper extremity strength, range of motion, or coordination.	
Because of differing levels of spinal cord involvement or bilateral above knee amputation stump lengths, athletes deemed eligible for this class display variable trunk impairment levels.	
W2 athletes may shoot from a wheelchair with a minimum loss of 50 points in the lower limbs	
W2 class para archers shoot in either the open compound or open recurve shooting class.	

19 Standing Class

A standing class para archer is one who meets the minimum requirements to be a para-archer as set out in the section **Functional Classification System**

Minimum impairment be eligible for para archery competition:

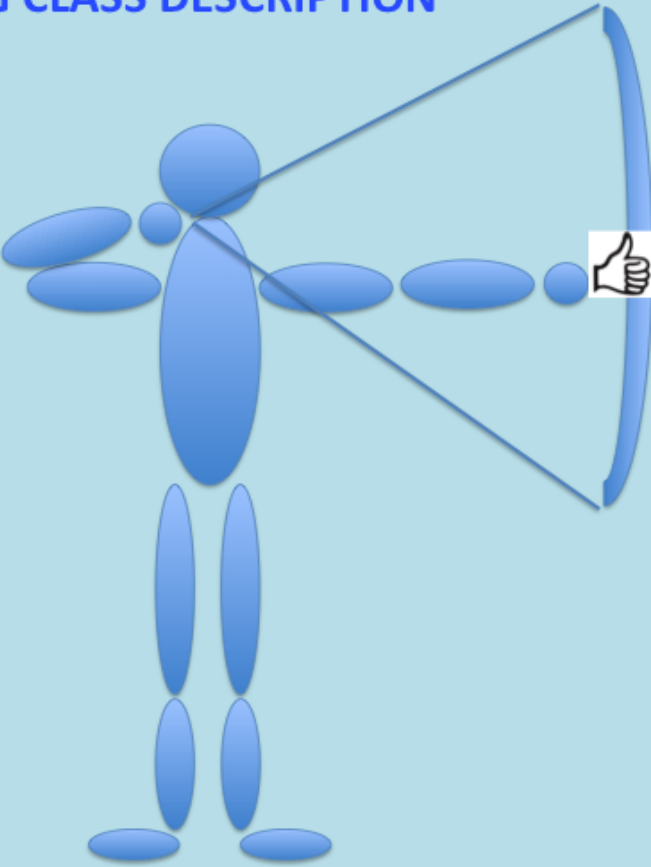
- A loss of 25 points in the upper limbs **OR** loss of 25 points in the lower limbs
- Amputation of the forearm above the wrist (no wrist joint present)
- Amputation of the lower 1/3 of the leg (no ankle joint present)

STANDING CLASS DESCRIPTION

The minimum eligibility standard for this class is a loss of 25 points in both (not each) lower or upper limbs

This class generally includes otherwise non-impaired athletes who have sustained amputation to the distal 1/3° of the lower extremity (above the ankle); the distal 1/3° of the forearm (above the wrist).

In rare cases para archers who use their lower extremities to shoot may be included in this class.



20 Visually Impaired (VI)

A VI para archer is one with visual impairments.

There are two divisions:

- VI 1 athletes wear a blind fold and
- VI 2/3 who do not wear blindfolds.

These para archers must be classified by an International Blind Sport Association (IBSA) Classifier nominated by the International Blind Sports Association – See Appendix 2 for Classification details. These archers are tested for visual acuity only.

Visually Impaired archers must apply to World Archery for classification by using the specific [Medical Intake form](#) which can be accessed via the World Archery website visually impaired archers are allowed assistive devices such as blindfolds, tactile sights and an assistant or a coach as authorized by the IBSA Classifier and as outlined in [WA Target Rule Book 3 Chapter 21 Para-Archery](#).

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Section 6 - SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Assistive devices are not intended for performance enhancement and must match the level of impairment as reported on the Medical Intake form and confirmed by bench and field testing. Their use is only to enable fair and equal sport, not to give any archer an advantage over another.

