



**Cerebral Palsy  
International Sports and Recreation Association**

Excerpt from the CPISRA Sports Manual - 10<sup>th</sup> Edition,  
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**Section A - CPISRA Classification Rules**

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## **Section A - CPISTRA Classification Rules**

### **1. Purpose, Eligibility and Definitions**

#### **1.1 Purpose**

The CPISTRA classification system has been designed so as to minimise the impact of impairment on the outcome of Competition, so that Athletes who succeed in Competition do so on the basis of their sporting ability.

In order to achieve this purpose, Athletes are classified according to the extent of Activity Limitation resulting from their impairment.

The term "classification", as used in these Rules, refers to the process by which Athletes are assessed by reference to the impact of impairment on performance of CPISTRA sports. It is intended to provide a framework for fair Competition and to ensure that competitive success is determined by the strategies, skills and talent of Athletes and teams.

#### **1.2 Eligible Participants**

CPISTRA provides sports opportunities for individuals with neurological impairment, including spastic hypertonia, dystonia, athetosis and ataxia.

These impairment types are associated with a range of conditions including, but not limited to, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, Friedreich's Ataxia, Kugelberg Weylander Syndrome, Fahr's Syndrome (Familial Idiopathic Basal Ganglia Calcification), Spinocebellar Degenerative Disorders and Dystonia. To be eligible to compete, an Athlete must have a neurological impairment with motor control or power impairments originating from the brain with spasticity, ataxia or athetosis causing a permanent and verifiable Activity Limitation (save that in the sport of Boccia, Athletes with impairments of a non-cerebral nature may compete). The level of neurological impairment associated with these conditions must disadvantage Athletes as far as competing in high performance able bodied sport is concerned.

#### **1.3 Definitions**

A Glossary of Defined Terms (which generally appear in capital letters in these Rules) is included at Section 6 below, although certain terms are defined in the body of these Rules.

## **2. Athlete Evaluation**

### **2.1 Purpose of Classification**

The purpose of classification is to ensure that sporting success is a result of Athlete's training, skill level, talent and competitive experience rather than solely their degree of neurological function. Classification is undertaken to both ensure that a relevant level of neurological impairment is present in an Athlete, and that that impairment has a demonstrable impact upon sport performance.

### **2.2 Classification Personnel**

The following personnel have a key role in the process of Classification:

#### **Classification Officer**

The Classification Officer (CO) is the person responsible for classification for CPISTRA. The CO is responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for CPISTRA.

#### **Head of Classification Boccia, Football**

The Head of Classification (HOC) is the person that is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation matters for Boccia and Football.

#### **Chief Classifier**

The Chief Classifier will be a Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for a specific CPISTRA Competition.

#### **Classifier**

A Classifier is a person authorised as an official by CPISTRA to evaluate Athletes for international competition, while serving as a member of a classification panel.

#### **Classification Panel**

A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers, appointed for a particular Competition, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The panel will generally consist of a physician, physiotherapist and a sports technical expert.

## **Classification Master List**

CPISRA maintains a Classification Master List of all Athletes, which details such matters as Athlete's name, Nationality, Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

## **2.3 National Classifications**

All Athletes eligible to participate in CPISRA governed sports should receive an initial classification from their own National Federation. Classification should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the CPISRA Classification and Sport Profiles, and, in particular, National Classifiers should be trained according to CPISRA approved standards.

## **2.4 International Classification at Sanctioned Competitions**

- 2.4.1 "International Classification" refers to the process of classification that is undertaken at, or before, an international or major Competition. It is required before an Athlete may compete at such an event.
- 2.4.2 International Classifications must be carried out by a CPISRA accredited and appointed multidisciplinary panel comprised of a physician (ideally specialising in rehabilitation or orthopedic medicine or neurological physiatry), a physiotherapist and a sports technical expert.
- 2.4.3 Members of Classification Panels should have no significant relationship with an Athlete (or a member of Athlete Support Personnel) that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest, and have no involvement with any decision being appealed. Should conflict arise the parties concerned should raise these with the Chief Classifier. Members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with classification.
- 2.4.4 A major Competition should have two (2) Classification Panels and one Chief Classifier.
- 2.4.5 At the discretion of the Head of Classification for a particular Sport and in consultation with the Classification Officer, one Classification Panel may be deemed sufficient for smaller Competitions. If one Classification Panel only is present, no Protests will be dealt with and nations will be notified of this in initial entry information.
- 2.4.6 At smaller Competitions, the Chief Classifier may also act as a Classifier.
- 2.4.7 Adequate time must be allocated at the beginning of a Competition for Athlete Evaluation. At major events, a minimum of two (2) full days is recommended, depending on the number of Athletes to be classified.

## 2.5 Classification: Scheduling, Substitutions and Preparation

- 2.5.1 The Head of Classification (HOC) for the Sport should appoint a Chief Classifier (CC) for the event, ideally at least three (3) months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels should be appointed two (2) months before the event.
- 2.5.2 The HOC may also act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The HOC for the Sport and the Chief Classifier should work with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the Competition to prepare Athlete lists. A minimum of four (4) weeks prior to the first day of the Competition must be allowed for Athletes names to be submitted to the HOC.
- 2.5.3 The Chief Classifier should provide the LOC and National Federation teams with a classification evaluation schedule on or before their arrival at the Competition. After that time, any substitutions must be approved by the Chief Classifier and Technical Delegate for the Sport.

## 2.6 Classification: Athlete Evaluation

"Athlete Evaluation" is the process by which an Athlete is assessed so as to determine both Sport Class, and Sport Class Status.

**It is the responsibility of the National Federation/Team Manager to ensure that the Athlete attends evaluation.** The Athlete must appear at Classification at the assigned time in the appropriate attire with a recognised form of identification, such as a passport or an ID Card.

