



Classification

Level I
Coaching Education and Training Program



This program is made possible through a
generous grant from the
Craig H. Neilsen Foundation

Established in 2002, the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation is the largest private foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life for those living with spinal cord injury (SCI), by supporting innovative program services, specialty training and research on effective therapies, interventions and treatments, leading to a cure. Today, the Foundation funds SCI scientific research (basic, translational, clinical and psychosocial research); quality of life programs; postdoctoral and SCI medicine fellowships; and other projects to support the SCI community throughout the United States and Canada.



Presentation Objectives

- Understand the NWBA classification system
- Understand the different options for player classification by the NWBA
- Understand modifications to rules and equipment based on age/functional ability



Classification

- Why??
 - Provides a framework for competition for people with health conditions that cause physical impairments.;
 - Aims to minimize the impact that impairment has on the outcome of athletic competition and;
 - Ensures that competitive success is determined by strategies, skills, and talent of athletes and teams;



Classification

- Why??
 - Undertaken to ensure that an Athlete's impairment is relevant to sport performance and;
 - Ensures that the Athlete competes equitably with other Athletes.
- Classification serves two functions:
 - To determine eligibility to compete
 - To group athletes for competition



Classification

- Minimum disability
 - A player must have a lower extremity disability present that would disadvantage the athlete in ambulatory basketball
 - Disability must be measurable
 - Disability must be permanent



NWBA Minimal Disability Policy

In order to be eligible for play in the NWBA, an athlete must have a lasting lower extremity disability that consistently interferes with mobility as quantified by standard medical examination and/or testing. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, paralysis, amputation, radiological evidence of limb shortening, and partial to full joint ankylosis or replacement.



Application for Consideration of Eligibility

Athletes that do not have an obvious lower extremity disability that can be observed by non-medically trained individuals must apply for consideration for eligibility by completing the **Application for Consideration of Eligibility** form and submitting supporting documentation on-line at the NWBA website.



Athletes that do not have an obvious lower extremity disability that can be observed by non-medically trained individuals must apply for consideration for eligibility by completing the **Application for Consideration of Eligibility** form and submitting supporting documentation on-line at the NWBA website. The National office will record receipt of the form and the supporting documentation. The National Office will send the information to the members of the NWBA Eligibility Committee and notify the chair of the Classification Committee and the Head Classifier. The athlete may play until a decision is rendered. If it is found the athlete is ineligible for participation in the NWBA the games in which that athlete participated in may be subject to forfeit as determined by the Division and NWBA.

The athlete should submit any/all medical documentation and studies that support having a lower extremity disability that meets the Minimal Disability Criteria. There is no specified documentation to be submitted. All radiological studies should submit the actual study (on CD is acceptable) as well as the interpretation.

The Eligibility Committee will review the information and coordinate communication to discuss and make a decision. The committee will have 30 days to render a decision after receipt of the medical documentation. The Committee will notify the Classification Chair.

The National Office is informed of decision. The National Office will notify the athlete of the decision via written communication.

If eligible, the athlete will be able to be a Proposed 4.5 until seen at a Classification

Tournament.

If the athlete is deemed eligible to be classified he/she will take the written communication of eligibility to the Classification Tournament and present to the panel.

If deemed ineligible, the athlete has the option to appeal the decision and request reconsideration by submitting additional supporting documentation to the panel within 30 days of the decision. There is a \$150 fee associated with an **Eligibility Appeal** and Request for reconsideration. If the athlete is found to be eligible the money will be returned to the athlete. . If beyond 30 days the process must be started as new consideration.

Classification

- Points System
 - Players are assigned a point value from 1.0 – 4.5 in 0.5 increments according to their level of physical function.
 - Team not permitted to exceed 15 points in NWBA Divisional play for the 5 players on court at any given time.
 - Ensures that player, regardless of degree of disability, has a role to play within team structure.



Classification

- Points System
 - 1 point: No lower limb and little or no trunk movement. Rebound overhead single handed.
 - 2 point: No lower limb but partial trunk control in a forward direction. Rely on hand grip to remain stable in a collision.
 - 3 point: May have some leg movement, more control of trunk. Can rebound overhead with 2 hands



Classification

- Points System
 - 4 point: normal arm and trunk movement, but some reduced lower limb function. Unable to lean to both sides with full control.
 - 4.5 point: minimal lower limb dysfunction or single below knee amputation. Normal trunk movement in all directions.
 - If player does not fit exact class – may assign a half point above or below a certain class.



Classification

- How do you get classified in the NWBA?

Team Reviewer: Each team will nominate a Team Reviewer. The team reviewer should be a coach, player or team representative that attends games and practices for the team. It is encourage that a team certify more than one team reviewer.

The **Team Reviewer** is responsible for becoming trained in the 8 class system. The team reviewer should complete the certification exam before the team's first game.



1. Player's already classified under the 8 class system by an official NWBA Classification Panel are not subject to these policies or procedures.
2. The date to complete the team classification certification has been extended to the end of December to give everyone enough time to complete the process.
3. Teams playing games prior to December will be allowed to have up to four games count towards the season total.
4. After December 31, teams without a certified team reviewer will not have their games count towards the 10 game minimum until the course and certification are completed.
5. Each team will nominate a "Team Reviewer". The team reviewer should be a coach, player or team representative that attends games and practices for the team. It is encourage that a team certify more than one team reviewer.
6. The Reviewer is responsible for becoming trained in the 8 class system. The team reviewer should complete the certification exam before the team's first game. For more information on the Team Reviewers Certification and access to the training material visit the NWBA website at:

<http://www.nwba.org/page/show/2023336-team-reviewer-certification>

Classification

- Once the **Team Reviewer** passes the NWBA training and test, then they may propose classifications of players on the roster that do not currently have a certified classification in the 8 point system.
- The classification roster is then signed by Team Reviewers from two other teams.
- The Team Reviewers are not certified NWBA classifiers.



Each season all adult NWBA teams are required to submit a Classification Roster including **ALL** players on their team after their first few games. Players' classification should be marked with one of the following **status codes**:

P: Proposed class for new players who do not have an Approved or Certified classification.

A: Approved class is given once a Proposed Class is signed off by Team Reviewers from two different teams and submitted to the NWBA National office. Approved classes are valid for only 12 months.

C: Certified class is given once a player has been seen by a NWBA Classification Panel. A Certified class is permanent unless a player appeals their classification and is re-evaluated by a NWBA panel and given a new classification.

W: Woman's class on a men's team which is 1.0 points lower than their official class.

AB: Player without a disability. Only allowed in the College Division. One per team.



Classification

How do you get classified in the NWBA?

NWBA Classification Panels: consists of three NWBA Certified Classifiers and supervised by the NWBA Classification Committee.

Players receive a **certified permanent** NWBA classification once they are classified by a NWBA Classification Panel.

Panel classifications are done at designated classification tournaments and the annual National Championship Tournament.



Classification

- How do you get classified in the NWBA?

Request for Classification Review: The NWBA has a process for players to protest an existing classification through a formal **Classification Review**. A \$150 fee is required to process the Request for Classification Review. If a request for a classification change is approved the fee will be refunded. If the request for a classification change is denied the fee will not be refunded.



Summary

- Classification provides a fair playing field that allows skill, not disability to determine the outcome
- NWBA is utilizing an 8 Class System
- Each adult team should have a **Team Reviewer**
- Classifications by a **NWBA Panel** are permanent
- Players can request a **Classification Review**
- New players with a minimal disability must submit an **Application for Consideration of Eligibility**
- Refer to the Classification section of the NWBA website for complete information

www.nwba.org