All personal equipment **must** comply with [World Archery Rules for Athletes Equipment](#) in Rule Book 3, Chapter 11 and in [World Archery Rules for Para-Archery](#) in Rule Book 3, Chapter 21. The use of an assistive device must be approved by an International classification panel and be identified on the Classification Form. Use of the device is subject to the ruling of the judges at any event. See [section 21](#), below for details.

Classifiers must complete the assistive device section on the Classification Form specifically documenting the approved equipment and the rationale for allowing it. Such equipment may include: wheelchair, stool, block or wedge for the foot, body support or strapping, prosthesis, use of a release aid system, bow bandage, elbow splint, wrist splint, lower extremity straps or an assistant as necessary. Classifiers must be present during equipment inspection at WA tournaments in order to provide guidance to judges as required with regards to assistive devices.

21 Assistive Devices

The following devices may be authorized, depending on need and provided all conditions are met for each device.

21.1 Wheelchair

Athletes may shoot from a wheelchair if a minimum loss of 50 points in the lower limbs and/or in combination with the trunk is identified.

- A wheelchair must fit within the accepted definition of a standard wheelchair. It may have only 3 or 4 wheels in contact with the ground at any time and may be manually or electrically operated.
- Scooters are **not** allowed on the shooting line and are not an alternative to a wheelchair.
- Any electric wheelchair must be placed in the neutral drive position and turned off at all times when on the shooting line.
- A moulded wheelchair back or a removable back support that is not attached to the chair or the archer, is allowable provided the **highest** point of the wheelchair is at least 110mm below the armpit of the archer when in

shooting position and provided it does not protrude any further forward than the half point between the base of the sternum and the spinous process at T7. At no time may any part of the chair support the bow arm during shooting.

- **NOTE** - A W1 archer may be classified to use a higher back for medical or safety reasons, not for performance enhancement, but it must still subscribe to the 110mm rule at the sides of the chair and the sides of the backrest and not contact the arm in any way.
- Neither the feet of the athlete nor the footplates of the wheelchair may make contact with the ground when shooting. Feet and/or leg straps may be authorized for those with lower limb spasticity to help prevent feet or legs jerking or going into spasm while shooting.
- The wheelchair and para archer must fit within the 1.25 meters allowed per archer on the shooting line. A block to even up the chair if the ground is uneven and/or a wedge to prevent rolling are permitted.
- A classification panel may approve use of a wheelchair for a para archer who scores fewer 50 points on the grounds of safety. The rationale for approving the use of the wheelchair must be clearly outlined in the comment section of the classification card.

21.2 Stool

A stool may be used by standing class athletes with a minimum disability of 38 points in the lower limbs.

- A stool must not have a backrest of any kind.
- The stool and archer must fit within the shooting line space of 80 cm along the shooting line and 60 cm at right angles to the shooting line.
- The classification panel may approve stool use for an archer who scores fewer 38 points on the grounds of safety. The rationale for approving the use of the stool must be clearly outlined in the comment section of the classification card.

21.3 Permitted Body Support / Strapping:

Strapping in any class is only to be used for medical or safety reasons and not to enhance performance.

- W1 class para archers may use any non-rigid corset-type body support and/or chest straps in any combination as medically necessary and as approved by the International Para Archery Classifiers. Only W1 athletes may use a protrusion and body strapping at the same time and only if classified to do so for medical or safety reasons.
- W2 class para archers with a neurological disease identified on their Medical Intake Form may use a single chest strap if authorized by classifiers for medical or safety reasons. Chest straps may not be more than 2 inches (5 centimeters) wide at any point and wound only horizontally and only once around the torso. A strap may not be placed higher than the legal chair back height for the archer concerned.
- Where, for medical reasons and with a prescription from a medical specialist, a rigid or non-rigid corset type support is required (e.g. after surgery or for youth with severe scoliosis) it may be approved by classifiers for a specified time. The W2 archer may not use the corset in conjunction with strapping.
NOTE: The time limit must be designated with a fixed review date on the classification form and be determined by a classification panel. The rationale for the temporary use should be clearly described in the comments on the classification card.