The following matters should be noted in relation to Athlete Evaluation:

- All Athletes must sign an Informed Consent Form before they may be evaluated;
- The Athlete may be videotaped for classification and education purposes;
- If an Athlete does not appear in appropriate attire they will not be classified;
- If an Athlete has a health condition that causes pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation they will not be evaluated at that time. The Chief Classifier may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation;
- The Athlete must provide information to the panel regarding impairment, medication and any surgery that affects sport performance. If an Athlete has an unusual or complicated impairment it is advisable to bring information about the impairment written in English. Athletes must present a full list of medications to the Classification Panel;
- The Athlete must present with all necessary sports equipment that they use at Competition;

- Athletes may have one person (and, if required, an interpreter) accompany them at the evaluation. This person should have an understanding of the Athlete's impairment and sport performance. If needed, the person may be asked by the Classifiers to assist with communication;
- If an Athlete has a seizure disorder which is a secondary characteristic of cerebral palsy or traumatic brain injury, they will be permitted to compete provided that the condition is controlled.

## **2.7 Classification: Athlete Evaluation Process**

The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following:

### **2.7.1 Physical Assessment**

The Classification Panel should conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete in accordance with methods of assessment stipulated in the Classification Rules of CPIRSA.

The physical assessment may include, but is not limited to the examination by the Classification Panel medical and physiotherapist Classifiers.

### **2.7.2 Technical Assessment**

The technical assessment may include, but is not limited to, evaluation in a non-competitive environment of the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the Athlete participates.

Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the Athlete in order to observe how the Athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions.

Classifiers must be confident that the Athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the technical assessment.

### **2.7.3 Classification in Competition**

The Classification Panel will observe the Athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the sport during training practice, in an event and/or during pool play.

Classification in Competition shall not be deemed to have been completed until the Athlete has completed the following:

- In Football events, a minimum of thirty (30) minutes continual participation in pool play (or such other play as may be permitted by Competition rules), unless the Classification Panel deems that a shorter period of play is sufficient in individual instances;
- In Boccia events, a minimum of four (4) ends consecutive play (or such other play as may be permitted by Competition rules), unless the

Classification Panel deems that a shorter period of play is sufficient in individual instances.

#### **2.7.4 Completion of Athlete Evaluation**

Athlete Evaluation will be deemed to have been completed once the matters referred to in 2.7.1, 2.7.2 and 2.7.3 above have been completed to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel.

If Athlete Evaluation is not deemed by the Classification Panel to have been completed, the Athlete will not be given a Sport Class, and will not be eligible to participate in any part of the relevant Competition.

**Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition.**

## **2.8 Classification: Sport Class and Sport Class Status**

### **2.8.1 Sport Class**

A Sport Class is a category in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from impairment, and the degree to which that impairment impacts upon sport performance. A range of function will exist within each Sport Class.

Ineligibility for Competition is considered a Sport Class.

Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class based on the individual Sport's Classification rules.

### **2.8.2 Sport Class Status**

Following Athlete Evaluation, Athletes will also be given a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates the extent to which an Athlete will be required to undertake further Evaluation, and whether (and by what party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

The following Sport Class Status designations shall be used to indicate Sport Class Status:

#### **Sport Class Status New (NS)**

Sport Class Status New (NS) is assigned to an Athlete who has not been previously evaluated by an International Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport Class verified by an International Federation.

NS Athletes include Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their National Federation for entry purposes.

**NS Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at international CPIRSA sanctioned Competitions.**

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

Sport Class Status Review (RS) is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by an international Classification Panel but is still subject to further re-evaluation. The Athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during a Competition.

RS Athletes include, but are not limited, to Athletes who have fluctuating, progressive impairments.

**RS Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at international CPIRSA sanctioned Competitions.**

### **Sport Class Status Confirmed (CS)**

Sport Class Status Confirmed (CS) is assigned to an Athlete who has been evaluated by an International Classification Panel and the Classification Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class **will not change**.

An Athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete evaluation prior to competing at International Competitions, except in the case of a Protest lodged under Exceptional Circumstances. An Athlete will not be allocated a Confirmed "CS" Sports Class Status until other competitors/nations have had an opportunity to observe the Athlete in Competition.

**CS will be assigned if the Athlete has the same Sport Class at a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) consecutive CPIRSA sanctioned Competitions over a period of at least two (2) years.**

### **Sport Class Status Not Eligible (NE)**

Sport Class Status Not Eligible (NE) will be assigned to an Athlete if that Athlete does not have a relevant impairment, or has an Activity Limitation resulting from a relevant impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the Athlete's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with Athletes without impairment.

## **2.9 Classification: Sport Class NE**

- 2.9.1 If an Athlete does not have a relevant impairment (according to the rules of the Sport in which the Athlete is seeking to participate), the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete.
- 2.9.2 If an Athlete has an Activity Limitation resulting from an impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the Athlete's ability to compete equitably in elite sport with Athletes without impairment, the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete.
- 2.9.3 In circumstances where the determination of eligibility involves evaluation by a Classification Panel at a Competition, and a Sport Class Status of "Not Eligible to Compete" (NE) is allocated, the Athlete will be examined by a second Classification Panel. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete's Sport Class is NE the Athlete will not be permitted to compete, and will have no further right to Protest.
- 2.9.4 Article 2.9.3 shall not apply to an evaluation conducted following a Protest made under Exceptional Circumstances.
- 2.9.5 CPISTRA Sport Rules shall provide that Athletes deemed NE cannot be substituted or replaced by another Athlete. In the case of team sports, that Athlete's position on the team may not be filled with a substitute. The rules of the sport shall apply to teams that lack one or more players as a result of such players being designated NE.

## **2.10 Classification: Notification of Sport Class and Sport Class Status**

### **2.10.1 Sport Class Status New Athletes**

Athletes with Sport Class Status NS will receive Sport Class Status "Competition New Status" ("CNS") following completion of Physical Assessment (2.7.1 above) and Technical Assessment (2.7.2 above).

Following Classification in Competition (2.7.3 above) and Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4 above), Athletes with Sport Class Status CNS will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status RS, or NE.

### **2.10.2 Sport Class Status Review Athletes**

Athletes with Sport Class Status RS will receive Sport Class Status "Competition Review Status" ("CRS") following completion of Physical Assessment (2.7.1 above) and Technical Assessment (2.7.2 above).

Following Classification in Competition (2.7.3 above) and Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4 above), Athletes with Sport Class Status CRS will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status CS, RS, or NE.

### 2.10.3 Notification to Athlete

Following Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4 above), the Athlete shall be informed of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This will occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made.

Written notification will be provided to the Athlete and given to the Athlete's National Federation representative and will include:

- the Athlete's assigned Sport Class
- the Athlete's updated Sport Class Status
- details of associated Protest procedures

### 2.10.4 Notification to Third Parties

The LOC shall provide all relevant information that teams may require for viewing Classification in Competition of any Athletes who enter a Competition with an "NS" or "RS" Sport Class Status.

At the end of each session during the Athlete Evaluation period, the Chief Classifier must provide details of assigned Sports Classes and updated Sports Class Statuses to the LOC and the Technical Delegate for the relevant Sport.

### 2.10.5 Changes in Sport Class after Observation

If any changes to an Athlete's Sports Class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of Classification in Competition:

- A member of the Classification Panel shall inform the national team representative and the LOC of the Classification Panel's decision as soon as is logistically possible;
- The change of Sport Class is effective immediately;
- The Chief Classifier will inform the Technical Delegate and the LOC;
- Results may need to be adjusted by the LOC in accordance with the sports and/or Classification Rules of CPISTRA;
- The LOC may make adjustments to start lists and schedule in accordance with the sports and/or Classification Rules of CPISTRA; and
- The LOC must advise other teams/nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as logistically possible.

Written notification of any changes resulting from Classification in Competition period must be provided to the Athlete. This will include:

- The Athlete's assigned Sport Class;

- The Athlete's updated Sport Class Status; and
- Confirmation of any associated Protest procedures

The LOC has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of the outcomes of the Athletes evaluation after being so advised by the Chief Classifier.

#### **2.10.6 Final Confirmation at the end of the Competition**

The Chief Classifier for the Competition must confirm each Sport Class and Sport Class Status assigned by the Classification Panels before the end of each Competition.

#### **2.10.7 Post-Competition Notification**

The results from Classification at each Competition will be posted for all countries on the CPISRA website, normally within four (4) weeks of the end of the event.

#### **2.10.8 Competing in a Higher Sport Class**

An Athlete may compete in a higher Sport Class at a specific Competition at the discretion of the Chief Classifier and Technical Delegate. If the Athlete competes in a higher Sport Class they will remain in that Sport Class for the remainder of the Competition.

### **2.11 Classification: Identity Cards**

Following Classification, a Classification Identity Card will be issued to the Athlete's national sport governing body as soon as is practicable. The Classification Identity Card will contain details of an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status, and must be presented to the Chief Classifier at each Competition.

The name on the Classification Identity Card will be the name from the Athlete's passport and that name must be used for registration purposes.

If cards are lost, the National Federation must contact the Head of Classification for the sport or the Classification Officer for replacement.

### **2.12 Classification: Athlete Failure to attend Evaluation**

**If an Athlete fails to attend evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.**

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend evaluation, an Athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend evaluation.

Failure to attend evaluation includes:

- Not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place; or
- Not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation; or
- Not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

## **2.13 Classification: Non-Cooperation during Evaluation**

**An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in an Athlete Evaluation shall be considered non co-operative during evaluation.**

If the Athlete fails to co-operate during Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at the respective Competition in the respective sport.

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation then the Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.

Any Athlete found to have been non co-operative during an evaluation will not be permitted to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of twelve (12) months starting from the date upon which the Athlete failed to cooperate.

## **2.14 Classification: Intentional Misrepresentation**

**An Athlete, who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skill and/or abilities will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in that sport.**

In addition:

- The Athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for that sport for a minimum of two (2) years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities;
- The Chief Classifier will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete from the CPISTRA Classification Master List;
- The Athlete will be designated as IM (intentional misrepresentation) in the CPISTRA classification master list and on the CPISTRA web list;

- The Athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for any sport within CPISRA for a period of two (2) years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities; and
- The National Federation will be informed of the decision.

An Athlete who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from CPISRA events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate to CPISRA.

## **2.15 Classification: Failure to Attend/Misrepresentation and Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel**

CPISRA shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete evaluation; to fail to cooperate; intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

Those who are involved in advising Athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions given to the Athlete.

In this circumstance, reporting the Athlete Support Personnel to the appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by the Athlete.

## **2.16 Publication of Penalties**

CPISRA will disclose details of penalties imposed upon Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel.

## 3. Protests and Appeals

### 3.1 Protests

- 3.1.1 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 Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 3.1.2 A successful Protest will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a "Protest Panel".
- 3.1.3 An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested once only in any individual Competition. This restriction does not apply to Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 3.1.4 A Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by CPISTRA may only be resolved by CPISTRA.
- 3.1.5 Protests should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on Competition participation, and Competition schedules and results.
- 3.1.6 Protests may be submitted during Competition, or after the Competition has ended.

### 3.2 When Protests May Take Place

- 3.2.1 Athletes with Sport Class New Status (NS) may be protested by any National Federation, or the Chief Classifier following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class Status RS. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall be designated:
- Review Status (RS); or
  - Confirmed Status (CS); or
  - Not Eligible to Compete (NE)
- 3.2.2 Athletes with Sport Class Status Review (RS) may be protested by any National Federation or the Chief Classifier following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall retain RS or be designated:
- Confirmed (CS) Status; or
  - Not Eligible to Compete (NE)
- 3.2.3 Athletes with Sport Class Confirmed Status (CS) may be protested only in Exceptional Circumstances.