21.4 Release Aid system

- International classifiers may authorize the use of a simple system that assists the archer to use a legal release aid based on the functional deficit of the athlete (e.g. simple harness system).
- The release aid itself is governed by World Archery Rules Book 3, chapter 11 and must be approved for use by the judges at the event.
- Para archers may use a mouth tab provided it is permanently attached to the string.

21.5 Bow Bandage

Para archers with a bow arm disability may use a bow bandage to secure the bow grip to their hand as deemed eligible by the classifier. A bow bandage represents any form of non-rigid strapping which assists with bow gripping while still allowing for bow movement upon arrow release.

21.6 Bow Arm Aid

An archer who is unable to hold a bow may use an artificial aid to do so. This aid may be attached to the bow provided that it is not totally rigid or permanently fixed while still allowing for bow movement upon arrow release. Under no circumstances may it be electric or electronically controlled.

21.7 Bow Arm Splints

Para archers with a bow arm disability may use an elbow splint and/or wrist splint, as deemed eligible by the International Para Archery Classifier based on the functional impairment of the athlete. This must be clearly described on the classification card.

21.8 String Arm Wrist Splint

Para archers with a string arm disability may use a wrist splint or wrist splint-release aid combination as deemed eligible by the International Para Archery Classifier based on the functional impairment of the athlete.

21.9 Block or Wedge

Devices to raise the foot or part thereof, attached or independent of the shoe are permitted provided that they do not present an obstruction to other athletes at the shooting line, are in contact with the ground, and such that they do not protrude more than 2 cm beyond shoe dimensions

21.10 Shooting Assistant

With classification panel approval, W1 or ST class para-archers with severe upper limb disability who are unable to safely, or efficiently nock their arrows or adjust their sight may be allowed an assistant for this purpose. The shooting assistant must not adjust the bow sight until the end of the shooting signal. The assistant must not be a disturbance to other archers and must wear the same uniform and number as the para archer. If the para archer obtains approval to use an assistant then the assistant should assist during both the qualification round and during match play.

During match play the archer may have an Assistant **OR** a Coach in the box, but not both.

21.11 Visually Impaired Aids

Allowed devices are blindfold, tactile sights and an assistant or a coach as authorized by the IBSA Classifier and as outlined in [WA Target Rule Book 3](#) Chapter 21 Para-Archery.

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Appendices

- [Appendix 1](#) – Classifiers Pledge and Enrolment Document
- [Appendix 2](#) – VI Classifications standards and procedures
- [Appendix 3](#) - Application for World Archery International Re-Classification
- [Appendix 4](#) - Protests and Appeals Procedures
- [Appendix 5](#) - Links to documents referred to in this document

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Appendix 1 CLASSIFIERS PLEDGE AND ENROLEMENT FORM

Classifier's Pledge

I pledge to:

To safeguard the dignity of the athlete with a disability, and the sport of archery; To oppose discrimination on the basis of disability; or discrimination related to race, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, philosophical or political opinion, marital status or sexual orientation; To maintain confidentiality of all health-related athlete information; To display courtesy and respect to athletes, and all others involved in the sport; To perform all assigned duties competently, consistently, and objectively; To declare any potential conflicts of interest that could be perceived as using the International Para Archery Classifier role to obtain advantages or benefits of any kind

X

Signed by (Name)

X

Date



World Archery International Para Archery Classifier Application/Enrolment Form

First Name:						
Last Name:						
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nationality:						
Address:						
Email:						
Phone:						
Professional Qualifications (Medical and/or allied health professionals):						
Speak English	Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write English	Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Read English	Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understand English	Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer Experience	Very Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outline of why you wish to be a classifier. Please include experience of archery within the last 4 years.						
National Archery Federation name						
National Federation Representative (Note - you must be nominated by your national archery federation)	Name: Role in Federation: Signature:					
Signature of Applicant:						
Date:						

Please send this form to World Archery.