### 3.3 Protest Procedures during Competitions

- 3.3.1 Protests may be submitted by a National Federation representative authorised to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager) and/or the Chief Classifier.
- 3.3.2 The Chief Classifier for the event, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorised to receive Protests on behalf of CPISTRA at an event.
- 3.3.3 An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested within one (1) hour (sixty (60) minutes) of the Athlete being advised as to the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class.
- 3.3.4 A National Federation representative may Protest the Sport Class of an Athlete of a different National Federation within one (1) hour (sixty (60) of the Athlete's first appearance in Competition or within one (1) hour (sixty (60) of the Athlete being assigned the Sport Class, whichever is the later.
- 3.3.5 Protests must be submitted in English on a designated Protest form that should be made available by the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest form must include the following:
- The name, nation and sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
  - Details of the decision being protested;
  - The reason for the Protest;
  - Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest;
  - The signature of the National Federation representative or the Chief Classifier, where applicable; and
  - A fee of one hundred (100) Euros (unless there is a different amount specified for that Competition).
- 3.3.6 Regardless of the outcome of a Protest, CPISTRA will retain the Protest fee.
- 3.3.7 Upon receipt of the Protest form, the Chief Classifier shall conduct a review to determine if there are grounds for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included.
- 3.3.8 If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Chief Classifier shall dismiss the protest and notify all relevant parties.
- 3.3.9 If the Protest is declined the Chief Classifier shall state why the Protest is not accepted.

- 3.3.10 If the Protest is accepted, the Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to conduct Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel shall consist of a minimum of three (3) Classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class.
- 3.3.11 The Members of the Protest Panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, unless the most recent evaluation took place more than eighteen (18) months prior to the Protest being submitted.
- 3.3.12 The Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 3.3.13 All documentation submitted with the Protest form shall be provided to the Protest Panel. Protest Panels should conduct the initial evaluation without reference to the Classification Panel which allocated the Athlete's most recent Sport Class.
- 3.3.14 The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class including the initial panel if necessary.
- 3.3.15 Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in Article 2.7. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 3.3.16 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest or appeal (subject to Article 3.6).**

### 3.4 Protests in Exceptional Circumstances

Exceptional Circumstances arise when an Athlete with a CS Sport Class demonstrates significantly less or greater ability prior to or during Competition, which does not reflect the Athlete's current Sport Class.

3.4.1 Exceptional circumstances may result from:

- A change in the 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 Sport Class;
- An error made by a Classification Panel which has led to the Athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the Athlete's ability; or
- Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the Athlete's most recent evaluation.

- 3.4.2 The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:
- The Chief Classifier shall advise the Athlete and relevant National Federation and/or National Paralympic Committee that a Protest is being made in Exceptional Circumstances;
  - The processes and procedures referred to in Articles 3.3.10, 3.3.11, 3.3.12, 3.3.14 and 3.3.15 will apply to Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 3.4.3 Athlete Evaluation following a Protest shall follow the same process as described in Article 2.7. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 3.4.4 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest or appeal (subject to Article 3.6).**

### **3.5 Procedures for Protests submitted out of Competition**

- 3.5.1 Protests made out of Competition may be submitted by a National Federation representative authorised to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager); and/or the Chief Classifier.
- 3.5.2 Protests made out of Competition may be made within thirty (30) days of the last day of a Competition in which the Athlete has competed or sixty (60) days prior to a Competition when the Athlete will compete.
- 3.5.3 Protests must be submitted on the CPISRA official Protest form to the Head of Classification of the sport with a copy to the CPISRA Classification Officer. A fee of three hundred (300) Euros must be paid.
- 3.5.4 Regardless of the outcome of a Protest, CPISRA will retain the Protest fee.
- 3.5.5 Upon receipt of the official Protest form and the Protest fee the Head of Classification for the sport and the Classification Officer shall conduct a review to determine whether all relevant rules concerning the submission of a Protest have been complied with and accept or reject the Protest.
- 3.5.6 If the relevant rules have not been complied with or there are no substantial grounds for a Protest the Protest shall be dismissed and the Protest form returned.
- 3.5.7 The Head of Classification for the sport and/or the Classification Officer shall notify all parties within twenty-eight (28) calendar days of the time and date for the protest evaluation, which, following consultation with all relevant parties, may take place at an agreed event. If the protest is rejected, the reasons why the protest was rejected will be given.

3.5.8 Protests submitted out of Competition will not be considered at a Paralympic Games unless they are part of the process of classification evaluation held during the Paralympic Games.

3.5.9 Athlete Evaluation following a Protest made out of Competition shall follow the same process as described in Article 2.7. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.

**3.5.10 The decision of the Protest Panel made following an out of Competition Protest is final and is not subject to any further Protest or appeal (subject to Article 3.6).**

## 3.6 Appeals

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

CPISRA has designated the International Paralympic Committee Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the appeal body for CPISRA. The detailed rules of procedure in respect of Appeals to the BAC are provided by the IPC. The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws.

The BAC shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed; and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.

## 4. Classification Personnel

### 4.1 CPISRA International Classification Personnel

The IPC Classification Code and CPISRA recognise Classifiers as games officials.

**There are three types of CPISRA Classifiers:**

#### **Medical**

A doctor who has experience in dealing with people with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke or physical impairments as defined in the Athlete profiles.

#### **Physiotherapist**

Physiotherapists or related disciplines trained to work with individuals with the clinical manifestations of cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke and other physical impairments.

#### **Sports Technical Expert**

Individuals with extensive coaching background in the sport they will be classifying or those with degrees in physical education, biomechanics or kinesiology with a working knowledge of the sport(s) and individuals with physical impairments.