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Appendix 2

VISUALLY IMPAIRED CLASSIFICATION

The classification is based only on acuity and refers to IBSA classes B1, B2 and B3:

- B1: No light perception in either eye, up to light perception. No recognition of hand movement at any distance or any direction.
- B2: From ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 2/60.
- B3: From visual acuity of above 2/60 up to visual acuity of 6/60.

Classification shall be based on examination of both eyes, and on the best correction in the best eye. (I.e. All archers who use contact or corrective lenses must wear them for classification, whether they intend to compete wearing them or not. It is also irrelevant whether the archer is left or right handed.)

Archers must face the target through alignment, aiming and release of the arrow.

Classification is determined using a LogMAR values for different distances chart.

The [VI Medical Intake Form](#) can be found at the World Archery Website, [Para Archery Page](#).

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Appendix 3

Application for World Archery International Re-Classification

A form is available on this World Archery website for any archer who wishes to apply for an international reclassification. This may be required where an archer's condition has changed and both review date athletes and confirmed athletes may apply.

The form may be downloaded from this link:

[World Archery Para Archery](#)

Forms must be filled in by the applicant and returned to the World Archery Office by email with signature of both athlete and the National Member Association

Archers will need to provide their existing classification class and status, date of existing classification, venue where existing classification done and a reason for the reclassification.

Important notes:

Previous medical intake form and the new medical intake form must be submitted together. The new medical intake form must not be written more than 12 months prior to this application.

Please also submit a copy of the existing classification card.

If the form is not fully completed by the applicant's Member Association, the application will be refused.

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Appendix 4

Protests & Appeals

1. Protests

- 1.1. The term "Protest" is used in these Rules as it is in the [IPC Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals](#). It refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Class (W1, W2 or Standing) is made and subsequently resolved. There can be no protest over an athlete's sport class status (Confirmed or Review).
- 1.2. A successful Protest request will result in a further Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a different Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a "Protest Panel". This re-evaluation should be carried out at the earliest opportunity but it is recognised this may not be until a later tournament in order to have a different panel carry out the task. Where the protest evaluation has to take place at a later tournament the initial classification will stand.
- 1.3. An Athlete's Class may only be protested ONCE in any Competition. This restriction does not apply to protests submitted in exceptional circumstances through a World Archery protest.
- 1.4. Protests should be resolved in a manner that will minimise the impact on Competition participation and Competition schedules and results. It may be necessary to delay parts/all of the competition and or the publication of the results while the protest is resolved. Any such delay must be made in consultation with the TD, local organising committee and the chairperson of the tournament Judges' Commission.
- 1.5. Protests may only be submitted during a Competition at which the classification takes place and within the timeframes specified below. Once the time frame has passed NO further protests may be made [save for Protests made by the World Archery Representative in Exceptional Circumstances].

2. Protest Procedures during Competitions

- 2.1. Protests may only be submitted by the Authorized representative of the National Federation who has jurisdiction over the athlete named in the protest.
- 2.2. The Chief International Para Archery Classifier for the event shall be the International Federation representative authorised to receive Protests.

- 2.3. An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested by the Athlete's National Federation within 30 minutes of the end of the Qualification Round.
- 2.4. The World Archery Classification Protest form must be completed fully and in English.
- 2.5. Copies of all the documents mentioned in the protest form must be included with the protest form or within one hour of it being lodged.
- 2.6. A protest fee of 40 Euros (€) or 50 USD (\$) must be lodged with the protest form. It will be returned if the protest is upheld or, in circumstances deemed to be of special interest to World Archery, if the protest is lost.