**There are four levels of Classifiers in CPISRA**

**Trainee** - An individual who is in the process of formal training by CPISRA but who is not yet certified as a Classifier. A trainee may not be an appointed member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. This individual cannot allocate an international Sport Class.

It should be ensured that trainee Classifiers have no responsibilities as a member of a national delegation at the event where classification training takes place. Having no such official duties allows trainee Classifiers to participate fully in their classification training.

**Level 1 - International Classifier** - Those who have completed accreditation and are currently classifying both nationally and internationally.

This is an individual who has successfully completed the formal CPISRA training and has been certified to be a member of a Classification Panel at an International Competition. This individual may participate in the assignment of Sport Class under the supervision of Level 3 Classifiers.

**Level 2 – Senior Classifier** - The Senior Classifier acts in a leadership capacity at Competitions and reports to the Head of Classification for the sport and the Classification Officer. They work as a team to ensure quality classification and assist and train newer Classifiers.

Senior Classifiers have completed the formal training of CPISTRA, show leadership, participate in research and development of the classification system, have sufficient experience to interpret the CPISTRA rules while at a Competition or are able to act as the final arbiter in Protests.

**Level 3 - Chief Classifier** - The Chief Classifier is a Senior Classifier who has attended training for Chief Classifiers and/ or has been mentored by another Chief Classifier in the position. Chief Classifiers are appointed by the Classification Officer and/or by the Head of Classification for a specific Competition.

## **Responsibilities and Duties of Classification Personnel**

### **Trainee**

A trainee Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rule book and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of the trainee may include:

- Active participation and observation to learn classification rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies for certification; and
- Attend classification meetings at events.

### **Level 1 International Classifiers**

A Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rule book and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of the Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Work as a member of a Classification Panel to allocate Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status at CPISTRA sanctioned events;
- Work as a member of a Protest Panel as required;
- Attend classification meetings at Competitions; and
- Assist in Classifier training and certification as requested by the Head of Classification for the sport, the Classification Officer or the Classifier appointed to be in charge of training at the Competition.

### **Senior Classifier**

The duties of a Senior Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Supervise and evaluate Classifiers in training and Classifiers;
- Conduct or assist in the introductory and accreditation level practical courses;
- Assist in the research, development and clarification of the classification rules and profiles for CPISTRA and its sports;
- Assist in the review of the rules / profiles on a regular basis; and

- Provide workshops to update Classifiers nationally, regionally and internationally.

### **Chief Classifier**

The Chief Classifier is a senior Classifier appointed by the Head of Classification for the sport and/or the Classification Officer for a specific Competition.

The duties of the Chief Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Administer and coordinate classification matters related to a specific sport for a specific Competition according CPISTRA Rules;
- Liaise with organising committees and teams before a Competition to identify and notify Athletes who require evaluation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status;
- Liaise with organising committees before a Competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for Classifiers;
- Supervise Classifiers to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately during a specific Competition;
- Supervise Classifiers and trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies; and complete a Competition report normally within thirty (30) days of a particular Competition and send to the Classification Officer and the Head of Classification for the Sport.

## 5. Classification and Sport Profiles

The following are profiles of Athletes who participate in Boccia and Football 7-a-side.

Athletes in CPIRSA are assessed using neurological signs of spasticity, ataxia or athetosis as found in each profile. Note that orthopaedic issues such as brachial plexus and congenital / traumatic orthopaedic issues do not factor in CPIRSA classification. Pain and any limitations caused by pain are not part of the CPIRSA classification system.

### **Boccia**

For players with an impairment of a non cerebral origin refer to the section on Boccia classification in this manual.

## Athlete Profiles

### 5.1 Class 1

#### **Spastic Quadriplegic (Tetraplegic)/ Athetoid / Mixed picture/Ataxic**

- Severe impairment in all four limbs
- Spasticity Grade 3-4 , with or without athetosis
- Poor functional range of movement and/or poor functional strength in all extremities and trunk
- OR the severe athetoid with poor functional strength and control
- OR Severe ataxia
- Dependent on a power wheelchair or assistance for mobility. Unable to functionally propel a wheelchair.

**Trunk Control:** Static and dynamic trunk control is very poor or non-existent. Severe difficulty adjusting back to mid-line or upright position when performing sports movements.

**Upper Extremities:** Severe limitation in functional range of movement or severe athetosis. For example, reduced throwing motion with poor follow through is evident. Opposition of thumb and one finger may be possible allowing Athlete to grip. A number of different unrefined grasp and releases may be observed within this group. If there is no sustained grasp and/or functional release, the Athlete will be classified as BC3 (Athlete who uses an assistive device to propel the ball).

**Lower Extremities:** Non-functional due severe spasticity, limited range of motion and control. Minimal or involuntary movement would not change this

person's class. Does not functionally walk nor is able to functionally kick the ball past the V line.

### **Boccia BC1**

Throwers: players who fit within this profile and can throw/propel the ball past the V line with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to play. Players use a palmar grasp in a variety of ways when holding the ball.

Note: CP2 Lower who chooses to push the ball with the foot is allowed to play as a BC1.

### **Boccia BC3**

Players using assistive devices to propel the ball: Players will have no sustained functional grasp and/or release action, or are unable to consistently propel a boccia ball with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to play. They may use a head pointer / or other hand or mouth devices to hold and release the ball.

## **5.2 Class 2**

### **Spastic Quadriplegic (Tetraplegic) / Athetoid**

- Severe to moderate impairment of function
- Spasticity Grade 3 with or without athetosis
- Severe athetosis
- Tetraplegia
- Poor functional strength in all extremities and trunk but able to propel a wheelchair

**Upper Extremities:** Can exhibit sufficient dexterity to manipulate and throw the ball. Often has the ability to throw both overhand and underhand. In Athletes with spasticity or mixed picture active range of motion does not allow full shoulder flexion or elevation when throwing.

- Hand: Severe to moderate involvement
- Athletes with spastic quadriplegia - spasticity Grade 3.
- Athletes with athetosis often have a cylindrical or spherical grasp but have difficulty controlling the ball on release

### **Lower Extremities:**

Class 2 L: Sufficient function in one or both lower limbs to propel a wheelchair. They can consistently propel a boccia ball with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to play.

Class 2: Class 2 Athletes (upper or lower) can sometimes ambulate but never run functionally.

**Trunk Control:** Static control is fair. Dynamic trunk control is poor as demonstrated by the obligatory use of upper extremities and/or head to assist in returning to the mid-line (upright position). If the Athlete is able to demonstrate trunk rotation during throwing (combined with ROM as above) they are class 3.

Note if a Class 2 Lower chooses to push the ball with the foot they may compete as a BC1.

### **Boccia BC2**

This Athlete is classed as a BC2

## **5.3 Class 3**

### **Quadriplegic (Tetraplegic), Triplegic Severe Hemiplegic**

- Moderate (asymmetric or symmetric) quadriplegic or severe hemiplegic in a wheelchair with almost full functional strength in unimpaired upper extremity.
- Athletes with severe hemiplegic can propel a wheelchair independently.

**Lower Extremities:** Spasticity Grade 3 to 4. Some demonstrable function can be observed during transfer. They may be able to ambulate with assistance or assistive devices but only for short distances.

**Trunk Control:** Fair trunk control is shown when pushing chair, but forward trunk movement is often limited by extensor tone during forceful pushing. Some trunk movement can be noted also in throwing for postural correction but throwing motions are mostly from the arm. This is a major factor in non-ambulatory capability. Rotation is limited. Spasticity Grade 2.

**Upper Extremities:** Moderate limitation Spasticity Grade 2 in dominant arm shown as limitation in extension and follow through.

**Hand Function:** Dominant hand may demonstrate cylindrical and spherical grasp, with poor finger dexterity demonstrable in release of shot and discus.

### **Motor / Mobility Skills**

In order to differentiate between Class 3 and 4, trunk mobility in propulsion of the chair and hand function are important. If an Athlete demonstrates a very poor ability to use rapid trunk movements in the pushing motion, or significant asymmetry in the arm action or grasp and release which impedes the development of forward momentum, he/she is a class 3. An Athlete using only one arm for wheelchair propulsion may have long strokes and rapid grasp and release in the dominant arm and still be Class 3.

Sometimes a hemiplegic Athlete with Spasticity Grade 3 - 4 in non-dominant arm and near normal function in the dominant arm or a Class 3 asymmetric

diplegic Athlete is more appropriate in Class 4. However, a close look should be given to the trunk movement, as it is often the determining factor.

## 5.4 Class 4

### Diplegic

- Moderate to severe involvement
- Good functional strength with minimal limitation or control problems noted in upper limbs and trunk

**Lower Extremities:** Moderate to severe involvement in both legs, Spasticity Grade 3 - 4 usually rendering them non-functional for ambulation over long distances without the use of assistive devices. A wheelchair is usually the choice for sport.

**Trunk:** Spasticity Grade 1 - 2. Minimal limitation of trunk movements when wheeling and throwing. In some Athletes, fatigue can increase spasticity which can be overcome with proper positioning. When standing, poor balance is obvious even using assistive devices.

**Upper Extremities:** The upper limbs often show normal functional strength.

Minimal limitation of range of movement may be present but a close to normal follow through and propulsion is observed when throwing or wheeling.

**Hand Function:** Normal cylindrical/spherical opposition and prehensive grasp is seen in all sports. Limitation, if any, is usually apparent only during rapid fine motor tasks. It should be remembered that diplegia implies that there is more spasticity in the lower than the upper extremities. Some involvement, Spasticity Grade 1 - 2, can be seen particularly in functional movements of the hands, arms and trunk.

### Motor / Mobility Skills

The Athlete is able to perform long and forceful strokes, with rapid grasp and release, although fine movements of the hands may be affected. During propulsion, these fine movements are not essential. The arm strokes are supported by strong trunk movements in forward and backward direction. If these movements do not occur, the trunk is well balanced and forms a stable base for the arm movements. When the wheelchair makes a curve, the trunk follows the wheelchair without disturbance of balance.

In throwing events the trunk has to make a complicated, forceful and rapid movement. This movement is complicated because it requires co-ordination of rotation, forward and sideways bending (more complicated than required for propulsion). Because of the slight spasticity in trunk muscles and the negative influence of the spastic legs, some disturbances may be seen when force and speed are required. Slight weakness in fine movements may present problems

during the release of a discus and to a lesser extent a javelin. There is even less of a problem with shot.

## 5.5 Class 5

### **Diplegic / Asymmetric Diplegic / Double hemiplegic / Dystonic**

- Moderate involvement
- This individual may require the use of assistive devices in walking but not necessarily when standing or throwing
- A shift of centre of gravity may lead to loss of balance
- An asymmetric diplegic or double hemiplegic Athlete with involvement on both sides with lower limbs more affected than upper extremities
- Athletes with dystonia where the lower limbs are more affected than upper extremities

**Lower Extremities:** Spasticity Grade 2-3. Involvement of both legs which may require assistive devices for walking. A Class 5 Athlete may have sufficient function to run on the track.

**Balance:** Usually has normal static balance but exhibits problems in dynamic balance e.g. attempting to pivot or stop and start.

**Upper Extremities:** This is an area where variation occurs. Some minimal to moderate limitation in range of motion and/or coordination can often be seen during sport movement, but functional strength is within normal limits.

### **Football (FT 5)**

During sport, exertion will increase tone and decrease function. The Athletes will have difficulty in turning, pivoting and stopping, usually running only short distances due to involvement in both lower limbs. Stride length is reduced and/or decreased with exertion. Trapping may be difficult. Follow through movements may be impaired due to limitations in range of movement. Foot extension may be limited affecting passing. Balance during a throw-in may be impaired.