No further protests may be made except "in exceptional circumstances" (See process below)

3. Protest Procedure

- 3.1. The protest form, accompanying documents and fee will be lodged with the Chief International Para Archery Classifier of the tournament who will conduct a review of the protest.
- 3.2. If, in the view of the Chief International Classifier, the documentation does not support the protest and/or the conditions of this document have not been met, the protest will be denied
- 3.3. A full report will be provided to all the interested parties at the completion of the review.
- 3.4. If the request to protest is deemed acceptable the current classification status will stand and will be changed to "Review" until the protest evaluation has been completed.
- 3.5. A protest panel will be appointed by the Chief International Para Archery Classifier at the tournament if there are other classifiers available, and the protest evaluation will be conducted. If it is not possible to provide a protest panel at the tournament, the Head of Classification will, in consultation with the athlete's national body, identify another occasion when a protest panel can be formed. In this case the above procedures will be followed.
- 3.6. A Protest Panel must not include any person who was a member of the Classification Panel that:
 - 3.6.1. made the Protested Decision; or
 - 3.6.2. 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 Body, National Paralympic Committee or International Sport Federation making the Protest.

- 3.7. The Chief International Para Archery Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 3.8. A formal evaluation permission form must be completed and signed by the athlete concerned which, with the most recent medical intake form, will be provided to the protest panel along with the protest submitted documents.
- 3.9. Once the protest evaluation has been completed the outcome will be communicated to all the affected parties and either the originally designated Sport Class will be confirmed or a new Sport Class awarded.
Whichever decision is made it will be final and no further protest is permitted.
- 3.10. Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available
 - 3.10.1. If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:
 - 3.10.1.1. the Protested Athlete must be permitted to compete within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Sport Class Status Review, pending the resolution of the Protest; and
 - 3.10.1.2. all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.11. If the protest panel classification designates a "Review Status", a specific date by which the review evaluation must be completed will be entered on the new classification card.
- 3.12. A National Federation making a Protest is solely responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are observed.
- 3.13. The Chief International Para Archery Classifier may decline a Protest if no valid reason for a Protest has been identified by the National Federation, or the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information.
- 3.14. The National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief International Para Archery Classifier in respect of the Protest with in the time allocated [this time will be stated when the forms are returned] all protest procedure requirements will apply.

4. World Archery Protests in Exceptional Circumstances

The Chief International Classifier, on behalf of the International Federation, may make a Protest on behalf of World Archery (the International Sport Federation) in Exceptional Circumstances in respect of any Athlete at any time during or prior to a Competition.

A Protest under Exceptional circumstances may result from the Chief International Para Archery Classifier identifying:

- A change in the apparent degree of impairment of an Athlete;
- An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition which does not reflect the Athlete's current Class
- An apparent error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability.

Procedure to be followed:

The procedure for World Archery initiating an International Sport Federation Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:

- 4.1. The Chief International Para Archery Classifier at the tournament will carefully observe athletes during practice and generally before and after shooting. If, in consultation with the other members of the classification team, an athlete is thought to meet the criteria noted above, the Chief International Para Archery Classifier will advise the relevant National Federation &/or National Paralympic Committee that an International Sport Federation Protest in Exceptional Circumstances has been initiated with regards to (name of athlete)
- 4.2. The PiEC (Protest in Exceptional Circumstances) form found on the WA website will be completed in English. Where appropriate in the view of the Chief International Classifier, any photo and/or video evidence may be provided.
- 4.3. A PiEC panel will be appointed by the Chief International Para Archery Classifier at the tournament if there are other classifiers available, and the protest evaluation conducted. The PiEC panel will be made up of two classifiers of equal or greater status and experience than the original panel. The Members of the Protest Panel must not have been involved in the evaluation that led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Class,

- unless the most recent evaluation took place more than eighteen (18) months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 4.4. The Chief International Para Archery Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the PiEC Panel.
 - 4.5. A formal evaluation permission form must be completed and signed by the athlete concerned which, with the most recent medical intake form, will be provided to the PiEC panel.
 - 4.6. Once the protest evaluation has been completed the outcome will be communicated to all the affected parties and either the originally designated Sport Class will be confirmed or a new Sport Class awarded. **Whichever decision is made it will be final and no further protest is permitted.**
 - 4.7. If the PiEC panel classification assigns a "Review Status", a specific date by which the review evaluation must be completed will be entered on the new classification card.