## 5.6 Class 6

### **Athetoid, Ataxic or Mixed CEREBRAL PALSY**

- Moderate involvement in all four limbs
- The Athlete ambulates without assistive devices
- Athetosis or ataxia is typically the most prevalent factor but some Athletes can have problems with athetosis or ataxia mixed with spasticity
- Athletes with dystonic athetosis in all four limbs belong in this classification unless the impairment is minimal.

Class 6 Athletes have more control problems in their upper limbs than Class 5 Athletes, although Class 6 Athletes usually have better function in their lower limbs particularly when running or performing in a closed chain sport like cycling.

**Lower Extremities:** Function can vary considerably depending on the sports skill involved, from poor, laboured, slow walking to a running gait, which often shows better mechanics. There can be a marked contrast between the walking athetoid with uncoordinated gait and the smooth even paced coordinated running/cycling action. Athletes with ataxia will have a wide based stance and gait.

Spasticity can occasionally be seen in Class 6 Athletes and should not be a reason for placement in Class 5.

When running the Athlete may have "flight" (both feet off the ground at the same time)

**Balance:** Athletes who are athetoid may have good dynamic balance compared with static balance. Both Athletes with athetosis and ataxia, in particular, will have problems with balance and with starting, stopping, and turning when running. They will also have varying degrees of difficulty with balance while hopping and jumping. The Athlete has delayed saving/protective reactions when falling or losing balance.

**Upper Extremities:** The Athlete with a mixed picture may have problems with limitation of range of movement. Athletes who are athetoid or ataxic have poor upper limb coordination and timing – delayed reactions with catching and throwing and increased involuntary movements on activity.

Grasp and release can be significantly affected when throwing.

### **Football (FT 6)**

The Athlete will have trouble stopping and changing direction quickly with and without the ball. Coordination and timing problems will be seen when tracking, trapping and kicking the ball. The Athlete may have difficulty dribbling or controlling the ball when running. Explosive movements and vertical jumps are difficult to perform. Acceleration hesitation and increased impact of momentum on deceleration are typically noted. Accuracy when planting the non-passing foot may be inconsistent; passing accuracy may fluctuate because of difficulty with balance on the stance leg and/or stability of the kicking ankle joint.

## **5.7 Class 7**

### **Hemiplegic**

- Spasticity Grade 2- 3 in one half of the body (on the frontal plane)
- Walk/run with a limp due to spasticity in the lower limb
- Good functional ability in the other side of the body

**Lower Extremities:** Hemiplegia Spasticity Grade 2 - 3. Non affected side has better development and good follow through movement in walking and running. The Athlete has difficulty walking on his heel on the impaired side and has significant difficulty with hopping and balancing and side stepping on the impaired leg or side.

**Upper Extremities:** Function is limited on the affected side. There is good functional control on the unaffected side. The affected arm and shoulder will have increased spasticity and decreased range of motion. There are many spasticity patterns in the arm that may fit into this class.

### **Football (FT 7)**

The Athlete who walks with a noticeable limp may appear to have a smoother stride when running but may not have a consistent heel strike. The Athlete has difficulty pivoting and balancing on the impaired side. The Athlete's affected arm muscles will have an increase in tone when running and may appear bent when walking. There are many patterns in the lower limb and upper limb demonstrating spasticity in the hemiplegic side.

Training does not change these patterns it only changes the quality of movement of functional ability. However, the Athlete experiences a visible restriction caused by spasticity during fast movement and an increase in tone with exertion.

The Athlete demonstrates a limitation in knee pick up in sprinting and also has an asymmetrical stride length. Step length is decreased on the impaired side in relation to the unaffected side. Running may appear to be nearly symmetrical however, due to the spasticity and limitations on the impaired side, there will be a difference in step length and stance time. Hip placement on the affected side is frequently variable affecting both passing and shooting power. Loose ankles may be observed intermittently during play. Pulling toes up on the more affected side while exerting and placing the ball in the arch or towards the back of the impaired foot is frequently observed.

In some Athletes with an acquired brain injury, the dominant side may be the impaired side. Therefore the Athlete may kick the ball with the dominant side. If the Athlete is unable to balance or has insufficient support on the impaired side, they may choose to stand on the less affected side and kick with the impaired leg.

## **5.8 Class 8**

- **Diplegic / Asymmetric Diplegic / Double hemiplegic / Dystonic**
- **Hemiplegic Spasticity Grade 1 to 2**
- **Monoplegic with spasticity in major joint**
- **Athetosis, Ataxia or Mixed Cerebral Palsy**

This Athlete may appear to have near normal function when running but the Athlete must demonstrate a limitation in function to Classifiers based on evidence of spasticity (increased tone), ataxia, athetosis or dystonic movements while performing on the field of play or in training. The Athlete may walk with a slight limp but runs more fluidly.

The Athlete must have an evident impairment of function observed during classification and on the field of play. The Athlete must have one of the following:

### **5.8.1 Mild Diplegia / Asymmetric Diplegia / Double hemiplegia / Dystonic Hemiplegia / Monoplegia/**

Clear evidence must include spasticity grade 1 - 2 in affected limbs. A clear difference needs to be demonstrated between active ranges of motion vs. passive. In addition, a clear difference between fast passive ranges of motion against slow passive range of motion needs to be demonstrated.

#### **Plus**

- Leg length difference or difference of muscle bulk of more than 2 cm
- Upper motor neuron reflex pattern must be demonstrated. This may include:
  - Positive uni or bilateral babinski
  - Clear uni or bilateral clonus 4 beats or more
  - Noticeably brisk reflexes or clear difference in reflexes left vs. Right
  - Wartenberg's sign
  - Disdiadokokinesis
  - Dyssynergie and dysmetria

**Lower extremities:** Foot dorsi flexion and toe - heel gait when walking backwards the heel will not go down completely on the affected side. The Athlete pivots to both sides on the field of play although there is a difference in the pivoting to the affected side due to spasticity.