If it is not possible to provide a protest panel at the tournament, the Head of Classification will, in consultation with the athlete's national body, identify another occasion when a PiEC panel can be formed. In this case the above procedures will be followed.

5. Appeals

The term "appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted and how it may be subsequently resolved.

- 5.1. Only National Associations may lodge an Appeal.
- 5.2. World Archery has identified the IPC Board of Appeal for Classification (BAC) as its Appeal authority.
- 5.3. An Appeal may only be lodged if the National Association is of the view that World Archery has unfairly applied, or has deviated from, the rules of classification set out in this Handbook.
- 5.4. The Appeal body may uphold an Appeal or reject the Appeal but has no power to amend any decision and particularly has no power to change a Sport Class or Sport Class Status of any athlete
- 5.5. The Appeal Authority may decline to accept an Appeal if it considers other remedies may be available to resolve the issues.

Appeal Process

5.6. A notice of Appeal must:

- 5.6.1. be lodged by the National Association within thirty (30) days of the decision being complained of ;
- 5.6.2. Identify the decision being appealed by attaching a copy of the decision;
- 5.6.3. Specify the grounds for the Appeal;
- 5.6.4. Identify all documents, photographic material and/or witnesses to substantiate the Appeal;
- 5.6.5. Pay the fee prescribed from time to time by World Archery. If the Appeal is upheld the fee will be returned.
- 5.6.6. Identify the decision being appealed by attaching a copy of the decision;

5.7. World Archery may reject an Appeal if it deems the National Association has not exhausted all other remedies.

5.8. The Appeal Authority will resolve the Appeal on the material provided by the Appellant and the Respondent. It must be noted that a protest classification and/or PiEC and the resulting classification are not a judicial or disciplinary process. They are administrative processes and thus there is no requirement for "fairness" or natural justice to apply, simply that the rules have been observed correctly. Awarding a Sport Class including NE is not in the nature of a sanction. It is in the nature of an administrative determination and bears the features of a sports technical decision.

5.9. As soon as practicable following the hearing, which may be face to face or via electronic means, the Appeal Authority will provide its written decision to the relevant parties. If the Appeal takes place during a tournament, the decision will also be provided to the organising committee.

5.10. The Appeal decision is final and not subject to further consideration.

Appendix 5

Links to documents referred to in this document

- **World Archery Rulebook** <https://worldarchery.org/Rules>
- **IPC Handbook** <https://www.paralympic.org/the-ipc/handbook>
- **IPC Athlete Classification Code Main Page** <https://www.paralympic.org/2007-classification-code>
- **IPC Athlete Classification Code**
https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/151218123255973_2015_12_17%2BClassification%2BCode_FINAL_0.pdf
- **IPC International Standard for Eligible Impairments**
https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161004145727129_2016_10_04_International_Standard_for_Eligible_Impairments_1.pdf
- **International Standard for Athlete Evaluation**
https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161007092547338_Sec+ii+chapter+1_3_2_subchapter+2_International+Standard+for+Athlete+Evaluation.pdf
- **International Standard for Protests and Appeals**
https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/161007092639463_Sec+ii+chapter+1_3_2_subchapter+3_International+Standard+for+Protests+and+Appeals.pdf
- **IPC Athlete Classification Code Chapter 1.3 - IPC Classification Code: models of best practice, Intentional Misrepresentation Rules**
https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/141113161802225_2014_10_10+Sec+ii+chapter+1_3_Models+of+best+practice_+Intentional+Misrepresentation+Rules.pdf
- **World Health Organization ICD 10**
<http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/browse/2010/en>

Other useful links:

- **World Archery Website – Para Archery** <https://worldarchery.org/Para-Archery>
- **VI Medical Intake Form** <http://documents.worldarchery.org/documents/?doc=94>
- **Para-Archery Classification Medical Information Intake Form -**
http://www.archery.hr/dokumenti/WA%20para_medical_form.pdf
- **List of World Archery Classifiers**
<http://documents.worldarchery.org/documents/?doc=92>
- **Classification Master List**
<http://documents.worldarchery.org/documents/?doc=3946>