**Upper extremities:** The affected arm and shoulder contributes to propulsion.

**Monoplegia:** Must involve a major joint – hip/shoulder joints that have limitations in range of motion left versus right or active versus passive. Players with arm monoplegia, which does not include the shoulder girdle, are not eligible for Football 7-a-side.

### 5.8.2 Athetosis / Ataxia

The Athlete must have clear signs of cerebellar dysfunction. Ataxia, balance problems and uncoordination must be evident both on examination during evaluation and the field of play. The impairment must have a demonstrable impact on sport performance as seen by the Classification Panel such as difficulty stopping, starting, turning, balance and explosive movements.

#### **Football (FT 8)**

Athletes with minimal involvement may appear to have near normal function when running but the Athlete must demonstrate a limitation in function to Classifiers based on evidence of spasticity (increased tone), athetosis, ataxia or mixed involvement. Variable contractions in opposing muscle groups may cause tremors or fine oscillating joint movements. Athletes frequently have increased difficulty generating force against gravity than their non-disabled counterparts creating difficulty in mastering elite football skills. Crossing and finishing can be somewhat impaired in athetoid or ataxic athletes and is only intermittently visible. When attacking in and around the box, the player's impulse impairment creates a slight but significant hesitation when compared to non-disabled elite players.

In some Athletes with an acquired brain injury, the dominant side may be the impaired side. Therefore the Athlete may kick the ball with the dominant side. If the Athlete is unable to balance or has insufficient support on impaired side, they may choose to stand on the less affected side and kick with the impaired leg.

## 5.9 Boccia

These classifications include wheelchair Athletes with severe locomotor dysfunction in all four limbs of a cerebral origin (e.g. who have spasticity, ataxia or athetosis) who can throw the ball consistently past the V line on a Boccia court

**BC1** - CPISRA Class 1 plus Class 2 Lower who choose to push the ball with his/her foot

**BC2** - CPISRA Class 2 players

**BC3** - CPISRA Class 1 players and those with other impairments who do not have the ability to pick up and/or throw the ball consistently on to a boccia court with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to play and conform to other listed criteria for players who use assistive devices to propel the ball. This is the class for all players who use assistive devices to propel the ball.

### 5.9.1 BC4 - Non Cerebral Origin

This classification includes wheelchair Athletes with severe locomotor dysfunction in all four limbs of NON-cerebral origin (e.g. who do not have spasticity, ataxia or athetosis) who can throw the ball consistently on to a boccia court with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to play. Athletes with the following diagnosis and the above profile may be eligible:

- Myopathies with overall strength of 3/5 or less in the shoulder and is unable to lift elbow above the shoulder level while throwing.
- Spinal cord lesion, complete or incomplete tetraplegic unable to propel ball, unable to lift elbow above the shoulder level while throwing.
- Spina bifida combined with upper extremity involvement as noted above.

Other conditions such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis or motor neurone disease(s) which result in poor strength and/or coordination.

Fatigue or loss of muscle strength must be a factor in the impairment.

Sport functional profile and mechanics of throwing is similar to a Boccia Class 1 or 2 player.

Those Athletes who cannot grasp/throw the ball consistently on to a boccia court with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to play may be allowed to use an assistive device and therefore fit into the BC 3 – Boccia Class 3.

Lower extremities: The Athlete is non-functional / non-community walker and uses a wheelchair for most mobility. May occasionally walk in the home but requires assistance from another person, uses walls, walker, etc..

Trunk Control: The Athlete demonstrates poor strength or severe lack of coordination combined with poor dynamic trunk control. Fatigue is a factor. The use of arms or head thrust is often needed to return to an upright sitting position after a balance disturbance, for instance the throwing action.

Upper Extremities: Active range of movement is limited, either due to lack of strength or lack of flexibility.

Poor strength or control of grasp and release will be evident. This can often be seen by frequent use of gravity assisted actions to propel the ball.

The Athlete may be able to throw from the shoulder level or above, however is unable to bring the elbow actively above the horizontal of shoulder plane and only the hand is above the shoulder level. In medical terms they do not have active shoulder flexion nor shoulder abduction above 90 degrees.

The elbow cannot go above the horizontal plane at shoulder level. Therefore the ball is often propelled

- From a bilateral grasp and push action from the chest
- By use of pendulum swing action or
- Another gravity assisted release action

However the Athlete is able to demonstrate sufficient dexterity to independently manipulate and propel a boccia ball consistently on to a boccia court with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to play.

The Athlete may be able to propel a wheelchair. However rapid movements are not possible.

## 6. Glossary

<b>Activity Limitation</b>	Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities which may include attainment of high performance skills and techniques.
<b>Athlete</b>	For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in sport at the International Level (as defined by each IF) or National Level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.
<b>Athlete Evaluation</b>	The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the classification rules of the IF.
<b>Athlete Support Personnel</b>	Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.
<b>Competition</b>	A series of individual Events conducted together under one ruling body.
<b>Conflict of Interest</b>	A Conflict of Interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.
<b>International Competition</b>	A Competition where an international sports organization (IPC, IF, Major Competition Organization, or another international sport organization) is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.
<b>International Federation (IF)</b>	A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic Athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC.
<b>IPC</b>	International Paralympic Committee.

<b>National Competition</b>	A Competition where the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.
<b>National Federation</b>	The organization recognized by an IF as the sole national governing body for its sport.
<b>National Paralympic Committee (NPC)</b>	A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of Athletes with a disability in that country or territory to the IPC. In addition, the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF.
<b>Paralympic Games</b>	Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.
<b>Protest</b>	The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class status is submitted and subsequently resolved.